



# Student-Parent Athletic Handbook

**(High School)**

**Revised July 2019**

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## **Paulding County School District**

3236 Atlanta Highway  
Dallas, Georgia 30132  
770-443-8000

[www.paulding.k12.ga.us](http://www.paulding.k12.ga.us)

Dr. Brian Otott, Superintendent

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operations Officer

Mr. Jason Freeman, Director of Local School Administration & Athletics

### **East Paulding High School (Raiders)**

3320 East Paulding Drive  
Dallas, Georgia 30157  
770-445-5100

Mrs. Ronnetta Simpson, Principal

Mr. Brad Thomason, Athletic Director

### **Hiram High School (Hornets)**

702 Virgie Ballentine Dr.  
Hiram, Georgia 30141  
770-443-1182

Mrs. Misty Cooksey, Principal

Mr. Jeff Wallace, Athletic Director

### **North Paulding High School (Wolfpack)**

300 North Paulding Drive  
Dallas, Georgia  
770-443-9400

Mr. Gabe Carmona, Principal

Mr. Ryan Dyer, Athletic Director

### **Paulding County High School (Patriots)**

1297 Villa Rica Highway  
Dallas, Georgia 30157

770-443-8008  
Mr. Craig Wilcox, Principal  
Mr. Dustin Skelton, Athletic Director

**South Paulding High School (Spartans)**  
1364 Winn Rd.  
Douglasville, Georgia 30134  
770-949-9221  
Dr. Keith Rowland, Principal  
Mr. Lamarr Glenn, Athletic Director

## **I. Introductions**

### **A. To the Parent**

This material is presented to you because your son or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic activities. The Paulding County School District believes that participation in sports and other interscholastic activities provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences which will assist students in personal growth and development.

We feel that a properly controlled, well-organized interscholastic activity program meets with the students' needs for self-expression, mental alertness and physical growth. It is our hope to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and will further each student's educational maturity.

A student who elects to participate in the interscholastic program is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and self-denial. These are the reasons we place such stress on good training habits. Failure to comply with the rules of training and conduct means exclusion from participation. This concept of self-discipline and self-denial is tempered by our responsibility to recognize the rights of the individual within the objectives of the team or activity. There is no place in high school interscholastic competition for students who will not discipline their minds and bodies for rigorous competition. We are striving for excellence and do not want our students to compromise with mediocrity.

When your son/daughter enlisted in one of our interscholastic programs, he/she committed our staff to certain responsibilities and obligations which is:

1. To provide adequate equipment and facilities
2. To provide as well-trained coaches as possible
3. To provide full schedules with qualified officials as directed by the GHSA

It is the role of the department of athletics to make rules that govern the spirit of competition for the school. These rules need a broad basis of community support, which is achieved only through communication to the parent. It is our hope to accomplish this objective through this publication for students and parents.

"No student shall, on the basis of gender, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be treated differently from another student, or otherwise be discriminated against in any interscholastic or intramural athletics offered by a local school system, and no local school system shall provide any such athletics separately on such basis." This is basically the heart of the law, and should provide a reference point for school systems in guiding their actions with regard to gender equity in their athletic programs. This provision in the law tracks language from the federal Title IX regulations. (O.C.G.A. 20-2-315 (a). If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact Mr. Don Breedlove, Sports Equity Coordinator, at 770/443-8000 or the Paulding County Board of Education, 3236 Atlanta Highway, Dallas, Georgia 30132.

### **Coaches Office Hours**

Continuing our effort to establish and maintain clear lines of communication between the Athletic Department Staff and the parents/guardians of our student-athletes, the coaching staff will set up a specific time and day to meet about concerns that arise. **Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or after practice, a game, or a contest including half time. Those can be emotional times for both the parents and the coaches.** Meetings of that nature, and at those times, do not promote resolution. The following guidelines will help to ensure the concept of a productive and positive experience:

- \* Parents can use this time to ask questions and obtain information.
- \* Coach will discuss what the student-athlete needs to work on or improve.
- \* Coach will only talk to a parent/guardian about his/her own child.
- \* Playing Time will not be discussed.
- \* *If satisfaction is not obtained, the parent/guardian should then contact the school Athletic Director.*

**\* Parents who verbally abuse a coach may be liable for harassment/slander/defamation of character. The school administrator in charge of the game/event has the authority to require any parent/spectator to leave the facility. The school administration also has the right to prohibit any parent/spectator from attending further games/events on the school campus.**

### **Parent Complaints or Concerns**

There is a proper uniform system of command that should be followed in parent/guardian submitting complaints and concerns.

Every effort should be made to resolve a complaint with the coach involved.

If the concern is not resolved with the coach, it should be submitted to the school athletic director (a letter prior to conference.)

If the concern is not resolved with school athletic director, it should be submitted by letter

to the principal. The principal will contact the district office if the problem is not resolved.

It is the intent of the Athletic Department to provide an avenue for meaningful dialogue and communication between coaches and parents. Working together we can and will accomplish great things.

### **Code of Conduct for Parents / Guardians**

The role of the parent in the education of a student is vital. The value system and support that is established in the home and nurtured in the school enables the student-athlete to accept the opportunities presented at school and in life. The goals of the parent/guardian of a student-athlete in the Paulding County School District are:

Realize that athletics are part of the educational experience and the benefits of involvement go beyond the final score of a game;

Encourage our students to perform their best;

Participate in positive cheers that encourage our student-athletes and discourage any cheers that would redirect that focus;

Learn, understand, and respect the rules of the games, the officials who administer them and their decisions;

Respect the task our coaches face as teachers; and support them as they strive to educate our youth;

Respect our opponents as students, and acknowledge them for striving to do their best; treat them with courtesy;

Develop a sense of dignity under all circumstances.

You can have a major influence on your student's attitude about academics and athletics. The leadership role you take will help influence your child and our community for years to come.

The PCSD Athletic Code of Conduct can be found on pages 27, 28.

