

# CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

Plymouth Christian Academy Code of Conduct for Student Athletes has been developed to provide a uniform set of rules and regulations to govern all athletic participants regardless which team they represent. The Athletic Code of Conduct combines rules and regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) which have been adopted by Plymouth Christian Academy with specific school rules governing athletic participation. The Code of Conduct for Student Athletes will be in effect during the entire school year and the seasons of practice and competition. Student athletes are to comply with all aspects of the code if they desire to enjoy the privilege of continued eligibility for participation in athletics.

In addition, student athletes who incur school disciplinary action because of violations defined in the PCA Handbook are also subject to the disciplinary actions contained herein. Please note that when a student is academically ineligible to participate in contests and scrimmages, he/she still may practice with the team as long as he/she is not suspended from school. However, the participant may forfeit the opportunity to receive an athletic award if loss of participation in contests prevents him/her from meeting the requirements for earning a varsity letter.

Rules which have been adopted by Plymouth Christian Academy also covered by MHSAA rules are indicated by an asterisk(\*).

Students are subject to all MHSAA rules and obligations even though such rules may not be included specifically in this document.

## SECTION I: RULES OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION

The following rules of eligibility must be observed in order to participate in the interscholastic athletic program:

### **A. \*ENROLLMENT**

The student must be enrolled in the school by the Monday of the fourth week of the semester in which he/she competes.

### **B. \*AGE**

High School: A student in grades nine through twelve who participates in any interscholastic athletic contest must be under nineteen (19) years of age. When a student's nineteenth birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year, he/she is eligible for participation for the balance of the school year.

Middle School: A seventh or eighth grade student must be under fourteen (14) and fifteen (15) years of age respectively. A student who reaches that age after September 1 is eligible for participation for the balance of that school year.

### **C. PARENT/GUARDIAN LIABILITY FORM**

The student must submit the signed parent/guardian liability form to the coach prior to participating in tryouts, practice sessions or contests. Students and parents are to read the Code of Conduct for Student Athletes and the PCA Handbook before signing the parent/guardian consent form. Parents must provide a copy of the student's insurance coverage or provide a signed waiver of liability towards the school.

### **D. \*PARTICIPANT PHYSICAL EXAMINATION**

A student must have a physical examination completed by a Physician (M.D. or D.O.), Physician's Assistant, or Nurse Practitioner certifying that the student is fully able to compete in interscholastic athletes. The physical must take place after April 15 of the previous school year to be used for the current school year. The student must submit the completed physical form to the athletic director's office prior to participating in tryouts, practice sessions or contests. The completed form will be kept on file in the building athletic director's office during subsequent sports seasons.

### **E. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY – PLYMOUTH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY REQUIREMENTS**

Students must have a minimum nine-week average or semester average of 75% and must not be failing any class to participate in athletics. Students with a 75% or higher will be declared eligible for sport participation during the next nine-week marking period.

- Grades will be checked at the end of the first and third quarters, and the first and second semesters
- **1<sup>st</sup> ineligibility:** If a student's average is below 75% and/or they are failing any class for the 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> card marking or for the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, the student will be declared temporarily ineligible and may participate on a limited basis. The athlete may attend practice only. The athlete may not play in games (home or away) with the team for 3 weeks. At the end of the 3 week period, the athlete's average will be computed. If the average is 75% or higher he/she is reinstated with full status.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> ineligibility:** If it is below 75% and/or they are failing any class at the end of the 3 week period, he/she will be declared ineligible for the remainder of the 9 weeks. The athlete will not be allowed to play or practice.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> ineligibility:** If still below 75% and/or they are failing any class at the end of 9 weeks then officially dropped from roster for duration of season.

**Summer & First Quarter Eligibility:** eligibility for PCA summer practices/games will depend on the status of the previous year's 2<sup>nd</sup> semester grades. If a student has a 2<sup>nd</sup> semester grade average below 75% or they failed a class, they will still be eligible to participate in PCA summer practices/games. However, the student will be on academic

probation for the first three weeks of the school year. Grades will be checked at the end of the three weeks. If, at that point, the student has earned a 75% average and is not failing any class then they can continue to participate until the 1<sup>st</sup> card marking grade check. If they fall below a 75% average or they are failing a class after the 1<sup>st</sup> three weeks then they will not be allowed to continue to participate in the sport until the 1<sup>st</sup> card marking grade check.

## **SECTION II: \*MAINTAINING AMATEUR STATUS**

A. Students participating or planning to participate in interscholastic athletics MAY NOT: (1) accept any money or other valuable consideration for participating in athletics, sports or games; (2) receive any money or other valuable consideration for officiating an interscholastic athletic contest; or (3) sign a contract with a professional team.

B. The rule (A) above applies to the following sports: Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Soccer, Softball, Skiing, Tennis, Track, Volleyball, Wrestling, Ice Hockey, Competitive Cheer, Swimming and Diving.

**FAILURE TO COMPLY:** Any student violating this rule is ineligible and may not apply for reinstatement until the equivalent of one full school year has elapsed from the date of last violation. After that date the student may request reinstatement.

## **SECTION III: \*OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL ATHLETIC COMPETITION (High School Only)**

A student who has participated in any athletic contest as a member of a school team may not participate in the same season in any athletic competition outside of and not sponsored by the school.

**FAILURE TO COMPLY:** A student violating rules in this section will be ineligible to participate in athletic contests and scrimmages for a period from a minimum of the next three contests up to a maximum of one school year, depending on the violation.

