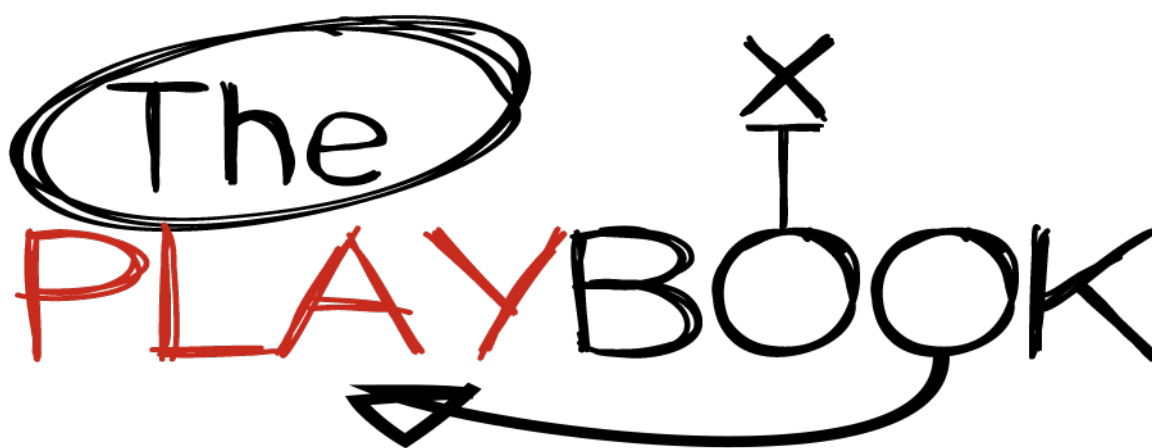


**PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC  
LEAGUE**



**ATHLETIC PLAYBOOK**

**2017**



**INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAM  
DIVISION OF ATHLETICS**

**PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC LEAGUE**

**THE PLAYBOOK**

**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA  
PHILADELPHIA, PA**

**2017**

# **THE PLAYBOOK OF THE PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC LEAGUE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Schools participating in interscholastic athletics in Philadelphia established the Philadelphia Public League (the “League”) to encourage member schools to improve their extra-curricular athletics programs. The value of League membership derives from the arranging of schedules, the equalizing of competitions, the conduct of League contests and generally upgrading the athletics program by adhering to common League standards and goals. Membership means abiding by the League schedules, Constitution, By-laws, Rules and Regulations.

## **HISTORY**

The League traces its origin to 1901, with the formation of the Philadelphia Interscholastic League, a conference encompassing all the city's high schools, public and private. Prior to this, the public and private schools in the area had been competing among themselves for several years in a number of sports, including football and basketball. Basketball and track and field were the first recognized sports in 1901, but football, although not formally on the schedule, engaged all the same teams, and newspapers usually recognized the school with the best record as the informal interscholastic champion. In 1902, baseball and crew were added to the schedule. Initially, the Philadelphia Public League comprised the four public schools that withdrew from the Interscholastic League in – Central, Central Manual, Northeast, and Southern – as well as the addition of West Philadelphia High. Germantown Academy, a private school, joined a few years later, and in 1920 the Philadelphia Public League was born. Overbrook, Frankford, Simon Gratz, Olney, and Roxborough would join the league over the next couple of decades to expand the league.

## **AFFILIATIONS**

The League serves as a governing body, and affiliates with a number of local, state, and national organizations that promote interscholastic athletics.

### **SECTION I. ATHLETIC ASSOCIATIONS**

#### **1. Philadelphia Public League**

- a. The Philadelphia Public League consists of member senior high schools in The School District of Philadelphia (the “School District”), and any charter schools authorized by the School District, which elect to become members of the League.
- b. The purpose of the League is guided by the governance of the School District and its mission to deliver on the civil right of every child in Philadelphia to an excellent public school education, and to ensure all children graduate from high school ready to succeed, fully engaged as citizens of our world.

- c. As a member of the League, schools agree to abide by all of the policies outlined in the Constitution, By-Laws, and Sport Rulebooks (“Bluebooks”).