### **Recruiting and Undue Influence**

*The Georgia High School Association (GHSA) has implemented rules regarding the recruitment and undue influence of student-athletes. It is very important that all parents, alumni, relatives, school supporters and others know and fully understand these new rules.*

#### **By-Law 1.71b - changed to read:**

*Evidence of undue influence includes, but is not limited to:*

- 1. personal contact initiated by coaches, boosters, and sponsors or other school personnel in an attempt to persuade transfer*
- 2. gifts of money, jobs, supplies, or clothing*
- 3. free transportation*
- 4. free admission to contests*
- 5. an invitation to attend practices and/or games*
- 6. a social event (other than an official school wide Open House*

- program) specifically geared for prospective athletes*
- 7. free tuition beyond the allowable standards found in By-Law 1.82*
  - 8. a coach asking a prospective student for contact information*

**By-Law 1.71 d (New)**

*A school will be afforded an opportunity to demonstrate it could not be reasonably expected to be responsible for the actions of a booster who is found guilty of the recruiting/undue influence violations.*

**By-Law 1.72 (New "c" and "d")**

*c. The player who played for a coach at the former GHSA school followed that coach when he/she moved to another GHSA school. This is not applicable for dependent children of the coach.*

*d. The situations in this by-law are considered to be violations even if a bona fide move has occurred, and the hardship appeal procedures are available to demonstrate that undue influence has not occurred.*

**By-Law 1.73 (New)**

*A booster shall be considered to be an extension of the school and must abide by all rules applied to coaches and other school personnel. The following persons or groups may be considered boosters; members of the school's Booster Club; alumni; parent, guardian, or relative of a student or former student; financial donor; or a donor of time and effort.*

**B. To The Student Participant**

Being a member of a Paulding County School District High School interscholastic team is the fulfillment of an early ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great competitive tradition is not built overnight; it takes the hard work from many people over many years. As a member of an interscholastic team, you will be faced with either the task of maintaining an already successful tradition or the task of establishing a successful tradition.

It is not easy to build a great tradition in interscholastic competition in either athletics or literary activities. When you represent your school, we assume that you not only understand our goals and traditions, but are willing to assume responsibilities that go with them. It is our hope that the contributions you make will be a satisfying accomplishment for you and your family.

**1. Responsibilities to Yourself**

The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden your strength of character. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible good from your high school experiences. Your academic studies, your participation in other extracurricular activities as well as sports, prepare you for your life as an adult.

**2. Responsibilities to Your School**

Another responsibility that you assume as a participant is to your school. Your school cannot build or maintain the position of having an outstanding school unless you do your best in whatever activity you wish to engage. By participating in interscholastic competition to the maximum of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school.



You assume a leadership role if you are on an interscholastic team. The student body and citizens of the community know you. You are on stage with the spotlight on you. The student body, the community and other communities judge our school by your conduct and attitudes, both in and out of school. Because of your leadership role, you can contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride. Make your school and your community proud of your faithful exemplification of these ideals.

### **3. Responsibilities to Others**

As a team member you bear a heavy responsibility to your home. You should never give your family any cause to be ashamed. When you know in your heart that you have lived up to all of the training rules, that you have practiced to the best of your ability every day, and that you have played the game "ALL OUT," you can maintain your self-respect. Your family can be justly proud of you and your effort.

Also, remember that younger students are watching you and they will copy you in many ways. Do not do anything to let them down. Always set good examples for them.

## **II. Interscholastic Competition Philosophy**

### **A. Statement of Philosophy**

The Paulding County School District Athletic Department should provide a variety of experiences to aid in the development of favorable habits and attitudes that will prepare students for adult life in a democratic society.

The interscholastic activity program shall be conducted in accordance with existing Board of Education policies, rules, and regulations. While the Board of Education takes great pride in winning, it does not condone "winning at any cost." It discourages any and all pressures which might tend to neglect good sportsmanship and/or good mental health. At all times, the interscholastic activity program must be conducted in such a way as to justify it as an educational activity. Although we want to have as competitive an athletic program as possible, the purpose in high school athletics is not in obtaining college scholarships. When a student-athlete has the abilities to gain such recognition, the coaches and staff will support the young person as much as possible, but not to the detriment to the overall athletic program.

### **B. Athletic Goals and Objectives**

**Goals** - The student participant shall become a more effective citizen in a democratic society.

**Objectives** - The student participant shall learn:

1. **To work with others:** In a democratic society, a person must develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. The team and its objectives must be placed higher than personal desires.
2. **To be successful:** Our society is very competitive. We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do our best. You can learn to accept defeat only by striving to win with earnest dedication. Develop a desire to excel.

3. **To develop sportsmanship:** To accept any defeat like a true sportsman, knowing we have done our best, we must learn to treat others the way we would have them treat us. We need to develop desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation, and dependability.
4. **To improve:** Continual improvement is essential to good citizenship. As a participant, you must establish goals and you must continually try to reach those goals. Try to better yourself in the skills involved and those characteristics set forth as being desirable in your chosen activity.
5. **To enjoy participation:** It is necessary for students to enjoy participation, to acknowledge all of the personal rewards to be derived from participation, and to give sufficiently of themselves in order to preserve and improve the program.
6. **To develop desirable personal health habits:** To be an active, contributing citizen, it is important to obtain a high degree of physical fitness through exercise and good health habits and to develop the desire to maintain this level of physical fitness after formal competition has been completed.

### **III. Governance's**

#### **A. The Board of Education**

1. The Board of Education, responsible to the people, is the ruling agency for all of the schools in the Paulding County School District.
2. The Board of Education is responsible for the following areas:
  - a. Interpreting the needs of the community.
  - b. Developing policies in accordance with state statutes and mandates and in accordance with the educational needs and wishes of the people of the Paulding County School District.
  - c. Approving means by which professional staff may make these policies effective.
  - d. Evaluating the interscholastic athletic program in terms of its value to the community.

#### **B. The Region**

Each Paulding County High School is a member of a Georgia High School Association (GHSA) region. The regions are established for the purpose of promoting selected interscholastic activities among member schools and the assurance of such advantages as may be gained by a union effort. Region membership facilitates the arranging of schedules, equalizing competition, conducting Region meets/tournaments/playoffs, and determining Region championships. The Region provides each school the opportunity for competition without excessive travel and with schools of similar size. Membership requires abiding by Region schedules, rules and regulations.

#### **C. The Georgia High School Association (GHSA)**

All schools are members of the Georgia High School Association and compete only with member schools or out-of-state schools that are approved by the GHSA. As a member school, we agree to abide by and enforce all rules and regulations set forth by the GHSA. *To obtain the entire GHSA constitution and by-laws go to [www.ghsa.net](http://www.ghsa.net).* The primary role of the GHSA, which is empowered by the Georgia State Board of Education, is to maintain rules and regulations that ensure equity in competition for the students and a balance with other educational programs.

The GHSA solicits input and is responsive to request for modification from member schools, appointed committees, and coaches associations.

