

PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC LEAGUE



CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

2017

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAM

DIVISION OF ATHLETICS

PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC LEAGUE

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA, PA

2017

CONSTITUTION OF THE PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC LEAGUE

ARTICLE I

NAME

The association shall be known as the “Philadelphia Public League” (the “League” or “PPL”).

ARTICLE II

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The fundamental purpose of the Philadelphia Public League shall be to promote interscholastic athletics for students in schools of The School District of Philadelphia (the “School District”) and participating Philadelphia charter schools, so that participants will enjoy the benefits of the physical fitness, teamwork and discipline that involvement in athletics can bring. The Philadelphia Public League recognizes athletics as an extra-curricular activity and asserts that participation in athletics is a privilege, and not a right, for those student-athletes who take part in the variety of sports offered by the Philadelphia Public League.

The Philadelphia Public League dedicates itself to establishing and maintaining the highest standards of good sportsmanship, fair play and citizenship, so that students’ participation in interscholastic athletic programs enriches their educational experience. The Philadelphia Public League also commits itself to a principle of equal access to its interscholastic programs for all students that takes into consideration factors that affect the ability of students to participate safely in sponsored athletic events.

The Philadelphia Public League and its members shall execute fully and faithfully the requirements of this Constitution, and the By-Laws, and shall require and enforce compliance by all student-athletes, coaches, athletic administrators, principals, other school officials and other schools and parties. In addition, the Philadelphia Public League may issue future regulations, which further define and interpret provisions of the Philadelphia Public League Constitution and By-Laws.

The Philadelphia Public League shall also abide by, comply with and carry out the rules and regulations promulgated by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (“PIAA”). In those instances where the rules of the Philadelphia Public League are stricter than those of the PIAA, the rules of the Philadelphia Public League shall govern.

ARTICLE III

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

The PPL is our identity. We are a League – a unity – guided by the governance of the School District and its mission to deliver on the civil right of every child in Philadelphia to an excellent

public school education, and to ensure that all children graduate from high school ready to succeed as fully engaged citizens of our world. Therefore, if our League does not produce a better person, it has no reason to exist. The directives below are intended to guide all concerned with making our competition a healthy experience in individual and social growth.

- Providing sound academic education and personal formation.
- Building communities of citizenship and service.
- Encouraging and forming others in roles of leadership and service

Our core values are supported by the following objectives:

- To promote the physical well-being of students by providing the opportunity of interscholastic competition in well-rounded sports programs.
- To promote loyalty among the general student body of each school as well as respect and regard for the student body of each competing school.
- To foster the discipline, obedience, and cooperation necessary for successful teamwork.
- To promote the natural virtues of honesty and fair play in competition.
- To encourage the acceptance of victory with modesty and of defeat with grace.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Philadelphia Public League shall be limited to high schools under the supervision of the School Reform Commission of the School District and any charter high schools authorized by the School Reform Commission, which elect to become members of the League.

1. All Public High Schools in the School District and approved charter high schools located in the City of Philadelphia shall be eligible to apply for membership in the PPL.
2. The following standards shall be required for membership in the PPL:
 - a. Public High Schools in the School District have the privilege of being members of the PPL, subject to compliance with the membership requirements. Eligible charter high schools located in the City of Philadelphia may become members upon the application and approval of the President and Board of Directors of the League, as provided in this Constitution and the By-Laws.

