



PRESBYTERIAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

**Athletic Handbook**  
**2021-2022**

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## **PCS Athletic Department Vision**

Honor God. Honor the Opportunity.

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## **PCS Athletic Department Mission**

We will commit ourselves to invest in and protect the mental, physical, and spiritual growth of our students, each other, and the greater community around us.

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## **PCS Athletic Core Values**

*How will we accomplish our mission? By living out these core values:*

**Teamwork:** We are all part of one team and will sacrificially give of ourselves for the benefit of that team.

**Excellence:** Without compromising our other values, we will strive for excellence in all that we do.

**Appreciation:** We will not complain. We will appreciate every moment as the gift that it is.

**Morality:** We will commit ourselves to the highest level of integrity, truth, and service.

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## **Athletic Eligibility**

The Midsouth Association of Independent Schools (MAIS) requires students to pass four (4) major units/credits the previous academic year in order to be eligible to participate in athletics the next school year. Eligibility for each season is established at the beginning of the season. No student will be permitted to participate in inter-scholastic contests for more than four (4) years after entrance into 9<sup>th</sup> Grade. He/she shall not be permitted to participate in inter-scholastic contests if he/she has reached

the age of 19 prior to August 1<sup>st</sup> of the respective school year (barring an appeal made through the MAIS Main Office).

Student averages will be checked midway of each 9-week grading period and at the end of each 9-week grading period. Any student failing more than one (1) subject, at the aforementioned intervals, will be placed on academic probation. Students on probation are allowed to practice and participate in all athletic/extracurricular activities with no restrictions. If a student is placed on probation and is still failing more than one (1) subject at the time of the subsequent grade check, that student will be deemed ineligible. Ineligible students are not allowed to practice, play, travel, or participate in any athletic/extracurricular activities. Eligibility can only be regained if the student is no longer failing more than one (1) subject at the next scheduled grade check.

Students who do not pass four (4) major units/credits at the end of the academic year will be expected to complete any credit recovery courses by July 1<sup>st</sup>. If a student has not completed his/her credit recovery by this date, he/she will not be allowed to participate in any summer practices, weight programs, camps, or performances until the course work is complete.

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## **Athletic Teams**

Presbyterian Christian School offers the following MAIS sanctioned athletic teams:

### **Boys' Sports**

- Archery
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Football
- Golf
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Track and Field

## **Girls' Sports**

Archery  
Basketball  
Cross Country  
Golf  
Soccer  
Softball  
Swimming  
Tennis  
Track and Field  
Volleyball

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## **Multiple Sport Athletes**

In the event a student-athlete competes in two sports during the same season, the following will serve as guidelines for the coaches, family, and student-athlete for managing practices, games, etc.

1. Games take priority over practice.
2. Varsity takes priority over junior varsity, junior high, or 7<sup>th</sup> grade.
3. Conference games take priority over non-conference games.
4. Athletes who start take priority over bench players.
5. If all is equal at this point, then the student/family must notify each coach in writing no later than one week ahead of the known conflict of which competition the student will attend.

If a situation occurs that cannot be determined by these criteria, both coaches should confer with the Athletic Director to determine the proper course of action. Above all, we commit to strive to do the best thing for our students.

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## **Team Fundraising**

Each athletic team is granted the ability to have one (1) team fundraiser each year. All fundraisers must have approval by the Athletic Director and Head of School at least two (2) months prior to the event/effort.

