

Patrick F. Taylor

Science & Technology Academy

Student-Athlete Handbook

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Information:

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Patrick Taylor Academy Varsity Sports

Baseball

Basketball

Bowling

Cheerleading

Cross Country

Dance Team

Football

Golf

Gymnastics

Soccer

Softball

Swimming

Track & Field

Volleyball

Wrestling

Patrick Taylor Academy Middle School Sports

Baseball

Basketball

Cross Country

Football

Soccer

Softball

Track and Field

Volleyball

Program Philosophy

The PFTSTA Athletic Department views interscholastic athletics as an opportunity for student participation in an organized and competitive environment. While the ultimate goal of athletic competition is to know victory, the achievement of objectives such as fair play, sportsmanship, skill acquisition, and work ethic cannot be overlooked. Winning traditions are founded upon the concepts of pride, respect, dedication, character, and loyalty. Coaches, athletes, and parents alike must strive to ensure that the athletic teams at Patrick Taylor represent themselves in a professional manner that is conducive to both competitive spirit and good sportsmanship.

Mission Statement

- To encourage student athletes to achieve academic success and to keep athletics in proper perspective.
- To develop good citizenship and respect for rules and authority.
- To provide opportunities to exemplify and observe good sportsmanship.
- To increase knowledge of various sports.
- To teach and emphasize the fundamental skills of various sports as a necessary ingredient in achieving individual and team success.
- To stress the importance of physical fitness, conditioning, health habits, and safety in athletics.
- To provide opportunities to develop lasting friendships with teammates and opponents.

Patrick Taylor is a member of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) and is governed by its rules and regulations. Student athletes and parents should be familiar with the LHSAA rules and regulations, which are found on the LHSAA website (www.lhsaa.org). As a school within the Jefferson Parish School systems we are bound by the rules and regulations of JP Schools outlined in the Parish Athletic Handbook.

Introduction

Interscholastic athletics can be a fun, rewarding, and memorable part of the high school experience. While academics offer the primary source for formal education, athletics can contribute to the total value of that education in many ways. Building upon the concepts of teamwork, fair play, sportsmanship, and self-esteem, athletics can help to provide for a well-rounded educational experience.

Athletic participation is a privilege and not a right. To those who strive to succeed in the classroom comes the privilege to compete outside of it.

Being an athlete, or the parent of an athlete, is often a very challenging task. Sometimes this relationship can become complicated by the nature and structure of athletics in general. It is the intent of this Athletic Handbook to provide some insights into the role and responsibilities athletes and parents face and share, separately and together, in the realm of high school athletic participation.

The high school sport experience is much different than the recreational sport experience. Whereas recreational sport philosophy stresses equal participation by all, at the interscholastic level playing time is earned and not guaranteed.

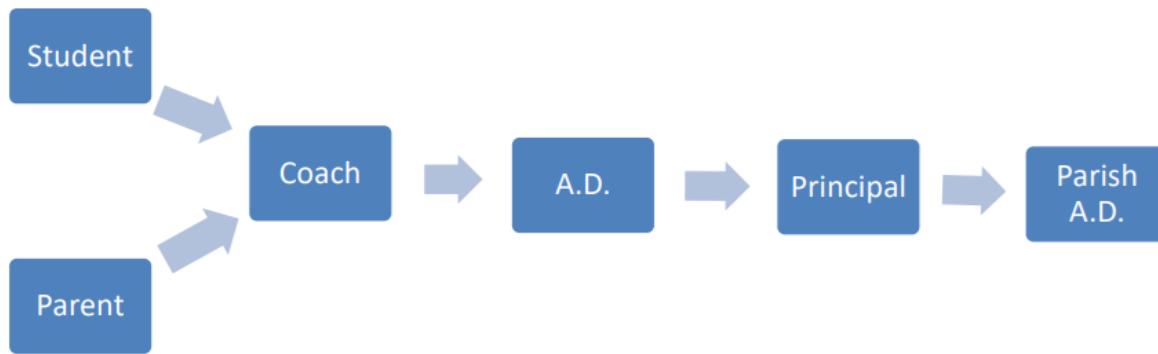
Student-athletes earn playing time through good work ethics in practice, skill development, sportsmanship, and overall team attitude. Likewise, not all who try out for a given team will endure through the final selection process to make the team roster. Coaches are responsible for the selection of team rosters and for the determination of playing time for those on the team.