#### **D. The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)**

The National Federation consists of the fifty individual state high school athletic/activities associations. The purposes of the Federation are to serve, protect and enhance the interstate activity interests of the high schools belonging to the state associations; to assist in those activities of the state associations which can best be operated on a nationwide scale; to sponsor meetings, publications and activities which will permit each state association to profit by the experiences of all other member associations; and to coordinate the work to minimize duplication.

### **IV. Requirements for participation**

#### **A. Physical examination**

**A yearly physical examination is required.** The physical must be conducted by a licensed physician, doctor of Osteopathic medicine, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant and submitted to the school Athletic Director prior to participation. The physical covers all sports for one calendar year. The form will be kept on file in the Athletic Directors' office. It is the students' responsibility to make certain their physical is current. The exam must be signed by an M.D. or D.O., or by a physician's assistant or an advance practice nurse who has been delegated that task by an M.D. or D.O. Any physical examination taken on or after **April 1st** in the preceding year will be accepted for the following GHSA school year.

***\*\* GHSA Student/Parent Concussion Form is now a required form and a part of the GSHA physical packet placed on the PCSD website as well as each individual HS website. (One copy at school and one at home)***

#### **B. Emergency medical authorization**

Each athlete's parent(s)/guardian(s) shall complete an **EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION FORM** giving permission for treatment by a physician or hospital when the parent(s)/guardian(s) are not available. The form will be kept available by the Athletic Department for use as needed.

#### **C. Insurance**

At the beginning of each school year, the school district provides information regarding the option to purchase insurance to cover student athletic injuries from an independent company. That information can be obtained from the school or the district office. **Parent(s)/guardian(s) are required to sign a form stating that they either have purchased the necessary school insurance or possess a family insurance plan that covers athletic injuries.** If a family insurance plan is used, the family must provide the school with the name of the insurance company and the policy number on the appropriate form.

#### **D. Risk of participation**

All athletes and parent(s)/guardian(s) must realize the risk of serious injury which may be a result of athletic participation. The Paulding County School District requires the Athletic Responsibility Acknowledgment Form be signed by the athlete and parent(s)/guardian(s). It includes a statement regarding understanding and agreeing to the risk of participation.

#### **E. Parental acknowledgment of athletic policies**

At the time a student tries out for an athletic team, he/she will be presented with this handbook containing all the necessary forms and information for participating in athletics. Each parent(s)/guardian(s) shall read all of the enclosed material and certify that he/she understands the athletic eligibility rules and policies of the Paulding County School District. **The signed document will be filed in the athletic office of the respective high school.**

#### **F. Scholastic eligibility (Please refer to Paulding County Board of Education Policy IDE (1) for complete information regarding scholastic eligibility) (www.paulding.k12.ga.us)**

The Paulding County Board of Education supports the offering of competitive interscholastic activities in grades 9-12 subject to reasonable rules and regulations concerning eligibility to participate and on the condition that participation in such activities in grades 9-12 shall not interfere with the academic achievement of participating students.

#### **G. 2.68 GHSA Concussion Policy:**

*In accordance with Georgia law and national playing rules published by the NFHS, any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest and shall not return to play until an appropriate health care professional has determined that no concussion has occurred. (NOTE: An appropriate health care professional may include: licensed physician (MD/DO) or another licensed individual under the supervision of a licensed physician, such as a nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, or certified athletic trainer who has received training in concussion evaluation and management).*

- 1. No athlete is allowed to return to a game or practice on the same day that a concussion (1) has been diagnosed OR (2) cannot be ruled out.*
- 2. Any athlete diagnosed with a concussion shall be cleared medically by an appropriate health care professional prior to resuming participation in any future practice or contest. The formulation of a gradual return to play protocol shall be a part of the medical clearance.*
- 3. It is mandatory that every coach in each GHSA sport (including Community Coaches, Student Teachers, and Interns) participate in a free, online course on concussion management prepared by the NFHS and available at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com) at least every two years - beginning with the 2013-14 school year.*
- 4. Each school will be responsible for monitoring the participation of its coaches in the concussion management course, and shall keep a record of those who participate.*
- 5. Each school must distribute to every athlete and his/her parent/guardian an information sheet that includes: the dangers of concussion injuries, the signs/symptoms of concussion, and the concussion management protocol outlined in this by-law. This sheet must be signed by the parent/guardian of each athlete and a copy kept on file at the school.*

#### **Definitions**

**Competitive interscholastic activities** - any school-sponsored program involving competition between individuals or groups representing two or more schools. Cheerleading is included in this definition.

**On track** - the number of Carnegie units in core subjects as defined by Georgia Board of Education earned by the student by the beginning of a specific school year leading toward graduation according to the following schedule:

School day - the period between the time students are required to report and the time of dismissal as specified by the Board of Education.

School-sponsored activity - an activity held under the auspices or sponsorship of a school district or school that uses or refers to the school district's or school's name and that involves its staff members and/or its students.

### **Requirements**

The Board of Education is responsible for regulating competitive interscholastic activities, therefore adopts the following requirements as to student eligibility, physical examinations, time restrictions, seasonal practice, special provisions and appeals.

### **Student Eligibility**

1. The grading period shall be a semester as specified by Board of Education policy. The same period shall also be the minimum length of the ineligibility period.
2. Students participating in competitive interscholastic activities shall have earned 2.5 units in the grading period immediately preceding participation. These subjects shall carry credit toward grade promotion.
  - a. First-year students (entering ninth grade) are academically eligible for the first semester. Second semester first-year students must have earned 2.5 units the previous semester in order to participate.
  - b. Second-year students must have accumulated five (5) total Carnegie units in the first year AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units in the previous semester.
  - c. Third-year students must have accumulated eleven (11) Carnegie units in the first and second years AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units in the previous semester.
  - d. Fourth year students must have accumulated seventeen (17) Carnegie units in the first three years AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units in the previous semester.
  - e. Students may accumulate the required Carnegie units for participation during the school year and eligibility will be reinstated at the beginning of the next semester.
3. Students in grades 9-12 participating in any competitive interscholastic activity shall take a minimum of five subjects during the grading period of participation.
  - a. A student in a state-approved joint enrollment program as outlined in State Board Rules (High School Graduation requirements) will be given credit for five high school courses during the high school's semester.
4. Students shall be on track for graduation.
  - a. Eighth-graders promoted to the ninth grade during the year shall meet the first on-track test upon completion of one school year (two semesters).
5. Student eligibility shall be determined on the first school day of the subsequent semester.
  - a. A student may have 14 school days after the close of each semester to complete make-up work. A student is ineligible until make-up work is completed and the required passing grade(s) is/are recorded in the student's permanent record.
  - b. Summer school is an extension of the second semester of the school year; a maximum of two units of credit may be counted for eligibility purposes.
6. Summer school credits earned in non-accredited home study programs or non-accredited private schools may not be used to gain eligibility. Accreditation recognized under this policy shall be from the Georgia Accrediting Commission or a regional accreditation agency.
7. Each coach and/or sponsor of any competitive interscholastic activity shall produce and file with the school principal an eligibility list for each sport showing the participant's name, grade and date the participant first entered ninth grade.