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## **Athlete Code of Conduct**

Being involved in athletics is a privilege, not a right. When a young man or woman signs up for athletics and becomes a member of the team, they make a commitment. Since participation in athletics is voluntary and all groups and organizations must exist within a framework of certain policies, rules, and regulations, the athletic department has developed the following code of conduct:

- A. All athletes must abide by all school policies of PCS and all participation policies of the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools. These policies must be adhered to during any pre-season activities, the regular season, and any postseason competition.
- B. Appropriate care must be taken of all equipment, school facilities, and properties. Athletes will be held financially responsible for any damage or loss due to their negligence.
- C. All athletes shall report any injury or illness to their respective coaches immediately upon occurrence.
- D. All athletes are expected to attend all required practices, meetings, and contests. The appropriate coach shall be notified of an absence. No season is over until all contests and tournament games are completed.
- E. If an athlete quits a sport once sanctioned competitions have begun, that student is not eligible to participate in another sport (practice or competitions) until the season (practices and competitions) of the sport they quit has concluded.
- F. If an athlete quits a sport after team fees (travel, meals, gear, etc) have been accessed, they are still responsible for the payment of those fees.
- G. Athletes who are taking any type of medication shall have on file with the PCS Athletic Trainer a note from the parent/guardian and/or doctor regarding medication and treatment.

H. If a sport requires a tryout, that tryout will be administered by the Head Coach of that particular sport. The tryout will be administered fairly and equally for all parties trying out. Once a student-athlete completes a tryout and is selected for a team, all fees associated with being a member of said team will be expected to be paid and the “quitting policy” stated above will take effect.

I. Students who receive an in-school suspension (ISS) will be ineligible to practice (during school or after school) in any extracurricular activities (athletics, drama, etc.) for the time of the suspension. Students who receive an out-of-school suspension (OSS) will be ineligible to participate (practice, play, travel) for the time of the suspension. If a student receives an out-of-school suspension (OSS) and does not miss a game/event during the time of the suspension, he/she will miss the next scheduled event (game, performance, etc.) after the suspension. (Loss of game(s)/event(s) applies only to in-season sports. An athlete will not be suspended from participation in a sport if the offense which led to suspension occurred in the student’s off-season)

J. If a student-athlete is ejected from an athletic contest, that student-athlete will serve an automatic one game suspension to be served during the next scheduled contest. The length of the suspension can be increased based on factors of the ejection. Ejections can be appealed to and/or reviewed by the Athletic Director. Appeals may be made in writing within 24 hours of an ejection and will be dealt with on a case by case basis, precedent will not apply.

K. All athletes are expected to abide by all school policies, including but not limited to, the use of any tobacco product, alcoholic product, or drugs not prescribed by a physician. For any violation, the discipline policy established in the student handbook will be used.

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## **Spectator Code of Conduct**

Attending an athletic event means that the spectator has assumed responsibility for proper representation of Presbyterian Christian School, just as the athlete does. The following rules apply to all spectators (parents, students, fans, etc.):

- A. Spectators should conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner, remembering that they are representing PCS at all times.
- B. Parents are to be supportive of their child, give positive reinforcement, and have an appreciation of their child's abilities.
- C. Spectators are to regard the official's decision as final.
- D. Parents and spectators are not allowed to approach, confront, or engage a game official before, during, or after an athletic contest.
- E. Parents and spectators are not allowed to enter home locker rooms/dugouts, visiting locker rooms/dugouts, or official's locker rooms.
- F. Spectators are to cheer positively and are to completely avoid crude, obscene, or abusive language.
- G. Spectators are to respect and obey property regulations established by each school.
- H. Spectators who are asked to leave or be removed from a game by the game officials or PCS administration will be subject to suspension from future PCS athletic contests. If a game official removes you from a game, the MAIS reserves the right to levy a fine as well as further athletic contest suspensions.

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## **What to Expect from PCS Coaches**

Each coach at Presbyterian Christian School commits to serve as a Christian model in the education of their athletes on and away from the athletic arena. As such, PCS coaches are expected to do the following:

- A. Set a Christian example in speech, behavior, and attitude.
- B. Ensure the safety and welfare of each athlete.
- C. Communicate with parents/guardians prior to any off-campus travel.
- D. Support the mission statement of Presbyterian Christian School.
- E. Support the overall athletic program and the coaches of other sports, and encourage students to participate in as many athletic activities as they may desire.



