



Parkway Christian School
Athletics Handbook
2023-2024

Mission Statement:

The mission of Parkway Christian School (PCS) is to create a community among our students, parents, staff and church. The community provides a sound academic education integrated with a Christian view of God and the world.

Philosophy of Christian Athletics:

The Parkway Christian Athletic Department seeks to carry out the mission of the school through a competitive sports environment.

Parkway athletic teams will compete with intense effort and pursue victory. Inappropriate conduct from coaches, players and spectators is contrary to our mission and will not be permitted. PCS teams and spectators will be humble in victory, and generous in defeat. They will not instigate conflict nor retaliate to it.

Athletic Department Information:

Zachary Wright
zwright@pcs-fl.net
Athletic Director

Taylor Scandizzo
tscandizzo@pcs-fl.net
Assistant Athletic Director

Danielle Kitsteiner
dkitsteiner@pcs-fl.net
Administrator over Athletics

Nikki Koski
nkoski@pcs-fl.net
Head of School

Sports Offered

Elementary School

Fall: Girls Volleyball, Co-Ed Flag Football, Cross Country

Winter 1: Girls Basketball, Boys Soccer

Winter 2: Girls Soccer, Boys Basketball, Cheerleading

Spring: Girls Flag Football, Boys Volleyball, Boys and Girls Track & Field

Middle School

Fall: Girls Volleyball, Co-Ed Flag Football, Cheerleading, Cross Country

Winter 1: Girls Basketball, Boys Soccer

Winter 2: Girls Soccer, Boys Basketball, Cheerleading

Spring: Girls Flag Football, Boys Volleyball, Boys and Girls Track & Field, Boys Baseball

General Athletic Policies:

Academic Eligibility:

All athletes will be required to maintain a "C" (70) average throughout their sport season. The athletic department will check grades every Monday. If a student athlete has an "F" (59 or lower) in any subject, they will be placed on academic probation and **will not** be permitted to play in the upcoming game until their grade rises. Students and parents will be notified before the game if this situation occurs. PCS mandates that if a student cannot play in the game due to grades, they are still required to attend the game and be a part of the team. While on academic probation students are required to attend practice.

Behavioral Eligibility:

All athletes will be required to maintain a positive attitude and demonstrate the PCS Elementary and/or Middle School Honor code in and out of class. ALL infractions, detentions, and suspensions will be documented. Repeated behavioral infractions will result in loss of privileges and/or player eligibility to try out, participate in practice and/or playing time. Athletes who earn a suspension in school are not eligible to participate in any after school activities including practice, games, and/or award ceremonies including as a spectator.

PCS Administration has the right to take disciplinary action against an athlete for excessive behavioral issues that may arise in the school day and/or events/games. If an athlete has to be benched due to grades or behavior, they are still expected to attend the game(s). If they miss said game, they will sit out of the following game. If they miss 50% of the games, students could be dismissed from the team.

If expulsion occurs, a student athlete will not qualify for any awards for the specific sport(s).

Cell Phones:

Cell phones are not permitted at any sporting event including games, practices, locker rooms, and awards ceremonies. Pictures and videos must adhere to all PCS standards and procedures. If a student is found in violation of these policies, privileges may be lost and or further consequences may be given by administration.

Group Communication/What's App/Chats:

WhatsApp will be the main source of communication for all team sports. Chats will be created and run by the PCS athletic department. Chats are for the purpose of dissemination of necessary information regarding the team. **Chats are to be respectful, mission appropriate, and positive in spirit.**

Attendance:

School Attendance Student-

Athletes must be in school no later than 11am on a school day and may not leave before 12pm to be eligible to play in any afterschool games and/or practices.

Coach, Parent and Player Relationships:

Parent/Coach Relationship

Parents and PCS staff band together to teach and train students. As parents, when your child becomes involved in athletic programs, you have an obligation to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program. Where expectations are unclear, direct communication with the coach is required. Face-to-face or phone conversations are highly preferable to written communication in these scenarios.

As children become involved in the athletics programs, 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 athletes or their parents wish. At this time, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches During/After Games

These conversations should occur between the coach and/or the AD at a separate time and location:

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Other student athletes
- Opposing team

Procedures to Follow for Parent/Coach Meetings

- Should parents have any issues related to the above bullets, they are to email the AD to request a meeting.
- **Do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a game or practice regarding these issues.** These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution and will NOT be tolerated.

Player-Coach Conflict

1. "Cool down" period: Players should spend 24 hours reflecting about the situation.
2. Players should notify/approach the coach with the desire to speak privately about individual concerns. Coaches should encourage athletes to speak freely and help them express their concerns.