- a. The list shall be checked and available prior to tryout, conditioning, practice and competition to ensure that only eligible students participate.
8. *Student-athletes who may be on track to qualify for an athletic scholarship should be aware of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility requirements. Links to the NCAA Eligibility site are available off the Paulding County School District web site:*  
[http://schools.paulding.k12.ga.us/ischooldistrict/departments\\_more\\_2.php?districtpage\\_ID=247&district\\_ID=2&parentPage\\_ID=247](http://schools.paulding.k12.ga.us/ischooldistrict/departments_more_2.php?districtpage_ID=247&district_ID=2&parentPage_ID=247)

### **Time Restrictions for Activities**

1. The dates for practice and play officially adopted by the Georgia High School Association (GHSAA) shall be followed.
2. Competitive interscholastic activities and all individual and group practice for such activities by students in grades 9-12 shall be conducted outside the school day.
3. Only one day and/or night preceding a school day per week may be used for a contest or activity with a starting time of 6:00 PM or later. This requirement applies to regular season games only; tournaments are excluded from this restriction. Varsity teams are allowed to participate in the regional and state tournaments without regard to the number of games per week or time limitation. Regular season games on any day not preceding a school day have no time limitation.

### **Seasonal Practice**

All out-of-season practice, except for spring football practice, is prohibited during the school year by this rule (August 1 through the end of the school year for students). Spring football practice is permitted for ten school days as provided for in GHSAA's Schedule of Events Calendar.

### **Special Provisions**

1. Special education students shall meet the same eligibility requirements as regular students, except that the courses passed must be according to the student's IEP. Special Olympics or other programs designed exclusively for students with disabilities are exempt.
2. Students who have not attained ninth grade status but are participating in high school competitive interscholastic activities shall abide by the established GHSAA eligibility requirements.
3. Ineligible students are prohibited from practicing or dressing out for competitive interscholastic events. The school (s) shall maintain documentation and, upon request of the department of education, produce evidence that an ineligible student did not participate.
4. There are several requirements set by the GHSAA and the Paulding County School District regarding transfers between school and eligibility. Prior to any move, parents should inquire on those requirements from the school athletic director.

### **Attendance**

1. Students who accumulate five (5) or more unexcused absences in a semester will be ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activities for the following semester. If a student accumulates five (5) or more unexcused absences the final semester of the previous school year, they will not be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities during the first semester of the new school year. *Principals may use discretion has based on extenuating circumstances.*

### **G. Other GHSAA eligibility rules (*the complete GHSAA constitution and by-laws can be found at [www.ghsa.net](http://www.ghsa.net)*)**

1. A student who turns 19 prior to May 1 cannot participate the following year.

2. Once a student enters the 9th grade, he/she will have four successive years in which to participate provided he/she does not exceed the age requirement. This is referred to as the "8 semester rule" in the GHSA Constitution and By-Laws.

3. Transfer students must comply with the GHSA migratory rule. If you are a transfer student, immediately contact your coach so that he/she can determine if you are in compliance with the migratory rule. The GHSA has strict guidelines in reference to students transferring from school to school. Violations of the GHSA policy could result in a student losing athletic eligibility for one year. Please contact the school or District Athletic Director to get the details before making any transfer. The complete transfer guidelines can be found at [www.ghsa.net](http://www.ghsa.net).

## **V. Athletic Codes of Conduct**

A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the athletic department and school. The community, school administrators and the coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program. The welfare of the student is our major consideration and transcends any other consideration. All students shall abide by a code of ethics which will earn them honor and respect that participation and competition in the interscholastic activity program affords. (Any conduct which results in dishonor to the athlete, the team, the school, or the community will not be tolerated.)

A. **Ethics Rule:** Acts of unacceptable conduct, such as, but not limited to, disruption of school, theft, vandalism, disrespect, immorality, or other violations of the law tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the program and will not be tolerated. Due to the serious nature of violations of the Ethics Rule, the appropriate coach, the athletic director, and the principal shall meet to determine the penalty according to the degree of the infraction which could result in suspension and/or dismissal from the team.

B. **Training Rules and Regulations:** We cannot compromise participation in scholastic activities with substance abuse. The student who uses tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, or any type of mood altering substance found in legal over the counter products jeopardizes team morale, team reputation and team success and does physical harm to himself/herself. Students must decide for themselves whether or not they want to participate in our interscholastic program. If a student wishes to participate they must make a commitment in order to be a competitor. A big part of this commitment is following a simple set of training rules which we believe to be fair.

1. **Use of Tobacco:** Research emphasizes that the use of tobacco is physically harmful to young adults. The harm done by this is not only a health problem. The community follows the progress of young competitors, and any deviation from accepted training rules marks one as unwilling to pay the price of competition and commitment. If one squad member breaks the rule, the entire team's reputation is damaged. **This rule means no use of tobacco all year, in or out of season.**

2. **Use of Alcoholic Beverages:** There is no way to justify competitor's use of alcoholic beverages, even though social pressure may be hard to resist. **This rule means no use of alcoholic beverages all year, in or out of season.**

3. **Use of Illegal Drugs or Mood Altering Substances:** Simply stated, drug abuse will not be tolerated. **The rule for drugs/chemical abuse is in effect all year long.**

4. **Penalties for Violation of Training Rules:** Due to the serious nature of violation of Training Rules, the appropriate coach, the athletic director, and the principal shall meet to determine the penalty according to the degree of the violation which could result in suspension and/or dismissal from the team.

C. **Individual Coach's Rules:** Coaches may establish rules and regulations with the approval of the athletic director and principal for their respective activities. These rules, as pertaining to a particular activity, must be *shared* by the coach to all team members and explained fully at the start of the season. Penalties for violation of team rules will *be shared* and shall be administered by the coach.

