

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

GRADES 6-8

Athletics Mission: To assist in training children to practice Christ-like attitudes and exhibit godly character through the use of athletic gifts.

I. Philosophical Foundations of the Athletic Program

A. Purpose

1. As God has gifted students with athletic as well as academic and artistic skills, He calls coaches to help children **develop their skills** to use for His glory and honor, **disciplining their bodies** as the temple of the Holy Spirit. (I Cor.6:19, 20)
2. As in the covenant school, students are best trained and **coached by godly, mature adults** who can best equip them in the young, impressionable years. This process is enhanced by fellow teammates who share rather than resist the same biblical approach to sports and respect for authority. (Prov. 3:14, 20)
3. As all gifts and skills need an outlet for expression, **proper competition** is the venue for our student athletics. As Eric Liddell, Olympic champion and Christian missionary, stated: "When I run, I feel His pleasure." Competition with the purpose of glorifying God leads to respect and relationship, not the destruction, of one's opponent. (I Cor.9:24, 25)
4. By exemplifying a Christ-like approach to sport and competition, coaches and students have the opportunity for **outreach to other teams and competitors** both in the example they set, the relationships they form, and the things they say. Plus, they are being grounded in godly principles and habits in sport that will prepare them for being salt and light on teams where coaches and teammates may not embrace Christ or biblical principles. (Matt. 5:16)

B. Participation

1. The Athletic Program is not to substitute for the healthy exercise of all students through Physical Education, but rather is established as **extra-curricular opportunity** for students that are adequately gifted for training and competition. Therefore, all students may not qualify, as some sports will hold tryouts to determine participation.
2. Competition can be overemphasized in our culture at the expense of teamwork and cooperation. Therefore, we believe that the **older students** at Middle School age are better suited for regular competitive athletics than their elementary school companions.
3. Since the academic and character growth and nurture of students must be considered as the **primary assist** of the school to parents, those students whose progress in these areas may be impeded by athletic competition will be denied participation.

C. Coaching and Mentoring

1. The hiring and development of **godly Christian coaches** in all sports are a top priority of the school, not only for the physical training but the spiritual training of their athletes.
2. The coaches are mentored and shepherded by the Athletic Director who views his calling as an **equipping ministry** to his coaches.
3. The ultimate desire of our coaches is for their **athletes to grow** in biblical disciplines, the fruits of the Spirit, and in applying their gifts and skills for the purpose of winning contests. Lessons that apply in all of life can be learned in sports.

II. Program, Personnel, and Procedures

Perimeter School recognizes the valuable lessons in character, diligence, and physical fitness that can be gained from an athletic program. Our program is designed to provide an opportunity for our 6-8th grade boys and girls to compete on the basis of their athletic ability. Emphasis is placed on the learning of basic skills and a proper view of competition.

The School athletic program is not designed so that all students who wish may participate.

There will be tryouts and selections based on a student's athletic ability, attitude, character, and classroom record. Being part of a Perimeter School sports team will be viewed as a privilege and an opportunity to enjoy the experience by glorifying God in healthy competition.

Additions to this Section (effective fall 2006)

A. Team Try-outs

Please note that although a student is chosen to be on a Jr. Varsity team, this does not imply that the student will be automatically chosen for the Varsity team the next season. Each student participating in try-outs will be evaluated and compared with all other participants fairly.

Only coaches and the Athletic Director will choose the students to be on a team. In order to avoid undue pressure on the students, parents are not permitted to attend tryout sessions.

B. Playing Time

PCS is part of the North Atlanta Metro League (NAML).

A major goal of all PCS Jr. Varsity teams is player development. To this end, we strive to give each player on a Jr. Varsity team as much playing time as possible, while still being competitive in our league.

A major goal of all PCS sports teams is to play to our best ability (as a team) to be competitive in NAML. Being competitive means trying to make the playoffs and win the championship. To

this end, a student on a sports team is not guaranteed playing time. At the discretion of the coach and depending on the number of available players, a 7th grade student who is selected for the varsity team may elect to play on the Jr. Varsity team in order to possibly have more playing time.

Athletic Director

- A. Is in total charge of the athletic program and is responsible directly to the Headmaster.
- B. Is the authority over all coaches and participants in the athletic program in all matters of policy and procedures.

Athletic Advisory Council Charter – revised 5-12-04

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Athletic Advisory Council (hereafter known as the AAC) is to evaluate athletic policies and insure financial solvency of the Athletic Program. It replaces the current Athletic Subcommittee under the Personnel Committee.

