PROPEL SCHOOLS[SM]

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

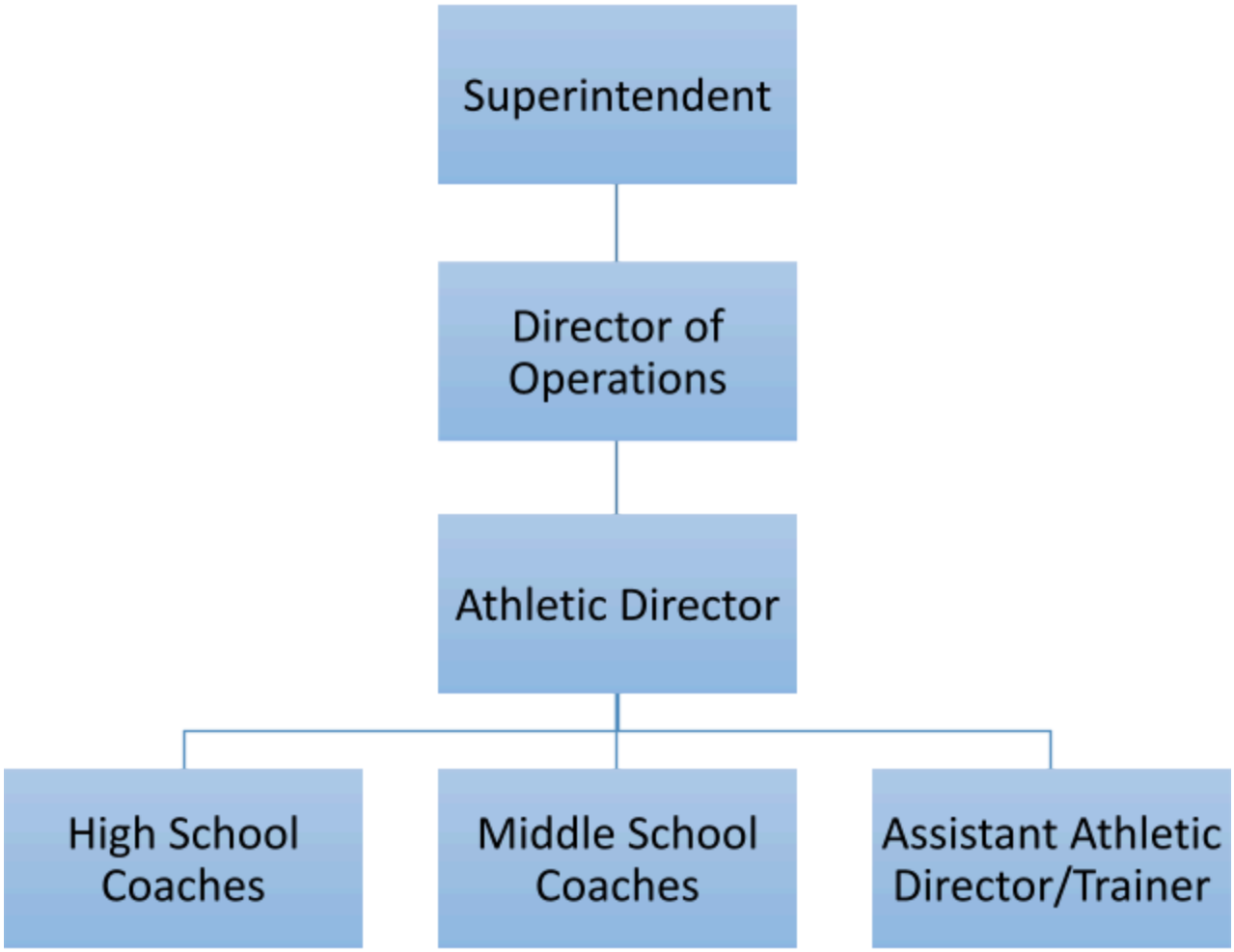
2025-2026

3447 East Carson Street, Suite 200 Pittsburgh, PA 15203

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART	2
PROPEL'S MISSION	3
PROPEL ATHLETICS	3
CONTACTS	4
ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION	4
ATHLETE CONDUCT	4-5
PIAA ELIGIBILITY RULES	5-6
PARENT/GUARDIAN/SCHOLAR CODE OF CONDUCT AND EXPECTATIONS	7-8
ATHLETE RESPONSIBILITIES & EXPECTATIONS	9-10
DAILY GUIDELINES FOR ATHLETES / GENERAL BUILDING EXPECTATIONS	10-11
HAZING	11-13
ATHLETIC INSURANCE	14
CANCELLATIONS	14-15
TRYOUT POLICY	16
PIAA & PROPEL PARTICIPATION RULES	17-21
ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT	21-22
TRANSPORTATION	22-23
MEDIA RELEASE/SPORTS MEDICINE	23-24
TRAVEL RELEASE FORM	25
ATHLETE PROBLEM RESOLUTION PROCEDURE	26
TITLE IX INFORMATION	27

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



PROPEL'S MISSION

Propel Schools, based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is a not-for-profit federation of charter schools, dedicated to the mission of catalyzing the transformation of public education so that all children have access to high-performing public schools.

This mission is pursued by opening and operating high-performance schools of choice in educationally underserved communities. Propel has become one of the largest, fastest-expanding set of charter schools in the state, with the highest levels of scholar achievement among Pennsylvania public school districts serving high-poverty, resource-poor areas throughout the Pittsburgh region. Across all its schools, 80% of scholars qualify for the federal free/reduced-cost lunch program, 80% are a minority and 17% have special needs. Propel is serving 4,000 scholars at 13 Allegheny County locations.

Propel has become both a regional asset and national model, providing measurable evidence of how innovative public schools can expand opportunities for children and families and can revitalize communities.