- b. To be eligible for consideration for membership:
 - 1. The High School must have a junior class;
 - 2. Schools with a senior class must have at least five (5) PPL sports, one of which must be either football or basketball; and
 - 3. High Schools without a senior class must have at least three (3) PPL sports, one of which must be basketball.
 - 4. Each High School must be a PIAA member school
- 3. The President of the League has the responsibility to acquaint prospective members of the League with these requirements.
- 4. All requests for admission into the PPL shall be referred in writing to the President and Chairperson of the Board of Directors one (1) full year before the date of expected admission.
- 5. The affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the League's Board of Directors shall be required to admit a new school into the League.
- 6. A member school desiring to enter a varsity team into a particular sport, provided Article IV, Section 2, is adhered to, shall submit a letter of request signed by the Principal and presented by the Athletic Director to the President and Chairperson of the Board of Directors not less than thirty (30) days prior to the conclusion of the same sport's season, including playoffs.
 - a. The school must provide evidence of its ability to support the program to include appropriate number of student-athletes, proper athletic facilities, *i.e.*, practice facility and home playing site, equipment and uniforms, and school administrative support, in compliance with all PIAA, District Committee and League policies and procedures. Those member schools then participating in that varsity sport may vote on this request at the next meeting of the Board of Directors. Permission for the school to participate in the sport requires a simple majority of those voting.
 - b. Once approved, all programs will enter the League at the Junior Varsity level. If the League does not have a JV level in that sport, the team will be classified as a Club Team and will be given the opportunity to participate in an independent schedule. A new program can also be brought in as a Club Team if the board feels that their petition is lacking in one or more areas but sufficient enough to warrant an opportunity to compete.
 - c. All new programs are expected to compete at the JV level for a period of two (2) years. After the first year of League play however, the program shall have the opportunity to appeal to the League for 1) admittance into the varsity League, or 2)

moving to JV level if it is a Club Team. If the program is in a School District school, then the program must seek and have received the formal approval of the School District's Division of Athletics prior to the program's appeal to the League. Schools must make all appeals in writing, by the school Principal, and presented by the school Athletic Director to the PPL Board of Directors, with input from the Sport Chairperson, defined in subsection V.6.d., below.

- d. Final approval into the League and appeals to move up levels, will be decided by a vote of the PPL Board of Directors, with recommendation by the Sport Chairperson, and approval of the PPL President. If the program is still not viable after two seasons it will be dropped and can reapply after a period of one year has passed.
7. For a member school to withdraw from varsity competition in a particular sport, the school should submit a letter of intent, signed by the Principal and presented by the Athletic Director, to the President and Chairperson of the League Board of Directors thirty (30) days prior to the conclusion of the same sport's season, including playoffs. The President will then inform the Board of Directors and the PIAA District XII Committee, at their next meeting.
8. PPL member schools that have PPL sports must participate in the PPL for those sports.
9. PPL member schools may not, at any time, participate in PPL sports in any other league and may not, at any time, participate in PPL sports via an independent schedule, unless otherwise voted on by the Board of Directors. This clause shall not preclude programs from competing in non-League games, provided those games do not in any manner interfere with scheduled League play, including League and PIAA playoffs. The League encourages non-League games as part of its educational and sports program, provided non-League games do not interfere with League play and playoffs.
10. A school may withdraw from a PPL sport and still retain membership in the PPL. In the case of an involuntary withdrawal from a PPL sport occasioned by circumstances beyond the school's control, *i.e.*, reasons other than a voluntary decision to withdraw from a sport; the school may reapply to participate in that sport in the following season. A school that voluntarily withdraws from a PPL sport, *i.e.*, for reasons other than those beyond the school's control, may not participate in that sport for two (2) successive seasons.

ARTICLE V

ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

1. The League shall conduct its organization, legislation and administration through a President and a Board of Directors, under the jurisdiction of the Division of Athletics for the School District and the District XII Committee of the PIAA.

2. The President of the League shall be the then-current Executive Director of Athletics for the School District, who shall have final decision authority and oversight over the League.
3. The President shall invite the Principals of prospective member schools to attend all meetings of the Board of Directors to acquaint themselves with the policies and procedures of the PPL.
4. The **President** shall have the authority and duty:
 - a. To oversee interscholastic activities in and among the PPL member schools.
 - b. To interpret the provisions of this Constitution of the PPL and the By-Laws, and such rules, regulations and amendments as the League may adopt.
 - c. To hear appeals, and to decide matters in dispute as submitted by the PPL Infractions Committee and not covered by PIAA rules.
 - d. To set and enforce penalties for any violation of the Constitution, By-Laws, and Code of Conduct, and to review sanctions levied by the PPL Infractions Committee.
 - e. To send a report of the minutes of all meetings to each member of the Board of Directors.
5. The Board of Directors shall consist of the Athletic Directors of the member schools in the League. The Board of Directors, through its officers, will make recommendations to the President for any changes to the organization, legislation and administration, of the Philadelphia Public League
6. The **Board of Directors** has the authority and duty:
 - a. To apply and enforce the Constitution as well as the other regulations and the League Code of Conduct.
 - b. To supervise all athletic contests among member schools.
 - c. To approve schedules, to adopt NFHS and PIAA playing rules, to appoint assignors to select officials, and to arrange for other practical details for the efficient administration of all League sports.
 - d. To appoint one (1) **Sport Chairperson** for each League sport who shall:
 - 1) Appoint appropriate certified health and safety personnel for all post-season contests held at neutral sites.