AUTHORITY/SCOPE

The School Ministry Team authorizes the AAC to:

1. Work with the Athletic Director in developing a fiscally responsible budget for each year.
2. Review athletic policies in the Athletic Handbook on a yearly basis.
3. Write new policies when deemed necessary for approval by the SMT.
4. Explore additional sources of revenue for the program.
5. Perform an audit of the Athletic program each year to serve as a basis for the next year's budget.
6. Advise the AD and Principal in the hiring of coaches.
7. Explore the role of the Athletic Program as it relates to the covenant school philosophy.
8. Review applications for new sports prior to submission to PCS Administration.
9. Establish good and consistent communication about athletics through the school website and *Fourth Wall* with all parents of PCS.
10. Report quarterly to the SMT.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the committee shall be comprised of 5 individuals. These members should be selected as follows:

- A member of the School Ministry Team that is on the Finance committee or has a strong interest in finance.
- Perimeter School Athletic Director
- Two parents of different families who are neither faculty nor current SMT members. The criteria for the parents includes:
 1. Having a 7th or 8th grade child participating in at least one team sport at PCS.
 2. Committed to serving two years in this capacity.

- The fifth member shall be either another member of the SMT with a strong interest in athletics or finance or an additional parent who meets the above parent criteria.

As needed, new SMT member(s) shall be nominated by the Chairperson, Headmaster, or current SMT AAC members. Final approval will be made by a vote of the entire SMT.

The Athletic Director and SMT member(s) on the AAC will nominate parents for consideration and final approval by the entire SMT. It is the goal of the AAC to encourage both fathers and mothers to participate on the AAC.

Coaches

Coaches will, at all times, conduct themselves in a Christian manner. Their conduct, language and handling of athletes, treatment of officials, and relationship with staff and administration will at all times reflect the mind of Christ and the philosophy of Perimeter. Coaches shall instill in their players graciousness in both winning and losing and insist on the highest standards of conduct among players both on and off the court. Coaches shall be mindful that the player's primary responsibility is in the classroom but that important lessons for life can be learned as well. Coaches will be paid stipends for coaching based on areas such as time involved, and length of season. The Athletic Director and the Headmaster set coaches stipends with approval of the School Ministry Team. Other responsibilities include:

- A. Are responsible for their individual teams in carrying out the policies, guidelines and goals for the athletic program.
- B. Meet regularly with the Athletic Director.
- C. Shall work with the AD to determine player selection, playing time, practice regime, training program and discipline for their team.
- D. Are responsible for assisting in the issuance and collection of uniforms and equipment for their team.
- E. Should not solicit funds actively or passively from parents, parent groups, or any other person or organization without the knowledge and consent of both the Athletic Director and Headmaster.
- F. Find a Team Mom for their team.
- G. Develop Mentoring/Discipleship relationship with team.

Parents of Athletes

- A. Are expected to conduct themselves as role models for the children at all athletic events. Verbal abuse, assaults and outbursts directed at referees, opponents, and parents of opponents, coaches and our athletes is unacceptable.
- B. "Approaching the Coach" (effective fall 2006)
If a parent is concerned about a coach's decision(s) about any aspect of a team, the parent should not approach the coach at any time during the day of a game. The first step in initiating a discussion is to e-mail the coach, copying the Athletic Director, and try to set up a meeting time with the coach to discuss the concern. At the coach's and/or Athletic Director's discretion, the Athletic Director may participate in the meeting. If a meeting with the coach does not resolve the matter, it should be referred to the Athletic Director. If the issue is still unresolved, the concern should be forwarded to the Headmaster. Note that if the coach is also the athletic director, the initial e-mail is only

to the Athletic Director. If the issue is unresolved after that meeting, the concern should be forwarded to the Headmaster.

- C. Are expected to provide all transportation necessary for games and practices in a punctual manner.
- D. Are expected to pay the athletic fees for each sport that their child participates in when they are due.
- E. Are expected to read and complete any appropriate forms that are distributed during the course of the year.
- F. Need to maintain contact with the Team Mom.
- G. Are expected to take proper care of uniforms and equipment issued to them during the season.
- H. Are expected to evaluate their child's ability to handle extra-curricular activities. This may mean that families must choose between community activities and school sport participation.
- I. Are expected to read the athletics handbook and follow the athletic policies.
- J. Attend a team meeting at the start of each season.