Propel does not accept the premise that poverty or family structure determines education performance or life outcome.

PROPEL ATHLETICS

Propel Schools is excited to offer all scholars in grades 6-12 the opportunity to participate in interscholastic competition through Propel Athletics. An education-based athletic program, Propel Athletics offers diverse athletic opportunities for all scholars. These offerings not only focus on skill and sport development but also provide scholars with the opportunity to gain valuable life lessons such as teamwork, sportsmanship and hard work.

Propel Athletics will continue to support Propel School's mission of catalyzing the transformation of public education so that all children have access to high-performing schools by addressing the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of all scholars through learning experiences that extend beyond the classroom.

CONTACTS

TITLE	NAME	PHONE	FAX	EMAIL
Athletic Director/ATC	Ms. Deborah Rambharose	(412) 462-4625 Ext. 1325	(412) 462-6980	Deborahrambharose@propelschools.org
Assistant Athletic Director	Mr. Kavon Morman	(412) 462-4625 ext. 1325	(412) 462-6980	kavonmorman@propelschools.org

Mailing Address: Propel Schools, 605 E. 10th Ave., Munhall, PA 15120

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Scholars will have the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics during three (3) seasons: Fall, Winter, and Spring. Sports are assigned a specific "season" of competition during the school year with an official start date. Scholars may only participate in one (1) sport per season with a maximum of three (3) sports per school year. Scholars should be aware of the required responsibilities and commitment to their sport(s). It is the responsibility of the scholar to manage their personal, academic, and extracurricular responsibilities.

Scholars will be permitted to participate in any gender-based activities consistent with their gender identity as stated in the Propel Schools Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Scholars Policy. Where a student's sex is questioned or uncertain, the decision of the school as to the student's sex will be accepted by PIAA. In accordance with the Presidential Executive Order 14201 entitled "Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports", dated February 5, 2025, schools are required to consult with their school solicitor relative to compliance with the Order.

ATHLETE CONDUCT

Athletes are to model good sportsmanship and decorum AT ALL TIMES.

This involves but is not limited to:

- Supporting teammates.
- Refraining from negative, derogatory, taunting, and/or abusive language/behavior.
- Refraining from questioning/arguing with game officials at any time.
- Maintaining composure on the field/court at all times.
- Participating in the post-game handshake with opposing players if applicable.

Violent or unruly behavior may lead to removal from the athletic team. Suspension, removal from the athletic team, and or referral to the appropriate building administrator may be the result of the scholar's inappropriate and/or disruptive behavior during practices/games. The Propel Scholar and Family Handbook applies to all scholars during their participation in athletic programs including transportation to and from practices and contests. Additional disciplinary actions may be outlined in writing, according to the coach's rules, at the beginning of the season.

PIAA Eligibility

Section 1. To be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition, a scholar must pursue a curriculum defined and approved by the Principal as a full-time curriculum. Where required, this curriculum or its equivalent must be approved by, and conform to, the regulations of the State Board of Education and the Pennsylvania School Code, as well as any local policies established by the local School Board. The scholar must pass at least four full-credit subjects or the equivalent. Eligibility is cumulative from the beginning of a grading period, must be reported every week, and must be filed in the Principal's office. Where a scholar's cumulative work from the beginning of the grading period does not as of any Friday meet the standards provided for in this Section, the scholar is ineligible from the immediately following Sunday through the Saturday immediately following the next Friday as of which the scholar's cumulative work from the beginning of the grading period meets the standards provided for in this Section. Where a school is closed on a Friday for any reason, the Principal may, at the Principal's election, determine whether the scholar as of that day meets the standards provided for in this Section.

Section 2. To be eligible for interscholastic athletics, a scholar must have passed at least four full-credit subjects, or the equivalent, during the previous grading period, except as provided in Section 5. Backwork may be made up, providing it is following the regular rules of the school.

Section 3. In cases where a scholar's work in any preceding grading period does not meet the standards provided for in Section 2, said scholar is ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for at least fifteen (15) school days of the next grading period where the school has four (4) grading periods per school year, or for at least ten (10) school days of the next grading period where the school has six (6) grading periods per school year, beginning on the first day that report cards are issued, except as provided in Section 5

Section 4. Scholars who are enrolled for the first time must comply with the requirements of the curriculum rules. The standing required for the preceding week, the preceding grading period or the preceding year shall be obtained from the records of the last school that the scholar has attended.

Section 5. Use of Final Credits at End of School Year. At the end of the school year, the scholar's final credits in the scholar's subjects rather than the scholar's credits for the last grading period shall be used to determine the scholar's eligibility for the next grading period.

Section 6. Scholars With Disabilities. Because PIAA is an educationally-based organization, achievement by all scholars, including those with disabilities, of the minimum academic standards outlined in this @, is a fundamental prerequisite to athletic eligibility and these standards may not be waived except under the most limited of circumstances. Scholars with disabilities should work with their schools to obtain appropriate accommodations that allow them opportunities to meet the standards. If, despite accommodations provided by the school, a scholar is still unable to meet the requirements, a District Committee may, after an individualized assessment, grant limited relief by substituting alternative standards appropriate for a unique situation. Such relief may be granted only if the scholar demonstrates that: (1) the scholar suffers from a physical, mental, or emotional disability that has been recognized by,

and certified to by, a treating physician or psychiatrist; (2) the certified disability has had a direct and significant negative impact on the scholar's academic performance, (3) the scholar has a current Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or a Chapter 15 Service Agreement relating to the certified disability, at the scholar's school; (4) the scholar was meeting the requirements of the scholar's IEP, (5) the scholar made demonstrable and diligent efforts to take advantage of available opportunities to meet the minimum academic requirements (6) the scholar was still unable to meet the minimum academic requirements and (7) the form of accommodation requested by the scholar is reasonable in that it would preserve the purposes, intent and expectations of the standards. A scholar attending a Private School must meet each of the criteria in this Section, excepting that the Committee may consider, instead of an IEP, a defined plan adopted by the school that identifies and addresses the scholar's disability needs, and which is, in most respects, comparable to an IEP.