It is important to remember that participation on an athletic team does not guarantee anything. Being part of and maintaining one's membership on a given team means accepting all the responsibilities of an athlete. Unlike recreational or intramural teams, equal or guaranteed playing time is not assured. Coaches will make the necessary decisions and utilize those players best suited to the conditions or demands of the particular contest on any given day.

The handbook outlines basic policy for students and parents. A coach may have additional guidelines which have been reviewed and approved by the Athletic Director.

Athletic Chain of Command

If there are any questions or concerns regarding any aspect of the Player – Coach relationship, the athlete should first contact the appropriate coach. If there is no resolution at this level, he/she should then move to the next level in the Chain of Command until resolution is achieved. (The Chain of Command is a step-by-step process bringing together the primary individuals for discussion purposes. Each level is in place to facilitate the process of conflict resolution). Parents are also asked to respect this Chain of Command model regarding problem resolution.



Personal Conduct

Parents obviously want what is best for their child. Allowing the coach to guide and instruct a team is crucial. Again, please allow the coach to do his/her job. The moments immediately following a game can be a very emotional moment. Should you have any questions or concerns, please wait at least 24 hrs. before contacting the coach. Call to make an appointment for a later time and approach this meeting in a calm and logical manner.

For many coaches, one of the post-game responsibilities is to meet with his/her players. Athletes should not be expected to stop and talk to parents and friends immediately after a game is over. These team meetings are essential to the learning process and are important in efforts to build team unity and understanding.

Irate fans may at times infer an unfair advantage by the officials. A sport's assignment secretary assigns all officials and neither team has a say in which officials are assigned to a given game or contest. The home school does not select the officials.

Game officials agree to and follow a code of conduct and ethics, with no vested interest in which team emerges victorious. Officials are an integral part of the game. While one may not agree with all calls, please do not harass and/or taunt game officials. Parents are to be good role models for their children. Officials oversee the game and have complete authority to remove unruly spectators. Many times, a given team may see the same officials on several occasions throughout the course of a season. Coaches, Athletic Directors, and school administrators work to establish good working relationships with game officials which can be easily damaged or destroyed by spectator interference. So please let the players play, let the coaches coach, let the officials officiate, and let the spectators be positive.

Responsibilities of the Athlete

Athletes are expected to adhere to the following guidelines:

1. The team's goals and success should always come before individual interests.
2. Athletes need to attend all scheduled practices, games, and assigned events including weekend and holiday breaks. A player may be suspended from the team if attendance becomes a problem.
3. Athletes must be receptive to coaching styles.
4. Team members are responsible for all issued uniforms and equipment.
5. Athletes are responsible for the security of all personal items.
6. As a team member, an athlete must abide by established team rules.
7. All injuries must be reported to the coach and to the Athletic Trainer immediately.
8. Strive for academic success to assure athletic eligibility.
9. Take pride in being a student-athlete at PFTSTA.

Athletic Participation Fee

1. All VARSITY participants will be assessed a one-time annual fee of \$75 due before the first regular season practice. This one-time payment per year covers all sports, for the entire school year. A maximum family fee of \$150 will be assessed regardless of the number of children attending Patrick Taylor.
2. All MIDDLE SCHOOL participants will be assessed a one-time annual fee of \$50 due before the first regular season practice. This one-time payment per year covers all sports, for the entire school year. A maximum family fee of \$100 will be assessed regardless of the number of children attending Patrick Taylor.
3. The Athletic Participation Fee is non-refundable. Any participant who leaves a team voluntarily or who is dropped for disciplinary or scholastic deficiencies is not eligible for a refund.
4. If a student is not selected for a sport prior to the first interscholastic game, the Athletic Participation Fee will be refunded if it is the only sport in which the student plans to participate during the school year. The parent must request a refund, in writing, to the Athletic Director immediately.
5. Payments are to be made online on Schoolcashonline.com or by check or cash paid to the athletic director. Fees are due prior to the first game or contest.
6. Parents and students should understand that this fee simply entitles the participant to a place in the activity. It does not guarantee participation time in games nor does it ensure specific positions on a team. Those decisions will remain with the coaches. Fees collected in this manner are designed to help partially defray the operational cost of offering the

programs. These operating costs include but are not limited to; LHSAA membership dues, officials association fees, coaches state registration, activity buses maintenance.

