

# Promise Preparatory Academy

## Student Athletic Handbook

### Knights

“Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31



## Athletic Department

### **Vision/Purpose**

PPA seeks to help children grow academically, athletically, spiritually, emotionally, and socially.

### **Our Prayers and Expectations are for:**

Athletes who genuinely have a love for God, have a conviction to represent Him on the field/court, have a teachable, humble attitude, and exhibit a selfless “team before me” approach.

Coaches who love their athletes and assist for them in preparation, strategic improvement, and college recruiting exposure, who respect and speak well of peers, parents, staff, administration, and who represent Christ’s character and humility to opposing coaches, officials, and athletes.

Parents who support and pray for all of the coaches, who respect the coaches’ decisions even if they don’t agree, who are more concerned about the athlete’s character on and off the field than their playing time or potential for a scholarship, and who are giving their valuable time to

serve God in any way they can without concern for which sport or student(s) will benefit the most by their serving.

The Athletic Director of athletes and the school that is organized and enthusiastic about the success and efforts of all teams and gives due adulation for accomplishment, that is properly and fairly enforces all regulations and guidelines, that keeps parents informed and involved in a structured and productive manner always aware of the value of their time, and that keeps the department's vision ever before them in their efforts to bring glory to God.

We want an athletic program that is instructive in its commitment to represent Christ. We are asking God to give us courage to be different. We are not to be superior in attitude, but distinctive in our desire to follow Him wholeheartedly as we participate in this program.

### Athletic Philosophy

#### 1. What we Believe

We believe that the principles and lessons learned in the classroom, at home, and through the local church, can be put into practice through athletics. As a microcosm of society, athletics allows the student to develop and use his or her God given ability to glorify God. Because the arena of competition is usually surrounded with pressure, the athlete is tested, and the true character revealed. Consequently, the opportunity for character growth readily presents itself through athletic competition. Therefore, athletics at Promise Preparatory Academy is considered an integral part of a student athlete's high school curriculum.

#### 2. Our Commitment to Excellence

Our philosophy can best be summed up by the phrase "doing our best as we strive to be the best." We believe as Christians we are commanded by Scripture always to do our best. As believers we are not to waste the talent God has given us by giving anything less than total commitment, thorough preparation, and maximum effort. We also believe we should strive to be the best at what we do. Being the best at anything is a worthy and admirable goal of any Christian.

#### 3. Our Programs

We believe each individual sport at PPA should be developed into "a program." The program should build pride among the participants and support among the student body. Parents should be valued as partners in this process of athletic education. Off-season conditioning, camps, etc. should be promoted for serious athletes. College bound athletes and their parents should receive sound counsel on their potential. All activities within an individual sports program should exemplify the school's commitment to a Christ like witness, and reflect the department's policies, procedures, and philosophy.

#### 4. The PPA Athlete

It is our goal that PPA athletes should be diligent in preparation, relentless in effort, disciplined by nature, respectful in actions, self-controlled with words, humble in spirit, and aggressive in pursuit of excellence, without regard to the score, opponent, time, referee, etc. As Christian athletes display these characteristics, good things usually happen-teams are successful, players are motivated, fans are supportive and enthusiastic, parents are proud, prospective athletes want to participate, and very often non-believers are drawn to Christ.

#### 5. Student Athletic Handbook

The student athletic handbook is the first source of clarity about our athletic programs. However, the school's handbooks will supersede the Student Athletic Handbook when determined by the administrator.

#### 6. Eligibility Requirements

Student athletes must be attending Promise Preparatory Academy or be a homeschool student to participate and file the appropriate paperwork and pay the fees to participate.

Each student athlete must be passing all core courses. Students may not have an "F" in any classes.

Academic status for all student athletes will be reviewed on a two-week periodic basis.

Student athletes must have an annual physical on file and all forms are turned into the school office to be eligible to participate in the first practice. This includes the athletic contract, liability form, drug agreement, and the physical form. The physical form must be signed by a physician and is valid for only one school calendar year.

The Athletic Director will hold a mandatory meeting with the parents and the players for their team prior to the start of the season. This will afford the players and parents the opportunity to get to know each other, the coach, and the support staff. This will also provide the Athletic Director and the coach an opportunity to communicate any special rules he/she may have for their team and to announce anticipated expenses for the parents in that sport season.

### **Rules Governing All Athletes**

The following team rules are to be observed. Coaches may add additional rules that will enhance their sport.

