



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL YEAR  
2020-2021

PARENT/STUDENT  
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

## **Parent/Guardian/Student Athletic Handbook**

- III. Philosophy/Vision
- IV. Non-Discrimination Policy/ Cautionary Statement/ PGCAA/ Athletic Programs and Sports Offered
- V. Sport offerings by season
- VI. No-Practice and No-Playing Dates for Athletics
- VII. Athletic Director Contact Information
- VIII. Pre-season Meetings / Tryouts / Athletic Eligibility Requirements
- IX. Student-Athlete Academic Early Release Procedure / Coach Parent/Guardian Communication
- XI. Transfer Policies
- XII. Sportsmanship
- XIII. Sports Season and Practices / Student Accident Insurance / Social Media – PGCPD Policy
- XIV. Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE Approved only) and Uniforms
- XV. Booster Clubs
- XVI. Athletic Awards & Ceremony Expectations, Senior Nights
- XVII. Out of Season and Summer Activities
- XVIII. Frequently Asked Questions

Monica E. Goldson, Ed.D.  
Chief Executive Officer

Shirley Diggs  
Coordinating Supervisor of Athletics

O'Shay Watson  
Supervisor of Athletics

***Board of Education***

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Joshua M. Thomas, Pamela Boozer-Strother, Bryan Swann,  
Raaheela Ahmed, Belinda Queen, K. Alexander Wallace, Sonya Williams,  
D. Paul Monteiro, Jr., Sandra D. Shephard, Curtis Valentine, M.P.P., Ninah Jackson

## **Philosophy**

It is our belief that athletics is a way to achieve a balanced educational program for our students. As we all know athletic competition, by its nature, will contribute to greater student awareness of self-discipline, a growth in emotional maturity, and an increasing realization of the worth of the individual. Students will also realize that participation in athletics is not only a privilege but is also an honor that requires responsibility for maintaining one's academic standing in the classroom and for maintaining a high standard of conduct outside of school hours as outlined in the athletic handbook and the "Student Code of Conduct".

All of our coaches should first and foremost be leaders of young men and women by constantly setting a good example of what it means to be an athlete during and after school hours. It is expected that our coaches will be consistent and fair in all rules and regulations applied to the athletes they coach.

There should be a complete understanding that all persons involved with the athletic program abide by all state and county guidelines and policies.

The primary goal of our education based athletics program will always be to achieve success in all academic and competitive endeavors. It is recognized that a positive education based athletic program can contribute significantly to school morale and community pride as well as to the pride and honor for all persons involved with the athletic program.

We believe as athletic administrators and coaches we bear the responsibility for the periodic evaluation of the total program. New programs should be suggested when appropriate, and old programs scrutinized to be sure that they are meeting the needs and interests of student-athletes.

It is our belief that student's participation in athletics could very well influence the rest of his/her life. For this reason, we are committed to providing great customer service and excellence in all phases of a sound education based athletics program.

ATHLETICS "The Other Side of Education"

## **Vision**

The Prince George's County Public School System envisions an athletic program, which will allow students to pursue academic and athletic excellence through participation in a high-quality sports program. Athletics shall enrich the school environment and its coaches, student athletes and administrators shall be positive role models for the school population and its community. Extra emphasis will be placed on sportsmanship, character education, building lifelong learners and the importance of physical activity for one's overall health. Our athletic program will aspire to be the premier program in the State and nationally.

## **Non-Discrimination Policy**

The Prince George's County Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, Disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal opportunities to all athletic events/activities to all.

### **Cautionary Statement**

Please be advised that student-athletes should wear protective equipment such as sports bras, athletic supporters, athletic cups and other protective equipment deemed necessary to participate safely in the sport (s) during tryouts or in which they are selected to compete.

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## **Prince George's County Athletic Association (PGCAA)**

The Association promotes, organizes, and administers athletics among the high schools in Prince George's County.

All high schools with Athletic Programs are under the supervision of the Board of Education shall become members of the Association and shall be eligible to participate in the sports season immediately following the organization of the school.

The Association is composed of the Coordinating Supervisor of Athletics, Supervisor of Athletics, the high school principals, athletic director from each high school, and one individual representing each sport.

The Association operates within the framework of the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association and Prince George's County Public Schools' Board Policies and Administrative Procedures.

