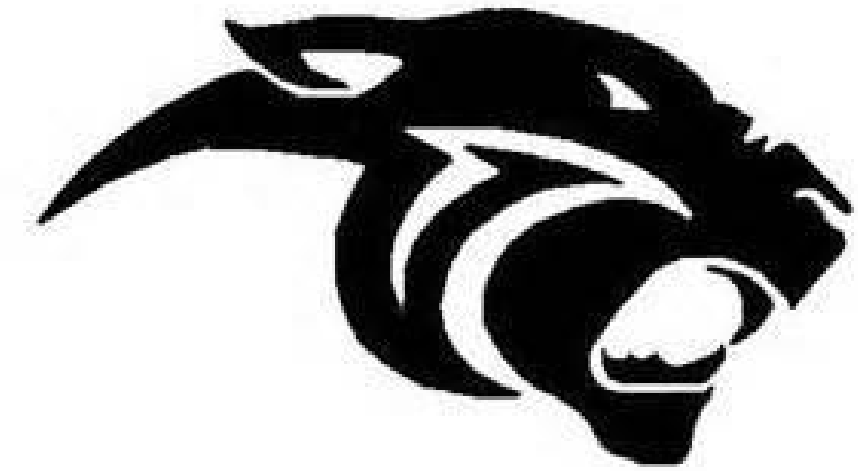
PEACHTREE ACADEMY PRIVATE SCHOOL

PARENT/STUDENT

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2025-26



Peachtree Academy's Mission Statement:

Peachtree Academy is a non-denominational, college preparatory private school that provides a rigorous, well-balanced, and enriching educational experience. Our challenging curriculum incorporates innovative strategies in combination with a traditional repertoire delivered by an expert staff committed to the highest standards of academic scholarship that will inspire all students to reach their highest God-given potential.

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1. Introduction

The Parent/Student Athletic Handbook exists in order that athletes and their parents may better understand their responsibilities and rights when an athlete participates in the Peachtree Academy Private School athletic program. It shall be understood that the Parent Handbook of Peachtree Academy Private School is applicable to all students, including student athletes, and shall have precedence over the Parent/Student Athletic Handbook should any question arise regarding interpretation of rules.

2. Mission Statement

Peachtree Academy is a non-denominational, college preparatory private school that provides a rigorous, well-balanced, and enriching educational experience. Our challenging curriculum incorporates innovative strategies in combination with a traditional repertoire delivered by an expert staff committed to the highest standards of academic scholarship that inspire all students to reach their highest God-given potential.

3. Philosophy

Extra-curricular activities are an important part of the American education system and have great potential to contribute to the sound growth development of the students. The standards and ideals established and practiced will influence greatly the student, the school, and the community; therefore, only the best traditions of good citizenship and conduct will be fostered. The program of activities should conform to and be closely and wholly integrated with administrative policies of the school to the end that there shall be no undue interruptions or interference with the established rules and principles. The welfare of the student takes precedence over any other interest. All athletic activities should be school controlled and school directed. The athletic departments should be a close-knit organization, and all sports should be considered in their right perspective with each other and with the rest of the school program.

4. Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of our athletic activities is threefold:

- To promote Godly character development.
- To provide rigorous exercise of the body.
- To encourage healthy competition and school spirit.

The objective of our sports program is to provide gender and age appropriate activities while giving students the opportunity to learn the fundamentals, develop skills, understand the rules, compete proficiently, and exemplify Christ-like sportsmanship. The school administration expects its athletes to be positive leaders both academically and spiritually. Our student-athletes are expected to behave in a Christ-like manner both on and off the school's campus.

5. General Statement

Peachtree Academy Private School is committed to developing and maintaining a Christ-centered and competitive athletic program. High School and Middle School interscholastic athletes will be governed by rules established by our school's affiliation with the Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools (GAPPS).

6. Sport Season / Calendar

Each season, the athletic conference of participation provides dates indicating the start and end of the sport season. The calendar representing each sport can be found below. Tryout dates and preseason conditioning are not indicated. Your team's head coach will supply you with this information at team meetings.