- 2) Act as liaison between the Board of Directors and the coaches, conducting meetings and submitting the recommendations of the coaches for action by the Board of Directors and the President. The Coaches' Association shall serve in an advisory capacity only.
 - 3) Update the Bluebooks, *i.e.*, the document defining rules and procedures for each sport offered by the League, for a designated sport at the conclusion of the regular season and promptly distribute these Bluebooks to the members of the Board of Directors.
 - 4) Be responsible for the League schedule for the next school year.
 - 5) To supervise post-season and championship competition in the designated sport.
 - a) Responsible for submitting a financial report containing ticket reconciliation, and income and expenses after each post-season contest for which an admission charge is required.
 - 6) To resolve problems involving individual sports by providing for voting, restricted to Athletic Directors of the schools participating in that sport.
 - 7) To decide all issues by majority vote of those voting.
 - 8) To send a report of the minutes of all meetings to the President, and members of the Board of Directors.
- e. To appoint officers of the Board of Directors as voted on by the membership.
7. The officers of the Board of Directors shall make up the **PPL Leadership Committee**. The officers of the Board shall be (1) Chairperson; (2) Vice Chairperson; (3) Secretary; (4) Charter School Representative; (5) Coaching Education Coordinator.
 8. The duties of the **Chairperson** of the Board of Directors shall be:
 - a. To chair all League Athletic Director ("AD") meetings
 - b. To act as liaison between the Board of Directors and the President.
 - c. To supervise annually the updating of the Philadelphia Public League Bluebooks and Constitution & By-Laws.
 - d. To call special meetings when necessary
 - e. To receive all alleged violations of the Code of Conduct and schedule appropriate meetings according to this PPL Constitution.

- f. To provide for consistent interpretation of all areas of the Constitution and By-Laws.
9. The duties of the **Vice-Chairperson** of the Board of Directors shall be:
- a. To preside at meetings in the absence of the Chairperson.
 - b. To assist the Chairperson in the duties of the oversight of the PPL.
 - c. To assist in supervising annually the updating of the League Bluebooks and the Constitution and By-Laws.
 - d. To provide consistent interpretation of all areas of the Constitution and By-laws.
10. The duties of the **Secretary** of the Board of Directors shall be:
- a. To record the minutes of all regular and special meetings.
 - b. To submit the minutes of each meeting to the Board of Directors for approval at their next meeting. The Secretary shall deliver these minutes to each member of the Board of Directors and the President prior to the next meeting. The Secretary shall also send a copy of the minutes to the School District's Division of Athletics.
 - c. To prepare an annual directory of the Board of Directors and to distribute a copy of this directory to the President, to each member of the Board of Directors, to each Principal, and to each Assistant Superintendent.
 - d. To aid the Chairperson and all the other officers in all of the normal functions of the office of Secretary.
11. The duties of the **Charter School Representative** of the Board of Directors shall be:
- a. To serve as an officer of the Board of Directors, representing the Charter School voice.
 - b. To assist the Chairperson in the duties of the oversight of the PPL.
 - c. To represent charter schools in developing new policies and procedures of the PPL.
12. The duties of the **Coaching Education Coordinator** of the Board of Directors shall be:
- a. To be the point person in coordinating the PPL Coaching Education Relationship with Drexel University.
 - b. To assist the PPL and Drexel University with the scheduling of the annual PIAA Coaches Education Trainings.

- c. To answer all questions from coaches or ADs about the PIAA Coaching Education By-Laws.
- d. To work with the President and the Chairperson in preparing a yearlong professional development program focused on AD Professional Development and Coaching Education.
- e. To assist the President and the Chairperson in the promotion of the annual Philadelphia Coaches Conference, and identifying coaches to be recognized at such conference.