## **Athletic Programs and Sports Offered**

**Interscholastic Athletics Program** Interscholastic athletics are organized sport competitions between schools. They are an extension of the classroom that provide teaching and learning experiences for all involved.

**Corollary Athletics Program** The corollary athletics program integrates students with disabilities on sports teams with students without disabilities. The program allows students with disabilities to achieve the same rewards and benefits gained through athletic participation as the students participating in Interscholastic Athletics. In most cases these are students who would not participate in the Interscholastic Athletic Program.

<u>Fall Season</u>	<u>Winter Season</u>	<u>Spring Season</u>
<b>Cheerleading</b>	<b>Boys' and Girls' Basketball</b>	<b>Baseball</b>
<b>Boys' and Girls' Cross Country</b>	<b>Cheerleading</b>	<b>Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse</b>
<b>Football</b>	<b>Boys' and Girls' Indoor Track</b>	<b>Girls' Softball</b>
<b>Boys' and Girls' Golf</b>	<b>Boys' and Girls' Swimming</b>	<b>Boys' and Girls' Tennis</b>
<b>Boys' and Girls' Soccer</b>	<b>Wrestling</b>	<b>Boys' and Girls' Outdoor Track</b>
<b>Girls' Volleyball</b>	<b><i>Unified Bocce*</i></b>	<b><i>Unified Track and Field*</i></b>
<b><i>Allied Softball*</i></b>		

*\*Corollary Sports*



Monica E. Goldson, Ed.D.  
Chief Executive Officer

June 18, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Middle School and High School Principals  
Middle School and High School Athletic Directors  
Middle School and High School Sports Representatives

**FROM:** Monica E. Goldson, Ed.D.  
Chief Executive Officer

**RE:** 2020-2021 **No-Practice** and **No-Playing Dates** for Athletics

This memorandum is to identify no-practice and no-play dates for Athletics for the 2020-2021 school year. Schools may participate in Maryland Public Secondary School Athletic Association Regional and State competitions scheduled on holidays. However, no other activities including, games, practice, weight lifting, open gym/fields or conditioning programs may be held on holidays indicated below.

No-Practice & No-Games	
• Sundays***	<i>Cheer teams may compete in three competitions per school year. ***</i>
• Rosh Hashanah – Saturday, September 19*	<i>Holiday begins at sundown of the day before. *</i>
• Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 26**	<i>Football practice (a.m.) may be held for teams participating in MPSSAA Play-offs. **</i>
• Christmas Day – Friday, December 25	
• New Year’s Day – Friday, January 1	

Practice Permitted but No Games	
• Labor Day – Monday, September 7	
• Yom Kippur – Monday, September 28	<i>Holiday begins at sundown of the day before. *</i>
• Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Monday, January 18	
• Presidents’ Day – Monday, February 15	
• Good Friday – Friday, April 2	
• First Day of Passover – Sunday, March 28	<i>Holiday begins at sundown of the day before. *</i>
• Memorial Day – Monday, May 31	

If you have questions, please contact Mr. Earl Hawkins, at 301-669-6050, or by e-mail, at [ehawkins@pgcps.org](mailto:ehawkins@pgcps.org).

MEG:CM:eh

c: Members, Executive Cabinet Instructional Directors  
Area Associate Superintendents Office of Athletics

