

PEARL RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
2016 – 2017

Michael Murphy, Principal
(845) 620-3800

Todd Santabarbara, Director of Athletics
(845) 620-3943

To: Parent/Guardian of Pirate Student-Athlete
From: Todd Santabarbara, Director of Athletics
Michael Murphy, Principal
Re: Guidelines for Athletic Participation – Revised 8/22/16

Your child has returned a medical sports permission slip to the high school health office, thus indicating a desire to participate in the sports program at Pearl River High School. Please take a few minutes to reflect on the 19 areas listed below before you place your signature on the Athletic Participation Consent Form.

1. **FAMILY ID MEDICAL INFORMATION-** A parent/guardian of every student-athlete must complete the on-line sports registration via FamilyID in order to obtain medical clearance and be eligible for try-outs / practice. Please fill it out completely. All of the information is vital.
2. **SAFETY** - It must be realized that the participation in all sports, contact or non-contact involves a certain amount of risk from injury, some of which could be serious or even fatal. Athletes have the responsibility to exercise caution that only approved, safe playing techniques are utilized in practice and games. Talk this over with your son or daughter.
3. **TRAINING/CONDITIONING** - Training and conditioning are beneficial aspects of athletics. The student-athlete must attend all practice sessions and athletic contests. The athlete should strive to improve his/her body skills throughout the season. There will be practices on some Saturdays, Sundays, holidays and over the school vacations.
4. **SUSPENSION** - Student-athletes who are suspended from the Pearl River School District will not be allowed to participate in the athletic program during this suspension from school. This will include weekend and vacation periods. **Participation in sports is a privilege.** The administration has the authority to deny participation in games for violation of the school's student Code of Conduct.
5. **DRUG/ALCOHOL/TOBACCO USE** - It is the overwhelming opinion of physical educators, health educators, physicians and coaches that athletes perform best when they follow training rules, which include abstinence from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Medical research clearly substantiates the fact that the use of alcohol, tobacco, steroids and certain other drugs produce harmful effects on the human body.

The coaches of the Pearl River School District are concerned with the health and well-being of the student-athlete of this school community and are convinced that athletics and the use of alcohol, tobacco, steroids and other dangerous drugs are **not compatible**. As a result, any one who is found to have possessed, sold or used alcohol, tobacco, steroids, or any other dangerous drugs in school or in the community at large will have violated training rules. This will result in the following actions, which would be cumulative throughout the athletic year. These measures shall be in addition to any disciplinary actions pursuant to the Code of Conduct.

- a) **First Offense for the Year** -- Suspension from the next athletic contest (athletes must continue to practice with team unless suspended from school). Parents will be notified.
- b) **Second Offense for the Year** -- Suspension from interscholastic athletic participation for the remainder of the season. Parents will be notified.

- c) **Third Offense for the Year** -- Suspension from the Pearl River Athletic Program for the remainder of the school year. Parents will be notified.

Note: Parents will be notified of such violations. Students may also be subject to disciplinary action by the school administration and/or civil authorities and school suspension.

6. **COMMITMENT** - Your son or daughter is asking to participate for a complete sport season. Everyone is not a starter. All teams need a full squad for practices, contests, and the development of future starters. Make sure your child completes the entire season.

7. **ACADEMICS** - Athletes are expected to succeed in the classroom. Your child is, first and foremost, a student, and then an athlete. In past years, **80% of the "top 20"** students in each class of graduating seniors have been **"student-athletes"**. Your child must work hard in classes. Should your child experience difficulty or need extra help in any class, contact the Athletic Director, coach, guidance counselor or teacher who will help arrange extra help sessions. In addition, coaches monitor all report cards and interventions occur when grades become unacceptable.

