

# North Paulding Football



## 2019 Player/Parent Expectations Handbook 9<sup>th</sup>-Varsity

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## **Hello Wolfpack Parents,**

My name is Jim Bob Bryant and I am the Head Football Coach at North Paulding High School. I am extremely excited about our 2019 Football TEAM. Our coaches and players are working hard in preparation for next year. We expect a Wolfpack commitment from every player and parent in our program. This commitment includes character, academics, and football, in that order. Football is a “Process”. The lessons these young men will learn from their high school TEAM experience will lead to their success as husbands, fathers, and leaders in the community. This commitment is not easy as life is not easy. It requires discipline and sacrifice. We also recognize that the success of these young men and this program requires the commitment of their parents as well.

There are many things that can compromise the integrity of our student-athletes. Making negative choices can impact the TEAM and the player’s position on the TEAM. We intend to educate the players about the consequences of negative choices. Our goal is to make sure that everyone understands that the TEAM comes before self. This structure that places TEAM first is the pillar of our program and in any successful business model. WE will always come before “i”. The letter i is lowercase for a reason. As a TEAM, WE must put the PACK before the Individual.

Character is a skill that is often expected but rarely developed. We will develop and build Character! During the Spring we will hold Character Development Lessons every Wednesday morning at 8:00am. We will also continue this Character Development during the season. Again, this will not be easy. Some may decide that the expectations of our program are too much of a sacrifice. However, these expectations will be kept and the sacrifice will result in reward. We have a PLAN and the PLAN becomes the STANDARD and STANDARD creates CHAMPIONS!

Parents, we want you to support your sons and the TEAM. Your involvement and support in the Wolfpack program is crucial to our overall success. Building a strong tradition in Football is not a one man job. It will take a lot of people to help make this program successful.

The purpose of this information is to familiarize you with the philosophy, guidelines, and policies of the North Paulding High School Football Program. It is every coach, player, and parent’s responsibility to read and understand our policies. Our policies have been put in this booklet as a reference, so that you may refer to them throughout the year when you feel it necessary. Parents and players are expected to read and sign the back page. After the page has been signed, it should be turned in to Coach Bryant to be kept on file. This

information was made to assure that everyone understands the expectations of the program. Before we can have a successful TEAM we must build and develop Character on and off the field. We take our position as a privilege and feel blessed to have the opportunity to work with young men of the highest caliber.

## The following information is included in the Parent-Student Athletic Handbook from Paulding County:

### **To the Parent**

This material is presented to you because your son or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic activities. The Paulding County School District believes that participation in sports and other interscholastic activities provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences which will assist students in personal growth and development. We feel that a properly controlled, well-organized interscholastic activity program meets with the students' needs for self-expression, mental alertness and physical growth. It is our hope to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and will further each student's educational maturity. A student who elects to participate in the interscholastic program is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and self-denial. These are the reasons we place such stress on good training habits. Failure to comply with the rules of training and conduct means exclusion from participation. This concept of self-discipline and self-denial is tempered by our responsibility to recognize the rights of the individual within the objectives of the team or activity. There is no place in high school interscholastic competition for students who will not discipline their minds and bodies for rigorous competition. We are striving for excellence and do not want our students to compromise with mediocrity.

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

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

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

### **Coaches Office Hours**

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

- \* Parents can use this time to ask questions and obtain information.
- \* Coach will discuss what the student-athlete needs to work on or improve.
- \* Coach will only talk to a parent/guardian about his/her own child.
- \* Playing Time will not be discussed.

***\* If satisfaction is not obtained, the parent/guardian should then contact the school Athletic Director.***

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

### **Parent Complaints or Concerns**

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

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

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

If the concern is not resolved with school athletic director, it should be submitted by letter to the principal. The principal will contact the district office if the problem is not resolved.

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

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

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

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

Encourage our students to perform their best;

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

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

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

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

Develop a sense of dignity under all circumstances.