## **Athletic Director Contact Information**

SCHOOL	ATHLETIC DIRECTOR	SCHOOL NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Bladensburg	Bryan Trueblood	301-887-6700	<a href="mailto:Bryan.trueblood@pgcps.org">Bryan.trueblood@pgcps.org</a>
Bowie	Jessica Brandt	301-805-2600	<a href="mailto:jessica.brandt@pgcps.org">jessica.brandt@pgcps.org</a>
Central	Larry Ward	301-499-7080	<a href="mailto:Larry2.ward@pgcps.org">Larry2.ward@pgcps.org</a>
Charles H. Flowers	Carlyle Rose	301-636-8000	<a href="mailto:carlyle.rose@pgcps.org">carlyle.rose@pgcps.org</a>
Chesap –CMIT Nort	Thomas Dunn	301-350-6051	<a href="mailto:Thomas.dunn@pgcps.org">Thomas.dunn@pgcps.org</a>
Chesap.CMIT South	Kevin Young	240-573-7250	<a href="mailto:Kevin.young@pgcps.org">Kevin.young@pgcps.org</a>
College Park Acad.	Juan Foreman	240-696-3206	<a href="mailto:Juan2.foreman@pgcps.org">Juan2.foreman@pgcps.org</a>
Croom	Jamal Simms	301-372-8846	<a href="mailto:Jamal.sims@pgcps.org">Jamal.sims@pgcps.org</a>
Crossland	Eric Knight	301-449-4800	<a href="mailto:eric.knight@pgcps.org">eric.knight@pgcps.org</a>
Dr. Henry A. Wise	Jason Gordon	301-780-2100	<a href="mailto:jason.gordon@pgcps.org">jason.gordon@pgcps.org</a>
DuVal	Robert Langway	301-918-8600	<a href="mailto:Robert.langway@pgcps.org">Robert.langway@pgcps.org</a>
Eleanor Roosevelt	Thomas Green	301-513-5400	<a href="mailto:thomas.green@pgcps.org">thomas.green@pgcps.org</a>
Fairmont Heights	Torrie Lashley	301-952-1360	<a href="mailto:torrie.lashley@pgcps.org">torrie.lashley@pgcps.org</a>
Frederick Douglass	Julius Pinkney	301-952-2400	<a href="mailto:julius.pinkney@pgcps.org">julius.pinkney@pgcps.org</a>
Friendly	Makia Staves	301-449-4900	<a href="mailto:Makia.staves@pgcps.org">Makia.staves@pgcps.org</a>
Gwynn Park	Linda Henson -Hubb	301-372-0140	<a href="mailto:linda.hensonhubb@pgcps.org">linda.hensonhubb@pgcps.org</a>
High Point	TBD	301-572-6400	
Inter. Sch. at Lang.	TBD		
Inter. Sch.I at Largo	TBD		
Largo	Ayana Ball-Ward	301-808-8880	<a href="mailto:ayana.ball@pgcps.org">ayana.ball@pgcps.org</a>
Laurel	Donald Cleveland	301-497-2050	<a href="mailto:Donald.cleveland@pgcps.org">Donald.cleveland@pgcps.org</a>
Northwestern	Terry Dendy	301-985-1820	<a href="mailto:terry.dendy@pgcps.org">terry.dendy@pgcps.org</a>
Oxon Hill	Cecille Greenfield	301-749-4300	<a href="mailto:Cecille.greenfield@pgcps.org">Cecille.greenfield@pgcps.org</a>
Parkdale	Brian Moore	301-513-5700	<a href="mailto:brian.moore@pgcps.org">brian.moore@pgcps.org</a>
Potomac	Irvin Hay	301-720-3900	<a href="mailto:Irvin.hay@pgcps.org">Irvin.hay@pgcps.org</a>
Suitland	George McClure	301-817-0330	<a href="mailto:george.mcclure@pgcps.org">george.mcclure@pgcps.org</a>
Surrattsville	Demario Newman	301-599-2453	<a href="mailto:demario.newman@pgcps.org">demario.newman@pgcps.org</a>
Tall Oaks	Christopher Henderson	301-390-0230	<a href="mailto:christopher.henderson@pgcps.org">christopher.henderson@pgcps.org</a>



## **Pre-season Meetings**

All coaches shall have a preseason meeting with parents for the purpose of disseminating information regarding eligibility requirements, try-out/practice start dates and times, team selection criteria/rubric, student-athlete registration requirements (Form Releaf), student's insurance, equipment required including safety equipment (some examples are - jock straps, sports bras, and athletic cups, and goggles), and rules specific to his/her school and/or program.

## **Parents/Guardians and Team Member Meeting with the Coach**

All head coaches shall conduct a meeting for the student-athletes and their parents/guardians within one week of the final team roster being announced.

## **Tryouts**

All coaches shall conduct a minimum of 3 days for tryouts in all sports. The fall heat acclimatization period cannot be used as a portion of the tryout period.

## **Athletic Eligibility Requirements**

### **Enrollment and Residency**

Students shall be officially registered and attending the member MPSSAA school they are authorized to attend under regulations of the local school system. They may represent only the school in which they are registered and at which it is anticipated they will complete their graduation requirements (MPSSAA Regulation).