13. The duties of the League **Treasurer** shall be:

- a. To maintain on a current and ongoing basis all of the financial books, records and accounts of the League, under and subject to the supervision and requirements of the School District, including all accounting and fiscal requirements set forth in the Public School Code applicable to school districts of the first class.
 - b. To report periodically to the Board, Officers and Members of the League on the revenues and expenses of the League, its budgets, proposed and approved and the conformity of revenues and expenditures to approved budgets.
 - c. To report as required to the School District regarding the finances of the League.
 - d. To facilitate and cooperate fully with all public audits of the finances of the League by any public auditor having jurisdiction over the League or the School District.
 - e. The Treasurer shall be a full-time employee of the School District.
14. Members who wish to submit a proposal for consideration at a monthly meeting, must submit the proposal in writing to the President and Chairperson at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. In addition, each member of the Board should receive a detailed written copy of the proposal prior to the day of the meeting.
15. The President shall hold meetings for the Board of Directors on a monthly schedule during the scholastic year (August-June). Other meetings may be called at the discretion of the President and Chairperson, if the immediate urgency arises.
16. The Officers of the Board of Directors shall be elected at the last meeting of the alternating scholastic year for at least a two (2) year term.

ARTICLE V (a)

LEAGUE PRESIDENTS

2016 – Present Mr. James Patrick Lynch

BOARD CHAIRPERSONS

2016 – Present Mr. Kenneth Geiser (George Washington HS)

ARTICLE VI

FINANCES

1. There shall be membership dues for the schools in the League for the PPL, District XII and PIAA. The membership dues are as follows:
 - a. Philadelphia Public League: \$1,500 per member school;
 - b. District XII: \$600 per member school; and
 - c. PIAA: \$450-\$600 per member school (depending on enrollment).
 - d. The League Board by majority vote may alter and increase these dues from time to time.
2. The League shall establish, under the supervision of the School District and the School Reform Commission, one or more League accounts, into which the League shall deposit all membership dues, gate receipts and other League income, including, *e.g.*, grants, sponsorships, *etc.*, and the proceeds of all League-sponsored playoff events.
3. The President and Board of Directors shall use PPL accounts for approved expenses incurred by the League.
4. At the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors, the League Treasurer shall submit a complete report of receipts and disbursements. The League Treasurer shall send copies of this report to the President and the School District's Division of Athletics.
5. The League Leadership Committee shall determine the price scale for admission tickets for all League games, subject to the approval of the President.
6. Each financial section of the Bluebook must indicate admission charges for regular season contests and for League sponsored playoff games, where applicable.
7. Annually at the same time as the School District develops, considers and approves its annual operating budget, the League shall develop, consider and approve an annual budget, which shall govern the operations of the League for the fiscal year commencing on the following July 1. The fiscal year of the League shall commence July 1 of each calendar year and end on the following June 30. The fiscal year of the League shall be co-terminus with the fiscal year of the School District and if the School District hereafter alters its fiscal year, the League shall modify its fiscal year to conform to the School District's fiscal year. The League's annual budget must balance; *i.e.*, the League shall not operate at a deficit.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS AND INTERPRETATION

1. This Constitution may be amended by approval of the President with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire voting membership of the Board of Directors. Members shall submit proposed amendments to this Constitution in writing to the President at least seven (7) days in advance of a meeting of the Board of Directors, with copies to the Chairperson and Secretary.
2. The final decision concerning the interpretation of the Constitution and By-Laws shall rest with the President.
3. All matters of policy and procedure shall be subject at all times to the approval of the School Reform Commission, the School District's Superintendent and the School District's Division of Athletics.

ARTICLE VIII

MEETINGS

1. The League's Board of Directors shall meet no less often than quarterly to consider the business of the League, including finances, budgets, risk matters, discipline of coaches and athletes, and all other pending business of the League.
2. A quorum necessary for the consideration and transaction of the business and affairs of the League and to take action on any matter, unless these rules impose a different requirement regarding the specific subject matter, shall consist of no less than ten (10) duly appointed representatives of member schools.
3. The President of the League and the Chairperson of the League shall each have the right to schedule and call special meetings of the League's Board of Directors, by notice to the duly appointed members of the Board.
4. The Members of the League shall conduct all meetings of the League's Board of Directors under and in conformity with Robert's Rules of Order, unless and until such time as the Board may adopt its own rule or rules regarding its operations and business generally or in regard to one or more specific issues or matters, *e.g.*, procedures meeting legal requirements concerning discipline of individuals and schools, which may, in the judgment and discretion of the Board, merit other procedural standards or protections.