## **VI. Basic Interscholastic Participation Guidelines**

A. **Participation:** A student may participate in only one sport per season unless two coaches/sponsors agree to the student's competing in both activities and priorities are set to settle conflicts before the season. Non-school teams do not take precedence over any Paulding County School District High School team that is in season, including games and practices. Any conflicts should be reported directly to the school athletic director.

B. **Dropping or transferring sports:** Quitting is an intolerable habit to acquire. Once a season begins, if a student quits one sport, he/she may not participate in another sport until the conclusion of the first sport. Exception to this policy must be approved by the head coaches, athletic director and principal.

C. **Equipment:** School equipment issued to the student/athlete is the student's responsibility. Loss of any equipment is the athlete's financial obligation, and failing to meet that obligation can result in the denial of participation in any and all programs. A student may not practice, tryout or compete in one sport if he/she has outstanding obligations in another sport. A student who has an outstanding obligation for an extra-curricular activity may not be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies.

D. **Missing practice:** A student should always consult his/her coach before missing practice. Missing practice or a game will be dealt with at the discretion of the coach.

E. **College recruitment policy:** In the event that a student athlete should be contacted personally by a college recruiter, he/she has an obligation to work through his/her coach and the athletic department. The student must inform his/her coach and the athletic department. The student must inform his/her coach of the contact as soon as possible. College recruitment information is available in the counseling department. A student runs the risk of loss of eligibility if recruiting matters are not handled properly.

### **F. Conflicts in extracurricular activities:**

Students who have made the commitment to participate in an extracurricular activity in the Paulding County School District have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid conflicts with other activities. If a conflict does arise, the sponsor/coach will work out a solution. If a solution cannot be found, the coach, athletic director and principal will make the decision based on all the information.

G. **Attendance:** Students who miss over half of the school day (*as determined by the official school time*) due to illness will not be able to play in a contest or practice on that date. Students missing school for reasons other than illness must have an excused absence in order to participate. Final authority for infractions of this rule will rest with the principal or his/her designee. Students absent from school on the day prior to a non-school day will be eligible to participate the day after the absence.



**H. In-School and Out-Of-School Suspension:** Students will not be allowed to participate until they have served their suspension. There should be no adjustments made in the assignment of suspension days to allow a student to participate in any activities. As ISS (in-school suspension) assignment ends at 3:30 p.m. the school day of said assignment. A student who is in OSS (out-of-school suspension) may not practice, tryout, or participate in any game/activity until the next school day after the suspension is completed.

**I. Squad selection and Playing Time:** Time, space, facilities, equipment, and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular activity. Choosing the members of athletic squads is the responsibility of the coach of those squads. Participation time and specific assignments and positions of participants is the professional judgment of the coach.

**J. Reporting of injury:** All injuries that occur while participating in athletics should be reported to the trainer/coach. If the injury requires medical attention by a doctor or treatment center, it will be necessary to have an injury report form completed. Once a student is treated by a physician, the athlete must obtain written permission from the doctor to return to the activity.

### **K. Concussion Management Plan**

#### Concussion Management Guidelines

*Concussions at all levels of sports have received a great deal of attention in the past few years. Adolescent athletes are particularly vulnerable to the effects of concussions. The enclosed guidelines are made based on information from the American Academy of Neurology (AAN), the National Athletic Trainer's Association (NATA), the American Medical Association (AMA) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). The guidelines are in compliance with Georgia state law, and they have been developed in conjunction with the GHSA and the NFHS.*

- 1. A student athlete who is suspected of having a concussion should be removed from athletic activity and referred to the Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC). ATCs are trained in the Impact Concussion System to perform diagnostic evaluations. Baseline testing data will be referenced and the determination for further evaluation will be made. Parents/guardians can choose to follow the recommendation of the ATC or may take their child to a M.D. or D.O. of their choosing for further evaluation. Parents should consider whether the doctor they select is knowledgeable and trained in the evaluation and management of sports-related concussions.*
- 2. Any athlete with a concussion should be medically cleared by a doctor (M.D. or D.O.) prior to resuming participation in any athletic activity. Parents are encouraged to share the results of a concussion diagnosis or evaluation, including doctors' orders, with the ATC at each PCSD school. The formation of a gradual return to play protocol should be a part of the medical clearance.*
- 3. These guidelines should be applied to any athletic activity which includes, but is not limited to, games, practices, conditioning and scrimmages.*
- 4. The school district representative (in the case of athletics, the ATC) has the final say on an athlete's clearance status following a concussion, regardless of documentation provided by the athlete. "When in doubt, sit them out" is the position taken for concussion management. Student safety is our top priority.*

*NOTE: Athletes with continued concussion symptoms are at risk for recurrent, cumulative and even catastrophic consequences of a second concussive injury. Such risks are minimized if the athlete is allowed time to recover from the concussion and return to play decisions are carefully made by parents, doctors and*

trainers.

*Parents/guardians should ensure that no athlete should return-to-sport or other at-risk participation when symptoms of concussion are present and recovery is ongoing. The ATC/coach may remove a student from athletic activity at their discretion.*

#### 5 Step-Graduated Exertional Return to Play Guideline (PT Solutions)

*The following steps are not to be performed on the same day and will typically occur over multiple days and only after an athlete is asymptomatic relative to baseline data.*

- 1. Light exercise: 20 minute stationary bike or walking. NO WEIGHT LIFTING.*
- 2. Running in gym and bodyweight circuit: Squats/sit-ups/push-ups/ 3 sets x 20 seconds. No equipment.*
- 3. Non-contact drills: 60 yard dash, medicine ball throws and or sports specific drills x 15 mins. No equipment.*
- 4. Full contact practice and or training. Continue to monitor for symptoms.*
- 5. Game day participation.*

#### \* National Federation High Schools (NFHS) Rules Change

**Previous rule books for most sports included language directing officials to remove an athlete from play if “unconscious or apparently unconscious.” We now know that a person does not have to lose consciousness to suffer a concussion. In fact, according to our most recent data from the High School Reporting Information Online (RIO) and the National High School Sports Related Injury Surveillance Study, only 3.2 percent of all concussed athletes lost consciousness during the 2009 football season. That language has been changed to the following: Any athlete who is believed to be suffering from a concussion and who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional. The common signs, symptoms and behaviors of concussed athletes may be found in Appendix B on page 100 of the 2012 NFHS Football Rules Book.**