Sport	Season	Conference	Begins	Ends
Middle School & High School Cross Country	Fall	GAPPS-Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools	July 31	Oct. 26
Middle School and High School 8-man Football	Fall	GAPPS-Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools	July 31	Nov. 15
Middle School Volleyball	Fall	GAPPS-Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools	July 31	Oct. 5
JV Volleyball	Fall	GAPPS-Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools	July 31	Oct. 19
Varsity Volleyball	Fall	GAPPS-Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools	July 31	Oct. 19
Clay Target	Fall	GAPPS-Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools	July 31	Dec. 6-7
Middle School Basketball	Winter	GAPPS-Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools	Oct. 7	Feb. 1
JV Basketball	Winter	GAPPS-Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools	Oct. 7	Feb. 22
Varsity Basketball	Winter	GAPPS-Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools	Oct. 7	Feb. 22
Archery	Winter	GAPPS-Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools	Oct. 7	Feb. 22

Varsity Girls Swimming	Winter	GAPPS-Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools	Oct. 7	Jan. 25
Varsity Bass Fishing	Winter	GAPPS-Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools	July 31	March 24
Middle School Baseball	Spring	GAPPS-Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools	Jan. 15	April 25
Varsity Baseball	Spring	GAPPS-Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools	Jan. 15	May 8-9
High School Softball	Spring	GAPPS-Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools	Jan. 15	April 25
Middle School Soccer Boys and Gils	Spring	GAPPS-Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools	Jan. 15	April 21
Varsity Soccer Boys and Girls	Spring	GAPPS-Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools	Jan. 15	May 1-2
Middle School Tennis	Spring	GAPPS-Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools	Jan 15	April 17
High School Tennis	Spring	GAPPS-Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools	Jan. 15	April 28
High School Track and Field Boys and Girls	Spring	GAPPS-Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools	Jan. 15	April 17-18
High School Golf	Spring	GAPPS-Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools	Jan. 15	May 4

7. Pursuing Victory with Honor

Our athletes represent Christ, their parents, and their school in an extracurricular setting, and are thus held to a high code of conduct. It is a privilege to participate in athletics at Peachtree Academy Private School. This privilege comes with a great deal of responsibility. We expect every student-athlete to demonstrate respect, kindness, responsibility, and self-control at all times at all school-related programs, activities, and events both on-and off-campus.

8. League Fines

If any student athlete or a family member's conduct or behavior results in Peachtree Academy Private School being fined, that player and his/her family will be responsible to pay the fine.

9. Eligibility

Peachtree Academy Private School meets or exceeds the GICAA requirements for athletic participation. A student must have a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative grade point average for the current semester with no more than one failing grade. Student-athletes will be placed on probation until their GPA is 2.0 or greater.

If a student misses more than a half-day of school on the day of a game, they may not be eligible to participate in the school sponsored event scheduled for that day. If a student-athlete has been placed in school suspension or suspended from school, they are not eligible to participate in any school sponsored activities for those days. We encourage parents to use Renweb on a regular basis so that they can monitor their student-athletes academic success.

10. Out of Class Participation

Out of class participation refers to grade level sports. Generally, student-athletes must meet the grade specifications set by the organization of participation. In some cases, underclass student athletes are permitted to participate in programs designed for higher grade levels. In rare circumstances, older or upper-class student-athletes may be permitted to participate in programs designed for lower grade levels. The Athletic Director may be petitioned for consent to allow either of these actions to be permitted. The host conference will have the final decision in these matters.

11. Multi-Sport Athletes

Many of our student-athletes participate in multiple sports during the school year. When one sport season overlaps a second, it is important that the student-athlete completes his/her obligation to the current team/sport before advancing into the next season.

12. Home-Schooled Students

Students who are Home-Schooled are eligible to participate in several sports offered at Peachtree Academy Private School. The Home-Schooled student must be approved by the Athletic Director and the GAPPS Board. The Home-Schooled student will be required to pay the sports fees and have the same grade eligibility as Peachtree Academy Private School student-athletes.