Athletes

- A. Shall conduct ones self in a manner which will reflect honor and glory to God and shall be in keeping with the high standards expected of those who bear Christ's name.
- B. Are expected to keep their priorities in order. Academic work will always be their primary school responsibility.
- C. Are expected to refrain from the use of any dangerous or harmful substances, maintain proper dietary and rest habits, and follow the rules and training program established by the coaching staff.
- D. Are expected to make a commitment to the team, teammates, coaches and the school when they elect to participate in the athletic program. This commitment will include:
 - 1. Attendance at all games and practices as a priority.
 - 2. Two unexcused absences to games allowed per season.
 - 3. Conflicts, which cannot be avoided, must be discussed with the coach in advance in order for absences to be excused.
 - 4. Three tardies to games or practices will be counted as one unexcused absence. On the third unexcused absence the player may lose his or her place on the team.
- E. Are expected to take proper care of uniforms and equipment issued to them during the season.
- F. Are expected to immediately report any injury, conflict or other obstacle that would hinder or prevent their participation in any practice or game.

Administrative Policies Governing Athletics

A. Eligibility Policies

- 1. The Middle School principal will check grades each nine weeks on the day the grading period ends to determine eligibility for all extracurricular activities.
- 2. No student shall be eligible who has received an "F" and/or not maintained a "C"

average, with no more than one "D" on his or her report card for the previous grading period. A student may regain his or her eligibility upon meeting the above requirements at the completion of the present grading period.

3. Students who are currently under school suspension will be dismissed from athletic participation for that sports season.
4. Students who had an unexcused absence between 8:25 and 12:00 noon on the day of either a practice or a game will not be allowed to participate.
5. Students who are judged physically unsound by parent, coach or physician will not be allowed to practice or play until they are judged sound.

B. Insurance -all students are covered by the school accident insurance policy. This policy is excess coverage; meaning that the policy covers costs exceeding the family's primary coverage. A student without primary coverage will be covered in full by the school's policy.

C. Fundraising Projects shall be undertaken only with the approval of the Athletic Director and the School Ministry Team.

D. Parent Permission-Parent consent forms shall be signed and on file for each athlete prior to the first practice.

E. Practice and Participation Policies

1. No practice session will ever run more than two hours.
2. No contests, practices or team meetings shall ever be held on Sunday.
3. No team will participate in more than four extracurricular events (including practices) a week without permission of the Headmaster.
4. No practices or games shall be scheduled during vacation or holiday periods of the school year without consent of the Headmaster.
5. Students who quit a sport shall not be eligible to participate in another sport until the season of the sport they quit has been completed.
6. Students may participate in 2 concurrent sports at Perimeter only after special conference with coaches, athletic director, and parents to determine feasibility.

F. Sport Specific Policies

1. Perimeter will have the following **Fall Sports**:
 - a. **Volleyball** (Girls) - The week before school starts until mid-October.
 - i. PCS will have two teams. Varsity and JV.
 - ii. Seventh and Eighth grade students will be eligible to try out for the Varsity volleyball team. Sixth and Seventh grade students will be eligible to tryout for the JV team. The coach will determine the number of players for each team with approval from the Athletic Director.
 - b. **Cross Country** (Co-ed) – Start of school until late October.

- i. PCS will have one team.
 - ii. There will be no tryouts for Cross Country until such time as the AD feels that there are too many participants.
 2. Perimeter will have the following **Winter Sports**:
 - a. **Basketball** (Boys and Girls) – Mid-October thru January.
 - i. PCS will have two boys teams and two girls teams. Varsity and JV.
 - ii. Seventh and Eighth grade students will be eligible to try out for the Varsity basketball team. Sixth and Seventh grade students will be eligible to try out for the JV grade team. The coach will determine the number of players for each team with approval from the Athletic Director.
 3. Perimeter will have the following **Spring Sports**:
 - a. **Track and Field** (Co-ed) – Mid February thru early May.
 - i. There will be no tryouts for Track and Field until such time as the AD feels that there are too many participants.
 - b. **Baseball** (Boys) – Mid February thru early May.
 - i. There will be one baseball team.
 - ii. There will be tryouts for baseball. Sixth and Seventh and Eighth grade students will be eligible to tryout for the team. The coach will determine the number of players for each team with approval from the Athletic Director.