- Students who are 19 years old or older as of August 31 are ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics.
- Students in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 may participate in interscholastic athletic contests for a maximum of four seasons in any one sport.
- Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students do not have a GPA requirement to participate for the First Quarter.
- All returning students in grades 9-12 must earn an overall quarter Eligibility Index of at least 2.0 in order to participate in interscholastic athletics during the following quarter.
- Students shall maintain amateur status as defined by Regulation .10 of the MPSSAA Handbook.
- Middle, intermediate, or junior high school students are not eligible to compete or practice with high school teams. However, ninth grade public school students who reside in the attendance area of a high school organized grades 10—12 may participate in the interscholastic athletic program of that high school.
- Students, while participating on a school team, are permitted to participate on sports teams outside of school during the high school sport's season. This participation shall meet the following criteria:

(1) The outside participation may not conflict with the practice or contests schedule of the school including district, regional, and State championship play unless prior written approval has been obtained from the school principal and coach;

(2) Students who elect to participate on an outside team and do not participate and practice with the school team throughout the designated sport's season are ineligible to represent the school in all contests that determine a county, district, regional, or State championship during that sport season.

- Students shall present to their high school principal a certificate of permission to participate signed by their parent(s) or guardian(s).
- Students shall be examined as being physically fit to participate in any try-out, practice, or contest of a school team. The examination shall be performed by a licensed physician, certified physician assistant under the supervision of a licensed physician, or certified nurse practitioner.
- Students legally transferred to another school may participate. "Legally transferred" means a change of residence or a transfer from one school to another by action approved by the local superintendent of schools (see transfers).
- Graduates.

(1) Graduates of high schools are not eligible to practice with or participate on interscholastic sports teams. However, they may participate in the remaining athletic contests of that semester.

(2) Students are considered graduates when they have completed the work required for graduation and are declared graduates by the local board of education.

### **Student-Athlete Academic Early Release Procedure**

It is the responsibility of the head coach to inform parents/guardians, teachers, and schools staff of an Athletic Event. The email must contain the following information in order to afford the student-athlete credit for the missed assignments.

1. Date of event
2. Names of the student-athletes participating in the event
3. Time of dismissal
4. Please use reason code SA - Sports Activity - this is an excused absence

### **Coach – Parent/Guardian Communication**

The following section is designed for parents/guardians of athletes participating in the Prince George's County Public Schools Athletic Program. Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communications from the coach of your child's program.

### **Communication you should expect from your child's coach**

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements, (i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning)
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation
6. Discipline that result in the denial of your child's participation

### **Communication coaches expect from parents**

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

As your children become involved in the program in the Prince George's County Public Schools, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times discussion with the coach is encouraged.

### **Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches**

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
2. Ways to help your child improve
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

Coaches make decisions based what they believe to be best for all of the students involved. As you can determine from the lists above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those that follow, must be left to the discretion of the coach. There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote a positive resolution of the issue of concern.

### **Issues that are not appropriate to discuss with coaches**

1. Playing Time
2. Team Strategy
3. Play Calling
4. Other students-athletes

These are situations that may require a conference between the coach, athlete, and parent/guardian. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures shall be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

### **The following procedures shall be used if there is a concern**

1. Student athlete should first discuss concerns directly with the coach
2. If parents/guardians still have concerns, they should contact the coach to make an appointment
3. If the discussion during the conference does not provide a satisfactory resolution, call and set up an appointment with the school's athletic director to discuss the situation with the coach. Additional steps are to be discussed during this conference.

We ask that parents do not approach coaches after practice or a game. Parents should make an appointment to speak with the varsity head coach or one of his/her assistants. Appointments shall be made by calling or emailing the varsity head coach and coping the athletic director.

## **Transfer Policies**

### **Residency and Transfers**

Residency - A student is eligible to participate in Athletics at the school to which he or she is assigned under **Prince George's County Schools Administrative Procedure 5111**. School registration personnel shall determine that a student and parent or court appointed guardian resides in their school attendance area. To verify the **School Attendance by Street Report (SBS6030)** shall be used.

For the purpose of determining athletic eligibility students must establish one (1) place of residence. **“Residence”** is defined as the equivalent of the term **“domicile”** as applied by the courts of the State of Maryland. Under no circumstances can a student have more than one residence for athletic eligibility.