7. The participation fees will replace the yearly athletic department wide fundraiser. Individual teams will still conduct their own individual team fundraisers.
8. Any checks returned for Non-Sufficient Funds will be assessed a \$15.00 service charge.

Sportsmanship Procedures - The School's Role

It is the expectation of PFTSTA and more specifically the Athletic Department, that everyone will demonstrate good sportsmanship and fair play during all athletic contests. This concept is presented to the staff and to the athletes throughout the school year.

The PFTSTA Athletic Department considers the need for good sportsmanship as very important. Efforts will continue to assure that every student-athlete understands that need as well.

Important Participation Information

Risks Associated with Athletic Participation

The very nature of athletic competition provides the potential risk of injury. Even with protective equipment, proper supervision, and sound instruction, injuries can occur. All athletes and parents need to be aware of the potential hazards that exist within the athletic arena. We in the PFTSTA Athletic Department will always do whatever we can to ensure that our athletes have a safe and healthy athletic experience. An athletic trainer/first responder will be on hand for home contests.

LHSAA Mandated Forms:

The following forms must be filled out and returned to the designated coach prior to any participation in the respective sport. Forms are kept on file in the Athletic Director's office for an entire year.

- LHSAA Medical History Evaluation form (Physical)
- LHSAA Substance Abuse/Misuse Contract and Consent Form
- Copy of birth certificate
- LHSAA Athletic Participation/Parental Permission
- Parent and Student/Athlete Concussion Statement
- Copy of insurance card
- JPPSS cautionary form

Forms required by the LHSAA and PFTSTA MUST BE COMPLETED ON THE ONLINE PLATFORM FAMILYID.COM

Practice Sessions and Games

Practice sessions may be closed to spectators at the discretion of the coaches. These sessions are the equivalent of a teacher's classroom where instruction takes place. In practice, interference and interruption to an athlete's concentration and focus on practice cannot be allowed any more than a disruption would be tolerated in an academic classroom. Coaching should not be compromised.

Practice Sessions

1. May start and end at different times due to the schedule of coaches and or the availability of facilities.
2. May not be held when school is dismissed early or closed due to inclement weather.
3. May be held in the evening, on weekends, and over holiday break periods.
4. Attendance is mandatory. Tardiness will not be tolerated. Suspension and/or removal from the team may result.
5. Athletes may not be penalized for missed practice time to gain academic help or to make up missed tests or quizzes.

Weight Room

1. For reasons of safety, an athlete will only be allowed in the weight room during a practice or when supervised by an authorized member of the staff.
2. Unless you are supervised by a coach, you may not work out in the weight room while another team is having an official practice.
3. While you are practicing, you may only use equipment designated for your sport.
4. Only students participating in a school sanctioned sport, with a physical on file, will be allowed to use the weight room.

Eligibility: Academic or Disciplinary

PFTSTA student athletes know education first and foremost.

Athletic participation is a privilege and granted only to those who are deserving of this opportunity. Problems with grades and/or behavior are justifiable reasons for Academic or Disciplinary Ineligibility. If an athlete is deemed academically ineligible, the athlete may remain so until the subsequent interim grade report or report card is issued.

If a student is in danger of failing a course, that student will not be excused from school to attend an athletic event. Academic and or disciplinary issues may be grounds for suspension or expulsion from the team.

If an athlete is issued a detention on a game or practice date the athlete must serve the detention. The school administration will NOT reschedule detentions and/or suspensions. It is the athletes' responsibility to adhere to all school rules and guidelines.

Academic and Disciplinary Eligibility procedures and regulations.

Academic Eligibility Based on LHSAA Rules

First Semester Eligibility: To be eligible for the first semester of the school year, a student shall have earned at least six (6) Carnegie credits from the previous academic year (fall, spring and summer), which shall be listed on the student's transcript and shall have earned at least a "C" average as determined by the Local Education Authority within their Pupil Progression Plan when considering all "graded" subjects.

