

PROVIDENCE

STORM

STUDENT-ATHLETE AND PARENTS ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2008-2009 Edition

12- "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts: and though all of its parts are many, they form one body. 19-20 If they were all one part where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts but one body.

I Corinthians 12:12, 19-20

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I. Michigan High School Athletic Association Code For Athletes

(pp 11, 2001/2002 MHSAA Handbook)

1. Know and adhere to the athletic code of the school
2. Exceed all attendance and academic requirements as practical evidence of loyalty to school and team and a proper philosophy of school-sponsored athletics.
3. Observe completely all policies regarding conduct, doing so as a duty to school, team and self.
4. Counsel with the athletic director over questions of eligibility.
5. Practice and play fairly, giving complete effort in all circumstances and credit in victory to teammates and to opponents in defeat.
6. Accept favorable and unfavorable decisions, as well as victory and defeat, with equal grace.
7. Demonstrate respect for opponents and of officials before, during and after contests.

“Participation in extracurricular competitive interscholastic athletics is a student’s privilege, not a right, that can be removed at any time for failure to meet the standards and requirements of particular teams, school or school districts, leagues or conferences, and regional, statewide or national organizations to which the student’s school belongs.”

II. PURPOSE OF ATHLETICS

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” I Corinthians 10:31

The athletic program at Providence Christian High School must be geared to the educational philosophy of the school. The purpose of education, according to the Scriptures, is that the chief part of knowledge is the fear of the Lord, and the aim of education is the glory of God. The full and fruitful use of all of our capacities is our duty toward God. The strengthening of the body is an important part of caring for the temple of the Holy Spirit. In this light we see sports in general as beneficial to the Christian life and conduct. In its’ proper context, athletics is a learning center for the maturation process. Along with health fitness and motor proficiency, sports teach citizenship, respect for authority, self-discipline, leadership skills, a good work ethic, the pursuit of excellence and how to deal with success and failure.

Athletics provide an excellent opportunity for the individuals involved to practice Christian conduct. This should be taught to them by their Christian coaches and parents. Competition in every aspect of life is a powerful and good force to bring out the best, individually and also in group activity. A competitive, interscholastic program affords splendid opportunity for Christian witness by our coaches and our teams.

Competitive athletics contributes to maturity. The participant must discipline himself/herself. He/she must train. He/she must work under a given set of rules laid down by the administration and the coach. He/she will learn how to win humbly and lose graciously. Athletics can satisfy the individual’s need to be recognized, to accomplish and to excel.

We will develop skill, speed, strength, endurance, and health as well as win games and trophies. We believe athletics can develop intellectual abilities through the knowledge involved in the strategy and the counter-strategy of team games, and can coordinate these mental skills into immediate neuromuscular action.

At the high school level an interscholastic athletic program provides opportunities for students to participate at a high level of play. The most qualified student-athletes are selected in order to field highly competitive sports teams. Student-athletes are required to demonstrate a willingness to sacrifice and manage their time, give an intense effort, and to place the team above their own self-interest.

III. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

If you desire to participate and to represent Providence in co-curricular activities, you must meet basic academic, Christian citizenship, and (in the case of athletics) athletic training standards.

Eligibility standards apply to all students who represent Providence Christian in co-curricular activities. The following are given as examples and may not include all activities.

Athletics	Non-athletic Activities
Team Members	Members of plays or musicals
Statisticians	Class Officers
Managers	STUCO