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

### **To The Student Participant**

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

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

## **1. Responsibilities to Yourself**

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

## **2. Responsibilities to Your School**

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

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

## **3. Responsibilities to Others**

As a team member you bear a heavy responsibility to your home. You should never give your family any cause to be ashamed. When you know in your heart that you have lived up to all of the training rules, that you have practiced to the best of your ability every day, and that you have played the game "ALL OUT," you can maintain your self-respect. Your family can be justly proud of you and your effort. Also, remember that younger students are watching you and they will copy you in many ways. Do not do anything to let them down. Always set good examples for them.

## **Interscholastic Competition Philosophy**

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

The Paulding County School District Athletic Department should provide a variety of experiences to aid in the development of favorable habits and attitudes that will prepare students for adult life in a democratic society. The interscholastic activity program shall be conducted in accordance with existing Board of Education policies, rules, and regulations. While the Board of Education takes great pride in winning, it does not condone "winning at any cost." It discourages any and all pressures which might tend to neglect good sportsmanship and/or good mental health. At all times, the interscholastic activity program must be conducted in such a way as to justify it as an educational activity. Although we want to have as competitive an athletic program as possible, the purpose in high school athletics is not in obtaining college scholarships. When a student-athlete has the abilities to gain such

recognition, the coaches and staff will support the young person as much as possible, but not to the detriment to the overall athletic program.

## **Athletic Goals and Objectives**

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

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

- 1. To work with others:** In a democratic society, a person must develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. The team and its objectives must be placed higher than personal desires.
- 2. To be successful:** Our society is very competitive. We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do our best. You can learn to accept defeat only by striving to win with earnest dedication. Develop a desire to excel.
- 3. To develop sportsmanship:** To accept any defeat like a true sportsman, knowing we have done our best, we must learn to treat others the way we would have them treat us. We need to develop desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation, and dependability.
- 4. To improve:** Continual improvement is essential to good citizenship. As a participant, you must establish goals and you must continually try to reach those goals. Try to better yourself in the skills involved and those characteristics set forth as being desirable in your chosen activity.
- 5. To enjoy participation:** It is necessary for students to enjoy participation, to acknowledge all of the personal rewards to be derived from participation, and to give sufficiently of themselves in order to preserve and improve the program.
- 6. To develop desirable personal health habits:** To be an active, contributing citizen, it is important to obtain a high degree of physical fitness through exercise and good health habits and to develop the desire to maintain this level of physical fitness after formal competition has been completed.

## **Athletic Codes of Conduct**

A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the athletic department and school. The community, school administrators and the coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in

maintaining a sound program. The welfare of the student is our major consideration and transcends any other consideration. All students shall abide by a code of ethics which will earn them honor and respect that participation and competition in the interscholastic activity program affords. (Any conduct which results in dishonor to the athlete, the team, the school, or the community will not be tolerated.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Basic Interscholastic Participation Guidelines**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Students who have made the commitment to participate in an extracurricular activity in the Paulding County School District have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid conflicts with other activities. If a conflict does arise, the sponsor/coach will work out a

solution. If a solution cannot be found, the coach, athletic director and principal will make the decision based on all the information.

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

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

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

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

**Athletic Awards Policy: Play in at least 10 Varsity quarters to letter in Football.**

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

- 1. 1st-year award:** Chenille award letter with insert signifying the sport and certificate. (Note: Should the student letter in a second sport, he/she will not receive a second chenille letter.)
- 2. 2nd-year award:** Service bar and certificate.
- 3. 3rd-year award:** Service bar and certificate.

4. **4th-year award:** Service bar and certificate indicating the recipient as a four-year varsity letter winner.

### **Athletic Responsibility Acknowledgment Information**

**Prior to participating in any practice or tryout session for any interscholastic sport, each athlete must:**

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

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

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

6. I, along with my parents, certify that I have read and understand all of the Paulding County School District athletic policies in the student/parent athletic handbook and in order to be eligible for participation I must comply with all requirements listed.

