

Approved April 7, 2010

PROVIDENCE HEIGHTS ALPHA (PHA) ATHLETIC POLICY

OBJECTIVE

The overall goal and objective of PHA school sports is to provide each student with a positive Christian athletic experience through instruction, practice and game participation. Although a reasonable competitive approach is encouraged, a win-at-any-cost philosophy is not.

It is extremely important that PHA provide some way for every interested student to be able to participate. The focus is on participation by all who want to participate. Every child is to be given the opportunity to participate in some portion of every competition. A good coach is able to devise a strategy to ensure that every young person under his or her care gets an opportunity to play.

Because children develop differently, their ability to acquire the skills necessary to perform well in any sport will vary widely. Coaches must keep them interested, committed, content and confident. In the past, many children have a bad experience with sports programs during their early developmental grades and they then decide to quit early in their education. Consequently, they never have the chance to meet their full potential nor realize the benefits of athletic participation and enrichment that playing a sport provides.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Only those students enrolled in Alpha School who **meet grade level and academic** requirements are eligible to participate in the program with the following exception: Diocesan rules allow neighboring Diocesan schools to have their players be a member of an ALPHA team if they do not currently offer that sport at that particular time. Neighboring players will be required to follow all Alpha School academic and player participating guidelines.

INSTRUCTIONAL/DEVELOPMENTAL 3rd and 4th GRADE

- Separate teams will be formed for each grade. Exceptions shall be formed on a case to case basis as approved by principal.
- Sports program offered is strictly introductory, instructional and developmental.
- Basic skills and fundamentals shall be taught.
- ALL PLAYERS SHALL PARTICIPATE EQUALLY THROUGHOUT ENTIRE GAME. Players shall appear in each game period.
- It is mandatory that any exception that may preclude equal playing time for an individual be discussed with parent and player affected prior to the game affected.
- Coaches shall not be focused on individual goals. Focus is to be placed on the team.
- It is strongly encouraged that at the instructional level, Coaches should request, prior to each game, that referees affirm the instructional nature of game, explain infractions and rules to players.
- There is no scorekeeping.
- All players must have experienced each position in a practice situation.

TOURNAMENTS: ALL PLAYERS PLAY IN ALL GAME PERIODS AS EQUALLY AS POSSIBLE.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Develop the skills needed in the sport so that every player may reach their potential.
- Encourage the player throughout the season.
- Develop a sense of pride and accomplishment
- Develop teamwork and “team spirit”

JUNIOR VARSITY 5TH AND 6TH GRADE

- Teams should be formed by grade level unless the number of student participants prohibits. Exceptions shall be formed on a case to case basis as approved by the principal, commissioners and coaches.
- It is mandatory that coaches discuss with parents and players effected, playing time possibilities and specific problems/difficulties that may preclude equal playing time for individual players during a specific game.
- Playing time shall be as equal as possible.
- Increased level of skills and fundamentals shall be taught.
- Coaches shall not be focused on individual goals. Focus is to be placed on the team.

TOURNAMENTS: ALL PLAYERS SHOULD PARTICIPATE AS EQUALLY AS POSSIBLE.

PLAYOFFS: No restrictions on minimum playing time but everyone shall participate. It is mandatory that coaches communicate the possibilities to parents.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR JV SPORTS

- Players are prepared for Varsity level competition and that every player may reach their potential.
- Effort should be made to develop "team spirit"
- All players get an opportunity to play in each game as equal as possible
- Develop a sense of confidence and accomplishment
- Develop teamwork and pride

VARSITY 7th and 8th GRADE

- Teams should be formed by grade level unless the number of student participants prohibits. Exceptions shall be formed on a case to case basis as approved by the principal.
- It is mandatory that coaches discuss with parents and players effected, playing time possibilities and specific problems/difficulties that may cause a reduction in playing time for individual players for a specific game.
- Players will continue to increase their level of knowledge in all areas of the sport so they may perform at the next level of play and that every player may reach their potential.
- No restrictions on minimum playing time but everyone shall participate in each game.

TOURNAMENTS: ALL PLAYERS SHALL PARTICIPATE DURING THE GAMES.