A. Academic: “A student shall meet satisfactory achievement standards in curricular activities.”

1. Athletes must maintain a passing grade for each quarter. Teachers, on weekly basis, will report any students failing a class. Those students will be ineligible the next week.
2. Any athlete who fails one class will be ineligible for a minimum of 4 and ½ weeks. At the end of that time they must be passing or they will continue to be ineligible.
3. Any athlete failing two or more classes is ineligible for the next quarter.
4. A student may not perform or participate in practice or competition if he/she is not in class during the three (3) periods preceding the practice or event on the same day of the practice or event. Exceptions will be made for approved appointments.
5. A student may be declared ineligible if the student’s attendance pattern indicates that co-curricular activities are keeping the student from regular class attendance or from satisfactory academic achievement.
6. If a student becomes academically ineligible and the student’s teachers and administrators are convinced that the student is working up to her/his ability, the student may be declared eligible by the principal. This decision will be based on performance in relation to ability and general attitude toward learning. (In the case of athletics, the student must meet the MHSAA eligibility criteria.)
7. Self Disclosure and Other Special Circumstances:
 - a. A reduction in consequences will be considered in the following circumstances:
 - a. If it can be determined without question that a student was in the presence of but did not use illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco.
 - b. If an athlete or participant in extra-curricular activities who, by him/herself or together with his/her parent or guardian voluntarily discloses his/her violation of the athletic policies of the school to either a coach, the athletic director, or principal, prior to reports, charges or complaints from other sources, subject to the following conditions:

NOTE: These provisions apply only once and only apply to an athlete’s or participant’s first offense.
NOTE: in either of these cases (a. or b.), the status of the violation remains the same and counts as an offense of the PCHS athletic/extra-curricular policies.

B. Christian Citizenship “A student shall uphold Christian ideals.”

1. Students representing our school are expected to present a personal appearance and display character and behavior that is consistent with the standards of Providence Christian High School.
2. A student involved in non-athletic co-curricular activities will be ineligible for three (3) weeks if he/she possesses or uses alcohol or drug
3. A student-athlete must be committed to maintaining excellent physical health.
 - a) The possession, use or distribution of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs is inconsistent with this commitment and is a violation of eligibility rules. This is a year-round commitment.
 - b) The first time a student-athlete violates this eligibility rule, he/she will be ineligible for one quarter (or the next whole number) of the contests scheduled for the first sport in which the athlete participates. If at the end of the season, the penalty will be served at the beginning of the next sport season the athlete participates in. A second offense will result in one half of a season. A third offense in an athlete’s time at Providence will result in a one year suspension of the athlete. (Note: these are just the athletic consequences. There may be additional school consequences/discipline)
 - c) Physical exams are required of all student-athletes at Providence before they may participate in sports. You may use the MHSAA physical exam card, which are available in the school office, or a card provided by your doctor. You must present the complete card to your coach, the school office, or the athletic director, prior to pre-season practice.
4. If two or more teachers report a serious attitude problem on the part of the athlete, the athlete will be ineligible for the next game.
5. Serious incidents in bad sportsmanship will result in ineligibility for the following game. Any athlete removed from a game by an official will not be allowed to participate in the following game (following MHSAA rules). The same applies for the coaching staff.
6. Whether students are in the classroom or on the playing field, the athletic director and the principal of Providence hold the right to enforce ineligibility for behavioral reasons.
7. Students who are parents or male and female students involved in a premarital pregnancy are ineligible to participate in any extra-curricular activities during the term of the pregnancy plus two months. In all cases the ineligibility shall be eight months.
8. A student who conducts himself/herself in a manner that discredits himself/herself, others, or the school may be declared ineligible. Examples include but are not limited to: negative attitude toward school (staff or students), theft, vandalism, swearing, poor sportsmanship, violation of civil and/or criminal law, school smoking violations, truancies, etc.
9. Some general rules regarding eligibility:
 - a. A suspended student may not participate in any co-curricular activity (practice or contest) during the time of his/her suspension.
 - b. An ineligible student may try out and practice with a co-curricular group, and be a member of the group, but may not participate in a contest or performance.
 - c. After the ineligible period has been completed, an ineligible student will meet with the principal or athletic director to be declared eligible.

IV. GENERAL ATHLETIC POLICIES

A. Attendance at practices

Attendance at practices is mandatory. Exceptions are made under certain circumstances (see below).

Family vacations are not considered an exception. Athletes must commit themselves to faithfully attend all practices and games and should plan other activities around them during the season. Students must also work diligently to avoid academic and athletic conflicts. This means studying for tests and doing homework and projects ahead of time. Student/athletes should plan ahead when they know a big test or project is due the day after a game. Procrastination in the academic area will be treated the same as any other unexcused absence. Penalties for tardiness to practice are 1 lap for every minute late. If a student is late due to meeting with a teacher, he/she must bring a pass from that teacher to be excused.