## **2. Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association**

- a. League schools participate as members of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (“PIAA”), which serves as the authorized representative of the Pennsylvania Department of Education in the supervision and control of the interscholastic athletic activities of all member schools in the Commonwealth.
- b. The purpose of the League is to promote, develop, direct and regulate amateur interscholastic athletic relationships between and among member schools and to stimulate fair play, friendly rivalry and good sportsmanship among contestants, schools and communities throughout the Commonwealth.
- c. As a member of the PIAA, schools agree to abide by all of the By-laws, rules and regulations, with special emphasis placed on rules governing eligibility, age limitation, enrollment and attendance, scholarship, residence, transfers, recruiting, amateurism, and the conduct and discipline of athletes.
- d. The official publications of the PIAA shall serve as the instrument for periodic communications between the PIAA and its member schools.

## **3. National Federation of State High School Associations**

- a. The National Federation of State High School Associations (“NFHS”) is the body that writes the rules of competition for most high school sports and activities in the United States. Most high schools, whether public or private, belong to their state's high school association; in turn, each state association belongs to the NFHS
- b. League member schools align their programs within the guidelines, policies and Rules of Play established by the NFHS.
- c. The NFHS publishes rules books for each sport or activity, and most states adopt these rules in whole for state high school competition.
- d. All NFHS Rules of Play are guided further through the PIAA, and enforced by the League in regular season and post-season play.

## **SECTION II. PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### **1. Philadelphia Public League Athletic Directors Association**

- a. The Philadelphia Public League Athletic Directors Association (“PPLADA”) consists of athletic directors of League member schools.

- b. The purpose of this association is guided by the governance of the School District and its mission to deliver on the civil right of every child in Philadelphia to an excellent public school education, and ensure all children graduate from high school ready to succeed, fully engaged as citizens of our world.
- c. As a member of the PPLADA, athletic directors engage in networking, professional development, and continuing education programs aimed at improving the athletic programs in PPL member schools.

## **2. Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association**

- a. The Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association (“PSADA”) is a professional organization that is administered by and for secondary school athletic administrators for the purpose of promoting and enhancing the professional growth and image of our profession.
- b. PSADA has grown to be one of the preeminent state associations of athletic administration in the nation. Claiming the largest membership of over 800 athletic directors, PSADA continues to grow.
- c. The Pennsylvania Department of Education has identified PSADA as a Commonwealth-approved provider of professional development for athletic directors. PSADA is proud of the educational opportunities that it provides for its members.
- d. Through its strategic affiliations with the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators, the Pennsylvania Association of Secondary School Principals and the PIAA, PSADA has earned statewide recognition and respect. Because of this professional status, PSADA is recognized as a major contributor to interscholastic athletics and programs that enhance the development of student-athletes across the Commonwealth.

## **3. National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (“NIAAA”)**

- a. Fulfills professional responsibilities with honesty, integrity and a commitment to equity and fairness.
- b. Upholds the honor of the profession in all relations, including personal and digital, with students, colleagues, coaches, and contest officials, members of the media, administrators, and the public.
- c. Improves the professional status and effectiveness of the interscholastic athletic administrator through participation in local, state and national professional development programs including, but not limited to, the NIAAA Leadership Training Institute and Certification Program.

- d. Avoids using their position for personal promotion or gain. Leads by helping others achieve their goals.

## **LEAGUE ORGANIZATION**

### **SECTION I. PRESIDENT**

The President of the Philadelphia Public League shall be the then-current Executive Director of Athletics for the School District, who shall have final decision authority and oversight over the League. As set forth in the League Constitution and By-laws, the **President** has the authority and duty:

1. To oversee interscholastic activities in and among League member schools.
2. To interpret the provisions of the Constitution and By-laws of the League and such rules, regulations and amendments as the League may adopt.
3. To hear appeals, and to decide matters in dispute as submitted by the League PL Infractions Committee and not covered by PIAA rules.
4. To set and enforce penalties for any violation of the Constitution, By-Laws, and Code of Conduct, and to review sanctions levied by the League Infractions Committee.
5. To send a report of the minutes of all meetings to each member of the Board of Directors.

### **SECTION II. BOARD OFFICERS**

As set forth in the League Constitution and By-laws, the officers of the Board of Directors of the League shall make up the **PPL Leadership Committee**. The officers of the Board consist of its (1) Chairperson; (2) Vice-Chairperson; (3) Secretary; (4) Charter School Representative; and (5) Coaching Education Coordinator. Additionally, there will also be appointed representatives to the PPL Leadership Committee. Those appointees shall be (1) Treasurer; (2) Principals' Representative; and (3) School District Representative, which shall be appointed by the President.

1. Members who wish to submit a proposal for consideration at a monthly meeting must submit the proposal in writing to the President and Chairperson at least at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. In addition, each member of the Board should receive a detailed written copy of the proposal prior to the day of the meeting.
2. The Officers of the Board of Directors shall be elected at the last meeting of the alternating scholastic year for at least a two (2) year term.

