Plainview-Old Bethpage Parent and Student Athletic Handbook

"Hawk Pride - Character, Class"

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Plainview-Old Bethpage Athletic Department Mission Statement

Plainview-Old Bethpage Athletic Department's mission is to develop student athletes mentally, socially, physically and emotionally.

Plainview-Old Bethpage Athletic Department Vision

The Plainview-Old Bethpage Athletic Department and the interscholastic athletic teams are an integral component of the health and physical education program within the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District and therefore an important part of our overall educational program.

It is our intention to provide students with the opportunity to grow and mature through physical activity. In addition, athletics provide a vehicle to help develop self-esteem, and to learn and appreciate the values of teamwork and sportsmanship.

Plainview-Old Bethpage Athletic Department Values

Student Athletes and Coaches will aim for, pursue, and achieve high academic standards.

Student Athletes and Coaches will compete passionately, but with integrity, pride and class.

Student Athletes and Coaches will develop and have a sense of community pride and social responsibility.

Student Athletes and Coaches will possess strength of character and high moral purpose.

Plainview-Old Bethpage Athletic Department Philosophy

MODIFIED LEVEL (JR. HIGH SCHOOL): This stage of participation is a formal introduction of organized interscholastic contests. Skill development, learning the rules, sportsmanship, and fair play are emphasized. Playing time is evenly distributed based on participation and effort.

JUNIOR VARSITY LEVEL: The Junior Varsity Level is intended for those student-athletes who display the potential for continued development into a productive Varsity level player. The atmosphere is more competitive, and the focus is on skill, conditioning work, ethics, and reliability. Emphasis is placed on fundamental skill strategies of team play and social-emotional development. A specific amount of playing time is never guaranteed, but there is an effort to balance the sometimes-conflicting goals of winning and of getting everyone into the game.

VARSITY LEVEL: The Varsity level of play is designed for the highly skilled who will be participating against other schools' skilled players. It is the most demanding and competitive of all programs. Prior participation in an off-season program does not guarantee an athlete's spot on the roster, even if the athlete was a member the preceding year. Once a member of the team, the student-athletes and parents must understand that playing time may vary extensively. It is vital that each team member understands their role on the team. It is the coach's responsibility to convey this information to the team members. The selection of captains is determined by the coach's individual philosophy.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION REQUIRMENTS

Opportunities for participation in the interscholastic athletic program at Plainview-Old Bethpage are open to all students in grades 7 – 12. While participation is voluntary, it is considered a privilege. Therefore, participants must display desire to conform to rules and regulations which shall be named throughout the subsequent sections of this code.

All participants shall be bonafide students of Plainview-Old Bethpage CSD. Prior to participation in any practice and/or game, each student-athlete shall have a fully completed Interscholastic Athletics Participation contract on file with the school. All participants shall comply with all rules of interscholastic eligibility as defined by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association and Nassau County Section VIII guidelines.

PRACTICE SESSIONS

Student/Athletes are expected to attend all scheduled practice sessions and games unless excused by the coach. An unexcused absence from practice could, but not limited to, result in loss of playing time in the next game. Excessive absences (excused or unexcused) from practices could result in suspension or dismissal from the team.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Student athletes must be in school a minimum of 4 consecutive periods on the day of a game or practice. Students who are absent from school may not practice or play on that day unless given prior approval by the principal.

Student athletes who are medically excused, **unprepared** or that do not participate in Physical Education class will not be allowed to participate in a practice, scrimmage, or contest on the same day unless given prior approval by the principal.

PRE SEASON PARENT, COACHES, ATHLETES MEETINGS

At the beginning of each season, these meetings are held to review general school rules, specific athletic policies, and conduct individual team meetings where the coach, parents and athletes meet and list their goals for each other for the upcoming season. Attendance by parents at these meetings is crucial; it is a great channel for opening lines of communication. Additionally, coaches from sport to sport have varying expectations of their athletes.