- F. Responsibly and properly use all school owned equipment.
- G. Be fair and unbiased with each player.
- H. Put the team in front of an individual player.
- I. Strive to help each player reach his/her highest potential.

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## **Social Media Policy**

We understand that Social Media has become a part of everyday life. Below are the expectations placed upon all staff, athletes, parents, and other supporters associated with PCS Athletics. It is expected that Parents and Guardians will partner with PCS in helping our athletes use Social Media responsibly. PCS reserves the right to determine consequences for breaking these policies on a case by case basis.

- A. Social Media will not be used in any way to insult or defame Presbyterian Christian School or any individuals/entities associated with PCS.
- B. Social Media will not be used in any way to insult or defame another individual, team, or school, whether associated with PCS or not.
- C. Vulgarity and profanity must not be found in Social Media posts while any of these apply: on PCS Campus, at a PCS sanctioned event, or wearing any PCS attire.
- D. Coaches are to use discretion when posting to social media any posts including or alongside student athletes.
- E. The creation of any social media account representing or associated with Presbyterian Christian School Athletics must first gain approval through the Athletic Office. In no case should a student have access or control over said accounts. Upon creation, any login information needs to be provided to the Athletic Assistant.

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## **PCS Apparel and Branding Policy**

Any items including but not limited to apparel, cloth, uniforms, social media accounts, or promotional materials that will represent either explicitly or implicitly Presbyterian Christian School must follow the proper approval process. Any designs for the aforementioned items must first gain design approval through the Athletic Office prior to any circulation of said item.

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## Digital Communication

Faculty should never utilize email to communicate to individual students about anything other than that which is professional. Even with professional communication, it is a good idea to cc another adult (student's parent/fellow teachers/your administrator) on any communication that may place you, the teacher or coach, in an unaccountable situation.

Email communication to classes, groups, or teams about school matters is allowed.

Private digital communication (text messages, communication via private social media chats) to individual students must be avoided at all costs. Utilize other mechanisms to communicate with students. We all have access to parent contact information and are able to communicate to parents at the same time as students.

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## Digital Connection/Relationship with Current Students

Being "friends with" or "following" students on Facebook, SnapChat, Instagram, or any such network is not allowed for PCS employees. In such relationships you are vulnerable for what you see and do not report; you are outside of your professional role, and you are endorsing something that parents of your students may or may not endorse.

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## Music Guidelines

Music is a valuable tool for us, and it is a gift from God. We must be mindful of the way we use this gift, realizing the influence it has on our students, families, and community. Our athletic events can remain fun and exciting without the use of vulgar or suggestive music.

- A. In all cases, the Head Coach is responsible for any music played in their area. This does not mean that the Head Coach is in charge of all music, but instead is responsible and accountable for the adherence of these guidelines.
- B. No music should be played from a student's device. This applies to games **and** practices.
- C. Develop a playlist before you choose to play music.
- D. Know the music being played. What do the lyrics mean? If the lyrics cannot be understood, don't play the song!
- E. Edited versions of vulgar songs do **not** make them permissible to play. **This also applies to instrumental versions of songs.**

- F. Pre-Game/In-Game music should be listened to thoroughly by coaches before being played over any speakers.
- G. Baseball and softball coaches should closely monitor the walk-out songs for batters. Review the song name, artist, and lyrics.

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## **Conflict Resolution Plan**

Below is the process for parents and student-athletes with regards to dealing with conflicts that may arise on athletic teams. To the best of our ability, this plan is patterned after the Matthew 18 biblical model of conflict resolution. These conflicts may be a result of any number of situations from intra-team disputes to summer plan time-conflicts. In all cases, the following pattern is to be followed.

### Step 1 - Athlete to Head Coach

Student-athletes should be able to approach his/her coach with regards to conflicts that arise on athletic teams. When your child handles the problem, it becomes part of the learning and maturation process. Encourage your child to exercise the opportunity to speak directly with his/ her coach before a parent/coach meeting is scheduled.