### **SECTION III. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors of the League shall consist of the Athletic Directors of the member schools in the League. The Board of Directors, through its officers, will make recommendations to the President for any changes to the organization, legislation and administration of the League. The **Board of Directors** has the authority and duty:

1. To apply and enforce the Constitution as well as the other regulations and the League Code of Conduct.
2. To supervise all athletic contests among member schools.
3. To approve schedules, to adopt NFHS and PIAA playing rules, to appoint Sport Chairpersons to select officials, and to arrange for other practical details for the efficient administration of all League sports.
4. To appoint officers of the Board of Directors as voted on by the membership.
5. The President shall hold meetings for the Board of Directors on a monthly schedule during the scholastic year (August-June). Other meetings may be called at the discretion of the President and Chairperson, if an immediate urgency arises.

### **SECTION IV. SUB-COMMITTEES**

The Philadelphia Public League Sub-Committees shall consist of select Athletic Directors of the member schools in the Philadelphia Public League. The Sub-Committees, each through its Sub-Committee Chair, will make recommendations to the President for any changes to the organization, legislation or administration of the League. The **PPL Sub-Committees** shall be:

1. Infractions Sub-Committee
2. Competition Sub-Committee
3. Strategic Planning Sub-Committee
4. Athletic Directors Sub-Committee
5. Coaches Sub-Committee
6. NCAA Compliance Sub-Committee

## **MEMBER SCHOOL ORGANIZATION**

The administrative organization of each member school will consist of the Principal, the Athletic Administrator, the Head Coaches, and all additional staff members, *e.g.*, Assistant Coaches, Volunteers, *etc.* The member school's Principal will serve as the official representative of the school, as recognized by the PIAA.

## **SECTION I. SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

1. The principal is the official representative of the school and is directly responsible for the general attitude of the student body and the conduct of its athletic affairs by the athletic administrator and the coaches.
2. By delegation and by established precedent, the school principal is the official school representative in matters dealing with the PIAA and the League.
3. The principal is ultimately responsible for ensuring that all students from his or her school who participate in interscholastic athletics satisfy all eligibility rules and requirements.
4. The principal is solely responsible for any official action taken by his or her school.
5. The High School principal or his or her designated representative, such as the Athletic Director, shall represent the member school at all League meetings where official business is conducted.

## **SECTION II. ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATOR**

1. The Athletic Administrator is directly responsible to the principal.
2. The primary responsibility of the Athletic Administrator is the administration and supervision of the interscholastic athletic program in the school.
3. The duties of the Athletic Administrator will be those described in his or her job description and any others as designated by the principal.
4. The Athletic Administrator will provide the leadership necessary for the day-to-day operation of the school's athletic department and activities.
5. The athletic administrator will serve as the school's representative in the day-to-day operations of the League.

## **SECTION III. HEAD COACHES**

1. All Head Coaches shall be responsible to the athletic administrator for the total operation of the respective sports programs.
2. Head Coaches shall act as official representatives of the school as they carry out their interscholastic athletic responsibilities.
3. Head Coaches will be responsible for the normal duties required of interscholastic competition, those duties described in the head coaches' job description, and any duties delegated by the principal or athletic administrator.

4. Head Coaches must attend all required League and state association meetings that pertain to his or her sport.
5. Head Coaches will be responsible for ensuring all team personnel have completed all necessary paperwork and have been granted permission to be on the bench or sideline area.

**\*NO ONE ELSE SHALL BE PERMITTED ON THE BENCH OR SIDELINE AREA\***

#### **SECTION IV. ASSISTANT COACHES**

1. All Assistant Coaches shall be responsible to the head coach and athletic administrator for the total operation of the respective sports program.
2. Assistant Coaches shall act as official representatives of the school as they carry out their interscholastic athletic responsibilities.
3. Assistant Coaches will be responsible for the normal duties required of interscholastic competition, those duties described in the assistant coaches' job description, and any duties delegated by the principal, athletic administrator or head coach.

# PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC LEAGUE ATHLETIC CODE

## INTRODUCTION

Interscholastic athletic participation is a privilege, granted to all students who voluntarily accept the rules and regulations outlined here. All student-athletes, coaches, athletic administrators and spectators must adhere to this Athletic Code when participating in or representing Philadelphia Public League member schools, while competing or attending events as spectators.

