

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

High School Athletics



Parent & Student Handbook

**PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**

MISSION STATEMENT

The Paterson Public Schools Athletic Department's mission is to inspire champions today and prepare leaders for tomorrow by providing an excellent environment to enable student-athletes to achieve their highest academic, athletic, and personal aspirations. We focus on the drive to take one's talents to the highest level of performance; embracing the discipline needed to reach high standards; learning to work with others as a team in pursuit of a common goal; and adherence to codes of fairness and respect.

We believe that Eastside High School and John F. Kennedy High School share these core values:

- Integrity
- Passion for excellence
- Commitment
- Respect and responsibility for self and others
- Appreciation for and encouragement of gender and cultural diversity

PHILOSOPHY

The Paterson Public Schools department of athletics promotes excellence in athletics without compromising excellence in academics or integrity in its commitment to rules or conduct. Student-athletes are encouraged by the coaching and administrative staff to maintain a balance between athletics, academics, and the social aspects of high school.

It is believed that athletic participation gives an added dimension to the student's overall high school experience and provides an opportunity for social, moral, emotional and cultural growth and development.

The athletic programs strive to create traits that once acquired will carry over and benefit student-athletes in their personal, collegiate and professional endeavors. Paterson Public Schools maintains a tradition of excellence in high school athletics.

The department of athletics continues to uphold this tradition by striving to make each athletic team and individual of championship caliber. Our staff members work to instill in student-athletes an appreciation for hard work, perseverance, and pride in accomplishment. It is believed these attributes will be utilized throughout the student-athlete's life.

STUDENT ATHLETIC POLICY MANUAL

I. Rationale of the Athletic Program

Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right. The athlete must earn the privilege through dedication, desire, and discipline. Without the pursuit of those, the athlete can in no way do justice to him/herself or the school. The athlete must discipline him/herself to be a good citizen and student in order to achieve athletic excellence. The faculty of Paterson Public Schools believes the tradition of winning is established and maintained upon these principles. In order for a determined course of action for the pursuit of athletic achievement and character training of young persons, the following “*Athletic Policies*” must be understood and agreed among the school, the student athlete, and parents.

II. Rules of Eligibility

To be eligible for athletics, the athlete must be in compliance with the Paterson Public School District Policies including academic requirements (fall, winter, spring minimum credits) enrollment and the rules and regulations of the NJSIAA. Check with the Athletic Director or your guidance counselor if you have a question concerning eligibility.

A. State

B. District

C. Residence

D. Loss of eligibility

1. Smoking – Any athlete using tobacco will be denied the privilege of participating in all scheduled contests for a minimum of one (1) week.
2. Alcoholic Beverages – Any athlete using or in possession of an alcoholic beverage will be denied the privilege of participation in all scheduled contests for a period not to exceed six (6) months. A student may appeal for full eligibility after a three-month suspension.
3. Controlled Substance and Narcotics – Any athlete using or in possession of a controlled substance and/or narcotic will be denied the privilege of participation in all scheduled contests for a period of one (1) calendar year. A student has the right to appeal for full eligibility after a six-month suspension.
4. School Discipline Referral – Any athlete referred to the office for school rule violations may be denied the privilege of participation in all scheduled contests for a period to be determined by the school principal. This eligibility suspension will not exceed one (1) school year.
5. School Law Enforcement Referral – Any athlete referred to law enforcement authorities by school officials for school rule violations may be denied the privilege of participation in all scheduled contests for a period determined by the principal. This eligibility suspension will not exceed one (1) school year.

6. Arrest – Any athlete who is arrested for a felony or gross misdemeanor during school hours, school functions, and on the way to or from participating in a school event may be denied the privilege of participation in all scheduled contests for a period determined by the principal. This eligibility suspension will not exceed one (1) school year.

Athletic Eligibility Standards Beginning 2012 -2013

In keeping with the enhanced state mandated academic requirements that students are being asked to embrace, the district will be requiring an increase in the grade point average requirement for participation in competitive athletics and co-curricular activities. These requirements will be implemented beginning the 2012-2013 school year. Upon full implementation of these requirements, pupil participation in athletic competition shall be governed by the following eligibility standards:

A. To be eligible for participation in any competitive athletic or co-curricular activity, students entering the 9th grade must have been regularly promoted from the 8th grade. A regularly promoted student entering the 9th grade will automatically be eligible for the first quarter of the school year. To maintain eligibility thereafter, a freshman student must maintain a 2.10 or above cumulative GPA. Eligibility is determined at the close of each quarterly marking period.