#### \* Role of Officials

**Neither officials, nor coaches, are expected to “diagnose” a concussion, as that is the job of an appropriate health-care professional. Officials are being asked to use their best judgment in observing the signs, symptoms and behaviors, but are no longer being asked to make what could be perceived to be a medical opinion. This is the same type of monitoring procedure that has been used with orthopedic injuries and the “blood rule” in the past. The game official is not responsible for the sideline evaluation or management of the athlete after he or she is removed from play. The responsibility of further evaluating and managing the symptomatic athlete falls upon the head coach, appropriate health-care professional, or other individual designated by school administrators. The official does not need written permission for an athlete to return to play, nor does the official need to verify the credentials of the appropriate health-care professional. Ensuring compliance with the Suggested Management Guidelines is a health and safety issue and should be the responsibility of the head coach and school administration, NOT the game official.**

#### \* School Responsibilities

*All Paulding County coaches are required to participate in an annual online course on concussion management prepared by the NFHS.*

*Baseline testing will be done on all PCSD athletes except for swimming, golf and tennis.*

## **VII. Athletic Awards Policy**

A. **Varsity Award Requirements:** The varsity award shall be presented to an athlete who satisfies the participation requirements as set forth by the head coach. Athletes must finish their sports season in good standing in order to letter in a sport. (The coach may recommend a waiver of these requirements under an unusual circumstance.) The decisions for athletic awards are school-based decisions. The following are options that schools may select:

1. **1st-year award:** Chenille award letter with insert signifying the sport and certificate.  
(Note: Should the student letter in a second sport, he/she will not receive a second chenille letter.)
2. **2nd-year award:** Service bar and certificate.
3. **3rd-year award:** Service bar and certificate.
4. **4th-year award:** Service bar and certificate indicating the recipient as a four-year varsity letter winner.
5. Participants who do not letter will receive a certificate.

B. Junior varsity and freshman awards are given on the recommendation of the coach to all athletes that complete the season. Certificates are given for both first and second year awards.

C. Managers, trainers and statisticians will parallel the regular awards system if they complete for the entire season.

**PAULDING COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Athletic Responsibility Acknowledgment**

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Athlete's Name	High School	Sport(s)	Year
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**Prior to participating in any practice or tryout session for any interscholastic sport, each athlete must:**

1. Successfully pass a physical examination by a registered physician and the copy of such examination must be on file in the athletic directors' office. One current physical examination per year is sufficient for all sports during that school year.
2. Return to his/her coach the Athletic Responsibility Acknowledgment Form properly signed.

***As a student athlete participating voluntarily in interscholastic athletics in the Paulding County School District, I understand that:***

1. I will abide by the Paulding County School District student code of conduct, the school's athletic handbook, the coaches team rules, and the rules of GHSA.
2. I will conduct myself in an exemplary social manner at all times and understand that I may be suspended and/or dismissed based on violations occurring in or away from school.
3. I will be responsible for all athletic equipment issued to me throughout the season, will return such equipment at the conclusion of the season, and will pay the current replacement cost for any of the equipment not accounted for by me at the end of the season.
4. I will not use or be in possession of tobacco, alcohol or narcotics. If I do use any of these substances, am in possession of such substances, or am suspended from school for use or possession of the substances, I will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in the athletic handbook.
5. I acknowledge that I have been properly advised and cautioned by coaching personnel of my high school that I am exposing myself to the risk of injury, including but not limited to, the risk of sprains, fractures and ligament and/or cartilage damage which could result in a temporary or permanent, partial or complete impairment in the use of my limbs, brain damage, paralysis; or even death. Having been so cautioned and warned, it is still my desire to participate in sports and to do so with full knowledge and understanding of the risk of injury.
6. I, along with my parents, certify that I have read and understand all of the Paulding County School District athletic policies in the student/parent athletic handbook and in order to be eligible for participation I must comply with all requirements listed.

**Student signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_



# PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

## PHYSICIAN REMINDERS

- Consider additional questions on more sensitive issues
  - Do you feel stressed out or under a lot of pressure?
  - Do you ever feel sad, hopeless, depressed, or anxious?
  - Do you feel safe at your home or residence?
  - Have you ever tried cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip?
  - During the past 30 days, did you use chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip?
  - Do you drink alcohol or use any other drugs?
  - Have you ever taken anabolic steroids or used any other performance supplement?
  - Have you ever taken any supplements to help you gain or lose weight or improve your performance?
  - Do you wear a seat belt, use a helmet, and use condoms?
- Consider reviewing questions on cardiovascular symptoms (questions 5-14).

EXAMINATION			
Height	Weight	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
BP	/ ( / )	Pulse	Vision R 20/ L 20/ Corrected <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N
MEDICAL	NORMAL	ABNORMAL FINDINGS	
Appearance * Marfan stigmata (kyphoscoliosis, high-arched palate, pectus excavatum, arachnodactyly, arm span > height, hyperostosis, myopia, M/P, aortic insufficiency)			
Eyes/ears/nose/throat * Pupils equal * Hearing			
Lymph nodes			
Heart* * Murmurs (auscultation standing, supine, +/- Valsalva) * Location of point of maximal impulse (PMI)			
Pulses * Simultaneous femoral and radial pulses			
Lungs			
Abdomen			
Genitourinary (males only)*			
Skin * HSV lesions suggestive of MRSA, herpes zoster			
Neurologic*			
MUSCULOSKELETAL			
Neck			
Back			
Shoulder/arm			
Elbow/wrist			
Wrist/hand/fingers			
Hand/foot			
Knee			
Leg/ankle			
Foot/toes			
Functional * Duck-walk, single leg hop			

\*Consider ECG, echocardiogram, and referral to cardiology for abnormal cardiac history or exam.  
\*Consider GU exam if in private setting. Having third party present is recommended.  
\*Consider cognitive evaluation or baseline neuropsychiatric testing if a history of significant concussion.

- Cleared for all sports without restriction
- Cleared for all sports without restriction with recommendations for further evaluation or treatment for
- Not cleared
- Pending further evaluation
  - For any sports
  - For certain sports \_\_\_\_\_
- Reason \_\_\_\_\_
- Recommendations \_\_\_\_\_

I have examined the above-named student and completed the preparticipation physical evaluation. The athlete does not present apparent clinical contraindications to practice and participate in the sport(s) as outlined above. A copy of the physical exam is on record in my office and can be made available to the school at the request of the parents. If conditions arise after the athlete has been cleared for participation, the physician may rescind the clearance until the problem is resolved and the potential consequences are completely explained to the athlete (and parents/guardians).