13. Sport Physicals

A Student may not participate in any camps, practices, or games until they have been medically cleared. Peachtree Academy Private School seeks to provide all students who want to participate in athletic-type events the safest conditions of participation. Every student seeking to participate in these events will therefore be required to submit to a physical examination by a licensed medical doctor. Such an exam will be at the expense of the parents. The completed sports physical must be turned into the team's head coach or the Athletic Director before participation. The sports physical is valid for one calendar year. The form can be printed from the Peachtree Academy website under the Athletic tab.

14. Athletic Participation Release

A student may not participate in any camps, practice, or games until an Athletic Participation Release Form has been completed by a parent or guardian. This form must be turned in to the team's head coach or the Athletic Director before participation. The Athletic Participation Release Form is valid for all sports played during a school year. The form can be printed from the Peachtree Academy website under the Athletic tab.

15. Report of Injury

It is the responsibility of each student and/or parent to notify the head coach of any injury that occurs during participation in an athletic event. On occasion, an injury may not appear to require medical attention until after the student-athlete leaves the event. In those cases, it is important that the head coach or Athletic Director is notified as soon as possible. Some injuries may require a clearance from a medical doctor before the athlete may return to practices or full participation.

16. Tryouts

Tryouts are a necessary component to the success of any team. In order to put the most competitive teams on the field, teams may have a designated tryout period. The team's head coach will determine the period of time necessary to accomplish this goal. Student-athletes will be required to meet all eligibility requirements before attending the tryout process. Student-athletes will be selected based on several criteria including but not limited to; physical condition, talent, attitude, dedication, and coach-ability.

17. Invitation to Participate

Upon completion of the tryout period, student-athletes who meet the expectations necessary to be awarded a place on the team will receive an invitation to participate. Student-athletes who accept the invitation are placed on the team's roster. Once placed on the roster, the student-athlete is expected to be an active member for the entire length of the season. Student-athletes who quit a team will be reviewed by the Athletic Director to determine eligibility in other sports and seasons. The student-athlete is still responsible for payment for that sport.

18. Athletic Fees

Athletic fees are essential for the day-to-day operation of the Athletic Department. Every effort is made to keep these fees minimal. Each sport requires a fee specific to the needs of that sport. The fee amount is determined yearly by the Athletic Director**. Some sports may require additional charges as deemed necessary by the Athletic Director. This includes fundraising as needed. Parents will be supplied with information regarding additional charges prior to the season beginning.**

Once the student-athlete has been placed on a roster, the Athletic Director will submit the student's information to Student Accounts for collection. Once submitted, there are no refunds. Student Accounts will submit the amount of the fee to the student's account.

Athletic Fees					
Fall		**Winter**		**Spring**	
All Cheerleading	$350	MS Basketball	$175	All Baseball	$350
All Cross Country	$175	Varsity Basketball	$200	All Golf	$200
All Football	$450	Swimming	$300	All Soccer	$175
All Volleyball	$225	Bass Fishing	$175	All Softball	$250
Clay Target	$300	Archery	$200	MS Tennis	$175
				Varsity Tennis	$200
				Varsity Track and Field	$175

19. Game Entrance Fees/Gate Fees

Game entrance fees or "Gate Fees" are fees charged to enter athletic events. Peachtree Academy students are exempt from charge into any athletic event hosted at a Peachtree Academy venue. All others will be asked to pay the gate fee. **The fee is determined by the host conference.**

Season	Regular Season	Region Tournaments	State Tournaments
Fall (Except for Football)	Adults $5 Students $5	Adults $8 Students $5	Adults $8 Students $5
Middle School Football	Adults $8 Students $5	Adults $8 Students $5	N/A
Varsity Football	Adults $8 Students $5	N/A	Adults $10 Students $7
Winter Basketball	Adults $7 Students $5	Adults $8 Students $5	Adults $8 Students $5
Spring	Adults $5 Students $5	Adults $5 Students $5	Adults $8 Students $5