1. All players are required to attend all practices and games unless given prior permission to miss by the coach.

2. Missing a practice or game without prior permission may result in suspension or removal from the game, unless due to sudden illness or other circumstances beyond their control.
3. Players will make up excused missed practices or games in a way determined by the coach. (An example would be running laps for missing practice or being benched at the start of the next game.)
4. Players are to be on time for team practices and games and meetings. Players are expected to attend end of-the season team activities.
5. Players must maintain academic eligibility as outlined in this handbook and if academically ineligible must follow school guidelines for attendance at practice and games. Classroom misconduct may result in immediate suspension from the team.
6. Players are responsible for proper care and return of uniforms. Players will be charged for damaged or lost uniforms at the new value replacement cost.
7. All students must be in attendance one half a school day to participate in practice and games. The only excused late arrival or early dismissal will be for a doctor's appointment, a funeral, or a personal appointment scheduled with the approval of the administration. A written doctor's excuse will be needed to participate in the days practice or game.

### **Facilities and Equipment**

1. Facilities, coaches, and team members are to always leave the facilities clean and properly secured. Facilities are not to be used without a coach's supervision.
2. Equipment – is to be properly cared for and stored in order to maintain its condition and extend its use. Athletic equipment should not be loaned out for use.
3. The principal, PTO or Boosters will coordinate concessions for home games. This is for the benefit of all our guests. Parent participation is encouraged. Proceeds will benefit the athletic department.

### **Funding for Athletics**

The athletic program at Promise Preparatory Academy is funded by the participation fees, gate fees, and concessions. These funds are provided to meet the day-to-day operational cost of the athletic program. The Athletic Director will monitor all expenses. The fee for the student to play the sport they choose must be paid in full before the first contest or the student is benched until paid in full.

### **Uniforms, Supplies, and Materials**

All PPA team uniforms will be purchased through the athletic department. The Athletic Director will work with individual team coaches in the selection of uniforms. Athletes will be required to pay the costs of all other items, which they will keep at the end of the season (socks, hats, etc.). Athletes do not keep jerseys, uniforms, shorts, and warm-ups. The athlete will also purchase personal items such as jackets, shoes, hoodies, and gym bags as needed or required.

The uniforms must be turned into the assigned place within 7 school days of the end of the season or by the announced deadline by the Athletic Director. Uniforms and uniform check in and out are the responsibility of the individual coach. No coach will be paid until the end of the season and the uniforms have been returned to the Athletic Director in a clean and timely manner.

### **Transportation**

Transportation to and from athletic events is the sole responsibility of the coach and school. Drivers are to leave the vehicle clean and in working order. Report any vehicle problems and gas issues to the principal on site. Parent drivers for any athletic event are to follow the insurance policy rules of two adults per vehicle with any students. No student is to drive alone with an adult unless it is their direct parent, grandparent, or guardian. Drivers must provide a copy of their driver's license, insurance and have a clear background check on file in order to chaperone, drive for games or school events, which include athletic events.

### **Quitting a Team**

No athlete will be allowed to quit any team once he/she has been selected and the regular season has begun. If an athlete does quit a team in a hostile or unapproved manner, they cannot play another sport for one calendar year without the approval of the Athletic Director.

The Athletic Director will allow a player to drop from the team if serious injury dictates, or if it is in the best interest of his/her academics, following a meeting with the parents and approval. This, however, will put in question the student's ability to play a sport at the school. No athlete who quits a team under circumstances of conflict will be allowed to rejoin. The athlete will forfeit all awards for that sport.

### **Disciplinary Guidelines**

Disrespect by a player toward any coach, official, teammate, opposing player, teacher, or parent during, before or after a game or practice will not be tolerated. Even disrespect in the classroom setting needs to be dealt with and will be approached by the coach. Continual or severe disrespect may result in disciplinary action or suspension from the team. Reinstatement from suspension can only occur after a conference and proper steps are laid out by the coach, parents, and player.

1. Profanity
2. Crude or inappropriate joking
3. Insulting and bullying others
4. Destruction of property or equipment
5. Negative attitude
6. Intentionally disregarding coaches' or captains' request

7. Displays of anger in games and or practices
8. Cards or technical fouls
9. Fighting or using intentional physical force is not required in competition
10. Obvious lack of support from the parents or household toward PPA policies or coaches

### **Conflict Resolution**

If at any time, a parent or student athlete has a concern regarding the athletic program, the course of action should be as follows:

1. Express concern to the coach in a private meeting. Follow Matthew 18 on resolving any conflicts.
2. Avoid all social media discussions and/or gossip about your concerns.
3. If a problem remains unresolved, meet with the Athletic Director and coach.
4. If problems continue to persist, meet with the Athletic Director and Administration
5. If no resolution is possible, please present your concern in writing to the administrative team.
6. At no time should any parent or student athlete discuss problems or individual concerns with others in such a manner as to generate conflict. Please follow the conflict resolution guidelines above to avoid gossip.

