

PIERCE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE

Section I

Introduction and Statement of Philosophy

In conjunction with their academic course of study, Pierce High School students are encouraged to pursue their extracurricular interests and participate in the athletic programs available to them. Participation in these programs is a privilege, which carries certain responsibilities and expectations for them as competitors, leaders and representatives of Pierce High School.

The philosophy of the Pierce High School athletic program is the belief that academic achievement, physical conditioning, and high moral standards should be the primary goal of all Pierce students, parents, coaches and other individuals associated with the school's athletic program. This code is designed to promote the ideals of sportsmanship and pride in representing the school and to ensure acceptable standards of participation. This code applies to all participants during the entire academic and athletic school year including practice sessions or games occurring outside the normal school year.

Participants are defined as any player actively participating on any recognized interscholastic athletic team. This also includes student managers, statisticians, video persons, student trainers or any other person assisting an athletic team.

Program Administration: The Principal, Athletic Director, and coaching staff administer the school's athletic program and thus are responsible for enforcing the rules of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), The Northern Section (NSCIF), the Sacramento Valley League (SVL), as well as, Pierce District, school, and Athletic Policies and Codes. The Athletic Director meets with each coach prior to each athletic season to review all pertinent rules and regulations. Each coach, in turn, has the responsibility to review all rules with the participants of their sport.

Appeal Process: Any appeal to a decision made by a coach or Athletic Director will follow the uniform complaint policy.

Review and Updating of Athletic Code: The Athletic Director and the Principal will meet prior to the conclusion of each school year for the purpose of reviewing the existing athletic policies. Any proposed changes will be submitted for Board Approval.

Section II Athletic Eligibility

To be eligible for participation in any athletic activity, students must meet residential, academic and behavioral requirements of the CIF, NSCIF, SVL, and Pierce High School.

Residential Eligibility:

1. Students must be of residence of the Pierce Joint Unified School District or be residentially eligible according to CIF regulations.
2. Additional CIF residential requirements specific to grade level, legal residence, and transfer status also applies. Any and all questions regarding athletic eligibility should be referred to the Athletic Director or Principal.

Academic Eligibility:

1. To be scholastically eligible for extra-curricular activities, a student must maintain a 2.0 G.P.A. on a 4.0 scale. The scholastic eligibility is determined by the grades recorded during the 1st Quarter, 1st Semester, 3rd Quarter and 2nd Semester.
2. If a student falls below a 2.0 G.P.A. at the end of a grading period, he/she may use a probation period to continue on the team until the next grading period. **Only one academic probationary period may be utilized during their high school eligibility.**

Attendance Eligibility:

1. A student must be in attendance at least half the school day in order to participate in any athletic practice, contest or event.
2. Medical and/or dental appointments, funerals, court or probation appointments and religious activities are possible exceptions subject to prior approval and to the interpretation of the Athletic Director or Principal.

Section III Additional Regulations

In addition to the academic, residential, and behavioral eligibility standards, the following rules and regulations established by the CIF and Pierce Joint Unified School District specifically apply to Pierce High School Athletics.

All Participants Will:

1. Pass a physical examination by a licensed physician prior to the start of practice.
2. Have on file the signature page of the Athletic Code prior to the start of practice.
3. Have on file a physical card signed by the parent/guardian giving permission for their son/daughter to participate in athletic activities and verifying the athlete has medical insurance to cover any injuries resulting from his/her participation. The physical card also grants the student's coaches or other district employees the right to approve medical treatment in the event of injury.
4. Be personally responsible for all school equipment checked out to them. All equipment must be returned in good condition.
5. Pay for any equipment lost, misplaced, or stolen. The participants will not be allowed to participate in the next sport or receive a letter or any other award until all equipment is returned or paid for.
6. Attend the awards ceremony concluding the season unless permission to be excused is granted by his/her coach **prior** to the event. A Block P will not be issued to athletes who do not attend the awards ceremony **without previous approval by the coach.**
7. Any athlete, who quits a team without permission of the coach or is removed from the team once the first regularly scheduled contests have begun, will not be eligible to participate in another sport until the completion of the season that the athlete quits. The athlete is also ineligible to participate in games for 1/3 of the allowable NSCIF contacts in the next sport in which they compete. An athlete may quit a team, up until the first regularly scheduled contest, with no penalty.
8. Any athlete or participant ejected from a game for unsportsmanshiplike conduct is subject to the rules of the NSCIF.
9. An athlete who is ejected from a contest for fighting is subject to the NSCIF rules regarding such incident.
10. In all athletic contests away from school, the participants will ride to and from the event in school provided transportation. Except when parents personally contact the head coach to take their son/daughter. Under extenuating circumstances, it is possible for an athlete to use other means of transportation providing the parent/guardian makes arrangements with the Athletic Director, Principal or Coach.

11. All athletes understand it is their responsibility to request any homework assignments when they must be absent from class because of an athletic contest. This homework is to be turned in on time, or prior to leaving for the athletic contest.
12. Coaches may set standards of behavior and expectations for their sport which, if violated, may result in the participant being suspended or dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season. Each coach shall furnish the participants with a copy of their team rules, PHS Athletic Code Handbook, and exceptions at the beginning of the season. **Before a player is eligible to begin practice the coach must provide the Athletic Director with a signed copy of the Pierce High School Athletic Code Student/Parent Signature sheet.**

Section IV Misconduct

The following behaviors are unacceptable for any student involved in Pierce High School's athletic program. Individuals who violate any of the following rules will be disciplined as indicated. Students who violate these rules are also subject to the penalties established in the Pierce High School Discipline Handbook.