PLAYOFFS: No restrictions on minimum playing time but everyone shall participate. It is mandatory that coaches communicate the possibilities to parents.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR VARSITY SPORTS

- Players are prepared for next level competition and to their potential.
- Effort should be made to develop "team spirit"
- All players get an opportunity to play in each game
- Develop a sense of confidence and accomplishment
- Develop teamwork and pride

PLAYER MOVEMENT

TEAMS ARE TO FORMED ACCORDING TO REGISTRATION AND BY A CASE TO CASE BASIS AS APPROVED BY PRINCIPAL, COMMISSIONERS AND COACHES

Should there be a need to have additional players on a team:

- Recruited from the level of the team (eg. JV Players would be recruited from 5th and 6th graders at large, Varsity players would be recruited from 7th and 8th graders)
- If a team cannot be formed then students may play up (a 6th grader could be permitted to play on the Varsity team, and a 4th grader could play on a JV team)
- Third graders **may not** be played up on a JV team **nor may** 5th graders be played to the Varsity Team **ALL EXCEPTIONS MUST BE APPROVED PRIOR TO EVENT BY OUR PRINCIPAL**
- Only those students who are presently playing on an Alpha Team may be chosen to play up. If needed a player may be permitted to play up to a next higher level. Both the higher and lower coaches in direct consultation with the AAA Executive Board must jointly decide the best possible method to utilize a player(s) on the higher level team. Parent's consent is essential and the Principal must give approval. It shall only be done in instances of not having enough players for the higher level team.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

FIRST OCCURRENCE- Participant will be given a verbal warning. Warning will address the problem(s) and will provide guidelines on how to correct the situation. ***ANY PHYSICAL OR VERBAL VIOLENCE SHALL BE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY THE PRINCIPAL AND THE STUDENT ATHLETE WILL BE REMOVED IMMEDIATELY FROM PRACTICE OR GAME SITUATION.***

SECOND OCCURRENCE-Participant will be reported to principal for disciplinary action.

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Understand participation is not a right, but a privilege that carries with it the responsibility of reflecting Christian ideals. For example: Coaches' language should always be exemplary.
2. Treat my teammates, coaches, referees and all/or all officials, opponents, spectators and all others involved in our athletic events with respect at all times
3. Give my best efforts and full attention to my coach, and do my best to follow their instruction.
4. Attend all practices and games detailed on my schedule to the best ability.
5. Encourage and help my teammates.
6. Work to personally improve each day.
7. Understand that I am representing Alpha and I am responsible for my conduct at all times during practices and games. I agree to conduct in a Christian manner and to show Good Sportsmanship at all times.
8. Understand there is a disciplinary procedure for unsatisfactory behavior which may cause me to miss practices, games, possible suspension and removal from sport. Disciplinary action will be determined by the principal.

UNSATISFACTORY BEHAVIOR IS DESCRIBED AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- Rude or discourteous behavior to the coach, referee, teammates, opponents or spectators
- Displaying an attitude, which shows I am not taking responsibility for my own behavior
- Any use of inappropriate language to coach, teammates, referee, opponents or spectators
- "Fooling around" at practice or game
- Being "red carded" or ejected from a game
- Behavior which would place my teammates and myself in an unsafe situation
- Showing disrespect for property of another and will be looked upon and treated as vandalism
- Laying hands upon, biting, spitting, shoving, striking, or threatening another is not allowed or tolerated
- Teasing or ridiculing no-team members

1. Realize that attendance, behavior, effort, attitude and a team based orientation are factors that may effect playing time.
2. Recognize, that athletics are just one part of my total growth, and that God, family and academic responsibilities shall come first.

Player's signature _____

COACH'S CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Understand that as a coach, I must be a positive role model for the players and parents. I will exert tremendous influence, either good or bad, in the education of the players. For example: Coaches' language should always be exemplary.
2. Never place the value of winning or my own personal satisfaction, above the value of instilling the highest desirable ideals of character and Christianity, that is consistent with a Catholic School Education.
3. Strive to instill in every child a sense of self esteem, responsibility, confidence, dignity and self discipline, through an emphasis on fair play, teamwork, leadership, scholarship, respect and the rules of PHA sports.
4. As a coach I will have an introductory meeting with the parents at the start of the season and be accessible to the parents during the sport season.
5. Ensure that players are familiar with and sign the Players Code of Conduct.
6. Devote time, thought, planning and study to the rules and teachings of the game.
7. Attend all mandatory meetings.
8. Under no circumstances will partake or allow any drug, alcohol or tobacco activity during practices and/or games.
9. Teach the children that both teams and opponents are entitled to be treated with respect and dignity.
10. Will not run up an excessive score of a game so as to prevent potential humiliation and encourage sportsmanship.
11. Encourage and Foster Good Sportsmanship
12. Respect officials.
13. Any coach who is guilty of any physical or verbal attack shall be banned from sporting events.
14. Understand participation is not a right, but a privilege that carries with it the responsibility of reflecting Christian ideals.
15. Understand that it is never allowed to use participation in sports as an excuse for non-Christian or unsportsmanlike behavior.
16. Showing of disrespect for the property of another team, their transportation or facility used by the team will be looked upon as an act of vandalism and punished accordingly.
17. Obligated to follow all rules.
18. Understand that an effort on my part to undermine these aforementioned values may be reason for my suspension from the league.
18. Recognize parents may attend practice for viewing.
19. Head coaches may recommend assistant coach for approval by board and principal.

Coach's signature _____