**Paulding County School District Athletic Code of Conduct**  
**Violation/Consequences**

**A. Violation of school rules resulting in In-School Suspension (ISS) or Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) during the season**

The student may resume practice when:

1. Released from ISS or
2. The day after completion of OSS.

**B. Violation of school rules resulting in assignment to alternative education.**

Dismissed from athletics while attending alternative setting. Once the student has completed the alternative assignment, return based on decision of Principal, AD and coach.

**C. Student has been criminally charged with a misdemeanor, regardless of location or time so long as such charges are pending or conviction occurs.**

School administration and coach will meet with the student and parent/guardian after each offense to discuss the ramifications of their behavior.

1st Offense- 10% suspension from athletic participation. 10% of competition dates beginning with date of charges. Student will be required to practice and game attendance is coach's discretion with AD approval.

2nd Offense-Suspension for 25 calendar days and a minimum of 25% of competition dates, beginning with date of charges.

3rd Offense-Suspension of 1 calendar year from date of charges.

4th Offense-Permanent suspension from athletic participation.

\*If charges are dropped the student is reinstated upon coach's approval.

**D. Student is charged with a felony, regardless of time or location so long as charges are pending or conviction results.**

1st Offense- Suspension of 1 calendar year from date of charges.

2nd Offense- Permanent suspension from athletic participation.

\*If charges are dropped the student is reinstated upon coach's approval.

**E. Tobacco use, in season**

1st Offense- Coaches discretion

2nd Offense- 1 game suspension

3rd Offense- 2 game suspension

## 4th Offense- Removal from team

### **F. Sport specific offenses such as missing practice unless excused prior, acting in an unsportsmanlike manner while representing the school in competition.**

Consequences could range from suspension from participation to removal from the athletic program. The head coach will have discretion contingent on the approval of the Athletic Director.

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

All of the above information applies to players and parents involved at North Paulding High School. The following information details even more specific guidelines for the **FOOTBALL PROGRAM:**

The following information includes items expected from coaches, players, and parents.

## **Common Expectations**

### **Coaches**

1. To be honest
2. To be leaders
3. To be loyal to the TEAM
4. To help players reach their goals
5. To help players mature and become a better person
6. To be fair to players
7. To work hard and instruct to the best of your ability
8. To communicate with all players about Team and Individual development goals

9. To be 100% committed to North Paulding Football
10. To make all decisions based on what is best for the TEAM, and then what is best for the individual

### **Players**

1. To be honest
2. To be a leader
3. To be loyal to the TEAM
4. To respect history and tradition
5. To always be at practice, even if injured
6. To always be on time to practices and meetings
7. To give your best in the classroom
8. To give your best in practice and games
9. To conduct yourself in a manner that will make your family, school, teammates, and coaches proud of you at all times
10. To never post anything on social media that is negative in nature about your school, teammates, opponents, or coaches. Player policy is explained in more detail later in this handbook.

### **Parents**

1. To not undermine the coaching staff to your kids or other parents.
2. To be supportive of players, coaches, and officials.
3. To not approach a coach about playing time. The player should discuss ways to improve with his position coach.
4. To be a positive support system for your child. Monitor their academic progress and make sure their diet and rest are appropriate
5. To never post anything on social media that is negative in nature about our school, team, players, coaches or opponents. Do not have a false sense of security about your rights to freedom of speech. Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. The on-line social network sites are not a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions. The information you post on a social networking site is considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a positive self-image. Parents who violate social media usage may be banned from practice, games, and program activities. Players will be held accountable with this same policy.
6. To participate in the program and to get involved. The best thing you can do costs nothing.
7. To show sportsmanship at all times

## **PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION**

As your son becomes involved in the football program at North Paulding High school, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way your child wishes. This is the opportunity for your son to talk with their respective coach and discuss the situation. When your son handles the problem, it becomes part of the learning and maturation process. Playing time will not be discussed with parents. Parents do not dictate playing time or have the right to question it. There may also be situations that require a conversation between the coach, player, and parent. These are encouraged. Please follow the following procedures to help promote a resolution.

