

**Princeton City Schools  
Department of Interscholastic Athletics**



**Student Athlete/Parent  
Handbook**

PRINCETON CITY SCHOOLS  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

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Team Physicians: Dr. Marc Galloway and Dr. Barry Webb

# **Varsity Sports**

Academic Challenge

Baseball

Boys Basketball

Girls Basketball

Boys Bowling

Girls Bowling

Cheerleading

Chess

Boys Cross Country

Girls Cross Country

Softball

Football

Boys Golf

Girls Golf

Indoor Track

Boys Soccer

Girls Soccer

BoysSwimming

Girls Swimming

Boys Tennis

Girls Tennis

Boys Track

Girls Track

Boys Volleyball

Girls Volleyball

Boys Water Polo

Girls Water Polo

Wrestling

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# **PRINCETON ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**

## **PHILOSOPHY**

The athletic program of the Princeton City Schools is a cooperative effort of the Board of Education, the Administration, and the Athletic Department. The opportunity for participation in a wide variety of student-selected activities is a vital part of the student's educational experience. The experiences contribute to the development of learning skills and emotional patterns that enable students to make maximum use of their education.

Participation in activities is a privilege which carries with it a responsibility to the school, to the activity, to the student body, to the community, and to the individual student. We believe that by promoting sportsmanship at all levels, the program instills pride and reinforces a sound value structure, and enhances the individual's self image as well as the image of the school district and the community.

Princeton's student activities are considered an integral part of the educational program providing experience that will help develop young men and women physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally.

## **General Information**

### **Ohio High School Athletic Association (O.H.S.A.A)**

Princeton is a member of the Ohio State High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). It is important for all coaches, parents and athletes to be familiar with the bylaws of the OHSAA. Intentional violation of any bylaws or other policies is a very serious offense. While it is not possible to agree with every rule and regulation, it is important for all to comply with them.

Please visit the Ohio High School Athletic Association website at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

### **Greater Miami Conference (G.M.C)**

Princeton is a member of the Greater Miami Conference. The conference consists of public high schools in the greater Cincinnati area (Colerain, Fairfield, Hamilton, Lakota West, Lakota East, Middletown, Milford, Oak Hills, and Sycamore). The GMC is an extremely prestigious and competitive Conference. Teams from the conference are competing at the State level on an annual basis in almost all sports.

Princeton coaches are required to attend all League meetings including All-Conference selection meetings in their sport.

Visit the Greater Miami Conference website at [www.gmcsports.com](http://www.gmcsports.com)

### **Athletic Schedules:**

The most up to date athletic schedules can be viewed at [www.vikenation.org](http://www.vikenation.org)

## **Requirements for Student-Athlete Participation**

As a student-athlete, you are not eligible to participate in any sport until the following is completed (all can be completed in Final Forms):

1. OHSAA Physical Examination Form
2. Emergency Medical Authorization Form
3. OHSAA Authorization and Consent Form
4. OHSAA Eligibility and Authorization Statement
5. OHSAA Concussion Information Sheet
6. All academic eligibility requirements satisfied
7. Attend preseason student-athlete and parent meeting

## **Sportsmanship Philosophy and Guidelines**

The Princeton City Schools Athletic Department believes that interscholastic competition involving member schools of the Ohio High School Athletic Association should be governed by the basic principles of good sportsmanship. This document has been prepared to insure that all participants have a common understanding of those basic principles. Princeton City School District believes that students should be coached to play to the best of their ability and to understand that to play well is to play honorably. The promotion of sportsmanship is the obligation of all school personnel (principals, athletic directors and coaches) and is directed to the behavior of spectators, coaches and players. An additional component to consider is coaches' ethics. Princeton City School District believes the development of good sportsmanship through the practice of ethical behavior and moral reasoning is one of the acknowledged objectives of interscholastic athletics. Princeton City School District, therefore, expects school administrators, coaches, athletes, and spectators to know and embrace the following fundamentals of sportsmanship. Respect should be Princeton should treat visiting teams and their supporters as guests and accord them the consideration all human beings deserve. Visiting schools should respect the property and dignity of their host school and its athletic teams. Knowledge of and a proper respect for the current rules of the contest should guide the behavior of all participants. Rules are essential for a fair contest. Good sportsmanship suggests the importance of conforming to the spirit as well as the "letter" of the rules. All participants should strive to maintain self-control at all times. The desire to win should not be accepted as a reason for abandoning rational behavior. A proper perspective must be maintained by all if the potential educational values of athletic competition are to be realized. All participants should learn to recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of affiliation. Recognition of the good performance of an opponent is a demonstration of generosity and good will that is encouraged in all member schools. In order for good sportsmanship to prevail, it is essential that all participants understand their individual responsibilities and expected modes of behavior before, during and after contests.