## PHILOSOPHY

Philadelphia Public League athletics, with its long and storied tradition of success, operates with the commitment to educate our student-athletes on the importance of values and teamwork. As a member of the **Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (“PIAA”)** and the **National Federation of State High School Associations (“NFHS”)**, we look to give our student-athletes the best possible experience during their years in high school. Athletics are a privilege in the Philadelphia Public League and we emphasize the role of the **STUDENT** before the athlete.

Our coaching staff consists of dedicated men and women who serve as outstanding role models for our student-athletes. These coaches understand that besides competing to win, their role as coach includes development of character and sportsmanship on all levels. The athletic philosophy of the Philadelphia Public League is no different from our schools’ academic philosophy – the playing fields are an extension of the classroom. Student-athletes understand they represent not just themselves, but the entire school community when they put on their uniforms. How they conduct themselves on and off the field is important to their overall well-being and attitude towards success.

Participants in the Philadelphia Public League interscholastic athletic program shall conduct themselves in accordance with existing School Reform Commission policies, rules and regulations. While the School Reform Commission takes great pride in winning, it does not condone “winning at any cost” and discourages any and all pressures, which might tend to neglect good sportsmanship and good mental health. At all times, member schools must conduct their athletic programs in such a way as to justify these programs as educational activities.

## STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE

The athletic programs of the Philadelphia Public League represent an integral component of the educational experience. These programs provide meaningful learning opportunities not otherwise offered in the classroom curriculum. These programs assist student-athletes in developing habits, attitudes and ideals necessary for ethical competition and cooperation in our society. These programs also provide student-athletes with lifelong lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, commitment, loyalty, self-discipline, pride, responsibility and leadership. Every student at a League member school has the opportunity to try out for a team if he or she meets the eligibility requirements of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Administration (“PIAA”).

## **SECTION I. CODE OF CONDUCT [See Appendix A]**

All Philadelphia Public League student-athletes must and shall adhere to the following Code.

1. Represent the Philadelphia Public League in a positive manner at all times.
2. Abide by the Code of Conduct for the Philadelphia Public League and the PIAA.
3. Demonstrate respect for teachers, coaches and fellow students.
4. Arrive on time to class and practice.
5. Strive to improve.
6. Have a positive attitude.
7. Be responsible.
8. Be a team player.
9. Be coachable.
10. Be honest and ethical.
11. Use appropriate language.
12. Be a credit to your team in the classroom and in competition.

### ACADEMICS

All Philadelphia Public League student-athletes shall maintain the academic standards set forth by the member schools' administration (in compliance with PIAA guidelines). Student-athletes are expected to adhere to the following:

1. Remember that academic tasks are your first priority.
2. Maintain an appropriate balance between academics and sports.
3. Complete all assignments on time.
4. Be on time to each and every class.
5. Work hard in the classroom.
6. Be respectful to teachers and classmates.

## DISCIPLINE

All Philadelphia Public League student-athletes must abide by the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct as set forth in this handbook. The Philadelphia Public League reserves the right to impose additional consequences as deemed necessary and appropriate.

## ATTITUDE

1. Have a positive attitude in the classroom, at athletics events, and in the community.
2. Come prepared to class, practice, and athletic events.
3. Put your team before yourself.
4. Contribute your individual skills to the team.
5. Respect school colors, logos and traditions.

## COMMUNICATION

1. Address coaches, teachers, and other adult staff with proper titles and with respect.
2. Communicate any problems in school or outside of school with the coach and administrator.
3. Communicate any important appointments with the coach well in advance.
4. If you don't understand something, ask the coach for further clarification.
5. If you need help with schoolwork, proactively approach your teachers and coaches for help.

## SPORTSMANSHIP

1. Behave at all times as a representative of the Philadelphia Public League.
2. Treat your teammates, opponents, officials, coaches and teachers respectfully.
3. Abide by all the rules and regulations of the Philadelphia Public League and PIAA.

## **SECTION II. PARTICIPATION**

All Philadelphia Public League student-athletes must complete, and return to their member school athletic department, the PIAA Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Examination (CIPPE) packet before practicing or trying out for any athletic program at any Philadelphia Public League member school. Schools will not issue student-athletes any equipment, nor will Schools permit student-athletes to practice or play, until the Student has completed and returned the following forms:

1. PIAA Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Examination (CIPPE) packet signed by an Authorized Medical Examiner.