PARENT/GUARDIAN and SCHOLAR CODE OF CONDUCT

Purpose

This Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct is meant to promote a positive experience and learning environment for scholars, coaches, officials, and fans.

Propel Schools Athletic Department

As an **Athlete** at Propel Schools, you are expected to:

1. Demonstrate a sense of dignity under all circumstances
2. Respect fellow team members and refrain from participation in any type of initiation, harassment or hazing. Report any type of such incidents to your coach, the athletic director or the principal.
3. Respect the rules of the game, the officials who administer the rules and their decisions.
4. Respect opponents as fellow athletes and acknowledge them for striving to do their best while you seek to do your best at the same time.
5. Look at participation in your sport as a learning experience, whether you win or lose.
6. Respect the coaching staff and avoid confrontation at all times.
7. Accept the personal responsibility that comes with your actions.
8. Refrain from using inappropriate language.
9. Maintain your eligibility according to the guidelines established and set forth by Propel Schools.

You are the spokesperson for our school when you represent Propel Schools in athletic competitions. Your actions are viewed by family, friends, opposing fans, the local community and the media.

Failure to comply with the above expectations may result in disciplinary action and possible removal from the team.

Name _Signature on Family ID when registering_____ Date _____

As a **Parent/Guardian** of a student-athlete at Propel Schools, you are expected to:

1. Realize that athletes are part of the educational experience and that the benefits of involvement go beyond the final score of a contest.
2. Encourage scholars to do their best, just as we would urge them to do their best with their classwork.
3. Respect the task our coaches face and support them as they strive to teach our youth.
4. Respect our opponents as athletes trying to do their best.
5. Respect the game officials as well as the rules of the game.
6. Develop a sense of dignity under all circumstances.
7. Refrain from using inappropriate language.
8. Refrain from coming onto the field of play, bench area, team locker rooms or restricted area unless invited by a school official or coach.
9. Provide proof of insurance on the PIAA CIPPE form

I understand the expectations listed above and understand that inappropriate behavior or language directed at anyone sets a poor example for student-athletes and will not be tolerated. Failure to comply with the stated expectations could lead to ejection from the athletic contest and future contests as well.

Parent/Guardian Signature on Family ID when registering__ Date _____

ATHLETE RESPONSIBILITIES & EXPECTATIONS

Student-athletes must ensure that they meet all academic, attendance, and behavioral obligations to the school environment to participate in Propel Athletics.

1. Student-athletes must be in attendance at school each day there is practice or competition. Student-athletes absent without administrative approval are ineligible to participate. This includes meetings, practices, and/or games. Student-athletes presenting legal documentation (i.e. Doctor's note, etc.) for a late arrival or early dismissal are still eligible for participation.
2. Athletes who are not in attendance at school by their school's late arrival cut-off time will not be permitted to participate in meetings, practices, and/or contests that day or if absent on a Friday, they are ineligible for participating on that weekend as well.
3. If an athlete is absent from school for a total of 20 or more school days, they will lose eligibility until they attend school for a total of forty-five (45) school days following the 20th day of absence (PIAA).
4. All athletes (Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Middle School) deemed academically ineligible will be required to attend one (1) hour of daily academic tutoring as set forth by their Head Coach. Scholars failing to attend academic tutoring will not be permitted to participate in that day's practice and/or competition. Once the scholar is meeting all academic requirements, attendance at academic tutoring is voluntary..
5. Athletes who are suspended (in-school or out-of-school) are not eligible to participate in any athletic activity on the day(s) of their suspension. This includes traveling and sitting with the team during contests. Athletes who have been assigned detention or suspension are not permitted to participate in any type of athletic activity until they have fulfilled their detention or suspension. This includes meetings, practices, and/or games.
6. If an athlete commits an act or becomes involved in an incident, that would discredit Propel Schools, they will be immediately suspended from the team. A meeting with the administration, athletic director, head coach, and accused will be held to determine the length of suspension. Parents will be asked to attend the meeting if the athlete's actions merit dismissal from the team.
7. If an athlete is in possession of, or deemed to be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs on school property or any school activity, he/she is immediately suspended from the team. A meeting with parents, administration, athletic director, head coach and accused will be held to determine the length and severity of suspension or dismissal from the team.
8. The coaching staff will decide as a collective group on suspending athletes for short periods due to disciplinary reasons and inform the Athletic Director immediately.

9. An athlete may be suspended by a school administrator from the athletic team for poor citizenship (misconduct in school). The school administration also reserves the right to dismiss a scholar from an athletic team for repeated incidents of poor citizenship.
10. Ejections from any games/matches will result in immediate suspension from the team for a minimum of 1-2 games by PIAA rules. The duration of the suspension may be extended pending the severity of the incident and will be reviewed by the Athletic Director and/or School Administration.

DAILY GUIDELINES FOR ATHLETES

1. Athletes are committed to attending all practices, meetings, and games during their season.
2. Athletes are responsible for communicating with their head coach any tardiness or absence from practices, meetings, and/or games.
3. Athletes will not be permitted in any area of the school building after school except for those areas designated by the coaching staff or athletic director.
4. Athletes must return home at dismissal if supervision is not available after school for them. Athletes may only return to campus under the direct supervision of coaches or athletic staff.
5. Athletes should report immediately to their assigned practice/contest space scheduled to begin at an assigned time.
6. Athletes are responsible for communicating with their head coach their means of transportation home from practices and/or contests. If transportation is not available, athletes are not permitted to stay after school. Transportation must be provided within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the athletic event.
7. Athletes are responsible for their athletic apparel, shoes, uniforms, and equipment. Athletes are financially responsible for any school-issued apparel and/or equipment that is damaged, lost, or not returned.
8. Athletes are not to remain in the school unless a coach or staff member is available to supervise.
9. No practices- formal or informal- are permitted without a member of the coaching staff or a school administrator present.
10. Athletes who try out for and/or participate in a sport must provide the athletic office with a completed PIAA CIPPE on or before the first legal day of practice to participate.
    a. CIPPE- Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Evaluation: one per school year- or section 5 for each additional sport after the initial CIPPE form is submitted to the athletic office.
11. Athletes are responsible for following all team rules established by their team's coaching staff.
12. Athletes are responsible for all of the enclosed guidelines.