8. **RULES OF PARTICIPATION / CONSEQUENCES:**

a) **BEHAVIOR:**

Student-athletes are expected to demonstrate good conduct at all times, in and out of Pearl River or at any school sponsored event. Conduct "unbecoming of a student-athlete" (i.e.: acts of stealing, damaging facilities or property at school or in the community or any other infraction of the school code) may result in disciplinary action by the coach, Athletic Director, Assistant Principal and/or Principal. Parents will be notified.

b) **ATHLETIC CONTEST CONDUCT:**

Student-athletes are expected to demonstrate good conduct during all athletic contests. Players who violate their responsibilities as participants will be subject to the following penalties:

Removal from a contest - Game officials and coaches will enforce all rules as they pertain to player conduct. Players committing acts serious enough for ejection from a contest, **must** be ejected as per Section One guidelines.

Removal from a subsequent contest - Players ejected from any contest for a player conduct violation may not participate in the next game as per Section One guidelines.

c) **HAZING:**

The Pearl River School District prohibits hazing. Hazing has no place in sports and will not be tolerated or excused as one of the risks assumed by an athlete joining a team (such as an initiation rite).

Hazing is defined as including but not limited to persecuting or harassing a student by playing abusive, humiliating, demeaning, rough or difficult tricks; frightening or scolding a student; and/or subjecting a student to personal indignity (physical or mental). Any student found to take part in any aspect of hazing, as defined above, will be subject to immediate disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from the team and/or school.

d) **BULLYING:**

The Pearl River School District prohibits bullying. Bullying is a form of harassment and has no place in sports and will not be tolerated. ***Bullying is defined as "the act of threatening, stalking, coercing or intimidating, verbally, physically, in writing, by gesture or through electronic communication, the well-being, health, safety or freedom, of any student, that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function or on a school bus that substantially disrupts the educational process."***

If it is determined that bullying has occurred, immediate and appropriate corrective action will be taken. The District shall appropriately discipline the offending individual in accordance with law and the Code of Conduct.

e) **TRESPASSING ON SCHOOL PROPERTY:**

The school buildings and grounds of the District are intended for use to implement the instructional, extra-curricular, co-curricular and athletic activities of students attending our schools, as well as for certain community and civic uses that support the quality of life in our school community.

In order to provide for the proper maintenance and security of school grounds, buildings and their contents, persons who are not engaged in school activities or Board-approved after-school hour activities shall be restricted from being present on the grounds or in the buildings at the several school sites within the District as follows:

High School and Middle School	Between the hours of 10:00pm and 6:00am
Elementary Schools	From one (1) hour after dusk until 6:00am

Any persons, violating the restrictions of this policy shall be subject to prosecution for trespassing on school grounds, including criminal trespassing in the third degree whenever such person knowingly enters or remains unlawfully in a school building in violation of conspicuously posted rules or regulations setting forth the rules for entry and use of the school building or in violation of a personally communicated request to leave the school building from any school administrator or custodian of the building.

9. **ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT** - Our athletes are equipped with the best and safest equipment we can obtain within our budget. Equipment becomes more costly each year. Uniforms and warm-up suits are to be worn to school on game days only. **No one** should have any equipment home after the season. **Your son or daughter is financially responsible for all equipment issued.** Should a student fail to return an item issued, he or she will not be eligible to participate on another athletic team until the item is returned or paid for.
10. **TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM AWAY CONTESTS** - All athletes must travel to and from away contests using transportation provided by the Pearl River School District. In special cases, a parent may request to provide transportation for **their child only**. In such cases, parents are required to sign out their child at the end of the contest with the respective coach. Under no circumstances are students permitted to drive their own cars to and/or from away contests.
11. **PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES** - Athletics are a direct extension of the Physical Education Program. Therefore, in order to participate in after school practices or games, a student must be dressed for class and participate in the physical education class activities of that day.
12. **ATTENDANCE** - Participation in any school activity depends on exemplary attendance and promptness to school and classes. Attendance in school on a regular basis is expected of all students. No student may participate in a school related activity if he/she is absent from school or misses any classes **after** period two. Exceptions will be made for legal absences (i.e.: a doctor's note must be provided). Absence from school the day before a holiday or vacation period precludes participation during the holiday period, unless the absence has been verified by a phone call to the attendance office either on or before the date of absence.
13. **ON TIME ARRIVAL** - Late practices or games do not provide any excuse for lateness to school. On time arrival for school is expected each day. Arrival in school on any day after the end of period 2 could preclude student participation in athletics on that day. **ONCE A STUDENT ARRIVES AT SCHOOL, HE OR SHE IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN SCHOOL AND ATTEND ALL CLASSES, INCLUDING STUDY HALLS, FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE DAY.** Any infraction could preclude participation in sporting activities for the day. On the rare occasion where an absence or