A student shall immediately become ineligible to participate in athletics for any or all of the following reasons:

- A. Quitting a sport without the consent of the coach after the first regularly scheduled contest.
- B. Being dismissed from the team for cause. This implies a coach may set and enforce rules, which are more stringent than the minimum standards and penalties indicated in this code.
- C. Possessed, used, sold, or otherwise furnished tobacco, alcoholic beverage, controlled substances or intoxicants.

Substance Abuse (Tobacco, Drugs/Alcohol)

1. During any season of participation, any athlete cited by police, or in possession of Tobacco, Drugs or Alcohol will be suspended from the team for the remainder of the sport season in which they are participating. Should the violation take place during the last third of the season; the individual will also be ineligible for the first 1/3 of the games during the next sport in which they compete.
2. A second offense will result in exclusion from any sport at Pierce High School for one calendar year from the enforcement date.
3. A third offense will result in exclusion from any sports at Pierce High School.

Quitting or Being Removed From a Team

Any athlete, who quits a team without permission of the coach or is removed from the team once the first regularly scheduled contests have begun, will not be eligible to participate in another sport until the completion of the season that the athlete quits. The athlete is also ineligible to participate in games for 1/3 of the allowable NSCIF contacts in the next sport in which they compete.

Participation in Athletic Events while Suspended

Any time a student's behavior results in a suspension, the student will be ineligible to participate in athletic contests or practice with the team while on suspension. Students will also not be allowed to travel with a team, or attend an athletic event, home or away while on suspension.

Additional Penalties upon Return from Suspension

Any student/athlete suspended from school for any reason will be ineligible for a specific period of time starting upon the date the student returns from suspension. The student will be allowed to practice and travel to games during this period of time.

1. **1st violation** – The student will be ineligible during the duration of the suspension plus an additional five- (5) school days.
2. **2nd violation** – The student will be ineligible during the duration of the suspension plus an additional ten- (10) school days.
3. **3rd violation** – The student will be ineligible during the duration of the suspension plus an additional fifteen- (15) school days.

Any offense, including those not specifically listed in the Athletic Code, will be considered by the Athletic Director and the coaches involved. With the Principal's approval, the ruling of the Athletic Director and Coaches may include a penalty more severe than the minimum penalties listed above.

No student will be permitted to be on any team whose personal appearance does not conform to the standards set in the school dress code.

Androgenic/Anabolic Steroid

As a condition of membership in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), Pierce High School has adopted a policy prohibiting the use and abuse of androgenic/anabolic steroids. Pierce High School shall have participating students and their parents, legal guardian/caregiver agree that the athlete will not use steroids without the written prescription of a fully licensed physician (as recognized by the AMA) to treat a medical condition (Bylaw 524).

By signing the Pierce High School Athletic Code, both the participating student athlete and parents, legal guardian/caregiver hereby agree that the student shall not use androgenic/anabolic steroid without the written prescription of a fully licensed physician (as recognized by the AMA) to treat a medical condition. We also recognize that under CIF Bylaw 200 D there could be penalties for false or fraudulent information. We also understand that the Pierce High School policy regarding the use of illegal drugs will be enforced for any violation of these rules.

Section V *Risk Policy*

Pierce High School has a responsibility to make you aware of the dangers of participation in any form of athletic competition. We are asking that you carefully read the following statement with your son/daughter. Your signature on this document indicates that you are aware of the risks involved with athletics and assume those risks.

Statement of Risk

Our signature on the student/parent signature sheet indicates we are aware of the potential dangers of participation in interscholastic athletics and realize there is a risk of being injured in any sport, no matter how many precautions are taken. We realize this risk of injury may be severe, including fractures, sprains, contusions, brain injuries, paralysis, and even death. We further realize the athlete needs to carefully follow all guidelines given by the coaching staff regarding training rules, safety procedures, proper use of equipment, legal and safe playing techniques, and any and all other safety procedures.

We also understand that even if all the above is done, those injuries discussed above as well as other types of injuries may still occur in any sport the individual participates in.

NO COMPETITION ON AN OUTSIDE TEAM

Important – Students are not allowed to compete on an outside team during the season of sport. Per By-Law 600. Competition on an outside team. A student on a high school team becomes ineligible if the student competes in a contest on an “outside” team, in the same sport, during the student’s high school season of sport. This included 3 on 3 basketball.

**PIERCE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE
STUDENT/PARENT SIGNATURE SHEET**

Note: This page must be returned to the school before participation can be allowed

Students Name (Please Print)_____

I have carefully read the Pierce High School Athletic Code and agree to abide by all provisions contained in the code.

Students Signature _____ Date _____

Parent’s (Guardian) Name (Please Print)_____

I (we) understand that a violation by the athlete of any of the rules in this code will result in loss of athletic privileges and/or suspension from the team. I (we) also understand our signature (s) indicate we have read the Statement of Risk, and are aware of the risks involved with athletics and assume those risks. We release and hold the Pierce Joint Union School District and its officers and employees harmless from any and all claims for damage or injury, including claims of negligence, arising out of or in connection with our child’s participation in any aspect of the school’s athletic program.

Parent (Guardian) Signature _____