GENERAL BUILDING EXPECTATIONS

Each building will have its own set of daily guidelines and expectations tailored to its unique needs and operations. Scholars and parents/ guardians will be required to sign and acknowledge a building specific daily procedures contract prior to beginning of each respective season.

HAZING

(This information is provided by the NFHS: National Federation of High Schools)

Definition of Hazing: The National Federation of High Schools defines hazing as any humiliation or dangerous activity expected of a scholar to belong to a group, regardless of their willingness to participate.

Some practices associated with hazing carry the potential for serious bodily harm or even death. These practices may include: tattooing, piercing, head-shaving, branding, sleep deprivation, physical punishment (paddling and "red bellying"), "kidnapping", consuming unreasonable/unacceptable foods or beverages, being deprived of personal hygiene, and/or inappropriate sexual behavior.

Coerced sexual activity, in addition to being classified as sexual assault and/or rape, is another form of hazing. Such activity puts victims at risk for injuries, sexually transmitted diseases, and pregnancy.

Alcohol abuse is another significant factor in hazing incidents that feature forced consumption of large amounts of alcohol.

Recognizing Hazing: Like domestic violence victims, victims of hazing may hide the true cause of their injuries. Anyone working with those who may be hazing victims should assure them that they are safe and protected from possible retribution. Some risk factors to bear in mind are age, participation in athletic activities, and involvement of alcohol use.

A scholar who is being hazed may exhibit excessive fatigue, appear disheveled, or wear odd clothing. They may isolate themselves from family and friends, skip/miss classes due to a lack of sleep at night, and/or feel depressed.

If you hear about “hell week” or even the innocent-sounding “help week” or “initiation”, it may be wise to ask the scholar questions to find out exactly what is involved. Many times, innocuous-sounding terms are euphemisms for hazing.

The connection between Bullying & Hazing: In many respects, hazing is similar to bullying, but hazing tends to be an institutionalized form of harassment/intimidation centering on initiation rights connected to certain school clubs and activities.

Hazing can be seen as an organized form of bullying. One difference between these behaviors is that typically attempt to exclude a person from the bully’s activities while hazing is often a condition of acceptance or initiation into a group. While bullying may begin in early elementary school, hazing does not occur until children are older. As with bullying, however, hazing may involve a ringleader and bystanders who do nothing to stop the activity.

To prevent both bullying and hazing, it is important to begin when children are young. Parents, families, and schools can explain what and how harmful bullying is to the victim, classroom, school, and community at large. Bullying and hazing should always be seen in the context of respect for self, and respect for others.

PROPEL SCHOOLS’ COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Step 1 – Reporting: The principal and/or the principal’s designee also are responsible for conducting a prompt, thorough, and complete investigation of each alleged incident. The building principal or his/her designee shall… 1. Inform the complaining party of the right to file a complaint and the complaint procedure. 2. Inform the complaining party if s/he is a scholar that s/he may be accompanied by a parent/guardian during all steps of the complaint procedure. 3. Notify the complaining party and the accused of the progress at appropriate stages of the procedure. 4. Refer the complaining party to the Compliance Officer if the building principal is the subject of the complaint.

Step 2 – Investigation: The investigation may consist of individual interviews with the complaining party, the accused, and others with knowledge relative to the incident. The investigator may also evaluate any other 48 information and materials relevant to the investigation. Both the alleged victim and the alleged cyber-bully will be allowed to present witnesses and other evidence. The investigator will use the preponderance of evidence standard to determine whether this policy has been violated. That is, a violation will be found if the complainant or victim presents evidence establishing it is more likely than not that the prohibited conduct occurred. The obligation to conduct this investigation shall not be negated by the fact that a criminal investigation of the incident is pending or has been concluded. The investigation is to be completed within three (3) school days after a report or complaint is made. Any reasonable delays (e.g., the unavailability of witnesses or parties due to illness) will be noted in the investigative file, and the investigation will be completed as soon as possible following the delay.

Step 3 - Investigative Report: The building principal (or other person conducting the investigation) shall prepare a written report within fifteen (15) days, unless additional time to complete the investigation is required. Any reason for additional time in which to complete the report will be noted in the

investigative file. The report shall include a summary of the investigation, a determination of whether the complaint has been substantiated as factual, whether it is a violation of this policy and a recommended disposition of the complaint. Findings of the investigation shall be provided in writing within five (5) school days to the complaining party, the accused and the Compliance Officer.