BY-LAWS OF THE PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC LEAGUE

ARTICLE I

ELIGIBILITY FOR ATHLETIC COMPETITION

1. LEAGUE SCHOOL

- A senior high school that is a member of the Philadelphia Public League.

2. NON-LEAGUE SCHOOL

- A senior high school that is not a member of the Philadelphia Public League.

3. RESIDENCE

- The address which has been accepted by the Division of Athletics as the place where the student presently resides.

4. MOVE

- A change of residence.

5. ELIGIBILITY REVIEW

- The League shall upon request review eligibility questions in conformity with the By-Laws of the PIAA.

6. AGE

- a. As PIAA states: a student who reaches his or her NINETEENTH (19) birthday on or after the first day of JULY is eligible for the entire scholastic year.
- b. As PIAA states: a student who reaches his or her NINETEENTH (19) birthday prior to the first day of JULY is ineligible for the entire scholastic year.

7. TRANSFER

- a. Transfers, upon request, shall occur in compliance with the By-Laws of the PIAA.
- b. The receiving school shall, when necessary, send the PIAA Transfer Waiver form to the principal of the sending school for his or her signature. The principal of the sending school shall promptly attend to this matter within seven (7) days after receiving the waiver.

8. STUDENT-ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

- a. A student who is not a citizen of the United States but who is lawfully residing in this country, is enrolled as a full-time student in a League school, and meets all

other eligibility criteria, is eligible to participate in varsity sports. The student shall provide a copy of his or her visa to the Principal of the school he or she attends prior to participation in any varsity sports following the PIAA District XII Committee review.

- b. A foreign-exchange student who is enrolled in a bona fide foreign exchange program approved by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel prior to entering the United States, is enrolled as a full-time student in a League school, and meets all other eligibility criteria, is eligible to participate in varsity sports for the period of one (1) academic year during which he or she is enrolled as a foreign-exchange student in a League school following approval of the PIAA District XII Committee. The student shall provide a copy of his or her visa to the Principal of the school he or she attends, to accompany the request to the PIAA District XII Committee.
- c. The eligibility of a student with a record of extended absences because of illness, injury, or homebound tutoring shall be decided by review of the District XII Committee in accordance with the PIAA.
- d. A student shall become INELIGIBLE AT THE END OF EIGHT (8) SUCCESSIVE SEMESTERS BEYOND THE DATE OF HIS OR HER ENTRANCE INTO NINTH GRADE. Eight (8) successive semesters means eight (8) successive semesters whether the student attends school or not. Exceptional cases may be reviewed by the PIAA District XII Committee.
- e. A student shall become INELIGIBLE IF THE STUDENT LOSES HIS OR HER AMATUER STANDING. This ineligibility applies only to the sport in which the student has lost his or her standing.
- f. Those students eligible to play in the last-scheduled League contests of the season shall be eligible to participate in any post-season League contest, except in the case of suspension during the last scheduled League contest, or if the student becomes ineligible otherwise during the post-season.
- g. One (1) week prior to the League season for each sport, the Athletic Director of each school shall have on file the PIAA Certificate of Eligibility for each sport, consisting of their eligibility lists entered into the PIAA Online Portal.
- h. Eligibility issues are decided by the PIAA District XII Committee at their regular monthly meetings. All requests for an eligibility hearing must be submitted to the Chairperson of PIAA District XII one (1) week prior to their regular monthly meeting.
- i. Academic standards for participation in interscholastic sports shall be determined by the Principal of each school in accordance with minimum requirements set by the PIAA.

ARTICLE II

CHAMPIONSHIP

1. The method of deciding the championship of all sports shall be determined by the respective Sport Chairperson with a vote of the Board of Directors, and approval of the President.
2. Awards shall be made annually, and presented by the League for all sports teams, including individual championships, if applicable.
3. Whenever a rental fee is charged for a facility used in a PPL playoff or championship contest, the Sport Chairperson in that sport must receive the majority vote from the Board of Directors prior to contracting for the facility.