Excused absence: wedding, funeral, sick, in the hospital, and 1 Drs. Visit per season.

Unexcused absence: the penalty is to sit out one game for every unexcused absence. The player must still attend the game.

Missing a game is considered the same as missing a practice, it is a team event. It is unacceptable to miss a game unless it is because of one of the above excused absences.

B. Uniforms

Students are responsible for maintenance and cleanliness of uniforms during the season. Uniforms are not to be worn at any time outside of a contest. Lost uniforms or athletic equipment will result in financial reimbursement at the replacement cost .

C. Guidelines for Appearance for Athletes

Athletes representing PCHS should take extra care in their dress on the day of a contest. Students are expected to wear their uniforms to an event in which games are played outside. Game day attire for sports activities which occur in the gym will be established and enforced by the coach upon approval of the athletic director. The minimum standards for students for home and away contests include dress pants/dresses, sweaters, collared shirts, dress shirts, but no jeans, shorts or t-shirts. School dress code policy applies to the dress clothes (e.g. no midriff showing, no spaghetti straps etc.). Students are encouraged to dress up in school the day of the contest as well. The enforcement of game day attire guidelines will be carried out by the coach.

D. Facilities

- Athletes should realize it is a joint effort for the Providence family to keep our facilities and equipment clean and maintained.
- Gym use is not allowed on Sundays.

E. Guidelines For Team Selection And Playing Time

It is the responsibility of each coach to set and communicate criteria for selection of players for their teams. Such criteria may include the following:

Christ-like attitudes

Team relationships and chemistry

Sportsmanship

Coachability

Fundamental skills

Previous experience

Knowledge of the game

Statistics from past seasons

Height and weight

Physical fitness level

Enthusiasm and willingness to work hard

Dedication and responsibility to the team

Academic progress

Year in school

- Coaches have the freedom to add criteria that would be helpful in choosing players for their team. These criteria will be communicated to those trying out for the team. It is the responsibility of athletes and parents to respect and support the final selection and playing times of the team members. The selection of a team is emotional and difficult for all involved. The coaches spend a great amount of time observing, evaluating and prayerfully selecting their teams. Athletes should do their very best and accept the decisions of the coach.
- Playing time at the high school level is the decision of the coaching staff. The athletic director does not get involved in this decision. The athlete must earn the right to play. It is extremely important for the athlete and the parents to support the coaching staff

E. Parental Notification and Appeals

When a student is involved in a discipline situation that may have consequences related to the sport he/she is involved in, parents will be notified at the earliest practicable time in the discipline process. Students wishing to appeal the decision of the school administration can be made to the school board.

V. COMMUNICATION

The athlete is expected to strive for effective communication with his/her coach and all team members. One of the ways the athlete does communicate his/her commitment and dedication to the team and its goals is by such things as faithfully attending practice, giving full effort in practice and in competition, maintaining top physical condition, eating properly, getting sufficient rest, and observing other good habits. The athlete can also communicate in a negative way with expressions of hostility, resentment, jealousy, and with harassment of other players, but this kind of communication is unacceptable. If conflict with the coach or another team member arises, the first responsibility of the athlete is to seek to resolve the conflict by speaking as soon as possible with the coach or team member.

The parents also contribute to the teaching-learning process by their communication. They do so by encouraging the loyalty and dedication of their athlete to his/her team and by encouraging positive and constructive conversation at home concerning their child's participation. They do this also by attending contests in which their children participate when practicable. Finally, parents especially contribute to the teaching-learning process by praying with their athlete about the team and for the coach for whom they play.

A. Parent/Athlete Concerns

Like relationships with teachers, parents should feel free to have open, constructive discussions with the coach on issues relating to their child. Parents should expect that the coach will respond with honesty, respect, and a sense of mutual concern for their child. Examples of appropriate issues which may be discussed include the physical or mental treatment of the child, concerns regarding student behavior, or a discussion of ways to help the child improve. Examples of inappropriate issues for parents to discuss with a coach include the child's playing time, coaching strategy, play calling or other student-athletes.