## **Player Expectations**

Because players are admired and respected, they exert a great deal of influence over the actions and behavior of the community in general both at athletic contests and other various events throughout the community. It is important that players:

1. Treat opponents with the respect that is due them as guests and as fellow human beings.
2. Shake hands with opponents and wish them a good game when appropriate.
3. Exercise self-control at all times, accepting the judgment of the officials as the best judgment they could make given what they know and see. Never argue or make gestures indicating lack of respect for the officials' judgment.
4. Accept both victory and defeat with pride and compassion.
5. Congratulate opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.
6. Accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing the school and community.

## **Player Ejection from a Contest**

Any student-athlete ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant foul shall be **ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day**. In addition, the student-athlete shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until two regular season/ tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection (one contest in football). If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the student-athlete shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the student participates. A student-athlete under suspension may not sit on the team bench, enter the locker room or be affiliated with the team in any way traveling to, during or traveling after the contest(s).

A student-athlete who is ejected a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport. A student-athlete who has been ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct for the second time in the season during the last contest shall be ineligible for a period of time/number of contests subject to the discretion of the Commissioner. The period of ineligibility shall commence during the next sport in which the student-athlete participates. All student-athletes participating in the athletic program at Woodridge will be held accountable to the OHSAA player ejection rule.

### **Unsporting Player Behavior with Fans**

No member of any school-sponsored interscholastic athletics squad shall leave the 'playing area in which a contest is being conducted and enter the spectator area of the facility to engage in any type of conflict—verbal or physical. If a student-athlete leaves the 'playing area' and enters the spectator area of a facility to so engage a person, the minimum penalties shall be:

1. The student-athletes privileges to participate in interscholastic athletics shall be revoked and the student-athlete shall be ineligible for the remainder of the school year.
2. The school shall be immediately placed on probation pending an investigation (and report) into what happened, what caused it to happen, what was done by the school to diffuse what happened and what safeguards have been implemented by the school to prevent further happenings.

### **Inappropriate Participant Behaviors**

Participants (players and cheerleaders) should avoid the following inappropriate behavior:

1. Taunting officials, opponents or spectators.
2. Violation of bench rule: If an athlete leaves the bench area and is involved in an altercation on the playing field/area, it is strongly recommended that the athlete be suspended for two contests. The suspension should include non-conference and tournament games and should carry over into the next sports season if it occurs at the end of a sports season.
3. Ejection from contest.
4. Use of profanity.
5. Damage/destruction of school property.
6. Theft of school or personal property.

## **Spectator Expectations**

Partisan spectators by their behaviors and reactions determine to a large extent the reputation for sportsmanship of their school. Spectators should be reminded and should keep in mind that athletes are friendly rivals as members of opposing amateur teams. They are expected to be treated as such. Spectators should be reminded too, that the contest should be between the teams engaged in the competition and not between their supporters. It is important that all spectators:

1. Know and demonstrate the fundamentals of sportsmanship.
2. Respect, cooperate, and respond enthusiastically to the cheerleaders, coaches, and student-athletes of all teams.
3. Censure fellow spectators whose behavior is unacceptable.
4. Be positive toward players and coaches regardless of the outcome of the contest.
5. Respect the judgment and the professionalism of the officials and coaches.

### **Spectator inappropriate behavior:**

1. Verbal/physical abuse of officials.
2. Berating players, coaches or other spectators through: chants, signs, cheers, and profanity.
3. Publicly berating school officials within a contest environment.

### **Unacceptable interruptions of a contest:**

1. Throwing objects on playing area.
2. Entering playing area.
3. Disruptive behavior.

## **Sportsmanship and Social Media**

Sportsmanship extends to the social media environment as well. Students, coaches, Spectator Expectations and fans should not engage in derogatory exchanges over the Internet, text messages, or other avenues. Such actions are strictly prohibited and will be treated in the same way as unsportsmanlike behavior at an athletic contest.