Step 4 – Action: If the investigation results in a finding that the complaint is factual and constitutes a violation of this policy, Propel shall take prompt, corrective action to ensure that such conduct ceases and will not recur. Victims of substantiated cyber-bullying claims will be offered counseling and other resources consistent with the circumstances of their charges. Some acts of cyberbullying may be isolated incidents requiring Propel to respond appropriately to the individual committing the acts. Other acts may be so serious or part of a larger pattern of cyberbullying that require a response either at the classroom, school building, or school district level or by law enforcement officials. Disciplinary action shall be consistent with the employee handbook, Code of Conduct, Board policies, Propel procedures, applicable employment agreements, and applicable law. Consequences and appropriate remedial actions for scholars who commit acts of cyberbullying range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion. In addition, cyber-bullying using Propel technology violates the Internet Policy and subjects the scholar to discipline as outlined in the policy. Employees will be disciplined consistent with the findings and such discipline may include termination. Independent contractors found to violate this policy may have their agreements terminated or may be debarred from transacting business with Propel. Other third-party actors may be prohibited from participating in Propel activities. Reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of cyberbullying is prohibited. The consequences and appropriate remedial action for a person who engages in reprisal or retaliation shall be determined by the administrator after consideration of the nature, severity, and circumstances of the reprisal or retaliation. False accusations of cyberbullying are prohibited. The consequences and appropriate remedial action for a person found to have falsely accused another of cyberbullying may range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion. Consequences and appropriate remedial action for a Propel employee found to have falsely accused another of an act of cyber-bullying shall be disciplined following Propel policies and procedures. Prevention and intervention techniques to prevent cyberbullying and to support and protect victims shall include appropriate strategies and activities as determined by the building principal or his/her designee.

Appeal Procedure

1. If the complainant is not satisfied with a finding of no violation of the policy or with the corrective action recommended in the investigative report, s/he may submit a written appeal to the Compliance Officer within fifteen (15) days.

2. The Compliance Officer shall review the investigation and the investigative report and may also conduct an additional reasonable investigation.

3. The Compliance Officer shall prepare a written response to the appeal within fifteen (15) days of receipt. Copies of the response shall be provided to the complainant, the accused and the building principal (or other person) who conducted the initial investigation. This Policy will be distributed by the Compliance Officer or his/her designees at the beginning of every school year to all Propel staff, scholars, and parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The policy will also be published on Propel's website.

ATHLETIC INSURANCE

All scholars participating in athletics are responsible for obtaining their own insurance policy. This must be noted on the PIAA CIPPE form on Family ID. Additionally, a parent/guardian will be required to sign an Insurance Waiver and Release Form before their child participates in athletics.

Propel Schools is not liable for any injury resulting from any cause whatsoever in connection with a child participating in athletics.

Insurance Waiver and Release Form

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child will be participating in interscholastic athletics at Propel Schools, specifically at Propel. We know that it is your will as well as ours that every possible precaution be taken to protect participants from injury. Coaches do their utmost to promote this through proper training, the use of good protective equipment, supervising all activities, and encouraging good safety habits.

Despite all our efforts, accidents do happen occasionally in athletics as elsewhere. Propel Schools is not legally liable for medical or hospital expenses, damages related to pain and suffering, loss of earning capacity or any other expenses or damages resulting from injuries incurred during participation in our facilities.

We, the undersigned parent or guardian, intending to be legally bound, do hereby release, discharge, and waive Propel Schools from any liability for any injury to our child (above named) resulting from any cause whatsoever in connection with our child participating in interscholastic athletics or any other physical activity. We further hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless Propel Schools from any expenses that we may incur in connection with the participation of our child in the above-mentioned activity.

CANCELLATIONS

In the event that the superintendent directs a cancellation or early dismissal of schools, the following shall apply:

1. All practices/contests are canceled unless administrative approval is given.
2. Administrative consideration will be provided to teams that require practice based on the immediacy of their contest and the severity of the inclement weather/road conditions.
3. Coaches may request permission to use school facilities on the day of cancellation. This must be done on a single-day basis.
4. Scholars cannot be required to attend an approved practice during a school closing. Participation must be voluntary.
5. All away contests are at the discretion of the athletic director regarding travel.
6. If an early dismissal occurs, all activities are subject to cancellation.

TRYOUT POLICY

Propel Schools desire to see that as many scholar-athletes as possible are involved in their school's athletic program throughout the school year. Unfortunately, due to the limitations in team size for certain sports, tryouts may be held and cuts may be made. This applies to all middle school and high school teams.

Tryout Procedures

1. Choosing the members of the athletic teams is the responsibility of the head coach and his or her staff.
2. Before tryouts begin, information on tryouts will be communicated to all scholars and families. Such information will include:
    a. Attendance requirement- must attend at least one (1) tryout date to be in consideration for the team
    b. Length of tryout period- minimum of two days
    c. Dates, times, and location of tryouts
    d. Number of team members who will be selected
    e. Criteria involved in the selection of team members
    f. Explanation of commitment and athlete expectations necessary to be a member of the team
    g. Clear notification that tryouts are based on performance during the tryout period. Tryouts are NOT based on out-of-season participation in which the athletes participated in before team selections
3. During cuts:
    a. Lists or rosters of names of team members will NOT be posted. Each coach will meet with each candidate individually to discuss strengths, weaknesses, and team membership or the reason for being cut from a team.
    b. The coach or coaches will discuss options or alternatives for those individuals who do not make the team, such as participation in other sports during that season or becoming a manager.

PIAA & PROPEL SCHOOLS Participation RULES

KNOW YOUR ELIGIBILITY RULES

A scholar who participates in interscholastic athletics at a school that is a member of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc. ("PIAA") must comply with PIAA eligibility rules and any additional eligibility rules established by Propel Schools. If you fail to comply with these rules, you will lose your eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics. If you participate while ineligible, you, your school, and/or your Team will be penalized. It is, therefore, important for you to be aware of applicable eligibility provisions.

The information set forth below highlights and summarizes the major requirements you must meet to be eligible. It does not identify every rule or every detail. Unless otherwise indicated, each requirement applies to scholars in grades 6 through 12.

The Principal of your school and/or their designee is responsible for certifying as to your athletic eligibility. If you have any questions concerning your athletic eligibility, either now or in the future, you should discuss the matter with your school Principal or Athletic Director. If they are uncertain about a matter, they can request guidance and even a formal ruling from the PIAA as to their athletic eligibility. A complete copy of the PIAA eligibility rules may be viewed on the PIAA Website at www.piaa.org/resources/handbook, or may be obtained from your Principal or Athletic Director.