- 1.11.2 Second Semester Eligibility: To be eligible for the second semester of the school year, a student must enroll in and successfully pass the number of courses which will allow him/her to earn a minimum of 3 Carnegie credits for the first semester. Note: This can be accomplished by earning any combination of Carnegie units. Six (6) one-half (.5.) Carnegie credits will meet this requirement.
- 1.11.4 Students who take dual enrollment courses must have those courses posted on their high school transcripts in order to be used to determine athletic eligibility.
- 1.11.5 **Seniors who have accumulated 20 or more units must take the number of courses which will allow them to earn 2 Carnegie units per semester.** None of the courses taken shall be subjects/units that the student had previously taken and passed. These courses may include dual enrollment college courses that have been recognized by the LDE and/or the Louisiana Board of Regents. Under the 4x4 block system a senior must be enrolled in a minimum of courses which will earn him/her 2 Carnegie units per semester in order to be eligible to compete.

Middle School Eligibility based of JP Schools Policy

a. ELIGIBILITY

- i. Minimum GPA of 2.0 and 3 out of 4 classes passed per nine weeks
- ii. Minimum GPA of 1.5 and 4 out of 4 classes passed per nine weeks
- iii. If a student doesn't pass to the next grade, he/she can gain eligibility after the first nine weeks with a 2.0 and 4 out of 4 classes passed.

b. AGE LIMIT

- i. Any student that makes the age of 15 prior to August 1st is ineligible to participate.

Patrick Taylor Academy Eligibility

If a student is failing or in danger of failing, the student may be suspended from or removed from the team. Students failing or in danger of failing a last period class will not be dismissed early from school to attend an athletic contest.

Discipline

Consistency and fairness are the most important factors in dealing with discipline issues. However, unique situations may occur; therefore, coaches should objectively evaluate each situation and decide based on the facts of the individual situation.

- Any violation of a major school rule should be reported to both the Athletic Director, Principal, and the Dean of Students.
- The High School Administrative Team has final authority concerning the discipline resulting from a violation of a major school rule.
- The discipline given by the administration does not preclude the head coach of the sport from also disciplining the offending student-athlete.
- Any student-athlete who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from a team prior to the conclusion of the season must obtain approval from the Athletic Director before participating in any other sport, in accordance with the LHSA sports season calendar and the discretion of the Athletic Administration. Additionally, an athlete who is dismissed or resigns from a team will not be recognized as a member of that team during awards ceremonies.

Uniforms and Equipment

At the beginning of each athletic season all student-athletes will be issued a uniform for his/her team. Each student-athlete is responsible for his/her issued equipment and uniform(s). The school views the care and maintenance of uniforms and equipment as a very serious responsibility for all of our student-athletes.

Guidelines for Uniforms are as Follows:

1. Student-Athletes must keep the uniform number they are assigned at the beginning of the season and at no time may they change their uniform with a teammate without permission of the coach.
2. Student-Athletes must wash and care for their uniform after each game/contest.
(Please launder colored uniforms separately from light. Turn uniforms inside/out before washing. Wash all uniforms in COLD water. NEVER place uniforms or warm-ups in the dryer except on low heat).
3. Student-Athletes may only wear the team uniform for scheduled games/contests or for other special events as requested by the coach.
4. Student-Athletes must wear their uniform with the jersey tucked in and must keep the uniform on for the entire game/contest.
5. At no time may a student/athlete alter or change the original shape or form of the uniform.
6. Lost or damaged school issued athletic uniforms will result in a replacement fee up to \$150.

Changing Teams

In fairness to coaches and team members, an athlete can leave one team and join another but only after the following conditions have been satisfied:

1. Any player cut from a team during tryouts may immediately try out for another team if that team has not already completed its scheduled tryouts.
2. Any player quitting a team must have the original coach's approval to try out for another team. All uniform and equipment obligations must be met before approval can be given.
3. Any player dismissed from a team must have the original coach's and the Athletic Director's approval before joining another team.

LHSAA athletes participating on an in-season team cannot participate with another out of season team in the same sport! Example: A JV/Varsity baseball/softball player can not participate in travel ball or playground ball during the LHSAA season. They are allowed to participate in a sport that is not in season. Such as, participation in club volleyball during the LHSAA softball season.

Transportation

Athletes may travel to athletic contests as a team on the bus provided. Proper behavior is expected of all athletes when on bus trips. Please be aware that transportation is not always provided by PFTSTA.

Off Site Practices and Games

Because of our limited facilities, off site practices and games are a necessity. Transportation is an issue that must be organized and planned. PFTSTA cannot provide daily transportation for all activities. Parental assistance, coaches as drivers, or individual driving may be necessary. Parental permission is essential in response to any transportation issue outside of normal team transport – i.e., buses.