B. A pupil in grades 10, 11, or 12 who in the previous school year earned twenty-five percent of the total number of credits required by the district (31.25 credits) for graduation is eligible for participation in sports in the fall and winter seasons. A pupil in twelve and one-half percent of the total number of credits required by the district (15.6325 credits) for graduation is eligible for participation in sports in the spring season. A pupil who is eligible at the start of a sports season remains eligible for that entire season regardless of his/her grades at the end of a marking period.

1. A pupil must have at least a 2.25 cumulative grade point average in 10th grade, 2.37 in 11th grade, and 2.5 in 12th grade to be eligible.

2. The student must achieve an increase of at least .13 in GPA each year of participation in order to remain eligible.

C. Students on Academic Probation

1. When a student fails to meet the above criteria, quarterly progress reports and/or report cards will be shared by guidance counselors with athletic directors who will notify the appropriate coaches, sponsors, directors and students participating in competitive co-curricular activities. Students at risk of failing a subject or who do not maintain the required academic standards will be placed on Academic Probation. **Only one Academic Probation period will be granted during an academic school year.** Written notice of potential ineligibility to participate in co-curricular activities will be provided to the student and his/her parent/guardian promptly. Records of progress shall be maintained by a student's guidance counselor and the athletic director, and shall be accessible to the student's teachers, principal and superintendent, and the co-curricular activities teaching advisor.

2. During Academic Probation, the student will be required to submit a completed weekly progress report to his/her teacher(s). The weekly progress report will be shared with the guidance counselor, athletic director, coach and/or sponsor. In order to remain eligible, the student must demonstrate that satisfactory effort is being exerted in all courses and that all assignments for the week have been completed and is passing class assessments. In addition, the student and his/her parent or

guardian will be required to meet with the building principal and each teacher of the course in which the student is in danger of failing to develop an individual action plan as to how the student will attempt to meet all course requirements.

3. Each student who is on probation is encouraged to utilize the tutoring services.

III. Regulations of Student Participation

A. Forms to be filed:

1. Physical examination
2. Parental permission
3. Head Injury Fact Sheet
4. Drug/Steroid Testing

B. Responsibility for school equipment

All athletes will be required to replace lost gear.

1. Equipment and uniforms are loaned to team members by the Athletic Department
2. Athletes are responsible for equipment and uniforms that are issued to them. Any lost items must be paid for by the athlete.

C. Attendance regulations

Student-Athletes must be in attendance in school between periods 4-8 (10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.) the day of a contest/practice to be eligible to participate. An exception would be made if the student had an approved medical appointment (written physicians' note).

1. All team members of each sport will attend all scheduled practices and meetings. No practices can be missed. If circumstances arise whereby the student cannot attend a practice or meeting, the coach must be notified prior to the practice or meeting by personal contact, phone call, or written statement from the parent or guardian.
2. Any athlete who cuts practice, fails to appear for a game, fails to make scheduled team or individual meetings, or fails to attend school on game day or practice day may not be allowed to suit up for any game or games for a period of time to be determined by the coach and Athletic Director.
3. All athletes are required to attend classes regularly. Athletes delinquent in class attendance are subject to disciplinary action. Lack of attendance in classes may result in failure of class work, resulting in ineligibility for athletics.

D. Conduct of athlete

As a member of Paterson Public Schools Athletics, students are:

1. To demonstrate courtesy by showing respect for the rights, privileges, and safety of fellow students and adults; having proper hall conduct; always being polite.
2. To aim for higher academic achievements by attending school regularly and being on time for school and classes unless properly excused; striving for good study habits; being efficient in completing assignments; always being honest and trustworthy in actions, setting a reasonable goal and striving to reach it.
3. To show respect for school property by treating furniture and facilities as if they were

your own; putting trash into proper containers.

4. To practice sportsmanship by upholding fair play, being gracious in defeat and modest in victory, being a worthy representative at all games.
5. To promote school spirit by supporting team and cheerleaders; attending extracurricular activities; participating in pep rallies; having pride in, and loyalty to Eastside High School and John F. Kennedy High School.

IV. Responsibility of Athlete to School District

An athlete is expected to govern his or her conduct in accordance with the rules and regulations of the “*Student Handbook*” and that violation of student’s obligations under the handbook may result in removal from competitive athletics.

A. Conduct on and off the field/court

1. Understand the values of sportsmanship, and fair play.
2. Show respect for the integrity and judgment calls of officials.
3. Show courtesy and respect to all visiting teams and officials.
4. Recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote their physical, moral, mental, social and emotional well-being each participant.
5. Become familiar with the rules of the game and the school’s standards for eligibility.
6. Encourage good judgment in all team members.