AGE

To be eligible to participate in grades 10 through 12, you must not have reached your 19th birthday by June 30 immediately preceding the school year. Where you will participate only in grades 7 and 8, you may not have reached your 15th birthday by June 30 immediately preceding the school year; where you will participate only in grades 7 through 9, you may not have reached your 16th birthday by June 30 immediately preceding the school year.

AMATEUR STATUS AND AWARDS

To be eligible to participate in a sport, you must be an amateur in that sport. Amateur status, and eligibility, are lost if you, or your parent(s) or guardian(s), receive money or property for or related to your athletic ability, participation, performance, services, or training in a sport.

You may be recognized and receive awards for your participation only from your school or school-affiliated booster club, the sponsor of an athletic event, a non-profit service organization approved by your school Principal, or the news media. Permissible awards include items of apparel, a blanket, watch, ring, scroll, carry-on or warm-up bag, photograph, medal, plaque, or similar award,

which must bear appropriate institutional insignia or comparable identification. The fair market value of all of the items provided to you may not exceed $200. If they do, you must return the items above $200.

ATTENDANCE

You must be enrolled in and in full-time attendance at a PIAA member school or a Charter or Cyber-Charter School, or be home-schooled.

Generally, you are eligible only at the school at which you are enrolled or, if a home-schooled scholar, at a public school in the public school district in which you reside. If you are a scholar enrolled in either a Charter School or Cyber Charter School, you should consult with your Principal to determine the school at which you are eligible. If Propel Schools offer a sport at your respective school, you are not permitted to participate in that sport in your home district. If Propel Schools does not offer a sport, you may participate in that sport in your home district.

If you are absent from school during a semester for a total of 20 or more school days, you will lose your eligibility until you attend school for a total of 45 school days following your 20th day of absence.

CONSENT OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN

You are eligible only if there is on file with the Principal of your school a certificate signed by your parent(s) or guardian(s) consenting to your participation in the particular sport(s) involved.

COMPREHENSIVE INITIAL PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION

Beginning with the fall 2020-21 school year, we are excited to announce that we will be offering the convenience of online registration through FamilyID. **All Propel School scholar-athletes must be registered on FamilyID to participate in middle school and high school-sponsored athletics**. FamilyID is a secure registration platform that provides you with an easy, user-friendly way to register for our programs, and helps us to be more administratively efficient and environmentally responsible. When you register through FamilyID, the system keeps track of your information in your FamilyID profile. You enter your information only once for each family member for multiple uses and multiple programs. Access the FamilyID registration via the Registration/Forms tab of the Propel Athletics web page.

You are eligible only if you have completed a comprehensive initial pre-participation physical evaluation ("CIPPE"), performed by an Authorized Medical Examiner (as that term is defined in the GLOSSARY of the PIAA By-Laws) before your first sport season's first Practice of that school year. If you want to participate in subsequent sport(s) in the same school year, you may be required to be re-evaluated and re-certified so that your physical condition is satisfactory. Check with your Principal or Athletic Director to determine whether revaluation and re-certification are needed.

In all cases, an Authorized Medical Examiner must certify, on the PIAA CIPPE form, as to your physical fitness to participate in the particular sport(s) involved. A CIPPE may be performed no earlier than June 1st; and, regardless of when performed during the school year, remains effective only until the next May 31st.

TRANSFERS

You are treated as having transferred whenever you seek eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics at a school other than the one at which you were previously either enrolled or otherwise

eligible. You are considered to have transferred even if you are promoted to a higher level school or are out of school for a period of time before entering the new school. If your Transfer from one school to another is materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose, you will lose your athletic eligibility in each sport in which you participate within one year immediately following the date on which you transferred. This requirement applies even if you would be otherwise eligible at the school to which you transferred. If your school eliminates a sport for budgetary reasons, you may be permitted to Transfer to another school to participate in that sport. You must enroll and attend the other school. If you desire to participate in any other sports at that school, your PIAA District Committee will assess whether the Transfer was materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose relating to those sports.

A scholar who participated in a sport in 10th grade or thereafter and, following completion of such season, transfers to another school is ineligible for participation in the postseason (District championship tournament and thereafter) in that sport for a period of one year following the date of transfer.

IN-SEASON TRANSFERS: If this is an in-season transfer (scholar practiced or participated at their previous school before transferring), the scholar is ineligible for 21 calendar days.

If the scholar is transferring after being eligible to participate in the sport for 50% of the maximum number of competitions, they are considered to have completed their season and are no longer eligible for the sport. A waiver of this ineligibility can be granted by the District Committee.

PERIOD OF TIME AFTER EIGHTH GRADE, PARTICIPATION, AND GRADE REPETITION

Your athletic eligibility extends only until you have reached the end of your fourth consecutive year (8th consecutive semester or the equivalent) beyond the eighth grade. Therefore, if you repeat a grade after eighth, you will be ineligible as a senior.

Additionally, you may participate in (1) a maximum of six seasons in each sport during grades seven through twelve, (2) a maximum of four seasons in each sport during grades nine through twelve, and (3) a maximum of three seasons in each sport during grades seven through nine.

You may participate in only one season of each sport during each school year.

OUTSIDE PARTICIPATION

If you participate in a non-school athletic program during the PIAA Season for that sport, while enrolled at a school which has a Team in that sport, you will not be eligible for District and Inter-District Championship Contests in that sport unless you are in uniform and available to participate as a member of your school Team for at least 75% of its Regular Season Contests.

ACADEMIC AND CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

You must pursue a full time curriculum defined and approved by your Principal.