Early Dismissal

For many athletic events, students must be dismissed from school before the normal dismissal time. Early dismissal from classes for athletic reasons does not release student athletes from class work responsibilities. Each athlete must make arrangements to get assignments, to take missed quizzes or tests, or to hand in assignments. An athlete is not allowed to miss a class he/she has a D/F in.

Dress for Athletes

Because our student athletes are ambassadors of our school, each time they leave campus, it is expected that their appearance be appropriate. Additionally, athletes must be dressed in the appropriate school uniform on campus.

Injuries

Any time an athlete becomes injured during a practice or in a game setting, the head coach must be made aware. The athletic trainer should be advised of the injury by the coach. The trainer will recommend a prescribed course of action to be taken. A visit to a doctor will yield a determined return-to-play date. No athlete will be allowed to participate until that date is reached and a note of clearance is issued by the attending physician and received by the athletic trainer.

Athletic Awards

Varsity letters, sub-varsity certificates, and special awards will be given at the athletic banquet at the end of the school year or sports season.

Patches

The Athletic Department will purchase a team patch for State Championships Only. Individual patches for honors received will be ordered by the athletic department and purchased by the individual.

Lettering Policy

To earn an award, the contestant must meet the predetermined criteria and be recommended by the coach of the sport and approved by the principal and the director of athletics.

Patrick Taylor Academy athletes may purchase a letter jacket after successfully completing their third varsity season in a single varsity school sponsored sport. Or after TWO seasons in TWO separate sports. **For example, 3 years of varsity baseball would earn a jacket or 2 years of varsity swimming and 2 years of varsity softball.**

The head coach for each school-sponsored sport will provide a listing to the athletic director of all athletes who finish the current season in good standing.

Any student who quits or is dismissed from a sport will be ineligible to receive an award in that sport.

Standard Requirements for a Letter

All Sports

All coaches will observe the following standard requirements for awarding letters to students in a PFTSTA sport. These requirements are:

- a. Attend 90% of all practices unless attending practice or an event for another in season sport.
- b. Special Exceptions: An athlete or team who wins or places in a state competition.

Associated Items of Information

Steroids

The PFTSTA Athletic Department does not condone the use of prohibited substances such as steroids, nor support the use of other-over-the counter supplements which contain artificial or naturally occurring substances that increase heart rate, blood pressure, or promote unhealthy muscle tissue growth. Use of any of these products, which may be detrimental to one's health, is a violation of the Athlete's Pledge.

Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

School rules are very specific as to the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products. The use, possession, or distribution of any of these substances is forbidden. Any athlete who violates this policy is subject to possible dismissal from the team in addition to disciplinary consequences from the school. See JPPSS policy and procedures manual for more information.

Theft

Stealing from teammates, opponents, or others will not be tolerated. Any athlete involved in a theft will be dealt with in accordance with school policy. Personal items should not be left unattended or unsecured in locker rooms or hallways. If necessary, take personal items to practice with you.

Athletic Team Trips

Student athletes are representatives of PFTSTA and as such carry a great deal of responsibility when teams travel. Best behavior is mandatory. All school rules apply when teams travel, and violation of school and team rules carries disciplinary consequences. Athletes should be sure to familiarize themselves with the PFTSTA Student Handbook regarding rules and consequences. Students are responsible for all missed work.