## **Fan Code of Conduct**

Princeton City School District, in association with the Ohio High School Athletic Association promotes interscholastic events and sportsmanship. Sportsmanship is an essential part of any athletic competition and is expected from athletes, coaches, officials and fans. As a fan/spectator (student or adult) of Princeton City School District, you are to be an example of positive encouragement while supporting our athletes, coaches and officials. Our behavior should be positive, respectful and encouraging of the athletes, coaches, officials and the game. Failure to be an example of these athletic practices and/or ejection from an athletic contest will result in the following procedures to be taken:

**First Offense** – The spectator will schedule a meeting with the athletic director with resulting action that may include removal from the next two home athletic contests of the same sport. A letter will be sent by the athletic director and principal to the spectator in question notifying them of the ejection and the dates of ejection.

**Second Offense** – The spectator will be removed from all home athletic contests and other school events and activities for the remainder of the season of infraction. A letter of ejection will be sent from the office of the Principal notifying the spectator of the remainder of the season ejection.

**Third Offense** – The spectator will be removed from all home Princeton City School District athletic contests and other school events and activities for the remainder of the school year. A letter of ejection will be sent from the office of the Superintendent notifying the spectator of the ejection. Any athletic official, including but not limited to, contest officials, athletic director, principal, assistant principals, game site supervisors and anyone else in an administrative role on the site, may uphold enforcement of an ejection. While the Fan Code of Conduct encompasses behavior expectations and consequences for both student and adult fans, Princeton City Schools administrators may apply further consequences to a student ejected from a contest due to the student violating the Student Conduct Code

## **Respect the Game**

### **The Parents Role in Interscholastic Athletics**

**"A student's success or lack of success in sports does not indicate what kind of parent you are...But having a student athlete that is coachable, respectful, a great teammate, mentally tough, resilient and who tries their best is a direct reflection of parenting."**

- \* Get to know the coaches. Then you can be assured that his or her philosophy, attitudes, ethics and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your student-athlete under his or her leadership.
  
- \* Interscholastic athletics provide learning experiences for students, and unfortunately, sometimes mistakes are made. Just as you would praise a student's effort in the classroom, remember to praise your student-athlete in their attempt to improve academically, athletically, and as a person.
  
- \* Remember, the reason you attend athletic contests is to support and cheer for your student's team as well as to enjoy the display of skill and competition. Your role is not to intimidate the other team and its fans.
  
- \* A ticket to an interscholastic athletic event allows you the privilege to observe the contest, not a license to be obnoxious and/or verbally abusive to others.
  
- \* Show respect for opposing players, coaches, fans and support groups, Treat them as you would treat a guest in your home.
  
- \* Refrain from taunting or making any kind of derogatory remarks to opponents. Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved. Recognize and show appreciation for outstanding play by either team.
- \* Learn the rules of the game so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations are happening.
- \* Respect the integrity and judgment of the game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to call a fair contest.
- \* Be a positive behavior role model through your own actions and by censoring inappropriate or unbecoming behavior of those around you at events.

### **Communication with your Student-Athlete**

- ▶ Try your best to be completely objective about your student's athletic ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship and skill level.
- ▶ Make sure your student-athlete knows that whether they play well or make mistakes, win or lose, you love them, appreciate their efforts and are not in any way disappointed in them.
- ▶ Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to try their hardest and to work to continuously improve their skills and attitudes. Help them develop a healthy and balanced perspective toward competing and having fun.
- ▶ Be helpful, but do not coach your student-athlete. It's tough not to, but it is a lot tougher for your student to be overwhelmed with advice and critical information.
- ▶ Do not compete with the coach. If your student-athlete is receiving mixed messages from two different authority figures, he/she will likely become disenchanted.
- ▶ Try not to relive your athletic career through your student-athlete in such a way that creates pressure for your child.
- ▶ Do not compare the skill, courage or attitude of your student-athlete with other members of the team or siblings.

### **Respect the Game Sportsmanlike Behavior**

- Remember that young people play sports for their enjoyment, not to entertain you.
- Respect and show appreciation for the coaches, and understand that they have given their time to provide sport activities for our young people.
- Show respect for our opponents, and realize there would be no game without them.
- Do not have unrealistic expectations, and understand that doing one's best is as important as winning. Know that ridiculing a student-athlete for making a mistake is not acceptable behavior.
- Encourage student-athletes and coaches to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Respect the official's decisions, and encourage all participants to do the same.
- Do not use bad language or harass student-athletes, coaches, officials or other spectators.
- Always show good sportsmanship since young people learn best by example.