ARTICLE III

CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

1. Infractions Committee – The Infractions Committee shall consist of Coaches, ADs, Sport Chairpersons, and Administrators from member schools appointed by the Leadership Committee. The Infractions Committee shall review cases, where necessary, and recommend penalties to the PPL Leadership Committee and to be handed down by the President.
2. Code of Conduct - The following penalties may be imposed by the PPL Infractions Committee for a violation of the Rules of Play or the Philadelphia Public League Code of Conduct, attached as Appendix A to these By-Laws and hereby incorporated herein:
 - a. **PROBATION:** The League may place a school, team, coach, parent, or individual on probation for a specified period, during which the school, team, or individual must prove adequate improvement. A subsequent vote by the Board of Directors at the end of this period will determine reinstatement.
 - b. **FORFEIT:** The League has the authority to require a team to forfeit a contest, season, or Championship, or any of them, for violation of the rules.
 - c. **SUSPENSION:** The League has the authority to suspend from League participation a sport, a school, a coach, a parent, a student or another individual for a specified period, either completing the balance of its schedule(s) as exhibition games, or not being permitted to compete in the League in any sport thereafter.
 - d. **CENSURE:** The League has the authority to censure publically a school or individual(s) responsible for a violation, in lieu of, or in addition to, other penalties imposed by the Board of Directors.

- e. Announcements to the communications media concerning the forfeit of League games shall be made **ONLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC LEAGUE OR BY HIS OR HER APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVE**, as soon as possible after the forfeit occurs.

ARTICLE IV

PROCEDURES DURING STRIKES

It is the philosophy of the PIAA Board of Directors, and PIAA member schools, that interscholastic athletics should not be used as a pawn during contract negotiations between School Boards and Education Associations.

While interscholastic athletics should not be considered to be different than any other extra-curricular activities, it is a simple fact of life that interscholastic athletics fan the emotions of a community to a higher and greater degree than any other school function.

Pursuant to ARTICLE XII, ATHLETIC RELATIONS, Section 6, Temporary Closure of School, of the PIAA By-Laws, the League may exercise one or more of several options during the period in which a member school is affected by a professional labor dispute:

1. A member school may practice and compete in any scheduled contests during the period of the work stoppage. If the member school elects this option, a team may practice only the length of time, each day, that it would have practiced had school been in session.
2. A member school may opt to practice, but not play any contests during the period of the work stoppage. If the member school elects this option, a team may practice only the length of time, each day that it would have practiced had school been in session.
3. A team (varsity, junior varsity, freshman, or junior high/middle school) **MUST** have completed the minimum length of preseason practice as specified for the sport in ARTICLE XVI, SEASON AND OUT-OF-SEASON RULES AND REGULATIONS, of the PIAA By-Laws, **BEFORE** the first contest of each season.
4. If a member school's practice schedule has been interrupted by a strike for more than three (3) consecutive days after the minimum length of preseason practice has been completed, that school must have had three (3) days of practice prior to resuming its interscholastic athletic schedule.
5. If there are **ANY** questions as to the required practice rule, a member school should contact its respective District Chairperson or the PIAA Office.
6. The decision as to whether to practice or play rests solely with a member school's School Board.

7. If due to a professional labor dispute a school postpones a contest, the two member schools may, by mutual agreement reschedule the contest. Decisions on cancellations or postponements must be made no less than three (3) days prior to the scheduled contest. Where extenuating circumstances exist, the Executive Director of PIAA may waive the requirement that notification concerning a postponement or cancellation must occur at least three (3) days prior to the scheduled contest. Inability to reschedule the contest shall result in forfeiture by the closed member school.

APPENDIX A: STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC LEAGUE

STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

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

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

ARTICLE I

STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE

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

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

ARTICLE II

POLICY REGARDING THREATS, BULLYING AND/OR HAZING

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

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

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

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

PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC LEAGUE

POLICY REGARDING UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

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

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

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

APPENDIX B: COACHES

CODE OF CONDUCT

PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC LEAGUE

COACHING CODE OF CONDUCT

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

ARTICLE I

ATHLETIC COURTESY

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

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

ARTICLE II

ETHICS PERTAINING TO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

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

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

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

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

ARTICLE III

POLICY FOR COACHES INTERACTION WITH THE MEDIA

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

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

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