Parents should never discuss anything with a coach in the "heat of the moment" and must wait until rational discussions can be held between the parties. It is suggested that parents wait at least 24 hours

before contacting a coach on an issue. In addition, parents should use discretion and restraint when determining whether to bring a concern forward to a coach. Parents should review and or use the PCHS Staff Concern Report in the high school handbook when conflict arises or persists. If either party wishes, the athletic director may be contacted to assist in a meeting to discuss an issue. All meetings held between a coach and parents with or without the athletic director will be kept in strict confidentiality.

B. Chain of Command

Conflict is inevitable when running an athletic program. There will be differences in opinion. How these differences are handled is very important. Often conflict can cause serious problems with team morale when not handled in the proper manner. We at Providence believe in a “chain of command” when dealing with conflict.

Proper communication with coaches is vital in maintaining a positive atmosphere on our sports teams. Problems and concerns should be handled in keeping with Christ’s teaching in Matthew 18

Step One: Athlete/Parent must first meet with the coach.

Step Two: If the conflict can not be settled with the coach to the parent/student’s satisfaction, the parent/student should then seek resolution with the athletic director.

Step Three: If the conflict cannot be resolved with the athletic director, the next step is to meet with the principal.

Step Four: If the conflict still cannot be resolved, a meeting with the Education Committee will be held.

Step Five: If the conflict still cannot be resolved, a meeting with the Board of Directors will be held.

V. PHYSICAL EXAM

Physical exams are required of all student-athletes at Providence before they may participate in sports. In order to participate, the athletes must have “. . . a physician’s statement for the current school year certifying that the student has passed an adequate physical examination and that, in the opinion of the examining physician, the student is fully able to compete in athletic contests.” Michigan High School Athletic Association Handbook, p. 30. (Note: A physician’s statement for the current school year is interpreted as any physical examination given after April 15 of the previous school year.)

A physical must be obtained by the student. Providence will make every attempt to offer free or reduced price physicals. Students should feel free to visit your own family doctor because he/she knows you best.

The physical exam cards may be picked up in the school office, or their doctor will have his own card. Either is acceptable. You must present this card to your coach, the school office, or the athletic director, prior to pre-season practice.

VI. INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ACCIDENT INJURIES

1. The student’s family health insurance is primary. All student-athletes should have some form of insurance.
2. You must present the card to your coach, the school office, or the athletic director, prior to pre-season practice. The parents (not the school or its coaches) determine the medical attention (choice of hospitals, doctors, treatment, etc.) given a student-athlete.

VII. ATHLETIC FEE

A \$25.00 fee will be charged for each sport played by a Providence student. The money received will reduce the cost involved in running the athletic program.

VIII. TRANSPORTATION

- A. All athletes are expected to ride together as a team to and from all games. All athletes who choose to ride home separately with their parents must have prior permission from the head coach. The request must be in writing.
- B. Parents of athletes are expected to take their turn driving for away games and scrimmages. Coaches should communicate to the athletes and their parents the need for everyone to take a turn, although we realize it may not be possible for everyone.
- C. Student athletes are not permitted to drive to away games. Students may drive to off-campus practices, but are not allowed to transport other students.

IX. PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

Providence Christian Athletic Boosters are all the supporters of Providence Christian athletics. You can be a Booster by attending events, working at car washes or in the concession stand, or by supporting any of the other activities sponsored by the Athletic Booster Board. The Boosters must raise approximately \$5,000 each year to meet some of the costs of athletics that are not met by gate receipts. Monies are used for uniforms, equipment, field maintenance and updating.

The Boosters want to thank you in advance for your support.

X. SPORTSMANSHIP EXPECTATIONS

Adopted from MSHAA sportsmanship guidelines:

ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR...