## **Communicating with the Coach**

### **Communication Parents Should Expect From the Coach**

Coach's philosophy pertaining to the team and sport.

Expectations the coach has for your student-athlete as well as all players on the team.

Time and location for all practices and contests.

Requirements such as special equipment needed and voluntary off-season conditioning expectations.

Procedures for reporting injuries and illnesses.

Expectations and rule infractions that may result in disciplinary action or denial of participation for your student-athlete.

### **Communication Coaches Expect From Parents**

History of injuries or illnesses and/or special concerns for the student-athlete.

Information pertaining to your student-athlete that would help the coach be more effective in communicating with him/her.

Notification well in advance of any schedule conflicts.

Specific concerns in regard to the coach's philosophy and expectations.

### **Procedures for Discussing Concerns with Coaches**

▶ Contact the coach to schedule an appointment to discuss your concerns. Meetings with parents will not take place before or after a contest or during practice time.

▶ Meetings will be attended by the parent, student-athlete, head coach and assistant coach.

▶ Parents and student-athletes will express their concerns and raise questions as needed. Other players on the team will not be discussed.

▶ Coaches will attempt to answer all questions in an honest and forthright manner. This may include a discussion of a student-athlete's strengths and weaknesses as well as their perceived role on the team.

\*\*\* If a meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, consider scheduling an appointment with the athletic director for further discussion.

## **Respect the Game**

### **Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches**

Treatment of your student-athlete.

Ways to help your student-athlete improve and develop.

Concerns about your student-athlete's behavior and/or academic accomplishments.

### **Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches**

Your student-athlete's playing time.

Specific offense, defense or team strategy.

Coach's play calling or game strategy.

Player combinations, positioning or other student-athletes.

**Because of the emotion exhibited by all parties, confronting a coach before or after a practice or game does not promote resolution of a problem!**

## **The Student-Athlete and Transferring Sports**

Student-athletes may not transfer from one sport to another after the first scheduled scrimmage or contest. A student-athlete who withdraws from a sport may not join another sport until the season in which he/she withdrew is completed. A student-athlete who withdraws from a sport may not begin conditioning or "open gym or open facilities" for a sport in the up-coming season without permission from the head coach of the sport the student-athlete withdrew from or until the current sport's season ends.



## **Conflicts in Co-Curricular Activities**

An individual student who attempts to participate in too many co-curricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations. The athletic department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of co-curricular activities; and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner so as to minimize conflicts. Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid a continuous conflict. This would include being cautious about belonging to too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means notifying the faculty sponsors involved immediately when a conflict does arise.

**Students are strongly encouraged to participate in activities in which they can commit fully. This is only fair to other members of the sport/activity. If there are continuous conflicts between multiple school activities, students will have to choose one commitment at that time.**

### **TEAM CAPTAIN'S ROLE:**

1. Assume a leadership role in initiating dialogue among the team to encourage a complete understanding of the athletic code and live by the rules established in the code.
2. Set a good example and display good character by following all training rules, team rules, school rules and always doing the right thing.
3. Play the role of a grievance mediator if others do not wish to go directly to the Coach.
4. Help build team unity by communicating regularly with all the players.
5. Be an example during practice by giving a total effort during drills and following the Coaches directions.
6. Be a leader by helping to motivate the team during practices and before and during competition.
7. Consult with the coach about players and playing time but realize that the Coach will make the final decision.
8. Be a trouble shooter for the Coach but do not attempt to intimidate teammates. Do let the Coach know if there are problems he/she is not aware of.
9. Lead by example in and out of the classroom as well as on the playing field.

## **Financial Obligations and Equipment**

Uniforms— In some sports, the athlete will be required to purchase a portion of the game uniform, which will become their property. When a uniform is issued to a student-athlete,

it is expected to be returned in the same shape when issued, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

Equipment – All athletes are responsible for the proper care and security of equipment issued to them.

