

PRATTSBURGH CENTRAL SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The primary purpose of the athletic program in the Prattsburgh Central School District is to promote the elements of physical, mental, emotional and moral well being of the participants. It is hoped that athletics in our school will be a positive force in nurturing healthy competition in preparing for the balance of these four elements as an adult.

The athletic program is an important and integral part of the total school program and is open to participation by all students regardless of individual differences. Through voluntary participation, the athlete gives time, energy, and loyalty to the program. He/she also accepts the training rules, regulations, and responsibilities, which are unique to an athletic program. In order to contribute to the welfare of the group, the athlete must willingly assume these obligations, as the role demands that the individual make sacrifices not required of other students.

In addition to the "Rules and Regulations for Students in the Prattsburgh Central School," athletic program participants are also governed by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association and Section V guidelines.

Violations to any article of this athletic code of conduct will be handled by the coach, athletic director, and/or principal. Disciplinary action may consist of one or more of the following:

- a) conference with the athlete
- b) conference with the athlete's parent(s)
- c) suspension from practice(s) or contest(s)
- d) dismissal from the team
- e) dismissal from participation in athletics for multiple reasons.
- f) other appropriate action(s) as needed (administrative discretion)

ATHLETIC CODE

I. DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

- a. Before any suspension provided for under these rules shall take effect, the student shall verbally be advised by the head coach, Athletic Director, and /or Principal of the alleged violation in an informal conference with the athlete and, if they choose to attend, the athlete's parents. The athlete will be informed of the nature of the charges against him/her and be given an opportunity to respond before the coach, Athletic Director or Principal makes a decision as to any discipline.
- b. Any civil/criminal law infraction or conduct by a student athlete that is determined by the head coach, Athletic Director, and school administration to be detrimental to the athletic program, school, or school district will result in a conference between the student, the head coach, and in some instances the school administration. Offenders may face disciplinary sanctions which may include suspension from the team as determined by the Coach, Athletic Director, and/or Principal.

- c. A display of unsportsmanlike conduct toward an opponent, **teammate**, **coach**, or official or use of profanity during a practice or contest will not be tolerated. Offenders will be removed from the contest or practices. The head coach and student will meet to discuss the matter. Suspension may be a sanction. If an official ejects a player or coach, a one (1) game suspension will be given as a result of unsportsmanlike conduct.
- d. Athletes will allow coaches and officials to deal with abusive opponents during game play. Under no circumstances will an athlete provoke or otherwise engage in physical confrontations outside the rules of the game. Coaches and officials will make a determination if self-defense applies before any action is taken. A display of unsportsmanlike conduct involving physical confrontation with coaches, officials, player participants or sport fans will result in the minimum penalty of immediate suspension.

Penalty: 1st Offense: 5 game suspension which can extend into the next sport season; participate in a mandatory conference with the Coach, Athletic Director, and/or Principal to determine the status of reinstatement.

Example 1) If a player is suspended during soccer season with only 3 contests remaining and he plays baseball and doesn't play basketball, the player will miss the first two games of the baseball season.

Example 2) If a player plays basketball, the player will miss the first two games of the basketball season.

Example 3) If a player only plays one sport, that player will miss the first two games of the sport the following year.

2nd Offense: Suspension for one calendar year.

Further disciplinary action may be warranted in accordance with the Prattsburgh Central School District Policy, Section V and N.Y.S. Athletic Association Policy

- e. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, drugs, narcotics, or hallucinating agents by athletic program participants is prohibited.
1. First offense: The individual will be suspended 50% of the given sports season. If there is less than 50% of the scheduled contests remaining, then the athlete's suspension is pro-rated and is carried over to the next season of participation. At the end of this period, following a conference with the head coach, Athletic Director, and/or school administrator, a decision regarding further competition will be made.

Example 1) A player is suspended 50% of the winter basketball season consisting of 20 games; he/she is suspended for 10 games. If the

basketball season only has 5 games remaining (25% of season), then the player must sit out 25% of the next season of participation. This could be 25% of the spring sport season or carry over into the next school year.

2. Second offense occurring during the same school year:
The individual will be suspended from all sports participation for one calendar year and the student will be referred to the school administration.
- f. The rules and regulations in this code shall apply to any violations, on and off school premises during the season of participation. **(See District Code of Conduct Range of Consequences)**
 - g. Senior Class participants suspended for one calendar year may also be denied the privilege of involvement in remaining senior activities and possibly commencement ceremonies.

II. GENERAL REGULATIONS

- a. New York State Public High School Athletic Association rules must be followed in all cases of eligibility, transfer, physical examinations, insurance coverage, starting dates, use of school equipment, etc. Each coach has the responsibility to know, to inform team members and parents, and to enforce school and New York State regulations in these matters.
- b. All exceptions to regular participation on an athletic team (for example moving to a higher level team, joining a team after the practice season begins, or leaving and returning to a team mid-season for vacations, etc.) must be approved in writing by the athletic director and the school principal. All decisions will be in keeping with established Section Five and New York State Public Athletic Association regulations.
- c. Per New York State Public High School Athletic Association regulations: *“The Selection/Classification Program was designed for mature and exceptionally skilled students to advance to an upper level and less developed students to participate at an appropriate lower level that is suited to their development and ability. The program is not to be used to fill positions on teams, provide additional experience, provide a place for junior high students when no modified program is offered, or to reward a student. It is aimed at the few select students who can benefit from such placement because of their level of readiness.”*
- d. No athlete may quit one sport and turn out for another after the season has begun without the mutual consent of both coaches and without the approval of the Athletic Director.
- e. Athletes must travel to and from contests away from Prattsburgh in transportation provided by the school. The only exceptions are injury to a participant which would require alternate transportation, or a pre-approved condition by the Athletic Director or Administration. A

written parental note is required and students are to be transported by their parents only.