- Applause during introduction of players, coaches and officials.
- Shaking hands with an opponent who fouls out while both sets of fans recognize the performance with applause.
- Accept all decisions of officials.
- Cheerleaders lead fans in positive yells in positive manner.
- Handshakes between participants and coaches and end of contest, regardless of outcome.
- Treat competition as a game, not a war.
- Coaches/players search out opposing participants to recognize them for outstanding performance or coaching.
- Applause at end of contest for performances of all participants.
- Everyone showing concern for an injured player, regardless of team.
- Encourage surrounding people to display only sportsmanlike conduct.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR...

- Taunting, trash talk and other intimidating actions.
- Not admonishing those sitting around you who engage in practice of poor sportsmanship
- Yelling or waving arms during opponent's free throw attempt.
- Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs or gestures.
- Booing or heckling an official's decision.
- Criticizing officials in any way; displays of temper with an official's call.
- Yells that antagonize opponents.
- Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good performances.
- Blaming loss of game on officials, coaches or participants.
- Laughing or name-calling to distract an opponent.
- * Use of profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game.
- Doing own yells instead of following lead of cheerleaders.
- Wearing extreme/unusual clothing or excessive face or body painting which detracts from the action on the playing surface.

A. Student-Athlete must:

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility to your team, and the privilege of representing your school and community.
- Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow students and elementary students. This will assist both them and you in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or friend. Who better than yourselves can understand all the hard work and team effort that is required of your sport?
- Refrain from taunting, trashing talking or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature. Refrain from intimidating **behavior**.
- Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner that you would like to be greeted following either victory or defeat.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote you and your sport. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of the officials and all people at the event.
- Win with humility; lose with grace. Do both with dignity. Avoid excessive celebrating after a play or end of a game.

B. Other Student Groups (Pep clubs, Band, Etc.) must:

- Establish themselves as leaders in their conduct before, during and after contests and events. Always provide positive support for your team, rather than intimidating or ridiculing the other team.
- Assist cheerleaders with yells, chants, etc., and be a working part of pep assemblies, with preparation, organization, and involvement.
- Treat opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups with respect and enthusiasm.
- Refrain from taunting or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature.
- Conduct themselves in an exemplary manner. Remember, you represent your school both home and away.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of your group, your team and community, in the eyes of all people at the event.
- Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including content of cheers and signs.

C. Spectators must:

- Remember that you are at a contest to support and yell for your team and to enjoy the skill and competition; not to intimidate or ridicule the other team and its fans.
- Remember that school athletics are learning experiences for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
- Remember that a ticket to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others and be generally obnoxious.
- Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups. Treat them as you would treat a guest in your own home.
- Refrain from taunting or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete, and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before and during games, and afterwards or near the site of the event (i.e. tailgating).
- Use only those cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
- Recognize and compliment the efforts of school and league administrators for their efforts in emphasizing the benefits of educational athletics and the role of good sportsmanship to that end.
- Be a positive behavior role model through your own actions and by censuring those around you at events whose behavior is unbecoming.

D. Parents must:

Parents play a very special role in supporting the student-athlete and the coach in helping the athletes and teams do their best.

- Parents are to be supportive of their student-athlete. Your student-athlete will have good and bad practices and games. He/she will need your support and understanding to recognize this, to grow, and to develop. Parents are also to be supportive of other players on the team and of the coach.
- The time may come when there is a concern or conflict between your student-athlete and the coach. First, encourage your student-athlete to seek out and to talk with the coach. Then if the concern or conflict is not resolved, you, the parent, should contact the coach to discuss the situation. The coach always wants to do what's best for your student-athlete and the team, and will value your input. Remember, the coach may also have additional input for you as a parent from the practices and other contacts the coach has with your student-athlete. This discussion should be beneficial to both the parents and the coach as both have the welfare of the student-athlete and the team in mind. Please refrain from approaching a coach following a game, match, or meet. Call and set a time to meet with the coach personally. Also, our Athletic Director is always available to discuss your concerns and suggest the best ways to handle them.
- Behavior at athletic contests are observed by students, coaches, and parents from other schools, as well as our own. Therefore, the behavior of our fans should always be supporting and encouraging the players and the team. It's great to cheer for a team and players; however, do not yell at specific players of either team, the officials, or the coaches. Our coaches teach our players proper sportsmanship; this is difficult to do if parent role models are not appropriate.