Name of physician (print/type) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of physician \_\_\_\_\_, MD or DO

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# PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION CLEARANCE FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex  M  F Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

- Cleared for all sports without restriction  
 Cleared for all sports without restriction with recommendations for further evaluation or treatment for \_\_\_\_\_

- Not cleared
- Pending further evaluation
  - For any sports
  - For certain sports \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendations \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I have examined the above-named student and completed the preparticipation physical evaluation. The athlete does not present apparent clinical contraindications to practice and participate in the sport(s) as outlined above. A copy of the physical exam is on record in my office and can be made available to the school at the request of the parents. If conditions arise after the athlete has been cleared for participation, the physician may rescind the clearance until the problem is resolved and the potential consequences are completely explained to the athlete (and parents/guardians).**

Name of physician (print/type) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of physician \_\_\_\_\_, MD or DO

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other information \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

## **DANGERS OF CONCUSSION**

Concussions at all levels of sports have received a great deal of attention and a state law has been passed to address this issue. Adolescent athletes are particularly vulnerable to the effects of concussion. Once considered little more than a minor “ding” to the head, it is now understood that a concussion has the potential to result in death, or changes in brain function (either short-term or long-term). A concussion is a brain injury that results in a temporary disruption of normal brain function. A concussion occurs when the brain is violently rocked back and forth or twisted inside the skull as a result of a blow to the head or body. Continued participation in any sport following a concussion can lead to worsening concussion symptoms, as well as increased risk for further injury to the brain, and even death.

Player and parental education in this area is crucial – that is the reason for this document. Refer to it regularly. This form must be signed by a parent or guardian of each student who wishes to participate in GHSA athletics. One copy needs to be returned to the school, and one retained at home.

## **COMMON SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CONCUSSION**

Headache, dizziness, poor balance, moves clumsily, reduced energy level/tiredness

Nausea or vomiting

Blurred vision, sensitivity to light and sounds

Fogginess of memory, difficulty concentrating, slowed thought processes, confused about surroundings or game assignments

Unexplained changes in behavior and personality

Loss of consciousness (NOTE: This does not occur in all concussion episodes.)

**BY-LAW 2.68: GHSA CONCUSSION POLICY:** In accordance with Georgia law and national playing rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations, any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest and shall not return to play until an appropriate health care professional has determined that no concussion has occurred. (NOTE: An appropriate health care professional may include, licensed physician (MD/DO) or another licensed individual under the supervision of a licensed physician, such as a nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or certified athletic trainer who has received training in concussion evaluation and management.

- a) No athlete is allowed to return to a game or a practice on the same day that a concussion (a) has been diagnosed, OR (b) cannot be ruled out.
- b) Any athlete diagnosed with a concussion shall be cleared medically by an appropriate health care professional prior to resuming participation in any future practice or contest. The formulation of a gradual return to play protocol shall be a part of the medical clearance.
- c) It is mandatory that every coach in each GHSA sport participate in a free, online course on concussion management prepared by the NFHS and available at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com) at least every two years – beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.
- d) Each school will be responsible for monitoring the participation of its coaches in the concussion management course, and shall keep a record of those who participate.

***I HAVE READ THIS FORM AND I UNDERSTAND THE FACTS PRESENTED IN IT.***

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Student) (Parent or Guardian) 2 copies needed, 1 at school, one at home**

**Paulding County School District** School Year \_\_\_\_\_



Athletics Office

**ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION, INSURANCE, AND CONSENT FORM**

***\*Parents signature needed in four places***

PLEASE PRINT

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (Zip)

The student is domiciled at the above address located in the \_\_\_\_\_ School District.  
(School must be notified if student moves from the above address)

Have you attended this Paulding County school for at least one full school year? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

You live with (Name of Parent/Parents/Guardian)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

Date entered 9<sup>th</sup> grade \_\_\_\_\_ Grade level for this school year \_\_\_\_\_



**PARENTAL CONSENT FOR ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION**

**WARNING:** Although participation in supervised inter-scholastic athletics and intra-scholastic athletic clubs may be one of the least hazardous in which students will engage in or out of school, **BY ITS NATURE, PARTICIPATION IN INTER-SCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS INCLUDES A RISK OR INJURY WHICH MAY RANGE IN SEVERITY FROM MINOR TO LONG TERM CATASTROPHIC, INCLUDING PERMANENT PARALYSIS FROM THE NECK DOWN OR DEATH.** Although serious injuries are not common in supervised athletic programs or athletic clubs, it is possible only to minimize, not eliminate this risk.

Participants can and have the responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury. **PARTICIPANTS MUST OBEY ALL SAFETY RULES, REPORT ALL PHYSICAL PROBLEMS TO THEIR COACHES, FOLLOW A PROPER CONDITIONING PROGRAM, AND INSPECT THEIR EQUIPMENT DAILY.**

By signing this permission form, you acknowledge that you have read and understand this warning. **PARENTS OR STUDENTS WHO DO NOT WISH TO ACCEPT THE RISKS DESCRIBED IN THIS WARNING SHOULD NOT SIGN THIS PERMISSION FORM.**

I (We) hereby give consent for \_\_\_\_\_ to:

(1) **Compete in athletics at \_\_\_\_\_ School of the Paulding County School District in Georgia high School Association approved sports EXCEPT THOSE CROSSED out below:**

- |               |            |               |              |                 |
|---------------|------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Baseball      | Basketball | Golf          | Volleyball   | Tennis          |
| Cross Country | Football   | Softball      | Wrestling    | Weight Training |
| Rifle Team    | Soccer     | Track & Field | Cheerleading | Swimming        |
| Lacrosse      |            |               |              |                 |

- (2) To accompany any school team of which the student is a member on any of its local or out-of-town trips;
- (3) and, I hereby verify that the information on both sides of this form is correct and understand that any false information may result in my son/daughter being declared ineligible.
- (4) Parents should contact Head Coach for information regarding injuries to their son/daughter.

This acknowledgement of risk and consent to allow participation shall remain in effect until revoked in writing.

_____	_____
*SIGNATURE(S) OF PARENT(S) OR GUARDIAN(S)	DATE
_____	_____
SIGNATURE OF STUDENT-ATHLETE	DATE

**PAULDING COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE  
IN ATHLETIC TEAM ONE-DAY SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRIPS**

**CONSENT**

I hereby consent for \_\_\_\_\_ (student's name) to participate in school-sponsored trips, excluding overnight trips, associated with inter-scholastic athletic competitions. I understand that transportation may or may not be provided by the Paulding County School District. In the event transportation is not provided by the Paulding County School District, transportation will be the student's responsibility.