2. Concussion and Traumatic Brain Injury Information Sheet (Section 3 of CIPPE packet).
3. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Symptoms and Warning Signs Information Sheet (Section 4 of CIPPE packet).
4. PIAA Transfer Waiver Form (if applicable).

### **SECTION III. USE OF ATHLETIC FACILITY + EQUIPMENT**

All Philadelphia Public League student-athletes are expected to utilize any and all athletic facilities, including visiting team facilities, properly, and with respect.

1. The locker room is for players and coaches only.
2. There shall be no horseplay in locker rooms at any time.
3. Keep locker rooms clean.
4. Each student shall take responsibility for the proper care and safekeeping of all equipment issued. Students must secure lockers before and after practices or competition.
5. Upon termination of sport participation, the student must promptly turn in equipment and clear out their team locker.
6. No athlete may compete in another sport until the previous coach clears all equipment and uniform obligations.

### **SECTION IV. TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS**

All Philadelphia Public League student-athletes must utilize all team or school transportation provided. Member school athletic administrators must communicate the following to student-athletes regarding transportation regulations:

1. Transportation to and from practices and contests **MUST** be properly supervised.
2. There shall be no horseplay on transportation, whether it be a bus, public transportation, or walking to and from practices and contests.
3. Students shall follow the Student-Athletes Code of Conduct in all situations when in transit to **AND** from practices and contests.

# COACHES CODE

## SECTION I. COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT [See Appendix B]

Because athletics must operate within the framework of sound educational principles, it follows that coaches must:

1. Act at all times as representatives of the Philadelphia Public League.
2. Begin and end each practice and competition with a team meeting.
3. Act as a positive example for all student-athletes.
4. Coaches shall inspire respect by wearing appropriate attire. Therefore, coaches should wear professional or team-related attire during all contests.
5. Set a good example for student-athletes and fans to follow, exemplifying the highest moral and ethical behavior.
6. Instruct student-athletes in proper sportsmanship and its responsibilities, and require that student-athletes make sportsmanship a priority.
7. Respect the judgment of contest officials, abide by the rules of the event, and display no behavior that may incite fans or athletes.
8. Treat opposing coaches, players and fans with respect. Shake hands with officials and opposing coaches in public.
9. Avoid excessive celebration at the conclusion of a game, match or meet.
- 10. DO NOT run up the score. This is the purest form of *unsportsmanlike* conduct. It is unnecessary and embarrassing for both schools.**
11. Remember that your words are powerful – be demanding, not demeaning.
12. Do not swear, curse or use foul language.
13. Remember that your work is not done when the contest ends. You must attend to players who may be disappointed, frustrated, angry or sad.
14. Always remain with the team during the post-game handshake.

## SECTION II. ELIGIBILITY + CERTIFICATION

**ALL** Philadelphia Public League coaches must obtain the following certifications in order to remain eligible to coach in a League member school:

1. Proper completed background checks:
  - a. FBI Criminal History Record Clearance
  - b. PA Child Abuse Clearance
  - c. PA State Police Criminal History Record Information Check
  - d. Proof of completion of ACT 126 PA Mandatory Reporter Training
  - e. ACT 168 Disclosure Release Form
2. Proper completed online training certificates (must be renewed Annually):
  - a. Concussion Awareness Certificate
    - i. NFHS Concussion in Sports Course **or**
    - ii. Concussion Wise Training
  - b. Cardiac Awareness Certificate
    - i. NFHS Sudden Cardiac Arrest Course **or**
    - ii. Cardiac Wise Training
  - c. Heads Up Football Safety Certification (Football coaches ONLY)
    - i. NFHS Concussion in Sports Course
    - ii. NFHS Sudden Cardiac Arrest Course
    - iii. NFHS Heat Acclimatization Course
    - iv. NFHS Blocking, Shoulder Talking and Equipment Fitting Course
3. CPR/AED/First Aid Certification:
4. PIAA Coaching Education Courses (will be offered by Drexel University)
  - a. Principles of Coaching
  - b. Sport First Aid

*\*These PIAA Coaching Education requirements must be completed within 2 years upon date of hire*

### **SECTION III. MEDIA RELATIONS**

All Philadelphia Public League coaches shall communicate with any media personnel only in a respectable, respectful and appropriate manner.

1. The League, through the principles outlined in its Codes of Conduct, demands that all members of the League, including administrators, coaches, players, and fans, shall in all circumstances demonstrate their character through sportsmanship and respect.
2. Understand that all persons involved, especially coaches, at all times represent their team, school, and the League. At all times, coaches are to refrain from making derogatory, damaging, or offensive remarks to the media.