- f. Completion of the sports season is required in order for the student to be eligible for a letter or other team or individual awards. (Exception would be injury which limits participation). No awards shall be given to any student suspended for the remainder of the season for Athletic Code violation.

III. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- a. A student who is not in Homeroom by 8:13 a.m. or is absent from class without a valid excuse will not be allowed to participate in an activity that day. An exception would be made if the student had an approved medical appointment: In this case, the student must present a signed treatment from the doctor regarding the absence to the attendance officer. Administrative discretion may also be implemented (example: school bus arrives late).
- b. Unexcused absence from a scheduled practice will result in:
 - 1. Suspension from one contest following the first violation.
 - 2. Suspension for remainder of the season following the second.
- c. If a student is absent on the last school day of the school week and the competition is on a non-school day, the student must bring to the coach a signed statement from the parent that permission is given to participate. It is recommended that the coach call the parent regarding the absence.
- d. A student who has been injured and has received medical treatment cannot participate again until the date indicated by the student's doctor.

IV. COACH'S RULES

Additional rules or regulations from the head coach are authorized and must be approved by the principal and athletic director (i.e. dress code, physical appearance, curfew, wearing of jewelry, etc.). Any additional rules and regulations must be presented to athletes at the initiation of the sports season and must be in writing and on file in the office of the Athletic Director.

V. APPEALS PROCESS

An athlete/or athlete's parents may appeal the decision of the coach, AD or principal to the School Superintendent. A written notice of the appeal must be received by the Superintendent within five (5) school days after the coach or principal's determination. Copies of the Notice of Appeal must be sent by the athlete to the coach or principal. A hearing with the Superintendent or his designee presiding must then be held within five (5) school days after the receipt of the Notice of Appeal. Minutes shall be recorded and are considered confidential information.

The athlete and the parents may be accompanied by a representative of their choice.

The decision of the Superintendent may be appealed to the Board of Education by a written notice to the Superintendent or President of the Board within thirty-(30) days following the Superintendent's decision. The Board's review shall be based solely upon the record and limited to determining whether the decision of the Superintendent is based upon substantial evidence. The review shall be conducted in executive session.

Sportsmanship

The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity permeate our culture. The value of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all educational activities, including athletics. We define good sportsmanship as those qualities of behavior, which are characterized by generosity and a genuine concern for others. Good sportsmanship is viewed as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity. The concept of sportsmanship must be taught, modeled, expected, and reinforced in the classroom as well as in competitive activities. Athletics provide an arena for participants to grow, excel, understand and value the concept of sportsmanship and teamwork. Sportsmanship is good citizenship in action. Perhaps a quote from Knute Rochne says it best:

“One man practicing good sportsmanship is better than fifty others preaching it.”

Prattsburgh Central School is committed to promoting the proper ideals of sportsmanship at all interscholastic activities. Good sportsmanship on the part of spectators at athletic contests is as important as good sportsmanship on the part of athletes and coaches. The following guidelines were developed by the PCS Sportsmanship Committee, which had representation by coaches, Board members, parents, students, and the athletic director. These guidelines were developed for presentation to the Board of Education.

Spectators

One of our expectations at athletic contests is that visiting team members, students, and adults are guest to be accorded all the courtesy and consideration that a friendly, wee-mannered and well-intentioned host would normally give. Visitors, in turn, are expected to act as invited guests, using the home school's facilities with care and showing respect for the rules of the home school.

It is expected that spectators will:

- **Show respect for opponents at all times-** *Recognize and appreciate their skills and performance regardless of affiliation. The ability to recognize quality performance without regard to team membership is one of the most highly commendable gestures of good sportsmanship.*
- **Show respect for officials of the game-** *Officials should be recognized as arbiters who are trained to do their job and do it to the best of their abilities. Good sportsmanship implies the willingness to accept and abide by the decisions of the officials.*
- **Know, understand, and appreciate the rules of the game-** *Familiarity with the current rules of the game is essential in understanding the game and being a good spectator.*

- **Maintain self-control at all times-** *Cheering should be positive and should not be directed toward creating unfriendly situations with athletes, coaches, or spectators.*

**** Spectators must recognize that their conduct plays an important role in establishing the reputation of their school. Good sportsmanship is an important value of athletic competition.****

- **Spectators who evidence continual poor behavior may be requested to leave and may be denied attendance at future events, as per district policy. As stated in the Parent/Student handbook, "All visitors to the school, including those who attend school functions, are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner. Those who do not do so will be required to leave school and may have their visitation rights revoked."**

Athletes

An athlete displays a positive attitude by showing respect, displaying good conduct, cooperating at all times, accepting decisions, and avoiding unsportsmanlike conduct.

It is expected that our athletes will:

- **Learn and understand the rules of the game**
- **Demonstrate respect and cooperation with coaches and teammates**
- **Demonstrate self-control and respect for opponents before, during, and after a contest**
- **Demonstrate self-control and respect toward officials**

Coaches

Coaches have a special opportunity to work with young people through athletics and play a significant role in their development as players and as people. Coaches are responsible for the level of sportsmanship shown by their team and should model appropriate behavior for their athletes.

It is expected that coaches will:

- **Instruct players in the elements of good sportsmanship and remove players from competition who demonstrate unsportsmanlike behavior**
- **Know the rules, abide by and respect the decisions of the officials**
- **Set a positive example**
- **Approach competition as a healthy and constructive exercise**
- **Refrain from the use of crude, insensitive, or abusive language with players, opponents, officials, and spectators**
- **Win with character and lose with dignity**