You must have a minimum 2.0 GPA in four (4) classes or their equivalent, as of each Friday during the grading period. Scholars with a GPA between a 2.0 and a 2.49 are required to receive academic support for their course. If you fail to meet this requirement, you will lose your eligibility from the immediately following Sunday through the Saturday immediately following the next Friday as of which you meet this requirement.

You must meet this requirement during the previous grading period, except that eligibility for the first grading period is based on your final grades for the preceding school year. If you fail to meet this requirement, you will lose your eligibility for at least 15 or 10 school days of the next grading period, beginning on the first day that report cards are issued. If your school has four grading periods, you will be ineligible for at least 15 school days; if your school has six grading periods, you will be ineligible for at least 10 school days.

~~You must have a minimum 2.5 GPA and cannot be failing more than one (1) course, as of each Friday during a grading period. If you fail to meet this requirement, you will lose your eligibility from the immediately following Sunday through the Saturday immediately following the next Friday as of which you meet this requirement. Scholars who are ruled academically ineligible on two (2) occasions within a season, whether consecutively or separately, will be dismissed from athletic participation for the remainder of that season.~~

~~You must have passed all of your classes except up to one (1) course during the previous grading period, except that eligibility for the first grading period is based on your final grades for the preceding school year. If you fail to meet this requirement, you will lose your eligibility for at least 15 or 10 school days of the next grading period, beginning on the first day that report cards are issued. If your school has four grading periods, you will be ineligible for at least 15 school days; if your school has six grading periods, you will be ineligible for at least 10 school days.~~

ALL-STAR CONTESTS

You will lose your eligibility in a sport for one year if you participate in an all-star Contest in that sport. Your eligibility will not be affected if you participate in an event that (1) is not advertised or promoted as an all-star Contest; (2) is open to all participants based on a tryout or a uniform standard of qualification; and (3) you do not represent your school and do not wear any school-affiliated uniform or apparel in the event.

OUT-OF-SEASON PARTICIPATION

All PIAA sports have a defined season. If your school Team conducts Practice and/or participates in Inter-School Practices, Scrimmages, and/or Contests outside that PIAA-defined season, your school will be penalized.

If you desire to play interscholastic football for a PIAA member school, and you engage in Physical Contact (as that term is defined in ARTICLE XVI, SEASON AND OUT-OF-SEASON RULES AND REGULATIONS, Section 2, Rules and Regulations, subsection C, Football, sub-subsection 1, of the PIAA By-Laws) outside the PIAA-defined football season, you will be ineligible to participate in interscholastic football for a period up to one year from the date of such participation.

USE OF ANABOLIC STEROIDS

By state law, all Pennsylvania school districts are required to adopt and enforce rules and regulations prohibiting the use of anabolic steroids, except for a valid medical purpose, by scholars involved in school-related athletics. School Boards are also required to establish penalties for scholars found in violation of the adopted rules and regulations. As penalties may vary from school district to school district, you should consult with your Principal or Athletic Director as to the penalties that your School Board has adopted.

CONCUSSION RECOGNITION AND MANAGEMENT

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. Athletes at your age are particularly vulnerable to the effects of concussions. Once considered little more than a minor "ding" on the head, it is now understood that a concussion has the potential to result in death or short- and/or long-term changes in brain function.

If a sports official removes you from a Contest because you have exhibited signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, and/or balance problems) you may not return to participating in Practices, Inter-School Practices, Scrimmages, and/or Contests until cleared by a licensed physician of medicine or osteopathic medicine who is sufficiently familiar with current concussion management.

INITIAL FALL ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FOR ATHLETICS

All athletes must meet the academic eligibility requirements set forth by the PIAA & Propel Schools at the end of their Spring Semester to participate in any Fall athletic activity.

CHARTER SCHOOL AND CYBER SCHOOL SCHOLARS

Scholars enrolled in a Charter School or Cyber Charter School are eligible only at said school in those interscholastic sports sponsored by that school. Scholars enrolled in a Charter School or Cyber Charter School that does not offer a particular interscholastic sport are eligible to participate in that sport at the school which they would otherwise attend, in the public school district of their residences, provided that the scholars meet all other eligibility requirements, including, but not limited to, school verified evidence of full-time attendance.

ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT

Athletic equipment such as uniforms, practice gear, training equipment, and/or team bags, will be provided to athletes at no-cost. It is the responsibility of the athlete to return designated equipment to the head coach at the end of the season in satisfactory condition. Failure to do so may result in the following:

1. Temporary suspension from participating in other athletic programs and/or school-related events
2. An academic hold being placed on a scholar's records such as transcripts, diplomas, report cards, and/or withdrawal forms
3. An invoice being issued for the retail price of the damaged/lost items

Once the athletic equipment is returned or the cost of the equipment is paid for, the scholar will be eligible for participation and any hold that was issued will be removed. Parents/guardians will be required to acknowledge the athletic equipment return policy when registering on FamilyID.

Purchase of athletic gear by coaches, teams, sponsors, boosters or others:

Propel Schools Athletics Department is responsible for approving all uniforms and sports-related clothing items. As you may be aware, ensuring that our athletes are appropriately attired with official Propel Schools branding is crucial to their performance and success. As such, we request that the athletics department approve all uniform and clothing orders. This does not mean that you are not permitted to purchase gear, but it must be approved for color, branded logos, etc.