3. Coaches shall immediately inform the Principal and Athletic Director of the school of any incidents, confrontations, or other emotional or potentially scandalous media situations.
4. Coaches may not enflame a situation by giving emotional or personal remarks to the media, regardless of what at the time may seem the basis, merit, grounds or provocation.
5. Coaches also may not address personal comments to the media regarding League-wide policies and procedures. Penalties for such behavior may include censure, suspension, or dismissal of the coach. League Committees and meetings, and the many interactions of coaches and administrators throughout the athletic seasons and the school year provide multiple appropriate forums for coaches to convey any concerns for League consideration and resolution.

#### **SECTION IV. USE OF FACILITIES + EQUIPMENT**

All Philadelphia Public League coaches, including visiting team coaches, shall use and treat any and all athletic facilities properly and with respect, and shall require their athletes to do so as well.

1. Coaches *must* and shall supervise their student-athletes AT ALL TIMES, before, during, and after a practice or competition.
2. Coaches may not leave until the last student-athlete is picked up. Coaches may not assume it is acceptable to leave a student-athlete unattended.
3. The locker room is for players and coaches only.
4. Coaches shall keep locker rooms and all related facilities, including visiting team facilities, clean.
5. Coaches shall make available to visiting teams locker rooms and related facilities, in clean and sound condition for use for visiting teams.
6. Upon the conclusion of a contest, the visiting coach shall ensure that his or her team and staff leave the locker room in the same clean and sound condition as it when made available originally.

#### **SECTION V. TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS**

All League coaches shall use all transportation made available. Member school athletic administrators shall communicate the following to coaches regarding transportation regulations:

1. Coaches must properly supervise student-athletes and their transportation to and from practices and contests.
2. The head coach or an assistant coach MUST accompany the team whenever and wherever transported to all practices and contests.

3. No horseplay on transportation, whether by school bus, public transportation, or walking to and from practices and contests.
4. Never transport a student-athlete to or from practice or competition in your personal vehicle.
5. Coaches shall comply with the League's Coaches Code of Conduct in all situations involving transport to and from practices and contests.

## **SECTION VI. SCORE REPORTING AND UPDATING**

All League coaches shall use MaxPreps to report their scores. Member school athletic administrators shall communicate the following to coaches regarding score reporting and updating:

1. Coaches must report their scores within 24 hours of the end of their competition.
2. Coaches shall update their MaxPreps rosters, schedules and scores on a continuous basis. Failure to do so may result in post-season sanctions.
3. Coaches shall report their scores to the Philadelphia High School Sports call line as well. Those numbers can be found in their respective Sport Bluebooks.

## **SPECTATOR CODE**

### **SECTION I. FAN CONDUCT**

Because athletics must operate within the framework of sound educational principles, it follows that:

1. Athletic teams in the Philadelphia Public League come under the jurisdiction of and are required to abide by the rules of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association ("PIAA"), so that all athletes may compete under identical standards.
2. Those who take advantage of the privilege of athletics either as a participant or spectator must conduct themselves in a manner that does not detract from the educational principles and good values that inform and guide the school itself.
3. Student-athletes and officials are human beings – they are not perfect and never will be. Anyone involved in a contest may make a mistake. This includes competitors, coaches, and officials, and spectators enter into competition knowing that errors are a normal part of an activity and will happen.
4. Even though winning is certainly an admirable goal; it is hollow if it comes at the expense of morals, ethics, and just plain common sense.

## SECTION II. FAN BEHAVIOR

Keeping in mind the preceding points, the League and its participants expect the following spectator behavior.

1. Please stand during the National Anthem.
2. Cheer **for your team** rather than **against** your opponents.
3. Maintain self-control at all times and conduct yourselves as responsible citizens and community members.
4. Show **RESPECT** for opponents in every way possible.
5. Always be **POSITIVE** in support of your team.
6. Recognize and acknowledge good performances and plays by **both** teams and their athletes.
7. **RESPECT** officials and accept their decisions.
8. Be humble and not boastful in victory, and gracious and not bitter in defeat.
9. Leave the site of an activity – including the parking lot – as soon as possible after the activity is completed.