1. Here is the order. A player who has concerns should speak to his position coach first. If that does not resolve the concern, the player should speak to the coordinator, and finally speak to Coach Bryant. Understanding that when it reaches Coach Bryant, there will be no sugar coating. If the concern is not resolved after a meeting with Coach Bryant, a meeting then can be scheduled with the parent/s, player, and Coach Bryant. These concerns do not include....why am I not playing or why is my son not playing?
2. If the concern is not resolved, call the Athletic Director to arrange a conference. A meeting will be arranged with the coach, parent, player and Athletic Director.
3. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.
4. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolutions. Set up an office visit with the coach and we will have a third party present, such as the AD, another coach, or Assistant Principal.
  - Note: Coaches will not discuss player issues or concerns with parents via text, e-mail, or phone. Much can be misinterpreted in a text or an e-mail. Text or e-mail may be used to set up a meeting where the issue can be resolved.

## **Additional Expectations for Parents**

Many of the coaches at North Paulding High School teach and have children in the school district. We, like you, want the best for the kids. We will expect a lot from your son as a football player and person in the program. Please be aware of that fact, and attempt to hold yourself to a high standard during your son's experience in the program.

1. Be positive with your son. Let them know that they are accomplishing something by being part of the team.
2. Do not offer excuses to them if they are not playing. Encourage them to work hard and do their best.
3. Encourage athletes to follow the rules. Whether they are a first stringer, JV, or role players must follow rules pertaining to school rules, drinking, smoking, and the Law.
4. As a fan, you are entitled to cheer your head off, but don't become belligerent with other fans, players, coaches or game officials. North Paulding holds sportsmanship in the highest regard and you will be held responsible for your actions.
5. Insist that the athletes respect team rules, school rules, game officials, and sportsmanship. Self-respect begins with self-control.
6. Encourage the athletes to improve their self-image by believing in themselves.
7. Encourage your athlete to play for the love of the game.
8. Remember that the coach is involved as a coach because they are sincerely fond of kids and have experience in the profession. Coaches have different ways of dealing with people and situations. Athlete's lives are enriched by interaction with different types of leaders. If you are going to let your son participate in football at North Paulding, you have to trust us to do our job.
9. Encourage the athlete to follow his commitment to the team including:

Maintaining good academic standing

You are never right on time-You are either early or your late.

When a player is late. There will be consequences.

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Not missing practice- | 1 unexcused missed practice (Suspended for a half) |
|                       | 2 unexcused missed practice (Suspended for a game) |
|                       | 3 unexcused missed practice (Season is Over)       |

Being a TEAM player

Having a positive attitude

Working Hard

Be Coachable

## **North Paulding Football Team Rules**

### **PACK FOOTBALL**

<b><u>P</u></b>	<b><u>PHYSICAL-PLAY TOGETHER</u></b>
<b><u>A</u></b>	<b><u>ACCOUNTABILTY-ATTITUDE</u></b>
<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>CHARACTER-COMPETITION</u></b>
<b><u>K</u></b>	<b><u>KICK BUTT-KEEP GRINDING</u></b>

**On the field policy! If you leave the field or are asked to leave the field for any reason...you as a player have 24 hours to make it right with the coach and your TEAM. If it is not made right in 24 hours, you have quit the team. Any player 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade that quits the team will never again make the football team at North Paulding. If you START the season, FINISH the season!**

### **North Paulding FOOTBALL ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Football is a privilege and not a right! Each North Paulding football player is required to attend all practices, meetings, run-throughs, and games. If we cannot practice at full strength, we cannot play at full strength. Trust in a player's commitment to the success of the team starts with showing up. However, we feel it is important to have an attendance policy in place to ensure that our team collectively takes that daily step towards success.