If any emergency medical procedures or treatment are required by the student during the trip, I consent to the trip supervisor(s) taking, arranging for, and consenting to the procedures or treatment at his/her discretion.

I release and waive, and further agree to indemnify, hold harmless or reimburse the Paulding County School District, the Board of Education, its successors and assigns, its members, agents, employees and representatives thereof, as well as trip supervisors, from and against, any claim which I, any other parent or guardian, any sibling, the student, or any other person, firm or corporation may have or claim to have, known or unknown, directly or indirectly, from any losses, damages or injuries arising out of, during, or in connection with the student's participation in the activity, any trip associated with the activity, or the rendering of emergency medical procedures or treatment, if any.

Signature of Parent (s) or guardian(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**INSURANCE INFORMATION**

Please INITIAL one of the following statements regarding insurance coverage for your son/daughter for the \_\_\_\_\_ school year, then sign below:  
\_\_\_\_\_ My son/daughter is adequately and currently covered by accident insurance that will cover injuries sustained while participating in inter-scholastic Athletics (including, but not limited to, Varsity, Junior Varsity and 9<sup>th</sup> grade Football), and intra-scholastic clubs and activities.

Company Providing Insurance: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Insured: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to purchase the Benefit Plan provided by the Paulding County School System. (A signed copy of this Benefit Plan should be stapled to this form.)

**\*SIGNATURE(S) OF PARENT(S) OR GUARDIAN(S)** \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

**AUTHORIZATION**

I understand that per the Georgia High School Association a **Preparticipation Physical Evaluation** must be performed by a physician to medically screen each student who participates in the athletic programs of the Paulding County School District. I further understand that a basic medical screening (the required physical exam) is general in nature and limited in its scope and does not indicate or assure me that my child is completely free from impairments. If I wish for a more detailed physical exam to be performed upon my child/ward then it is my responsibility to arrange and pay for such an exam. If this more detailed exam is performed, it is my responsibility to notify the Paulding County School District, and its appropriate employees, of any potential medical problems uncovered by any physical exam given to my child/ward other than the general physical required by the school system for athletic participation. I agree to fully waive any and all claims of whatever nature, fully and finally, now and forever, for my child/ward, for myself, my estate, my heirs, my administrators, my executors, my assignees, my agents, my successors, and for all members of my family, and to indemnify, release, defend, exonerate, discharge and hold harmless the Paulding County School District, their schools, their trustees, officers, Board members, Board of Education, employees, agents, coaches, athletic trainers, physicians, and any other practitioner of the healing arts (an "Indemnified Party") from any and all liability, personal or property damages, claims, causes of action or demands brought against the Paulding County School District or indemnified party arising out of any injuries to my child/ward or to his or her property or losses of any kind which may result from or in connection with his or her participation in any activity related to the athletic programs provided by the Paulding County School District.

**My signature below attests that I have read, understand and concur with the information on this form, and that I give consent for my child to participate in the athletic programs as stated above.**

**\*SIGNATURE(S) OF PARENT(S) OR GUARDIAN(S)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Relation to Student: (Please Check One)**      **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mother** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Father** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Other** \_\_\_\_\_      **Phone (W)** \_\_\_\_\_      **(H)** \_\_\_\_\_      **Mobile** \_\_\_\_\_

## Paulding County School District Athletic Code of Conduct

	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Consequences</b>
<b>A.</b>	<b>Violation of school rules resulting in In-School Suspension (ISS) or Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) during the season</b>	The student may resume practice when: 1. Released from ISS or 2. The day after completion of OSS.
<b>B.</b>	<b>Violation of school rules resulting in assignment to alternative education.</b>	Dismissed from athletics while attending alternative setting. Once the student has completed the alternative assignment, return based on decision of Principal, AD and coach.
<b>C.</b>	<b>Student has been criminally charged with a misdemeanor, regardless of location or time so long as such charges are pending or conviction occurs.</b>	School administration and coach will meet with the student and parent/guardian after each offense to discuss the ramifications of their behavior. 1 <sup>st</sup> Offense- 10% suspension from athletic participation. 10% of competition dates beginning with date of charges. Student will be required to practice and game attendance is coach's discretion with AD approval. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense-Suspension for 25 calendar days and a minimum of 25 % of competition dates, beginning with date of charges. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense-Suspension of 1 calendar year from date of charges. 4 <sup>th</sup> Offense-Permanent suspension from athletic participation. *If charges are dropped the student is reinstated upon coach's approval.
<b>D.</b>	<b>Student is charged with a felony, regardless of time or location so long as charges are pending or conviction results.</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense- Suspension of 1 calendar year from date of charges. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense- Permanent suspension from athletic participation. *If charges are dropped the student is reinstated upon coach's approval.
<b>E.</b>	<b>Tobacco use, in season</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense- Coaches discretion 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense- 1 game suspension 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense- 2 game suspension 4 <sup>th</sup> Offense- Removal from team
<b>F.</b>	<b>Sport specific offenses such as missing practice unless excused prior, acting in an unsportsmanlike manner while representing the school in competition.</b>	Consequences could range from suspension from participation to removal from the athletic program. The head coach will have discretion contingent on the approval of the Athletic Director.
<b>F.</b>	<b>Any behavior away from school that results in disciplinary action by school administration, or any behavior at school or away from school which in the opinion of the Principal and or Athletic Director reflects in a negative manner on the school or athletic program.</b>	Consequences could range from suspension from participation to removal from the athletic program. The head coach will have discretion contingent on the approval of the Athletic Director.

**Appeal Procedure- Any student and or parent/guardian wishing to appeal an athletic suspension must submit in writing to the Principal the reason(s) why he/she should not be disciplined. Written request (email) must be submitted within one day of the suspension to the Principal and a decision will be rendered within 4 days. A suspension maybe deferred while under appeal to Principal. If upheld by the Principal the parent/guardian may appeal to County Athletic Director the reason(s) why he/she should not be disciplined. This request will then be reviewed a review committee. The review committee will consist of the Paulding County School District System Athletic Director and two (2) system level administrators. The parent/guardian will be provided a written decision from the review committee within a reasonable period of time.**

**\*\*The Paulding County School District Athletic Code of Conduct is in effect 24/7/365.**

I have received a copy of the Athletic Code of Conduct and understand the consequences set forth in the code of conduct.

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_