FAMILY VACATIONS

When parents and student athletes choose to take their family vacations during sport seasons, it must be understood that the time missed by the student/athlete can affect team chemistry and personal conditioning. Student athletes who miss practices or competition for any reason may have their position or playing time adjusted. Coaches make every effort to inform parents and student/athletes of the season's schedule as far in advance as possible. Missing practice due to a family vacation is considered an unexcused absence and subject to team rules.

PARENTAL TRANSPORTATION

All students must be picked up from practice, home contests and upon return of away contests by a prior parent or guardian-approved individual. All students must ride to and from contests on the team bus. Parents may ask for permission to transport their child only under extenuating circumstances. In these situations, the athlete's parent/guardian must follow protocols outlined on Arbiter sports

CLUB TEAMS

It is recognized that many times an athlete may have numerous commitments. Some of these may include participation on outside club teams. It is important that the athletes and their parents understand that as a member of an interscholastic team, their primary commitment is to their school team. Missing games or practices to attend a club team activity will be considered an unexcused absence and subject to team rules.

SPORTS SPECIALIZATION

We encourage our athletes to play sports year-round. There are some students who choose to "focus" on one sport in order to increase their chances at athletic scholarships. It has been our experience that a well-rounded athlete is one who can exhibit a variety of athletic skills which multi-sport involvement fosters.

RETURNING TO PRACTICE FOLLOWING AN INJURY

Any student, while participating on an athletic team, who is injured and is treated by a medical doctor or medical emergency facility, must receive written permission to return to participation by a medical doctor and/or school physician.

UNIFORMS

All school issued uniforms and equipment should be returned to the coach immediately upon the conclusion of the season. All equipment and uniforms shall be returned to the coach in the same condition as issued, allowing for normal wear and tear. Any student-athlete who fails to return any district issued equipment and/or uniform or fails to pay for damaged or lost uniform items shall not be able to purchase prom and graduation tickets.

AWARDS/LETTERS

To be considered for a Varsity Award/Letter, the student athlete must have been on the varsity team roster for more than half of the season. Awards and/or letters will be issued only to those student athletes who complete their season (including post-season playoffs) in good standing. Student athletes who are dropped from the team and those who resign before the last contest are not eligible for awards.

1st year Varsity Award – Chenille Letter
2nd year Varsity Award – 2nd year Pin
3rd Year Varsity Award – 3rd year Pin
4th Year Varsity Award – 4th year Pin

Junior Varsity Awards – Certificates

ALCOHOL, DRUGS, TOBACCO OR OTHER ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

Possession/use/sale/distribution of any illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, tobacco products and/or illegal performance enhancing products either on or off campus while a member of an Interscholastic Athletic team will result in immediate suspension from participation on that team.

Student Athlete Expectations

Foul language and insulting remarks are not permissible. Students will not be permitted to fight or strike teammates and opponents unless in the context of the sport. Athletes are expected to obey a coach's directions. Disobedience, unwarranted comments, and other subversive behaviors may interfere with the coach's ability to conduct a practice and may distract from the time a coach should spend for the purpose of the team. Athletes are expected to communicate with coaches before or after practice to avoid distracting team practices and team goals. Athletes are expected to follow the rules and protocol of their sport and should not consider intentionally violating the rules of the sport that they are playing during practice or competitions.

Hazing

Plainview-Old Bethpage coaches will not permit their athletes to stage any type of "initiation or hazing" at any time.

At no time should a teammate be subjected to a behavior, task, or activity that is physically, psychologically, or emotionally abusive. It is the right of each teammate to communicate his or her feelings at any point he or she feels personally devalued or dehumanized. The goal of the team is that each member of the team be treated with dignity and respect.

Hazing, defined as an initiation rite in which students are subjected to harassment, humiliation, or physical pain, is strictly forbidden. Any incidence of hazing will be fully investigated, and disciplinary action will be taken. The action may range from a warning to a suspension of the team for the season to superintendent suspension to legal action, depending upon the severity of the violation.