Any change in residence must be **bona fide**. The home address provided to the registrar and shown on the Athletics Parental Permission form must be the sole bona fide residence, and the school principal must be notified immediately of any change in residence, since such a move may alter the eligibility status of the student.

**Students not attending the school in the area in which they reside are not eligible to participate in Athletics. There may be exceptions to this policy. Please see your athletic director.**

#### **Appeal Process:**

If unusual circumstances exist, a student may appeal the ineligibility in writing to the **Coordinating Supervisor of Athletics, 4400 Shell Street, Capitol Heights, MD 20743**. **A copy of the approved transfer form (PGIN – 75403001) must accompany the appeal.**

Middle school students who attend school outside of their area of residence and who wish to remain in that pattern must apply for a transfer. Middle school students who matriculate to a high school other than the home attendance area school may not participate in Athletics. There may be exceptions to this rule.

#### **Appeal Process:**

If unusual circumstances exist, a student may appeal the ineligibility in writing to **Ms. Shirley Diggs, Coordinating Supervisor of Athletics, 4400 Shell Street, Capitol Heights, MD 20743**.

**A copy of the approved transfer form (PGIN – 75403001) must accompany the appeal.**

#### **Process:**

The Coordinating Supervisor of Athletics will meet with the school principal (s) and athletic directors involved to decide if the appeal should be granted.

### **Team Member Transfers**

**Students who are a member of a sports team may only represent one school during a sports season and/ or school year. Students are immediately ineligible for the remainder of the school year upon transferring from one Prince George's County Public School to another in county public school.**

### **Appeal Process:**

**If unusual circumstances exist, parents may appeal the ineligibility in writing to the Coordinating Supervisor of Athletics, 4400 Shell Street, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. A copy of the approved transfer form (PGIN – 75403001) must accompany the appeal.**

**A hearing committee of 3 athletic directors, a high school principal and the Coordinating Supervisor of Athletics shall convene within 5 business days to hear the case and determine eligibility.**

### **Senior Year Eligibility**

No student will be eligible for athletics that is classified as a senior in two (2) separate academic years. Exceptions may be granted for students who have been continuously registered and attending. Appeals may be submitted in writing to the Coordinating Supervisor of Athletics at 4400 Shell Street, Capitol Heights, MD 20743.

### **Sportsmanship**

#### **Players: Respect the Game**

Respect your opponents as fellow athletes and worthy competitors; like you, they have worked hard to represent their school.

- Respect your teammates. Everyone makes a contribution to the team in his or her own way. Respect everyone's effort.
- Respect your coaches for their efforts in molding the team that represents your school.
- Respect officials for their efforts in keeping the game within a set of boundaries. Recognize that a neutral observer of an event will not always agree with your perceptions.
- Respect yourself. What you do is a reflection on you, your school and your family

#### **Parents: Respect the Game**

Respect the fact that all athletes are someone's son or daughter.

- Respect coaches and their decisions. Remember their job performance is on display at every game. Very few professions are so openly observed and publicly critiqued. Second guessing their work does not provide a positive atmosphere for the player, coach and parents.
- Respect a time and place to air concerns with the coach. After a game or practice is not the best time.
- Respect your son or daughter by realistically assessing their skills. Don't relive your experiences through them.

- Respect the educational component of school athletics. Remind your son or daughter that there is many times more money available for academic aid to college than there is for athletic aid.

### **Sports Season and Practices**

- **Practices** may be held every day that schools are in session and on Saturday. Athletic Directors will notify coaches and athletic teams of any non-practice and non-contest days and dates. **Practice should not be held during faculty duty hours unless approved by the Associate Superintendents for the High Schools.** (Consult no-practice/no-play bulletin.)
- **Suspensions and Expulsion**
  - A. Students who are suspended from school are not eligible to practice or play in an athletic event until the suspension has been served and/or rescinded.
  - B. When a student's expulsion covers any grading quarter, he/she is ineligible for the following quarter s no grades are earned.
  - C. If a student's expulsion covers the fourth quarter, he/she is ineligible for fall sports as no grades are earned.
- **Ejections:**
  - A. Student-athletes and Coaches, who are ejected from an athletic contest during a scrimmage and/or the regular season, may not play in the next contest. Penalties will carry over to the next sports season for that sport.
  - B. Ejections during a playoff game are deemed as "Conduct Detrimental to the Tournament" and will be subject to suspension as well.