## SECTION III. PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR

Spectators shall not:

1. Using **negative** chants, including any that focus on or exploit mistakes.
2. Use obscene or insulting language or gestures, or ridicule, taunt, harass, intimidate, humiliate, demean, or embarrass others in attendance, incite or abuse opponents, or disrespect game officials.
3. Sit in the opposing team's seating or cheering sections.
4. Stand next to playing surface, railing or sit or stand in bleacher aisles or doorways.
5. Engage in "body passing" or any other action that endangers the safety of participants, spectators, or officials.
6. Throw anything onto the playing surface or at players, coaches, officials, cheerleaders, band members, supervisors, police, other fans, or invited guests.
7. Carry or consume any alcoholic or controlled substance while on school or athletic property or attend a school-sponsored function while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

8. Leave an athletic event before it is over and return at a later time, unless necessary.
9. Rush onto the floor or field, or climb on or hang from goal posts, goal cages, or basket support systems at the end of a contest.

Failure to comply with any of these rules shall result in the removal of the spectator from the premises and, in the case of a student, shall result in further disciplinary action by the appropriate member school administration.

**\*Any spectator ejected from a tournament contest shall be automatically suspended from any and all remaining tournament contests.**

**APPENDIX A: STUDENT-ATHLETE  
CODE OF CONDUCT**

# **PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC LEAGUE**

## **STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT**

The PPL is our identity. We are a League – a unity – guided by the governance of The School District of Philadelphia and its mission to deliver on the civil right of every child in Philadelphia to an excellent public school education, and to ensure all children graduate from high school ready to succeed, fully engaged as citizens of our world. Therefore, if our League does not produce a better person, it has no reason to exist. The directives set forth below provide guidance to all concerned, in order to ensure that we make our competitions a healthy experience in individual and social growth.

Student participation in any athletic activity is a privilege, not a right, which may be revoked or suspended when for a violation of the established rules or regulations. Students who desire to participate in athletic activities shall conduct themselves properly at all times. Each program may establish additional rules, which apply specifically to that program. The rules and regulations set forth in this Code shall apply to any on- and off-school premises violation. The following misconduct shall constitute grounds for immediate suspension and potential exclusion from participation in interscholastic practices and competition, and participation in activities.

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE**

Philadelphia Public League student-athletes must and shall adhere to the following Code.

1. Represent the Philadelphia Public League in a positive manner at all times.
2. Abide by the Code of Conduct for the Philadelphia Public League and the PIAA.
3. Demonstrate respect for teachers, coaches and fellow students.
4. Arrive on time to class and practice.
5. Strive to improve.
6. Have a positive attitude.
7. Be responsible.
8. Be a team player.
9. Be coachable.
10. Be honest and ethical.
11. Use appropriate language.
12. Be a credit to your team in the classroom and in competition.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **POLICY REGARDING THREATS, BULLYING AND/OR HAZING**

The Philadelphia Public League intensely believes that students must be protected from threats, bullying, intimidation, hazing and initiation ceremonies. The League will not tolerate any form of verbal, written, or physical conduct that harasses, humiliates, or persecutes students, or disrupts or interferes with any student's curricular or extracurricular experiences.

No coach, sponsor, volunteer or school employee shall plan, permit, direct, assist or engage, condone or tolerate any of the above stated activities.

Any coach or student found, after investigation, to have engaged in any form of this misconduct shall be subject to disciplinary actions as defined by the member schools and additional penalties by the PPL Infractions Committee. The School Reform Commission and the School District's Superintendent also have the right to impose own penalties.

Any coach or student who witnesses or has knowledge of such misconduct activities and fails to report such actions shall also be subject to appropriate disciplinary actions as defined by the member schools and the PPL Infractions Committee. The School Reform Commission and the School District's Superintendent also have the right to impose own penalties.

# **PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC LEAGUE**

## **POLICY REGARDING UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT**

A team member or coach who, immediately prior to, during, or immediately after a Contest, recklessly or with ill will or an intent to harm, punches, *i.e.*, strikes with a closed fist, or otherwise trikes, bites, or kicks a contestant, Coach, official, or any other person attending the Contest; shall be suspended and may be disqualified in that sport by the Philadelphia Public League Infractions Committee.