1. All equipment issued to a player is to be worn only at practice or scheduled games or scrimmages involving that particular sport. Exceptions must be approved by the coach (i.e. jerseys).
2. Before any item is attached to, added to, removed from, or worn with a uniform that is issued to an athlete for a specific sport, the athlete must secure permission from the coach.
3. Each athlete is responsible for all equipment issued. Keep it clean and in the best possible condition. Princeton City School is not responsible for lost or stolen equipment.
4. Athletes are required to use a lock on athletic lockers to avoid theft.
5. All athletic equipment is the property of the Board of Education and the Athletic Department, therefore, school equipment may not be taken from the school building for the use of any other organization or for personal use. Any exception must be approved by the athletic director.
6. All equipment issued to an athlete must be returned at the end of the school season. Equipment that is not returned for any reason or is damaged beyond normal wear and tear must be paid for at REPLACEMENT cost.
7. Equipment is to be returned or lost equipment paid for within one week of the last contest of the sport. Any athlete who has not returned or paid for lost equipment within one week may be denied the right to participate in athletics until the equipment is returned or paid for.

Miscellaneous Expenses— It is entirely possible that expenses will arise outside of the participation fees in some activities and sports.

## **Participation on Junior Varsity and Freshman Teams**

The purpose for offering a junior varsity (JV) or freshmen team/schedule is to allow younger, inexperienced members of a given sport the opportunity to participate and gain experience to prepare them for Varsity level competition.

In sports and activities in which rosters are restricted by a tryout procedure, Seniors (12th grade) will not be permitted to participate on a Junior Varsity team.

## **Away Events and Student-Athlete Transportation**

Student-athletes are expected to travel to and from away practices, scrimmages, and contests on transportation provided by Princeton City School District. In the event of extenuating circumstances, exceptions may be granted by the head coach if the student-athlete provides notification through a written request signed by the parent or guardian. If the request is honored, a student-athlete will be permitted to travel with **his/her parents or guardian only.**

## **Bench, Team Area and Locker Room Restrictions**

The bench or team area and locker room of each sport is restricted to the student-athletes listed on the OHSAA eligibility form for the sport, coaches, volunteer coaches, managers, athletic trainers, paramedics, physicians, team videographers or other personnel approved by the athletic director or coach. Students, parents and fans are expected to remain in designated spectator areas or seated in the bleachers.

## **Requirements for Student-Athlete Participation**

As a student-athlete, you are not eligible to participate in any sport until the following is completed (all can be completed in Final Forms):

1. OHSAA Physical Examination Form
2. Emergency Medical Authorization Form
3. OHSAA Authorization and Consent Form
4. OHSAA Eligibility and Authorization Statement
5. OHSAA Concussion Information Sheet
6. All academic eligibility requirements satisfied
7. Attend preseason student-athlete and parent meeting

# **PRINCETON CITY SCHOOLS CODE OF CONDUCT AND RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**

## **INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION**

Interscholastic competition is offered in sixteen men's and sixteen women's varsity sports. School teams are selected and played against those of other schools. Princeton is a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) It is important for all students and parents and athletes to be familiar with the by-laws of the OHSAA. Intentional violation of any by-law or other policy is a very serious offense. While it is not possible to agree with every rule and regulation, it is important for all to comply with them. To further the cause of interscholastic athletics and to provide for interscholastic competition in academic areas, Princeton High School is a member of a league which began operation during the 1967-68 school year. Referred to as the Greater Miami Conference, this league comprises the following schools in addition to Princeton: Colerain, Fairfield, Hamilton, Lakota East, Lakota West, Mason, Middletown, Oak Hills, and Sycamore. Since these schools are friends as well as rivals, not only is a high grade of competition maintained but also a high degree of sportsmanship is expected.

Participation in athletics is a choice and a privilege. Participation in contests is at the discretion of the head coach and coaching staff.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY – CODE OF CONDUCT**

Playing and competing for Princeton City School District is a privilege not a right. Student-athletes are held in high regard and are seen as role models in the community. As leaders we have the responsibility to portray our team, our school and ourselves in a positive manner at all times.

In recent years, social networking sites have increased in popularity and are used by the majority of student-athletes. Student-athletes may not be aware that third parties including the media, faculty/administrators, future employers, college coaches and staff members, and OHSAA officials can easily access their profiles and view all personal information. This includes all pictures, videos, comments and posters.

Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the student, the athletic department and Princeton City School District. This can be detrimental to a student-athletes future and reputation.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions or presentations of the following:

1. Posting photos, videos, comments or posters showing the personal use of alcohol, tobacco, i.e., holding cups, cans, shot glasses etc.
2. Posting photos, videos, and comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.
3. Posting pictures, videos, comments or posters that condone drug related activity. This includes but is not limited to images that portray the personal use of marijuana, and drug paraphernalia.
4. Using inappropriate or offensive language in all comments, videos and other postings. This includes threats of violence and derogatory comments against other students.
5. Misrepresenting the District, School and Team.

If a student-athlete's profile and its contents are found to be inappropriate in accordance with the above behaviors he/she will be subject to one or more of the following penalties:

1. Written warning;
2. A meeting with Athletic Director and Head Coach;
3. Consequences as determined by the athletics department, for example, suspension or removal from the team.

For your own safety, please keep the following recommendations in mind as you participate in social networking websites:

1. Set your security settings so that only your friends can view your profile.
2. You should not post your email, home address, local address, telephone number(s), or other personal information as it could lead to unwanted attention, stalking, identity theft, etc.
3. Be aware of who you add as a friend to your site – many people are looking to take advantage of student-athletes or to seek connection with student-athletes.
4. Consider how the above behaviors can be reflected in all social media platforms.

If you are ever in doubt of the appropriateness of your online public material, consider whether it upholds and positively reflects your own values and ethics as well as the athletics department and Princeton City Schools.

## **ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

Violations of the Code of Conduct and Rules and Regulations by student athletes that occur on school grounds and/or at school related activities will be subject to additional disciplinary actions according to the Princeton City Schools Code of Conduct.

The administration reserves the right to place additional conditions on the length and severity of consequences of violation(s) depending upon the severity of the offense.

## **ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Students in grades 7-12 must maintain a minimum Grade Point Average during the preceding quarter to be eligible to participate in Interscholastic Athletics. Refer to chart below:

	4th Qtr.	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.
7th Grade	.....	1.00	1.00	1.00
8th Grade	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20

In addition to a minimum Grade Point Average, Student-Athletes in grades 7 and 8 who earn more than one (1) failing grade for any class or course in the school districts graded course of study will be considered academically ineligible for the following quarter.

Students entering the 7th grade for the first time will be considered eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement.

High School requirements for eligibility are:

Section 4-4-1 of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Constitutions and bylaws: “In order to be eligible in grades 9-12, a student must be enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period. During the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of FIVE one-credit courses of the equivalent which count toward graduation”.

Summer school grades earned may not be used to substitute for failing grades from the preceding grading period of the regular school year.

- A minimum Grade Point Average must be maintained on a quarterly basis:

Grade Level	Preceding 4th Qtr.	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.
9	1.20	1.00	1.00	1.00
10	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16
11	1.33	1.33	1.33	1.33
12	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.40

## **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION**

No athlete is allowed to participate until a completed O.H.S.A.A. Physical Examination Form is on file in the athletic director's office and can be downloaded from the Princeton City School District Athletic website. These forms require a physician's certification that the individual is permitted to participate in sports. The form is good for one year from the date of exam.

## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL EXAMINATION**

An emergency medical authorization form must be completed, signed and turned in to the coach of each team prior to the student participating in a practice or contest.

## **SMOKING, ALCOHOL, DRUG USAGE**

The use, sale or possession of tobacco products, alcohol, and illegal drugs on or off of school grounds, during a season while a member of a Princeton athletic team, is strictly prohibited. The observation by any Princeton faculty member, coach, or law enforcement agency is sufficient evidence to confront the subject with impending disciplinary action. Violations of this Policy will lead to denial of participation and/or removal from the Princeton School District interscholastic athletic programs. The student athlete will be held accountable for the Substance Abuse Policy cumulatively through his/her interscholastic career grades 7-12. For example: a violation during the 7th grade followed by a violation in the 10th grade would constitute a second offense.

Violations by student athletes that occur on school grounds and/or school related activities will be subject to additional disciplinary actions according to the Princeton City School District Code of Conduct.

Consequences to the Substance Abuse Policy:

**1st offense:** Minimum 7 day participation suspension. Required enrollment in Passages Substance Abuse Program. Reinstatement will not occur until the participation suspension is completed and the student is in compliance with the Passages Substance Abuse Program.