# Unexcused verses Excused Absences

## Unexcused Absences

Unexcused absences from practice are defined by the following:

1. Any “Excused Absence” without DIRECTLY notifying Coach Bryant about the absence.
  - Coach Bryant must be notified one hour before practice starts if you are to be excused from practice that day.
  - Having a teammate tell a coach for you will NOT count
  - Texts, tweets, facebook messages, emails, notes, etc. will NOT count
  - Telling the trainer will NOT count
2. Any doctor/medical appointment without a note from the doctor.
3. At practice, but not participating due to missing clothes, shoes, or equipment.
4. Injured (diagnosed by the trainer and/or a doctor) but not present at practice receiving appropriate treatment or watching drills. Injured players may only be restricted to stay home by a doctor’s note. A note MUST be given to Coach Bryant.
5. Not practicing (present or not) due to “self-diagnosis” or “parent diagnosis”.
6. The following are examples of, but not limited to, unacceptable reasons for missing practice:

Hair cut	Car Repair	Friend needs ride	Shopping
Getting license	Vacation	Work	Homework
Projects	Study for test	Birthday Parties	Family in town
Homecoming	Project	Having a Head-Ache	Not feeling good

## Excused Absences

The football coaching staff recognizes that sometimes there are unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances that prevent a player from attending practice. In these rare cases, please make sure to contact a Coach Bryant **DIRECTLY** prior to practice. That means call him on his cell or come see him in person.

The following are examples of, but not limited to, acceptable reasons for missing practice:

Family emergency

Personal Illness/Sick

Family Illness

After all attempts have been made for during lunch or before school:

Making up a test (attendance required after the test is completed along with a note from the teacher stating what time you got there and what time you left)

Physical Therapy (with a note from therapist)

Doctor/Dentist appointment (with a note from the doctor/dentist)

Funeral

Injured (sitting out per Doctor or Trainer only)

- If a player goes home from school sick, he must call Coach Bryant to let him know.
- Parents, please try to schedule doctor and dentist appointments around practice times if you can.
- Parents, please emphasize practice attendance and punctuality. It will greatly improve our TEAM and your son's future.

**REMEMBER: IT IS UNEXCUSED UNLESS THE PLAYER CONTACTS COACH BRYANT**

## Consequences for Missing Practice/Games

### 1. Unexcused Absence from Practice:

ONE	unexcused missed practice (Suspended for a half)
TWO	unexcused missed practice (Suspended for a game)
THREE	unexcused missed practice (Season is Over)

### 2. Excused Absence from Practice:      **Make up conditioning!**

### **3. Tardies to Practice or Meetings: Coaches Discretion!**

#### **Social Media Policy**

Players....Do not have a false sense of security about your rights to freedom of speech. Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. The on-line social network sites are not a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions. The information you post on a social networking site is considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a positive self-image. Players who violate social media usage may lose playing time, face suspension, or dismissal from the team.

#### **Lettering**

The following criteria applies to lettering in Football at NPHS:

- Play in 10 Varsity Quarters (1 play is a quarter)
- Juniors who played in the program 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Years
- All seniors

#### **Fall Break**

Varsity (Includes 9<sup>th</sup>, JV, and Varsity) will practice Fall Break. The practices will be Thursday evening at 6pm, Friday, and Saturday mornings at 8am. These are mandatory practices. If the player can not commit to this week, then there is no need to come out for the team. This includes the 9<sup>th</sup> grade team.

#### **Winter/Spring/Summer Workouts**

We want to have an A Program, so we ask that your son makes 90% of all activities scheduled by the Head Coach. We will reward those who make the days with a chance to go through our Spring "PFL" Draft. Pack For Life draft will be a prerequisite to attending spring football. Off-season training is key to the success of any football program. Commitment to becoming as fit as possible will improve each players physical and mental development. This investment will pay dividends. Since many of these sessions include individual, group, and team events in a practice setting, along with agility and weight training, failure to attend these sessions could have a substantial impact on the development on the individual player.

## **Summer Camps/7 on 7 Events**

We want to have an A Program, so we ask that your son makes 90% of all activities scheduled by the Head Coach. We will reward those who make the days with no long conditioning once the official season starts. 7 on 7 sessions and team camps are very important in the development of the TEAM. Missing these events (if it is requested that you go) could have a substantial impact on the development of the individual player.

### **9th/JV/Varsity**

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade:** The 9<sup>th</sup> grade team will play 7 season games. After that, their season is over unless some are called up to the varsity.