Suspension/Dismissal from a Team

If a dismissal or suspension from an interscholastic team is deemed necessary, the Head Coach, in consultation with the Athletic Director, will determine the length and guidelines. The Head Coach will notify the student athlete's parent/guardian of the dismissal/suspension and the reason(s) for the dismissal. The student athlete or his/her parent/guardian has the right to appeal. A written letter must be presented to the Athletic Director within 2 days of the suspension. Once an appeal has been made, the Athletic Director will convene a meeting of the Coaches Council Review Committee (CCRC) within two school days of the written notification. At the meeting, the student athlete or parent/guardian will have the right to present their case to the CCRC. The CCRC will render their decision within two days of the hearing. Throughout the appeal process, the student athlete must continue to serve his/her suspension/dismissal.

Sportsmanship

It is important for student-athletes to remember that participation in interscholastic sports is a privilege that is not to be abused by unsportsmanlike conduct. The Plainview-Old Bethpage student athlete must demonstrate self-control and respect for teammates, other athletes, officials and spectators at all times. Plainview-Old Bethpage athletes are expected to treat opponents with respect before, during and after competitions. Congratulations, shaking hands and other acts of good sportsmanship are expected from the Plainview-Old Bethpage athlete.

The Plainview-Old Bethpage athlete must understand the following Sportsmanship Code:

- Follow the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play.
- Eliminate all possibilities that tend to destroy the best values of the game.
- Stress and values derived from playing a game fairly.
- Show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
- Establish positive relations with visiting teams and hosts.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
- Follow the Section VIII, NYSPHSAA and Plainview-Old Bethpage CSD rules of eligibility.
- Encourage leadership, use of initiative, and good judgment by teammates.
- Recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, moral, social, and emotional well-being of the individual player.
- Remember that an athletic contest is ONLY A GAME, not a matter of life or death for any athlete, coach, school, spectator or community.

Spectator Behavior/Expectations

Spectators are an important aspect of the Plainview-Old Bethpage athletic program and enhance the accomplishments of the individual athletes. All spectators must follow the Section XI Spectator Code of Conduct at all times:

SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT (Violators of this Code are subject to eviction from the site).

- Spectators are an important part of the game and shall always conform to accepted standards of good sportsmanship and behavior.
- Spectators shall at all times respect officials, coaches and players and extend all courtesies to them.
- Wholesome cheering is encouraged.
- Taunting, foul and abusive language, noisemakers, inflammatory remarks, and disrespectful signs and behavior are not acceptable. Violations during a free throw attempt will be penalized by repeating the free throw, if missed. The officials will make this decision. (Rev 3/7/12)
- Faculty supervised pep bands are permitted during dead ball time. However, spectator noise makers or sound devices are prohibited.
- Spectators shall observe and obey the rules and regulations of the school concerning smoking, food and soft drink consumption, and use of lavatory facilities and parking of cars.
- New York State law prohibits alcoholic beverages of any kind on school property; the law further prohibits any person under the influence of alcohol to be on school property.
- Spectators shall respect and obey all school officials, supervisors and police present at all athletic contests.

Parent Behavior/Expectations

Parents are expected to:

- Be a positive role model.
- Be a “team” fan, not a “my kid” fan.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups.
- Be respectful of all officials’ decisions.
- Avoid instruction of your child / teammates during a game, because it may conflict with the coach’s plans and strategies, as well as put an emotional strain on the athlete.
- Take time to talk with coaches in an appropriate manner, including proper time and place, if there is a concern.

Communication of Problems

Contact the coach to set up a meeting to discuss your concerns.
If the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution, contact the athletic office to set up an appointment with the athletic director and administration.

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

PARENT /COACH RELATIONSHIP

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult roles. By establishing an understanding of each role, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to athletes. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH

- Philosophy of the coach.
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all players on the squad.
- Locations and times of all the practices and contests.
- Team requirements, team rules, special equipment, off-season expectations
    - Recommendations for improving skills.
- Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy.
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APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student athletes

It is very difficult to accept that your child might not be playing as much as you'd hoped. Coaches are professionals. They make judgments based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain topics can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other topics must be left to the discretion of the coach.