In accordance with District XII, PIAA, and NFHS Rules of Play, the Philadelphia Public League in such situations will assess the following minimum penalties:

1. Any team member who is involved in fighting will be assessed a minimum three (3) game suspension.
2. Any team member or assistant coach who leaves their bench area and steps onto the field of play during an incident, for any reason, will be ejected and suspended for their next contest. The head coach of the team is the only staff member permitted to enter the field of play during an incident.
3. If an entire team leaves their bench area and steps onto the field of play during an incident, the entire team will be ejected from the game, and will serve a one (1) game suspension for their next contest. The ejected team will be assessed a forfeit for the current contest, and will forfeit their next contest.
4. In the event that both teams leave their bench areas and step onto the field of play during an incident, both teams will be ejected from the game, and will serve a one (1) game suspension. The current contest will be assessed a double forfeit, and both teams will forfeit their next contest.
5. In any situation where spectators are involved in an on-floor incident, the League shall review and impose against the host school appropriate additional sanctions regarding their Spectator Policy.
6. Additionally, all incidents will be reviewed by the Philadelphia Public League Infractions Committee for assessment and imposition of any appropriate additional penalties according to Article XIII of the PIAA Constitution.

**APPENDIX B: COACHES  
CODE OF CONDUCT**

# **PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC LEAGUE**

## **COACHING CODE OF CONDUCT**

The PPL is our identity. We are a league – a unity – guided by the governance of The School District of Philadelphia and its mission to deliver on the civil right of every child in Philadelphia to an excellent public school education, and ensure all children graduate from high school ready to succeed, fully engaged as a citizen of our world. Therefore, if our League does not produce a better person, it has no reason to exist. The directives below are intended to guide all concerned with making our competition a healthy experience in individual and social growth.

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **ATHLETIC COURTESY**

Athletics must and shall foster sportsmanship. It is the privilege of each one of us associated with athletics to bear witness to our principles in our own actions.

1. Visiting teams and spectators are guests of the home team and should be treated as we would like to be treated ourselves.
2. The rules of the game are to be regarded as mutual agreements, the letter of which no honorable person would break.
3. Take no action, and do not pursue any course of conduct, which may appear unsportsmanlike or dishonorable if known to one's opponent, or the public.
4. All coaches should refrain from making contact with their respective assignors or officials for at least twenty-four (24) hours after the conclusion of the contest. All questions and issues should be communicated through their respective Athletic Director and Sport Chair before contacting the officials or assignors.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **ETHICS PERTAINING TO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS**

This Code of Ethics is to be regarded not simply as a compilation of recommendations, but as a set of rules governing the conduct of students, spectators, student-athletes, coaches and Athletic Directors.

SECTION I: Student-spectators must adhere to the following Code of Ethics:

1. Student-spectators must realize that they represent their school just as athletes do.
2. Student-spectators must appreciate and give suitable recognition to the good in others.

3. Only positive cheering is permitted by spectators for a PPL event. Spectators must avoid “booing”, abusive language, vulgarity, or derogatory comments, as these acts clearly show a lack of charity that breeds the same in opponents.
4. All signs and posters must be pre-approved by the Principal or Athletic Director of the local school.
5. Inappropriate dress or conduct will not be permitted during a PPL event.
6. Student-spectators must refrain from using musical instruments and noisemakers, except in an approved School band, as these are annoying to some and inflammatory to others.
7. Student-spectators must regard officials and opponents as honest; all must respect and abide by the officials’ decisions, even when a decision may seem unfair.
8. Student-spectators must understand that continued evidence of poor sportsmanship can result in loss of the privilege of attending future contests.
9. If any of the above-mentioned violations occur during a PPL event, the officials have the authority to penalize the individual team, and the school’s administration has the authority to stop the game and remove all spectators from the event, if the spectators do not comply with the administration’s request.
10. Student-spectators must realize that a contest ends with the final whistle or other signal; post-game injury to others, or damage to property, will not be tolerated.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **POLICY FOR COACHES INTERACTION WITH THE MEDIA**

The PPL, through the principles outlined in the Code of Conduct, demands that all members of the League, administrators, coaches, players, and fans, should in all circumstances demonstrate their character through sportsmanship and mutual respect.

The adults in charge must address problems that arise in the course of competition. These adults must show leadership and maturity to defuse the situation and allow a sensible and honorable solution to occur. Where the adults in charge are unable to resolve the situation, and the controversy lingers, the parties involved must present the matter to the PPL Leadership Committee.

It is important to understand that all parties involved, especially coaches, at all times represent their team, school, and the League. At all times, coaches shall refrain from making derogatory, damaging, and offensive remarks to the media. The Principal and Athletic Director of the school are to be informed of any emotional or potentially scandalous media situations. Coaches shall not enflame a situation by giving emotional or personal remarks to the media. Coaches also shall not address personal comments to the media regarding League-wide policies and procedures. Penalties for such behavior may include censure, suspension, or dismissal of the coach by the PPL Infractions Committee.