lateness occurs because of a doctor's visit, court appearance, religious observance or college visit, it is necessary to call the attendance office or the Athletic Director in advance.

14. **ATHLETES COMPETING AGAINST COLLEGE SQUADS** - Please be aware of New York State Eligibility Standard #7 of the NYS Handbook: *"A student is no longer eligible to represent the school in that sport in that season if the student participates in practice or competition with or against any individual or team(s) representing a college that season."*
15. **STUDENT/COACH COMMUNICATION** - Student-Staff Communications via Email, Cell Phones and Text-Messaging [Effective October 4, 2004] *"Staff members and students shall not communicate with each other by e-mail, and/or cell phones except at student e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers on a list furnished to staff, by the District, setting forth information contained on a parent consent form. List information shall be shared with the student's current building administrators, teachers, activity supervisor(s) and coach (es). The list shall be issued at the beginning of the school year, updated for newly enrolled students and otherwise updated at the beginning of each semester. Employees shall not use information on the list except for that provided to them for their current students."*
16. **CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT** - The Concussion Management and Awareness Law went into effect on July 1, 2012. Information regarding concussions should be reviewed by the athlete and the parent. All information is accessible via the district website. All athletes must participate in the ImPACT Concussion Management Program in order to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics. Every student must return a concussion management consent form in order to obtain medical clearance and be eligible to try-out/practice.
17. **SELECTION PROCESS / TRY-OUTS** - In many cases, there is a selection process that exists in athletics, as coaches will evaluate the various skill sets, talent level, sportsmanship, effort, etc. of those athletes trying-out for a team. Participation in private lessons, travel programs, outside leagues, and off-season workouts is highly encouraged, HOWEVER, participation in these experiences DOES NOT guarantee an athlete being selected for the roster.
18. **PLAYING TIME** - It is the philosophy of the PRSD Athletic Department that playing time is at the discretion of the coach. At the modified level coaches will do their best to play everyone on a consistent basis. At the JV level, you play to win, yet not at the expense of benching players on a regular basis. At the varsity level, coaches will let each player know in advance what their status is. Athletes will be made aware how much playing time they may or may not get under normal circumstances. Coaches will make every attempt to clear the bench when the game is out of reach. If an athlete has any questions or concerns about their role on the team, it is encouraged that they take the initiative and speak with their coach.
19. **STUDENT GRIEVANCES/ COMPLAINTS** – If a student has a grievance or a complaint about a school-related matter, a school employee or other school official, s/he may submit it, in writing, to the Principal of the school who shall respond within ten (10) school days with a written answer or proposed resolution. Grievances or complaints may be appealed in writing to the Superintendent of Schools if the Principal's answer or proposed resolution is not deemed satisfactory by the student. The Superintendent of Schools shall respond to all grievances and complaints within a reasonable period of time following receipt of the written appeal document.

Amendments:

- a) NFHS Coaches Code of Ethics
- b) Youth Sports Safety Alliance: Secondary School Student Athletes' Bill of Rights
- c) Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities: PRSD Code of Conduct

PLEASE KEEP THIS CORRESPONDENCE FOR YOUR FUTURE INFORMATION.

Coaches Code of Ethics

Coaches Code of Ethics

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student should be treated with the utmost respect, and his or her welfare should be considered in decisions by the coach at all times. Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFHS Board of Directors.

The coach shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

The coach shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with students, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media, and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

The coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.