### **Student Accident Insurance**

Parents/guardians' must provide insurance coverage for their son/daughter. If they become injured while participating in athletics, the school system will not cover the medical expenses.

The Prince George's County Public School System has arranged for a Student Accident Insurance Policy that parents/guardians can purchase. Parents/Guardians can purchase a low cost student accident insurance plan for the 2020-2021 school year. The purchase of this insurance coverage is directly between you and the insurance company.

If you wish to purchase this insurance, please pick up a form from your child's school or enroll online at [www.studentinsurance-kk.com](http://www.studentinsurance-kk.com).

### **Social Media use by Student Athletes and Coaches (PGCPS Policy)**

**Students shall not communicate with an individual coach, but should send a group message that includes several coaches, a parent/guardian and other team members. Coaches shall follow the same procedure when communicating via social media.**

The school system does not govern the personal use of technology outside of school. In instances where the use of devices create a threat to students, staff or administration within the school environment and impedes

opportunities for learning, or impacts the safe operation of the school bus, the school will apply disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. (see on [www.1.pgcps.org](http://www.1.pgcps.org))

Social Media misuse includes internet/ computer and the misuse of other electronic devices that may have the impact of substantially disrupting the educational environment. Social media is inclusive of, but not limited to, web-based and mobile technologies, social networking sites, blogs, instant messaging, twitter, social blogs and video based sites such as YouTube. The most common misuse of social media is harassment via cyber bullying. When cyber bullying takes the form of harassment of protected classes, it may be prosecuted as a violation of a person's civil rights.

Tips: Should

- Maintain privacy by not sharing passwords and/or codes.
- Use telecommunications in school for educational purposes only under the direction of a teacher.
- Use telecommunications or PEDs in school at other times, such as during lunch periods and extracurricular activities, if approved by school administrators.
- Report acts of cyber bullying, harassment or sexual harassment to school staff. Do not respond to the harasser.

Tips: Should Not

- Share user names or passwords.
- Access and/or use social media websites on school equipment.
- Access social media sites while in school, on school property or while attending school sponsored events.
- Post photographs, videos and tweeted messages of fights or threats of fights on social media sites.
- Use electronic devices to distribute/ post abusive, harassing, bullying, libelous, obscene, offensive, profane, threatening, sexually explicit or illegal material including photos and comments.

Violations in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, Board Policies, and school rules while using social media websites may result in a disciplinary response. Complete guidelines for the acceptable use of technology are contained in Administrative Procedure 0700.

### **Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE Approved only) and Uniforms**

School equipment and/or uniforms assigned to the student athlete are the students' responsibility. The student-athlete is expected to keep and return it clean and in good condition. Student-athletes will be responsible for lost school equipment and/or uniforms assigned to them. Coaches are not permitted to issue equipment and/or uniforms to student-athletes outside of the school year sports season.

### **Helmet Policy (Football and Lacrosse)**

The Prince George's County Public School System (PGCPS) will make every effort to provide quality football equipment, including helmets, to all of the participants in the football program. New equipment is purchased every year to replace worn and defective equipment. Following every football season, helmets and shoulder pads are sent to a certified equipment reconditioning company to have them inspected, cleaned, and refurbished in preparation for the next season. Any equipment that is defective and can no longer provide adequate protection for the athletes is removed from the inventory. Football helmets can only be used for 10 years so they are constantly being replaced to insure appropriate protection for the athletes.

The most recent Virginia Tech Helmet Rating Guide or a comparable helmet rate guide will be used when purchasing new helmets. PGCPs will only purchase “5 Star” rated football helmets.

Helmets that are over ten years old will be dismantled by the reconditioning company and the shell returned to the school. The shell may be used as an athletic award or discarded.

### **Football and Lacrosse Helmet Purchase Requirements**

In recent years, there has been considerable attention given to seriousness of concussions, which has resulted in an increased interest in football and lacrosse athletes purchasing their own football helmet. PGCPs is not opposed to athletes purchasing their own football helmet. However, the following guidelines shall be followed.