- The following letters are distributed by many high schools and reflects the athletic perspective of the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

A Letter to my Parents...

Dear Mom and Dad,

Thank you for spending so much of your time, love, and money in your efforts to make a caring, responsible adult out of me. I really appreciate that. You have taught me so many things - love, responsibility, kindness, respect for others' opinions, beliefs, properly, and feelings. You have taught me the value of good manners. And all through this, you have been excellent role models - almost.

Why don't the rules seem to apply when you come to watch me play sports? The same people who taught me all these wonderful things yell at the team for making mistakes, and worse yet, yell out the names or the numbers of the people who made them. They scream at the refs, pound on the bench, shriek at the coach, and crush me with remarks like, "Get your head in the game!"

My head is in the game folks. I want to win more than you want me to. I want you to be proud of me and I want to be proud of you. Why can't you encourage me with remarks like, "That's okay! Good try! You'll get 'em next time!"

Better yet, why don't you say nothing at all? Why don't you sit quietly and clap and cheer when the team does something right? Why do you feel you must cup your hands and screech out orders so loudly that we can't even hear what the coach has to say? Even when you yell praises, you bark them out so loudly it's embarrassing. Do you realize that the other parents don't even want to sit near you? You are not only an embarrassment to me, but to our team, our school and our fans.

Please remember, you are part of a cheering section not a jeering section.

*Love always,
Your Child*

Letter From One Parent To Another

You may not know me, but I am the person that sits next to you every week at the game. I come out each week for a variety of reasons. I love to watch my youngster play sports, I like to support the local team and it is nice to see friends and alumni. It is also a chance to get away from professional and collegiate sports where money, backstabbing and whining adults seem to permeate every nook and cranny. That is my it bugs me so much when the smell of fresh cut grass, popcorn and hot chocolate, that should fill the air at stadiums and gymnasiums, is ruined by some of the things I hear next to me.

Why do you feel compelled to tell the coaches how to coach and the players how to play? Is it a lack of education or just laziness that causes you to yell out obscenities in the middle of a crowd filled with young people instead of using, say maybe, the English language? And for those of you who think your son or daughter is the most important player on the team, and should play every minute of every game, guess what? So does every other parent and grandparent in the stands.

It is very easy to get “into” the game and become vocal. In fact, the team loves it when they hear cheering and loud noises from the stands. But during the game and especially after the game, tell members of the team they did a good job. Encourage them whether they scored the winning points or stumbled and fell. Let the coaching staff know you appreciate the countless hours of preparation and emotion they spend on your child.

All I ask for is a little popcorn and a few hours of civility. I promise not to take up more than 18 inches of seating (well, maybe 24) and I will pick up my trash when I leave. In an era of madness, I have found an oasis. It is a place for many of us to forget the week and enjoy the last pure thing in sports, high school athletics.

A Letter From An Official To Parents

This is something that I wanted to do for a long time. I want to talk to the guy that is up in the stands and as usual is yelling at the officials.

Sir, I want to make a statement about the noise you make. At every game you do your best to spoil it for everyone. When you are not at a basketball game, you are a perfect gentleman. Today it is appropriate to tell you what most athletic directors and coaches would like to tell you. Before we start, it might be better to share a story that happened to me recently.

The time was last year at a tournament in Grand Rapids. One of the teams involved was called the Spartans, which had an outstanding player who was quite a treat to officiate and watch play. The game itself was not too exciting. The Spartans were winning easily and tension was low. This was my fourth game in less than 24 hours, my knees were hurting and I just wanted to finish the game.

As the game progressed, a voice from the stands could be heard. This person was making one comment after another. The targets of course were the officials. I was really focused on the game and it didn't bother me. He presented nothing new so I made moving the game along a priority and tried to ignore it.