**Alcohol/Drug Offense** - Student athletes must submit to a professional drug/alcohol assessment. Proof of assessment completion must be provided to the athletic director. The professional assessment agency must be accredited and acceptable to the school district. If counseling is recommended following the professional assessment, the student athlete is required to attend substance abuse counseling sessions. Given that any counseling sessions may extend over a period of fourteen (14) days, the student athlete will need to provide proof of enrollment in a specific counseling program. If at any time the athlete discontinues the counseling program, he/she will be immediately denied participation until the program is completed. All proof of program attendance must be reported to the athletic director and is the responsibility of the student athlete.

**2nd offense:** Minimum 14-day participation suspension.

Required enrollment in Passages Substance Abuse Program. Minimum ten (10) hours of Community Service. Athlete/Parent responsibility to coordinate community service. Prior approval of Community Service must be obtained from the Athletic Director.

**Tobacco Offense** – Student athlete is required to attend a smoke/tobacco cessation program. Reinstatement will not occur until the participation suspension with community service are completed and the student is in compliance with the Intervention Program.

**3rd offense:** Suspension from participation for a period not to exceed one (1) calendar year. Length of suspension to be determined by the Athletic Disciplinary Council consisting of the Athletic Director, Building Administrator and staff member. Additional consequences may be rendered at the discretion of the Athletic Disciplinary Council.

**Self-Referral:** An athlete, who feels that he/she may have a substance abuse problem, may personally report circumstances to the athletic director, coach or a member of the school teaching staff. The athlete must submit to a professional assessment and, if recommended, undergo substance abuse counseling sessions. During this time the student may continue to participate in athletics. All self-referral information will remain confidential. If the assessment indicates treatment, the athlete must follow through with the program to remain on the team. Parent(s) may also make referrals on their own student athletes. Procedurally, parent referral will be treated as a self-referral. A self-referral counts as the first substance abuse violation.

## **CONDUCT, CHARACTER, AND DISCIPLINE OF ATHLETES**

In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletics are not involved, the school itself is to be the sole judge as to whether the pupil may play on its teams.

In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletics are involved, such as gross violations of sportsmanship, attacks on officials and other acts of misbehavior, the State Association shall have jurisdiction to determine the penalties involved and whether or not the pupil may participate in athletics.

Any athlete ejected from an athletic contest in any sport for unsportsmanlike conduct must be immediately placed under proper supervision.

## **INSUBORDINATION AND UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT**

This is an extremely broad area, which covers a wide variety of problems that ultimately depend on good judgment, fairness, and the best interests of all our athletes for the proper solutions. This dictates that a consistent approach be taken in dealing with these kinds of problems. The following approach will be followed by coaches in the disciplinary process:

1. The incident is specifically recorded and parents are notified by mail.
2. The coach makes the athlete aware that additional problems will result in dismissal from the team.
3. If the behavior is of a serious enough nature on the first offense, the athlete may be dismissed immediately.
4. Dismissal from any athletic squad requires the approval of the athletic director.

## **CONFLICTING ACTIVITIES**

When school athletic activities run concurrently one with another, an athlete who is actively participating in one sport or activity may not quit that sport or activity to join another ongoing activity without the consent of both coaches or sponsors involved.

When a cheerleader is selected to cheer for more than one sport and then withdraws, she is withdrawing for the remainder of the school year.

## **ATHLETIC CANDIDATES REPORTING LATE**

It is normal procedure for a coach to disqualify a student as a candidate for any sports activity when reporting late if:

1. That sport has actually been in session for one or more weeks.
2. Final team cuts have been made.
3. The first scheduled competition has been completed.

In the case of special or unusual situations, such as student transfer, student illness, injuries, etc., the good judgment of the coach and the best interests of the athlete must be the determining factor. Those situations judged special or unusual by a coach must be presented and approved by the athletic director.

## **UNEXCUSED ABSENCES**

There are only three reasons to obtain an excused absence; illness, injury or a special reason approved by the coach. Permission to be absent from practice or a scheduled contest must be secured from the coach in charge of that activity **in advance**. In the event unexcused absences do occur for practice or a scheduled contest, the coach will follow a three-step procedure in dealing with the issue.

- First offense – Absence is specifically recorded: Student and parent are notified that the student will be dismissed on the next offense.
- Second offense – Student is dismissed from team.

In order to participate in a contest, a student must be in attendance for at least one half of the regular school day, unless excused by the athletic director or principal. If a student is absent on Friday, he/she cannot participate until they attend one-half day of school.

**Number of seasons of participation (HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)** – A student shall be eligible eight continuous semesters from the date they enroll as a ninth grader. He/she shall not be eligible for more than four seasons of participation in any sport.