- Only helmets rated 5 Stars may be used.
- Helmets must be purchased in school colors with facemask and chinstraps.
- We recommend helmets be purchased from BSN or a PGCS Approved Vendor. They are the major Sporting Goods and athletic equipment supplier for the school system. They have several different helmets to choose from and will make sure that the helmet purchased is certified for high school use.
- **When a helmet is purchased, the helmet, along with the receipt of purchase, must be shown to the athletic director and head football coach prior to the helmet being used in a practice or game.** This is to insure that a helmet certified for high school use has been purchased. The athletic director will assist the student athlete in labeling the helmet to insure that it can be identified as belonging to the student athlete.
- The helmet is not to have any stickers, decals, or other type of adornment other than those provided by the high school.
- Upon completion of the season, the helmet must be turned over to the athletic director to have it sent in along with all the school owned helmets for inspection and reconditioning. The helmet will be tagged with the name of the student athlete to insure that the helmet is returned to the owner. PGCPs will pay the cost of having the helmet reconditioned.

If a student owned helmet is damaged, the high school will provide the athlete a helmet to use; however, it will be the responsibility of the student athlete to have their helmet repaired or replaced.

PGCPs will not be liable for any injuries incurred due to a student owned helmet being modified or misused.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact the school athletic director.

### **Booster Clubs**

Booster Groups/Parent Organizations **may not** be a part of the school’s athletic program or the school. They are outside organization. They must adhere to the following:

1. All funds shall be handled by the organization.



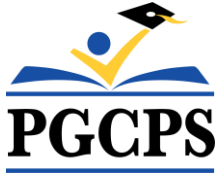
2. They may not use the school's name or letterhead or tax exempt number.
3. Neither should they obligate the school or use the school's checking account to deposit or disburse funds.

### **Athletic Awards & Ceremony Expectations, Senior Nights**

Every high school will conduct a senior night for each sports season. All high schools shall establish their guidelines and procedures for awards. Please contact the athletic director at your child's school for specific information.

## Out of Season and Summer Activities

Please see the enclosed letter regarding out of season and summer activities.



To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised that Prince George's County Public School System (PGCPS) does not sponsor athletic contests/events for students during the summer. PGCPS has absolutely no affiliation with athletic teams participating in summer leagues, summer camps, and other summer competitions (i.e. 7 on 7 football, cheer camps). Additionally, PGCPS does not have any affiliation with the organizations operating summer leagues and/or summer camps.

It is very important that you as a parent or guardian understand the coaching staffs for summer athletic contests/events are not under contract with PGCPS during the "*summer period*" as defined below.

The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association **summer period is defined as: "From the last state championship game of the spring season to the first day of fall practice."**

Participation in summer athletic activities is never mandatory and shall not be a factor in whether or not a student makes a PGCPS athletic team.

Money may not be raised for summer athletic contests/events in the name of the Prince George's County Public System, its schools and/or a school system athletic program. Examples include but are not limited to camps, summer leagues, tournaments, and cheer competitions.

Funds raised in the name of the Prince George's County Public School System, its schools and/or a school system athletic program must be turned in to the school principal or his/her designee each day or as instructed by the sponsor of the fundraiser. Under no circumstances can the funds be used for summer activities/events.

If you have questions or concerns regarding summer activities, please contact the Office of Athletics at 301-669-6050.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

- Where can I find the schedule for my (son/daughter) team?
- Where can I find out weather conditions, if games are still to be played or not?
- Where can I find out who is the Head Coach of various sports at my (son's / daughter's) school?
- Where can I find out the County Standings/Playoffs Information for various sports teams in PG County Public Schools?
- Who/Where can I find out rules of play for County Sports Teams?
- Who can I contact regarding questions about PG County Public School Sports?
- Who can I contact regarding sponsorship's to a school for various teams?
- Where can I find out information about the student/player eligibility rules?
- Where can I find the athletic registration form/application for my (son/daughter) to participate in sports in PG County Public Schools?
- Can I purchase my (son/daughter) equipment for his/her use only?
- What about team pictures? Whom do I contact for this type of information?
- How much play/time in a Varsity Game is required for my (son/daughter) to receive a varsity letter?
- Are coaches mandated to provide player's statistics for their participation in games?
- What is the policy for using Social Media in PG County Public Sports?