Later in the game I called a routine foul and the girls lined up for the shot. As they did so a voice came from the stands with another criticism. Again I ignored the voice. The girls on both teams made comments about who that was up in the stands. You see, he was spoiling the game for everyone.

One girl looked up and said to no one in particular, “That’s my dad, I wish he would just go home.” Her eye caught mine for just a brief second. She dropped her head quickly and her hands went to both knees. The hurt in her eyes told the story.

I don't know what you're thinking or what you are trying to achieve, but all it does is distract the players. You are an embarrassment to your school and your basketball team. The hurt you cause to your son or daughter cannot be measured. I am speaking to you for their sake. Relax, enjoy the game, cheer wildly for your team. If you want to make a criticism, do so quickly and then let it drop. The players want to play and not listen to you the entire game. The game belongs to them. This is their time. Let them play.

XI. ATHLETIC AWARDS

A. Senior Athlete of the Year

The senior athlete of the year will be chosen according to the following criteria:

1. One male and one female will be selected.
2. The senior must have completed four semesters as a Providence student.
3. The senior must have exhibited exemplary standards of conduct in both the classroom and on the field of competition.
4. The senior must have maintained a quality academic record (a "C" or better average).
5. The senior must have demonstrated leadership in contributing to the Providence athletic program.
6. Contribution to the athletic program in terms of ability.
7. The total number of seasons of participation on a Providence athletic team.
8. Overall physical condition during his/her career.
9. Dedication in maintaining:
 - * Team spirit and respect for teammates
 - * Practice schedules
 - * Proper attitude in accepting coaching instruction and a willingness to take and follow directions involving team and school policies
 - * Christian character on and off the playing field
 - * Christ-like model for younger athletes
 - * Participation in off-season programs

Selection Process for Senior Athlete of the Year Award

The following criteria will be used in the selection of the recipient of the senior athlete of the year (male and female to be chosen):

1. Nominations will be received by the Athletic Director from all varsity coaches.
2. The nominations will be considered by a committee composed of the Principal, Guidance Counselor, Athletic Director, and three coaches selected by the Athletic Director.
3. Nominees will be judged by the committee to fit the above listed criteria and voted on by the committee.
4. The athlete with the majority vote will be awarded the selection.

B. Senior Scholar Athlete Award

The senior scholar athlete-of-the-year will be chosen according to the following criteria:

1. One male and one female will be selected.
2. The senior must have completed four semesters as a Providence student.
3. 40% based on athletic achievement over the four years at Providence.
4. 40% based on academics (GPA).
5. 20% based on moral character and school involvement.

**PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL
5479 W. 72nd
FREMONT, MI 49412**

STUDENT-ATHLETE AND PARENT COMMITMENTS

STUDENT-ATHLETE

“I have read and understand the ‘Expectations of Student-Athletes.’
I accept and am committed to meeting these expectations and to being
a fine representative of Providence.”

Date

Signature of Student-Athlete

PARENT/GUARDIAN

“I have read and understand Providence’s Athletic Handbook for
Student Athletes and Parents.”

I am committed to helping my son/daughter meet the ‘Expectations of
Student-Athletes,’ supporting the coaches, and meeting ‘Expectations
of Parents.’”

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Ten Non-Negotiable Pillars For Providence Christian Storm Athletics

**All members of the Providence Christian High School Athletic Program
will be committed to upholding the following pillars
for athletic success:**

1. Honor Jesus Christ in all things.... the most important measure of our success.
2. Christian character defines who we are.... God-honoring behavior, good sportsmanship, and avoiding drugs, alcohol, and tobacco are required.
3. Good grades and conduct lead the way.... successful athletes must be successful students.
4. “We” before “me”.... what is best for the team always comes first.
5. We will run the race to win....competing at the highest possible level is the goal.
6. We are in this together.... student athletes, coaches, and parents all on the same page.
7. Commitments are paramount....showing up and honoring your word is the norm.
8. We will grow and improve in and out of season....getting better demands hard work.
9. Supporting other players and teams is expected....we all share Storm pride.
10. Positive attitudes will influence outcomes....passion, enthusiasm, and energy will drive us.