**Transferred students** – A student must submit an affidavit and be approved by the O.H.S.A.A. for eligibility clearance.

**Ineligible players** – A student shall not be allowed to appear at any scrimmage or interscholastic contest in the athletic uniform of his/her school if he/she is not eligible to play.

**Eligibility based upon age** – Once a student attains the age of 20, the student will no longer be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition notwithstanding where that 20th birthday falls in relation to the sport season.

## **SUSPENSIONS**

### In-School Suspension

- Four (4) or more in-school suspension offenses during the sports season may result in the dismissal from the team.

### OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION (3 DAYS OR LESS)

- First offense – Athletes may not practice or participate in a contest on the dates of suspension. Additional Coach administered discipline may be administered including dismissal from the team. Parents are notified by mail that the next suspension will result in dismissal from the team.
- Second offense – Three (3) days or less is considered the same as two unexcused absences. Any combination of two out of school suspensions will result in automatic dismissal from the team.

First offense of more than three days – Athletes will automatically be dismissed from the team.

The administration reserves the right to waive all of the above steps and dismiss any athlete(s) from a team.

Note: Parents of students who have been dismissed from an athletic team will be notified in writing by the Athletic Director. This notice shall include the reason for the intended suspension. The student shall be given the opportunity to appear before the Athletic Director to present any reason the student may wish to offer as to why the suspension should not take place. After the meeting, the Athletic Director will provide the student and parent with written notification as to what action will be taken.

If a player is dismissed, or quits a team before the season ends, he/she will not be permitted to attend/participate in any open gyms, practices, or other activities for any other athletic sport until his/her prior team's season is completed, i.e., if a student quits or is dismissed from the soccer team (fall sport) he/she cannot start working out with basketball (winter sport) until the fall season sport is completed.



# Princeton High School Student-Athlete TO-DO List



## When you're in 9th grade:

- Receive a copy of Princeton High School's 48 H NCAA Approved courses and learn more about the academic requirements for both Division I and Division II.
- This is important because Princeton's graduation requirements might not satisfy the NCAA or the colleges you want to attend
- Create a 4-year high school plan
- Take the PSAT
- Start to think and ask about careers that interest you

## When you're in 10th grade:

- Register for an NCAA Certification Account or Profile Page at the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- Meet with your counselor again to make sure you're on track with college planning
- Take the PSAT
- Research financial aid, and don't hesitate to ask an adult you trust for help.

*Some stats from the NCAA: Division I colleges offer multi-year, cost-of-attendance athletics scholarships—59% of student-athletes receive athletics aid*

- *Division II colleges offer partial athletics scholarships—62% of student-athletes receive athletics aid*

- *Division III colleges do not offer athletics scholarships, but 80% of student-athletes receive non athletics aid*
- *Attend college and career fairs*

## **When you're in 11th grade:**

- Take the ACT/SAT
- Ask your counselor about ACT [fee waivers \(if you are on reduced or free lunch\)](#).
  - If you're eligible, you'll get other benefits like NCAA Clearinghouse waiver, unlimited free score reports, and free college application fee waivers
- Create a username and password for the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) and gather necessary tax returns and other financial documents
- Take the ACT/SAT and use code 9999 to make sure the NCAA gets your score
- Visit colleges
- Review application materials needed for the colleges you're interested in
- Some colleges ask for letters of recommendation—think about which teacher, coach, or counselor you would ask
- At the end of the year, ask your counselor to upload your official transcript to the [NCAA Eligibility Center](#)

## **When you're in 12th grade:**

- Note early admission and regular application deadlines
- If you take the ACT/SAT again, make sure you practice with [Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy](#) and use code 9999 to send your score to the NCAA
- Complete the [FAFSA](#)
- Draft your application essays and ask for feedback
- Ask your counselor to send your official transcript to colleges
- Complete your college applications by the deadline
- Request your final amateurism certification from the NCAA at the [NCAA Eligibility Center](#)
- [Sign National Letter of Intent](#)

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

### **OHSAA GUIDE**

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/PreSeasonMeetings/OHSAAPreseasonMeetingPresentation.pdf>

### **NCAA ELIGIBILITY GUIDE**

[http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility\\_center/Student\\_Resources/CBSA.pdf](http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility_center/Student_Resources/CBSA.pdf)