Parent Expectations

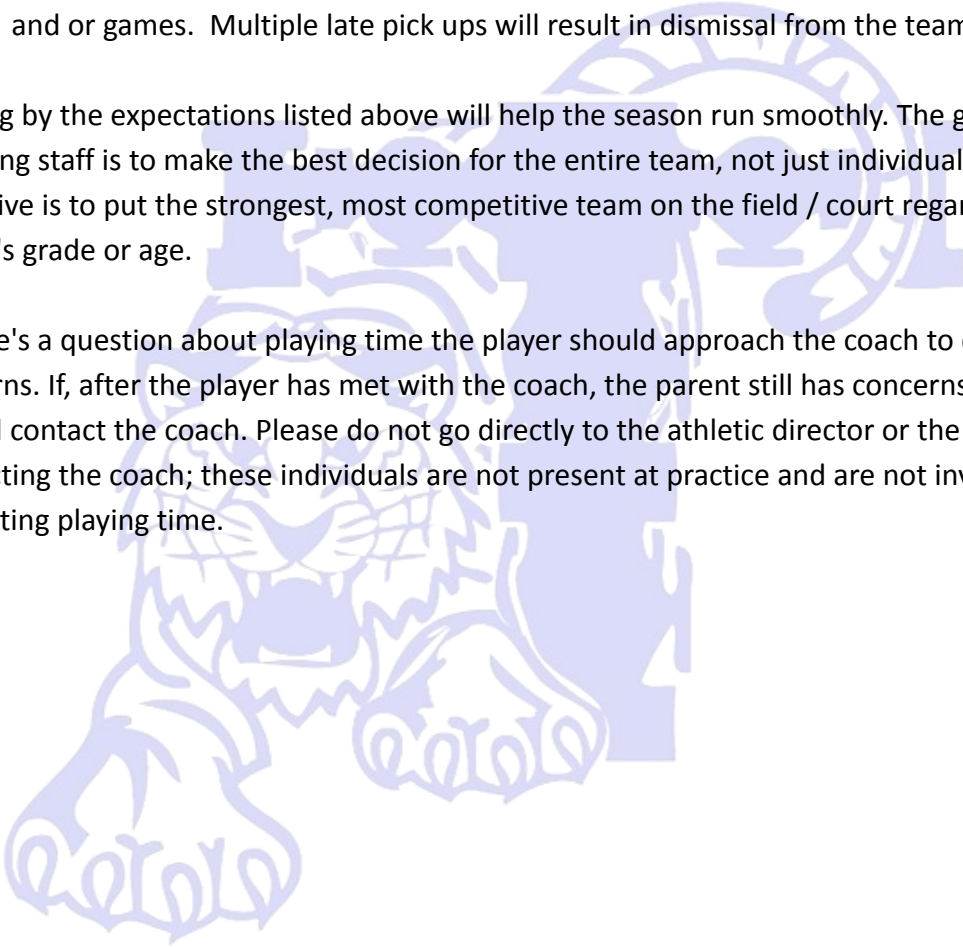
Patrick Taylor Academy is extremely grateful for the positive support of all parents. The athletic department asks that parents/ relatives / friends show positive support to the entire team. Below is a list of expectations set forth by the Patrick Taylor Academy Athletic Department.

1. Parents/ relatives / friends/ non-Patrick Taylor coaches are not to coach players during or prior to a practice or game/contest.
2. Players will be present when parents want to meet or communicate with coaches concerning playing time. Any contact initiated by the parent via any form of communication will be shared with the player as soon as it occurs. This allows for fairness and communication of all parties involved.

3. Any form of communication between the coaches and parents / relatives / friends of players regarding all other aspects of the player's life (e.g. academic, social, emotional, Etc.) is welcomed by the coaching staff and will remain confidential if necessary.
4. Practices are closed to those not directly associated with the team unless expressly permissible by the head coach.
5. Players are not allowed to socialize with parents, fans, relatives or friends during games. During the short period at the conclusion of games players must remain with the team and coaches until being dismissed.
6. Parents are expected to pick up their child immediately at the conclusion of all practices and or games. Multiple late pick ups will result in dismissal from the team.

Abiding by the expectations listed above will help the season run smoothly. The goal of the coaching staff is to make the best decision for the entire team, not just individuals. The main objective is to put the strongest, most competitive team on the field / court regardless of each player's grade or age.

If there's a question about playing time the player should approach the coach to discuss his concerns. If, after the player has met with the coach, the parent still has concerns then, he or she should contact the coach. Please do not go directly to the athletic director or the principal before contacting the coach; these individuals are not present at practice and are not involved with evaluating playing time.



Patrick F. Taylor Science and Technology Academy
Athletic Handbook Acknowledgement Agreement

I hereby acknowledge that I have read Patrick Taylor Athletic Handbook. I agree to comply with all of the policies and procedures within the handbook as well as any updates or changes to the policies and procedures contained in the handbook. I agree with the disciplines administered by Patrick Taylor Academy. I am aware that violation of any of the policies stated in the PFTSTA Athletic handbook could result in consequences from this program and/or school.

Athlete Signature / Date

Parent/Guardian Signature / Date