B. Dress and appearance

Because an athlete is constantly in the eyes of the public, he/she becomes a representative of the school and is considered to be in a position of leadership. Therefore, the athlete’s personal appearance not only reflects his/her attitudes but those whom he/she represents. His/her hygiene must be such that it is not harmful to the athlete’s well-being while participating in athletic competition. Athletes will be required to abide by the following rules established by the Board of Education, Eastside High School and John F. Kennedy High School:

1. Hair: The athlete’s hair shall be groomed in such a way as not to interfere with the athlete’s performance.
2. Dress Attire: Athletes are expected to dress appropriately at all times during school hours and when attending school-sponsored activities.

Lack of adherence to the above rules may result in the athlete being held out of practice or games. Failure to comply after further notification may result in suspension from the team and/or removal from athletics.

V. Transportation

Student-athletes are expected to travel to and from contest on the arranged mode of transportation provided by the school for all athletic events. Athletes are expected to travel as a team. This practice helps build camaraderie and team unity, an essential component in high school athletics. Only in an emergency should student-athletes be driven to a contest by a parent. Under no circumstances are student-athletes permitted to drive themselves.

VI. School Vacation Periods

Participation in high school athletics will make tremendous demands on a student's time. High School teams practice or play contests five or six days a week on a regular basis. During the fall sport season teams traditionally begin practice on August 15th prior to the opening of the school year. It is customary for games and practices to be scheduled during winter and spring vacations. To remain a member of a team in good standing, athletes are expected to be available during these times. Your commitment to a sport is essential.

VII. Athletic Injury

Whenever an athlete incurs an injury he/she should always consult with the Athletic Trainer. Whenever a student-athlete sees a physician or is taken to the hospital to seek medical attention the trainer is to be notified. The trainer will provide all the necessary insurance papers when deemed appropriate. It is important to note that the trainer, not the school nurse, should deal with athletic injuries.

VIII. Sport Changes

It is recommended that all athletes participate in as many sports as they are capable. Once an athlete begins the in-season training period of a sport, he should not quit while the sport is in season. No athlete may participate in a second sport until the athlete has been cleared from the first sport by obtaining a written release. When an athlete is released, that athlete shall be free to try out for any sport of his/her choosing, as long as:

1. They were not cut from the first sport for disciplinary reasons.
2. He/she has returned all equipment and uniforms to the prior head coach.

IX. District High Schools and Academies

The Paterson Public School District is comprised of many dynamic high schools and academy programs that will prove to be vital in the educational development of the student. Our athletic department strives to provide a variety of experiences to aid in the development of favorable habits and attitudes in students that will help to prepare them for adult life in society.

Athletic teams are comprised of student-athletes who are not influenced in the high school and/or academy of their choice.

X. Athletic Directory & Sports Offered for Paterson Public Schools

Mr. G. Cooper Athletic Supervisor Rm. 120 EHS	(973-321-0515)
Ms. D. Conley, Secretary, EHS Rm. 120	(973-321-1000 ext: 51193)
Mr. W. Ford, Athletic Trainer, Rm. 118 – EHS Gym	(973-321-1000 ext: 51112)
Mr. W. Scott Durham, Athletic Supervisor, JFK AD office	(973-321-1000 ext: 50131)
Mrs. D. Fischer, Secretary, JFK AD office	(973-321-1000 ext: 50130)
Mr. N. Seminuk, Athletic Trainer, Gym	(973-321-1000 ext: 50128)

Fall Sports

Team Practice Begins: Approx; August 15th

Season Ends: Approx; December

11th

Band

Cheerleaders

Cross/Country (Boys & Girls)

Football

JROTC

Soccer (Boys)

Soccer (Girls)

Tennis (Girls)

Volleyball (Girls)

Winter Sports

Team Practice Begins: Approx; November 28th Season Ends Approx; : March 17th

Basketball (Boys)

Basketball (Girls)

Bowling (Boys & Girls)

Cheerleaders

Indoor Track (Boys & Girls)

JROTC

Wrestling

Spring Sports

Team Practice Begins: Approx; March 4th Season Ends: Approx; June 11th

Baseball

Golf

JROTC

Softball

Tennis (Boys)

Track & Field (Boys & Girls)

Note: End of season is an approximation determined by the last regularly scheduled game, event or NJSIAA Tournament.