### Step 2 - Parent to Head Coach

Once your child has met with his/her head coach, parents are welcome to set up a meeting with the head coach of their child's team(s). Such discussions should be done in a professional manner. **A parent, in no circumstance, should approach a coach immediately before or after an athletic conflict. Twenty-Four hours (24) must pass prior to a meeting following an athletic contest.**

### Step 3 - Parent to Athletic Director

If the proper channels of communication have been followed and the conflict is not resolved, parents are encouraged to set up a meeting, through the Athletic Secretary, with the Athletic Director. By scheduling this meeting through the Athletic Secretary, this will ensure the information and meeting will be scheduled in an appropriate time- frame.

### Step 4- Parent to Head of School

If, following a meeting between parent-coach and a subsequent meeting between parent-athletic administration, resolution to the conflict is not achieved, a meeting

with the PCS Head of School is appropriate. Again, this should be scheduled through the Athletic Secretary.

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### **PCS Parents, Guardians, and other Supporters commit:**

- A. They will support their child and attend as many contests as possible.
- B. They will avoid putting pressure on their child to start, score, or be the “star” of the team.
- C. They will support the coaches in public around other parents and fans.
- D. They will avoid speaking negatively about the coaches to their child.
- E. They will understand the ultimate purpose of athletics. It exists as an integral part of the total educational mission of the school.
- F. They will appreciate the educational opportunity that their child is receiving in our athletic program. This includes the time and efforts provided by the coaching staff.
- G. They will understand that the goals of the team and athletic program are more important than the hopes and dreams that they have for their child.

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### **PCS Athletics Facility Usage Policy**

The athletic facilities at PCS are available for each of our student-athletes to continue to hone their skills. Usage of PCS athletic facilities is a privilege and must be treated with the proper honor and respect. PCS student-athletes wishing to use PCS facilities must be accompanied by a member of the PCS athletics staff. In addition, any external group not affiliated with PCS, must make a request to the Athletic Director who will make determinations on usage on a case by case basis. If external usage is granted, a facility usage-agreement must be signed. At no time should non-PCS teams or players utilize PCS facilities without approval from the Athletic Director.

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### **Physicals and Return to Play Clearance**

As best practice, physicals and medical clearances to return to competition must be completed by non-family members. Physicals must be completed on a yearly basis and must be turned in to the Athletic Office prior to participation in any athletic activity (practice, weights, etc).

Following an injury, medical clearance documentation must be provided to the PCS Athletic Trainer prior to the resumption of athletic activity.

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## **HANDBOOK AGREEMENT/RECOGNITION AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK FORM**

I, the undersigned parent/legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, authorize said child's full participation in the Presbyterian Christian School (PCS) athletic program. It is my understanding that participation in the activities that make up the PCS athletic program are not without some inherent risk of injury. In addition, I/We have read and understand the policies set forth in the PCS Athletic Handbook.

As such, in consideration of my child's participation in the PCS athletic program, I hereby release, waive, discharge and covenant not to sue Presbyterian Christian School, the Athletic Department, Athletic Trainer, or employees from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions and causes of action whatsoever arising out of or related to any loss, damage or injury, including death, that may be sustained by my child, whether caused by the negligence of the releases, or otherwise while participating in such activity, or while in, on, or upon the premises where the activity is being conducted.

I also agree to follow all instructions and procedures in order to maintain a maximum level of safety. Presbyterian Christian School requires all student-athletes to be covered under a family primary care/major medical health insurance policy in order to participate in any practices or games. There is no supplemental insurance available to cover accidents to student-athletes.

I also give my permission for any emergency medical care or treatment by a physician, surgeon, hospital or medical care facility that may be required including transportation and accept responsibility for the cost.

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Student-Athlete Print & Sign

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Parent/Guardian Print & Sign

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Date