### **Sportsmanship**

We cannot overemphasize to each coach, school administrator, parent/spectator, and contest official the importance of your leadership role in sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity. The professional way you conduct ourselves prior to, during, and following a contest unquestionably impacts the behavior of everyone involved. PPA strives to improve sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity. In every sport so that the school honors God in our speech and conduct.

### **Players Fair Play Code**

- I will participate because I want to, not just because my parents or coaches want me to.
- I will play by the rules and in the spirit of fair competition in a game.
- I will control my temper since fighting and disrespect can spoil the activity for everyone and anger does not, please the Lord or bring honor to me as an athlete.
- I will respect my opponents in actions and speech.
- I will do my best to be a true team player.
- I will remember that winning isn't everything. Having fun, improving my skills, making friends, and doing my best are also important.
- I will acknowledge all good plays and performances by both my teammates and my opponents.

- I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions, show them respect, and understand that they have given their time to me and the team.
- Players will bring the correct uniform to games.
- Players will not dress inappropriately at practices or games. Players will make sure uniforms and practice shorts are fingertip length or longer.

#### **Coaches Fair Play Code**

- Coaches will teach athletes to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials, and opponents.
- Coaches will ensure that all athletes get equal instruction, support, and opportunities.
- Coaches will not ridicule any athletes for making mistakes or performing poorly. He/she will remember that young people play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.
- Coaches will be an example in respect and language. He/she will not curse or disrespect those in authority over them or under them.
- Coaches will dress professionally in a school shirt, dress pants and tennis shoes.
- Coaches are responsible for making sure athletes are not bullied on the team.
- Coaches will have water provided for players.
- Coaches will recognize when a player is injured and needs medical care.
- Coaches will have medical forms with him/her when he or she travels with the team in case of an emergency.
- Coaches will travel with a basic emergency kit.

#### **Fans Fair Play Code**

- Fans will remember that young people play sports for their enjoyment, not to entertain others.
- Fans will not have an unrealistic expectation and will understand that doing one's best is as important as winning. Fans understand that ridiculing an athlete for making a mistake is not acceptable behavior.
- Fans will respect the official's decisions and will encourage all participants to do the same.
- Fans will respect and show appreciation for the coaches and understand that they have given their time to provide sport activities for our young people.
- Fans will encourage athletes and coaches to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Fans will use Matthew 18 as the guideline to resolve any conflicts.

- Fans will show respect for PPA teams and opponents because we realize there is no game without them. We also realize we are an example to others in speech and behavior.
- Fans will not use bad language and will not harass athletes, coaches, officials, or other spectators.
- Fans will show good sportsmanship since young people learn best by example.
- Fans will not leave the area in which they sit with litter and food items but will dispose of all trash in the PPA sitting area in the trash bins.
- Fans will be aware that we are a Christian school, and parents and players alike are to act in a manner that brings honor to Christ and the church and schools.

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

- Communicate with your child about their hopes in playing that sport.
- Make sure your children know that they win or lose, scared or heroic, you love them, appreciate their efforts and are not disappointed in them; This will allow them to do their best without fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.
- Try your best to be completely honest with your child about their athletic ability, sportsmanship, and actual skill level.
- Teach your child to be a team player and support everyone on the team.
- Be helpful but don't coach them. It's tough not to instruct. Let the coach do his/her job. If your child is receiving mixed messages from two different authority figures, he or she will likely become disenchanted with the sport.
- Don't compare skill levels,
- Get to know the coach (es). Then support the coach in whatever way he/she needs your support.
- Explaining courage to your athlete is not an absence of fear, but it means going forward despite fear and discomfort.
- Know the team requirements, fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, etc.
- Know the procedure should your child be injured.
- Know the discipline results should your child be benched or suspended from a game.
- Learn to communicate with your child's coach in a respectful and timely manner. After a game and before a game is not the time to approach a coach.
- Discuss appropriate concerns about how your child can improve, gain more playing time, and get an athletic scholarship for the next level.
- It is not appropriate to discuss the following issues with a coach: playing time, team strategy, play calling and other student athletes.
- Set up an appointment with the coach if you have a concern.
- Do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. Make an appointment.



- If the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, call to set up the appointment with the athletic director. Determine the appropriate next step with the AD or Administrator.

PPA offers the following sports:

- Cross country – fall (boys and girls)
- Basketball – winter (boys and girls)
- Volleyball – fall (girls)
- Tennis – spring (boys and girls)
- Golf – spring (boys)

Clubs:

- Fencing
- Gaming
- Drama and theatre
- Chess