**JV:** The JV team is made up of 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders. The JV team will play 7 season games. Since the JV and 9<sup>th</sup> grade practice together, the JV players are not required to stay with the Varsity team when their season is over. Some players will be asked to stay with the Varsity for the remainder of the season.

**Varsity:** The varsity team consists of 10-12<sup>th</sup> graders (Occasionally a 9<sup>th</sup> grader or two could be pulled up for JV or Varsity). The varsity will play 10 regular season games and then a post season. We will carry a maximum of 60 players that will dress out at Home and Away Varsity football games. There may be less than 60 players, but 60 players is the max we will dress out for all Varsity games.

### **Spring Practice**

All players must participate in spring practice in order to ensure their position in our program for the fall season. You can make the team as a walk-on during the summer but it will be difficult to make the team during the fall if you are not at spring practice.

Exception: Move ins

### **Spectators at Practice**

All varsity practices will be closed to spectators unless authorized by Coach Bryant. Spectators at Junior High practices should remain in the stands if practice is in the stadium or on the outside of the track if practice is on the track field.

## Recruiting Process

“Recruiting is not an exact science; the best advice for a high school player who would like to play college football is to; prepare, physically and academically; then enjoy the high school experience. You will only do it once.” ...Jim Wacker College Hall of Fame Coach

### General Rules of Thumb

1. Don't pay for a service (everything someone offers you for money is available for free)
2. Go to College websites and compare yourself physically with the players on their roster. What is their academic requirement?
3. Take the SAT and or ACT early in your junior year. Take is as many times as you can. You need a test score to show during the spring evaluation period.
4. Unless you are a great physical tester don't go to combines. (Many times they are looking for your weaknesses and not your strengths)
5. GPA and test scores are examined first in the spring evaluation period.
6. They are looking for ability, speed, and strength.....usually in that order.
7. Be honest with yourself. How far from home are you willing to go?
8. Involve us. No one has ever been recruited without the high school coach's involvement.
9. Make a Highlight film on HUDL. Have your position coach look it over. We will do our best to get exposure for players who desire and have the ability to play at the next level.
10. Clean up your Facebook/Twitter/Snap Chat and all Social Media pages. Don't have anything on there that is not a compliment to your family.

**Your best chance of being recruited is to be academically ready in the spring of your Junior year. Be physically ready your Junior and Senior years, and play well enough to help your team succeed.**

# The Positive Pledge for Players and Coaches

BY Jon Gordon

## The Positive Pledge

I pledge to be a positive person and positive influence on my family, friends, co-workers and community.

I promise to be positively contagious and share more smiles, laughter, encouragement and joy with those around me.

I vow to stay positive in the face of negativity.

When I am surrounded by pessimism I will choose optimism.

When I feel fear I will choose faith.

When I want to hate I will choose love.

When I want to be bitter I will choose to get better.

When I experience a challenge I will look for opportunity to learn and grow.

When faced with adversity I will find strength.

When I experience a set-back I will be resilient.

When I meet failure I will fail forward towards future success.

With vision, hope, and faith, I will never give up and will always move forward towards my destiny.

I believe my best days are ahead of me, not behind me.

I believe I'm here for a reason and my purpose is greater than my challenges.

I believe that being positive not only makes me better, it makes

everyone around me better.

So today and every day I will be positive and strive to make a positive impact on the world.

## 2019 Player/Parent Handbook Acknowledgement

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (player), and \_\_\_\_\_ (parent/guardian),  
have read the 2019 North Paulding Football Player and Parent Expectations Handbook. By signing below, we acknowledge that we understand its contents and agree to the terms of the handbook. We understand the guidelines for attendance, punctuality, procedures, etc. We will do our best to work together to provide a positive experience. We are aware of the commitment it takes to be a part of the North Paulding Football Program and are aware that all decisions that are made are for the betterment of the TEAM.

\_\_\_\_\_

(Athlete)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Parent/Guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Date)

Schedules, Updates, Practice Changes, Forms, etc. will all be updated on our football website and facebook page. Please refer to this when there is a question about any of these.