## **SECTION IV: STUDENT ATTENDANCE REQUIRED FOR ATHLETICS**

- All students are expected to be present for at least four (4) periods on days which they have a sport event. Students arriving after first period will be declared ineligible for that day's game or event unless approved by the Athletic Director with prior communication. The only excused absence will be for a medical/dental appointment. Any exceptions to this must be approved by the Athletic Director or the Principal.
- Should an athlete develop a pattern of absences which are "day after" related to game days, the school reserves the right (after warning and consultation with parents and coaches) to take appropriate disciplinary actions.
- Students who have been suspended for all or any part of a school day are ineligible for sports activities on that day.

## **SECTION V: ATTENDANCE AT ATHLETIC PRACTICE SESSIONS AND CONTESTS**

A. Attendance at practice sessions is essential to prepare athletes physically and mentally for athletic contests. All team members are required to be at all athletic practice sessions and contests at the times designated by the coach. Should situations occur when it is impossible for a participant to attend due to illness, injury and other required school or family commitments, the student shall make prior arrangements with the coach for an excused absence.

### Rules for Participation in Athletes

1. Absence from practices or games – an athlete may not miss more than 6 practices or games. If an athlete misses any combination of 6 events during a season/he/she may be ineligible to participate for the rest of the season.

ATHLETES: YOU AND YOUR PARENTS NEED TO INFORM YOUR COACH OR THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR THAT YOU WILL BE MISSING PRACTICE. Please keep in mind any practices missed will affect your playing time.

### 2. Absence From School

- All students are expected to be present for at least four (4) periods on days which they have a sport event. Students arriving after first period will be declared ineligible for that day's game or event unless approved by the athletic director with prior communication. The only excused absence will be for a medical/dental appointment. Any exceptions to this must be approved by the Athletic Director or the Principal.
- Should an athlete develop a pattern of absences which are "day after" related to game days, the school reserves the right (after warning and consultation with parents and coaches) to take appropriate disciplinary actions.
- Students who have been suspended for all or any part of a school day are ineligible for sports activities on that day.

## **SECTION VI: TRAVELING TO AND FROM AWAY CONTESTS**

Any student on a team traveling to an away athletic contest on school owned or chartered transportation or other such approved vehicle shall return to the home school on the same vehicle after the contest is over. The only exception is when prior arrangements are made and the coach grants permission for the student to leave the contest site with his/her parent, guardian or other adult family member. Students may not transport other students.

**FAILURE TO COMPLY:** Any participant not returning from away contest with a team without permission of the coach is ineligible to participate in the next scheduled contest. The participant may practice with the team. A second violation may result in dismissal from the team for the remainder of the sport season.

## **SECTION VII: UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

Athletic participants are responsible for the care, security and use of uniforms and equipment issued to them.

**FAILURE TO COMPLY:** Athletic participants will be responsible to pay the replacement cost for uniform or equipment items that are abused or not returned. Athletes will not be allowed to participate in athletics in succeeding seasons until this obligation is met.

## **SECTION VIII: USE OR POSSESSION OF TOBACCO, ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG SUBSTANCES**

The following are grounds for expulsion from school and therefore, grounds for dismissal from the team.

- Selling or giving and buying or receiving of drugs.
- Possession or use of any drug without medical authorization in school, at a school sponsored activity, or on the bus or showing evidence of such when appearing at school or on a school sponsored activity.
- Possession of any drug paraphernalia without medical authorization.
- Possession or use of alcoholic beverages in school, at a school-sponsored event, or on a bus or showing evidence of drinking when appearing at school or a school sponsored event.

## **SECTION IX: SUMMER AND OFF-SEASON PROGRAMS**

A variety of sport camps, schools, clinics and training programs are offered to athletes during the off-season and summer months by individual coaches, parks and recreation, and the district community education program. These programs provide opportunities for aspiring athletes to improve their skills in a chosen sport. These summer and off-season programs are voluntary. Athletes shall not be required to enroll in these programs as a condition for membership or placement on an athletic team the succeeding season.

## **SECTION X: SUPPLEMENTAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Supplemental team rules and regulations unique to a given sport shall be developed by individual coaches with the approval of the building principal. These rules will generally define expectations relating to participant attitude and cooperation and will include criteria for earning a varsity letter award. These rules must be clarified at the start of the season.

**FAILURE TO COMPLY:** Failure to abide by the supplemental rules and regulations distributed by the coach will lead to disciplinary action as outlined therein.

With the provisions of this Code of Conduct for Student Athletes, and the supplemental team rules and regulations, the coach may suspend or exclude a student from athletic participation. A team member who is suspended from school as outlined in the PCA Handbook may not participate in practices or contests because the suspension covers all school activities. However, a team member ruled academically ineligible to participate in contests and scrimmages may still be able to practice with the team. Any participant who is dismissed from the team for the remainder of a sports season will have forfeited the opportunity to earn an athletic award.

## **SECTION XI: ATHLETE / PARENT EXPECTATIONS**

### **Athlete**

- A. Maintain a solid academic standing and obey school rules.
- B. Be committed for the season.
- C. Attend all games and practices (no more than 6 absences).
- D. Display good sportsmanship.
- E. Remember that we represent Christ in all that we do.

### **Parent**

- A. Commit their athletes to the entire season.
- B. Avoid using athletics as a discipline tool.
- C. Try to schedule appointments around games and practices.
- D. Plan family trips to avoid missing games and practices