The coach shall avoid the use of alcohol and tobacco products when in contact with players.

The coach shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct his or her program in harmony with the total school program.

The coach shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

The coach shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.

The coach shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

The coach should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.

The coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give student special consideration.

The coach shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/or state high school athletic association.



Secondary School Student Athletes' Bill of Rights

Protecting America's Student Athletes

- I. **Student Athletes have the right** to be coached by individuals who are well trained in sport-specific safety and to be monitored by athletic health care team members.
- II. **Student Athletes have the right** to quality, regular pre-participation examinations and each athlete has the right to participate under a comprehensive concussion management plan.
- III. **Student Athletes have the right** to participate in sporting activities on safe, clean playing surfaces, in both indoor and outdoor facilities.
- IV. **Student Athletes have the right** to utilize equipment and uniforms that are safe, fitted appropriately and routinely maintained, and to appropriate personnel trained in proper removal of equipment in case of injury.
- V. **Student Athletes have the right** to participate safely in all environmental conditions where play follows approved guidelines and medical policies and procedures, with a hydration plan in place.
- VI. **Student Athletes have the right** to a safe playing environment with venue-specific emergency action plans that are coordinated by the athletic health care team and regularly rehearsed with local emergency personnel.
- VII. **Student Athletes have the right** to privacy of health information and proper referral for medical, psychosocial and nutritional counseling.
- VIII. **Student Athletes have the right** to participate in a culture that finds "playing through pain" unacceptable unless there has been a medical assessment.
- IX. **Student Athletes have the right** to immediate, on-site injury assessments with decisions made by qualified sports medicine professionals.
- X. **Student Athletes have the right, along with their parents,** to the latest information about the benefits and potential risks of participation in competitive sports, including access to statistics on fatalities and catastrophic injuries to youth athletes.

STUDENT BILL OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Pearl River School District believes in the right of each child, between the ages of five and 21 years or until the child receives a high school diploma, whichever comes first, to receive a free and appropriate education. All students in this state between the ages of six and the school year through which he or she becomes 16 are required by law to regularly attend school, either in the public schools, non-public schools that are approved for equivalency of instruction by the appropriate school authorities, or in the home in accordance with the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

The right to a free public school education extends to all students, including those with disabilities. However, this right is not unconditional. As long as due process of law requirements are met, a student may be removed from the classroom, suspended temporarily or suspended permanently from school. Only students within the compulsory education ages (age six through the school year in which the student turns 16) are entitled to alternative, equivalent instruction following suspension.

RIGHTS OF STUDENTS

Education in a free society demands that students be aware of their rights and learn to exercise them responsibly. To this end, students have a right

- to be provided with an education that is intellectually challenging and relevant to demands of the 21st century;
- to learn in an environment free from interruption, harassment, discrimination, intimidation and fear;
- to participate in district activities on an equal basis regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation.
- to be informed of all school rules;
- be guided by a discipline policy which is fairly and consistently implemented.

In addition, students in this District are afforded the following rights

1. **Student Expression** - Students shall be allowed the opportunity for the free expression of ideas consistent with rights established by the federal and state constitutions. However, a student's freedom is subject to limitation in that the constitutional protections will not extend to libelous, slanderous, vulgar, lewd, indecent or obscene words or images or to words or images which by their very use incite others to damage property or physically injure persons. Furthermore, speech which materially and substantially disrupts the work and discipline of the school may be subject to limitation.
2. **Symbolic Expression** - Students, in light of constitutionally protected free speech rights, may wear political buttons, arm bands or badges of symbolic expression so long as the same conform to the limits set forth herein the dress code.
3. **Student Activities** - All pupils shall enjoy equal access to the extent of their capabilities for participation in the various extra-curricular and co-curricular activities sponsored by the School District. The privilege of participating in such activities shall be conditioned upon appropriate conduct as established by the student Code of Conduct and any rules promulgated specifically for participation in extra and/or co-curricular activities.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS

Students attend school so that they may develop to their fullest potential. With this in mind, each student is expected:

- to accept responsibility for his/her actions;
- to conduct his/her self with integrity in an ethical, moral, and respectful manner;
- to respect the rights of others, including his/her right to secure an education in an environment that is orderly and disciplined;
- to attend school on a regular and punctual basis;
- to complete class assignments and other school responsibilities by established deadlines;
- to show evidence of appropriate progress toward meeting course and/or diploma requirements;
- to respect school property, e.g. lockers, and help to keep it free from damage;
- to obey school regulations and rules made by school authorities and by the student governing body;
- to recognize that teachers assume the role of a surrogate parent in matters of behavior and discipline when at school, as well as during any school-sponsored activities;
- to contribute toward establishing and maintaining an atmosphere that generates mutual respect and dignity for all;
- to become familiar with this code and seek interpretation of parts not understood;
- to actively discourage inappropriate behavior of other students and report the incidents to the administration;
- to dress in an appropriate manner, so as not to disrupt the educational process.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

A cooperative relationship between home and school is essential to each student's successful development and achievements. To achieve this wholesome relationship, parents are urged:

- to show an enthusiastic and supportive attitude toward school and education;
- to build a good working relationship between themselves and their child;
- to teach their child self-respect, respect for the law, respect for others and for public property;
- to insist on prompt and regular attendance;
- to listen to the views and observations of all parties concerned;
- to recognize that teachers merit the same consideration and respect that parents expect from their child;
- to encourage their child to take pride in his/her appearance;
- to insist that their child promptly bring home all communications from school;
- to cooperate with the school in jointly resolving any school related problem;
- to set realistic standards of behavior for their child and resolve to remain firm and consistent;
- to help their child learn to deal effectively with negative peer pressure;
- to provide a place conducive for study and completion of homework assignments;
- to demonstrate desirable standards of behavior through personal example;
- to foster a feeling of pride in their child for their school;
- to provide support and positive reinforcement to their child.

Parents should be aware that they are responsible for any financial obligations incurred by their child in school. This includes lost books, damage to property, etc.

- in the event of removal from class, inform the student and the Principal of the reason for the removal;
- immediately report and refer violent students to the Principal or Superintendent of Schools.

THE ROLE OF BUILDING ADMINISTRATORS

As the educational leaders of the school, the Principal and his/her assistant(s) set the disciplinary climate for the school, not only for students, but for staff as well. Therefore, they must:

- seek to develop a sound and healthful atmosphere of mutual respect;
- evaluate the program of instruction in their school to achieve a meaningful educational program;
- help their staff self-evaluate their procedures and attitudes in relation to the interaction within their classrooms;
- develop procedures which reduce the likelihood of student misconduct;
- provide the opportunity for students and staff to approach the Principal directly for redress of grievances;
- work with students and staff to formulate school regulations;
- assist staff members to resolve problems which may occur;
- work closely with parents to establish a wholesome relationship between home and school;
- utilize all appropriate support staff and community agencies to help parents and students identify problems and seek solutions;
- establish necessary building security;
- assume responsibility for the dissemination and enforcement of the Code of Conduct and ensure that all discipline cases referred are resolved promptly;
- insure that students are provided with fair, reasonable, and consistent discipline;
- comply with pertinent state laws governing hearings, suspensions, and student rights;
- develop behavior guidelines and appeals procedures specific to each assigned school in harmony with this Code of Conduct;
- demonstrate desirable standards of behavior through personal example.

THE ROLE OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS

As the educational leaders of the school system, the Superintendent of Schools and central administrators must:

- reinforce and extend the indicated responsibilities of the Principals and make them applicable to the school system for grades K-12;
- recommend to the Board of Education appropriate policy, regulations and actions to achieve optimum conditions for positive learning;
- develop and implement an effective Code of Conduct supportable by students, parents, staff and community;
- demonstrate desirable standards of behavior through personal example;
- provide each teacher with a copy of the Code of Conduct.