Parent-Coach Conflict

1. "Cool down" period: Parents should spend 24 hours reflecting about the situation.
2. Parents should contact the Athletic Director (AD) and request a time to meet privately and or have a phone conversation and provide a brief description of the subject.

Spectator Conduct

Team meetings, practices and competitions are a part of the educational process at PCS. The conduct of PCS spectators and fans is a reflection of PCS and Christ to our community.

Please observe the following guidelines when attending PCS sporting events.

- All cheering should be positive and supportive of the athletes involved.
- Contest officials, opposing players and coaches should be treated with respect.
- Never express disagreement with coaching decisions or player mistakes publicly.
- Parents should never approach a coach, official, player before, during or after a game.
- Treat all property (home or away) with respect.

Administrative Discipline Process

1. Discreet correction and verbal warning by PCS Administration.
2. Suspension from an athletic venue and possible consequences to the student athlete.
 - Game suspensions can be from 1 to 3 games depending on the severity of the circumstances.
3. Game suspensions from all athletic events for the remainder of the school year, and possible suspension of the student athlete.

Cut Policy / Team Selection

Parkway desires to be as competitive as possible, so only the athletes with the highest skill level and the strongest work ethic are selected for teams. Coaches will give every student trying out for a team an opportunity to demonstrate his/her ability and skill level. At the conclusion of this process, the coach might have to make final cuts that may be hard for a student to accept. The AD or the Assistant AD will communicate with families with tryout information. **If a student can not make tryouts for sickness, vacation, etc, there will be NO additional tryout date.**

All students will be required to sign up for tryouts prior to the given date. No student will be allowed to try out if there are any outstanding financial balances and or academic/behavioral issues. The athletic department will determine these and communicate to all involved parties.

Students **are not** eligible to try out if they have any failing grades.

Practice

Be on time.

Wear proper practice attire and gear.

No hoodies or sweatshirts will be allowed to be worn during practice.

Uniforms

Athletics uniforms are the property of PCS Athletics. Each student athlete will be assigned a uniform once the team is finalized. The Athletic department will collect the uniform at the end of each season. If the uniform is not returned, parents will be notified and billed for the missing item.

Uniform Replacement Fee is \$75.00

Volunteering:

PCS Athletics represents so well due in large part to the nature of our community. Volunteers elevate the excellence of our events. In order for our athletic program to prosper and continue, we are requiring that each parent volunteer at one home game for the following responsibilities:

Score Keeper

Scoreboard Operator

Volleyball Line Judge

Concessions

The AD will train and assist you on all aspects of these responsibilities.

Parent Commitment to PCS Athletic Participation Competition

- I understand that Parkway Christian Athletics is a competition-based program.
- I understand that athletic participation is a privilege, not a right.

Conflict Resolution

- I will take my concerns directly to the person.

Commitment

- I understand that my child is committed to a team and should attend all team activities.
- I understand that appointments, parties or other similar events are not an excuse for missing team activities.

Injury

- I understand that injury is a part of athletic participation and that my child is still a member of the team and should maintain their commitment.

Fees

- I will pay all athletic fees by the dates communicated. If finances are a concern, I will communicate with the business office to arrange payment.

Playing Time

- I understand that all players may not play in each contest.
 - I understand that not all players will have equal playing time throughout a season.
- I understand that playing time discussions will not occur between coaches and parents.
 - I will encourage my student athlete to speak to their coach if they have any questions or concerns.

Spectators

- I will be a positive influence in the bleachers/field.
 - I will treat opposing teams, coaches and contest officials with respect regardless of their actions toward me or my child on the field of play.

Volunteering

- I understand that I will be called upon to volunteer during my child's season and will do so to the best of my ability and availability.

As a parent, I understand and commit to adhere to the items listed above in the athletic handbook to the best of my ability. If I have questions or concerns about team processes, I will take those directly to the Athletic department.

Parent Signature

Date

Student-Athlete Commitment to PCS Athletics

PCS Athlete

- I understand that being a part of a PCS athletic team is a privilege, and I can be removed from the team if I don't conduct myself in a positive manner.
- I will compete with fairness, honesty, and integrity.

Academics

- I commit to maintaining a 60/D in each of my classes throughout the season.
- I commit to exemplify good citizenship, the highest academic effort, responsibility, and integrity in the classroom.

Behavior

- I commit to respecting and following all guidelines and instructions provided to me by my teachers, coaches, athletic directors, and any other administrative personnel at PCS.
- I will refrain from obtaining detentions and suspensions.

Sportsmanship

- I will not use profane language towards my teammates, coaches, officials, or the opposing team.
- I will not use flamboyant gestures towards the opposing team
I will shake the hands of the opposing team if we win or lose.

As a student athlete, I understand and commit to adhere to the items listed above in the athletic handbook to the best of my ability.

Student Signature

Date