TRANSPORTATION

1. Scholars are to ride with the team to and from away contests using school-approved modes of transportation.
2. A drop-off may take place at an alternative location predetermined by the athletic director and head coach if the parent/guardian is present and makes face-to-face contact with the head coach.
3. No drop-offs are to be made without the parent or guardian being present.
4. A scholar may leave the event with his/her parents if a "Travel Release Form" has been completed before the event. Appropriate notification and arrangements must be made with the head coach and/or athletic director.
5. A coach must remain with the scholars at the school building until the transportation arrives for each scholar. The coach is not responsible once scholars leave the school building and/or go to a bus stop.
6. Coaches SHALL NOT transport scholars in their vehicles unless it is an emergency.
7. Scholars cannot be transported by other scholars to/from events.
8. Parents may use blanket release forms for the entire season to have their child released.
9. Coaches must accompany scholars/teams when they depart the bus upon arrival at the opponent's game site. After the conclusion of the game, the team and coaches should all depart the facility as a group and not permit individuals to leave independently.

10. Scholars must depart to their transportation following the conclusion of the event. If a scholar's mode of transportation has not arrived within 15 minutes after the conclusion of the event, disciplinary actions will be taken.

MEDIA RELEASE

I give Propel Schools permission to release pictures, photographs, slides, or movies taken of my child while my child is participating in Propel Athletics or one of its activities. The authority and permission also include any re-publication or printed matter in which the like may appear whatsoever and by howsoever published, circulated, or distributed. This permission allows Propel to show the positive learning and activities in the Propel Athletics program and will be used to that end.

SPORTS MEDICINE

Propel Schools employs a certified athletic trainer who is responsible for the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of all athletic injuries. All injuries must be reported immediately to the athletic trainer and/or athletic director by a member of the coaching staff and/or the athlete. Injury reports must be submitted via email to the athletic trainer within 24 hours of occurrence.

When an injury of consequence occurs that might require medical attention, it is the responsibility of the player and parent/guardian to notify the head coach and/or athletic trainer. Any time a -athlete is seen by a medical professional as a result of an injury, a medical release or return to participation must be provided to the head coach and athletic director before the athlete can return to participation.

Please note that injuries that occur during the regular school day or outside of school do not fall within the scope of the athletic trainer's responsibilities and will not be diagnosed/treated.

Should a child be taken to a primary care physician, medical clinic, hospital, or an authorized medical examiner to be evaluated for an injury, they will not be permitted to return to participation until the medical professional provides written documentation for a return to participation. It is highly recommended that any athletic injury a child experiences first be evaluated by the athletic trainer UNLESS the injury requires immediate medical attention.

The athletic trainer will communicate with all families surrounding injuries that have occurred and will be provided information on how best to support the child and their injury at home.

Concussions & ImPACT Testing

Any high school or middle school athlete that experiences a concussion or concussion-like symptoms, will be entered into our concussion protocol. This protocol outlines the diagnosis, immediate treatment, and next steps for the athlete so they may properly return to their daily school and extracurricular

activities. All diagnosed concussions will require that the athlete meet with a medical professional, such as a concussion specialist, and receive clearance for return to athletic participation. No athlete will be permitted to participate in athletics if they have been diagnosed with a concussion or are suffering from concussion-like symptoms.

ImPACT testing is provided to all high school level athletes to best diagnose and treat concussions. All high school level athletes are required to participate in ImPACT testing before participating in athletics. No athlete will be permitted to participate in athletics until ImPACT testing is completed. ImPACT testing will take place at the beginning of each season.

TRAVEL RELEASE FORM

Date _____

This is to certify _____ has my permission to

(Scholar's Name)

ride home from the _____ athletic contest on

(Sport)

_____, at _____.

(Date) (Location of Contest)

I certify that I am personally transporting the above-named Scholar. The reason for not riding the approved Propel Schools transportation is:

_____

_____

I understand that the Propel Schools require scholars to ride on Propel Schools approved transportation to and from all practices/athletic events and departure from this requirement will release Propel Schools from liability for any adverse results that may occur.

I agree to release the Propel Schools and its employees and officers from all liability concerning the above-stated transportation.

_____

Signature of Parent/ Guardian

_____

Day Phone Number of Parent/ Guardian

_____

Signature of Athletic Director

Approved / Not Approved

ATHLETE PROBLEM RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

The framework below is to provide student-athletes and their families the opportunity to resolve issues that may arise in the course of a scholar's participation in interscholastic athletics at Propel Schools. This framework is necessary to ensure a uniform, fair, orderly, and prompt resolution of issues that arise concerning student-athletes and their participation in Propel Athletics. The procedure is further designed to ensure that members of the school community may assert their concerns without fear of retribution. The steps are as follows:

1. Coach Level
    a. A parent/guardian may complete a letter in writing or via email delivered to either the head coach or the athletic office. The issue should include specific details and references from the Athletic Handbook and/or Family Handbook where relevant. The head coach shall respond within 48 hours. The coach may respond verbally, but any final resolution shall be placed in writing by the head coach.
2. Athletic Director Level
    a. If the parent/guardian is not satisfied with the coach's proposed resolution, the issue may be presented to the Athletic Director. To the extent feasible, the Athletic Director will respond within 48 hours. The Athletic Director may respond verbally, but any final resolution shall be placed in writing by the Athletic Director
3. Principal Level
    a. If the parent/guardian is not satisfied with the Athletic Director's proposed resolution, the issue may be presented to the building principal. To the extent feasible, the building principal will respond within three (3) working days. The school principal may respond verbally, but any final resolution shall be placed in writing by the school principal.
4. Superintendent Level
    a. If the family is not satisfied with the resolution as proposed by the principal, they may proceed to present the issue to the Superintendent or their designee. To the extent feasible, the Superintendent will respond within five (5) working days. The Superintendent may respond verbally but any final resolution shall be placed in writing by the Superintendent.

TITLE IX INFORMATION

Propel Schools is committed to continued compliance with Title IX and its implementing regulations. All Title IX concerns related to the operation of the athletic department should be reported to both the athletic director and Propel Schools' Title IX Compliance Officer. The Title IX Compliance Officer is:

Dr. Tina Chekan
Superintendent
Propel Schools
3447 East Carson Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
412-325-7305
tchekan@propelschools.org