20. Athletic Awards – Varsity Letter

Underclass student-athletes who meet eligibility requirements throughout the season, and who adhere to the Pursuing Victory with Honor Code, will receive an award. The award will be presented at the end-of-season Athletic Sports Banquet hosted by Peachtree Academy Private School. The Varsity Letter is one of the highest honors the athletic department has to offer. Requirements for an athlete to be eligible to receive a letter are as follows:

1. Athletes must be participating on a Varsity team (or the highest High School Team offered in a particular sport) and be in 9^{th}-12^{th} grade.
2. Athletes must remain on the team until the season has ended (excluding injury).
3. Athletes must be devoted to attending practices and games.
4. Athletes must have represented the school in a Christ-like manner.
5. Be a senior, regardless of playing time, who displayed dedication, integrity, and commitment to the team.

21. Athletic Sports Banquet

Peachtree Academy Private School hosts an Athletic Sports Banquet at the conclusion of each sport season. The following dates have been reserved for the event.

Fall Sports -	TBA in the PA Gym in Covington
Winter Sports -	TBA in the PA Gym in Covington
Spring Sports -	TBA in the PA Gym in Covington

22. Equipment and Uniforms

All equipment and uniforms issued to the student-athlete are property of Peachtree Academy Private School and must be returned. Student-athletes are financially responsible for all school equipment furnished to them and may be required to pay for negligent, loss, or damage.

Please read and follow all washing and drying instructions in the uniforms. As a safeguard, you may choose to dry the uniforms on very low heat or just air dry. Players should only wear their uniforms in preparation of and participation in Peachtree Academy games.

23. Early Release

Because of travel, it sometimes is necessary for teams to leave school prior to normal dismissal times. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to make arrangements with teachers to make up any missed work.

24. Transportation

Team members are required to ride on Peachtree Academy Private School transportation to all events unless otherwise specified by the coach. Parents are required to pick up their student from an event when participating at a home venue. Peachtree Academy Private School will provide transportation to and from away venues.

25. Travel Attire

Student-athletes are expected to dress appropriately while traveling to and from athletic events. Each coach will determine appropriate dress for his or her team. Any changes from the "norm" must be pre-approved by the Athletic Director.

26. College-Bound Athletes/NCAA Eligibility

Those student-athletes who will eventually participate on the college level need to meet NCAA guidelines as they relate to recruiting and eligibility. A copy of the NCAA guide for the college bound student-athlete is available to the athlete online at www.ncaa.org. The NCAA eligibility center site is www.eligibilitycenter.org. See your Peachtree Academy Private School guidance counselor or the Athletic Director for assistance.

27. Game Schedules/Postponement

It is the responsibility of the school's Athletic Director to prepare all schedules as they relate to athletic events. Schedules are posted on the Peachtree Academy website under the Athletics tab. In cases when games are postponed, cancelled, or re-scheduled, parents will be notified as soon as the information becomes available. Inclement weather can cause last-minute changes in scheduling. If a scheduled game is cancelled or postponed on the day of the event, students will be notified via the school's public announcement system and the information will be emailed to the parents. Parents should check their emails regularly for changes in scheduling.

28. Parent Volunteers / Parent Responsibilities during season

At Peachtree Academy Private School, the success of our athletic program depends heavily on parent volunteers. There are many areas where volunteers are needed: field set-up and take-down, concessions, and admissions. In many cases, parent volunteers find themselves serving as assistants to the coaches in positions such as assistant coaches, score-board operators, and book keepers. This volunteer time will go toward the ten volunteer hours required by Peachtree Academy Private School. It is the policy of Peachtree Academy Private School that all adult volunteers who have direct contact with the student-athletes be subjected to the same screening as do all employees of our school. Therefore, no adult, parent or otherwise, will be permitted within the immediate area of a team's practice or sanctioned athletic event without prior approval of the Athletic Director. For volunteer opportunities contact the Athletic Director.

Mandatory Parent Meetings

Each Season: Fall, Winter, and Spring we will conduct an informative meeting to review the sport specific requirements for the parents and athletes. Team information will be distributed at these meetings. The Athletic Director and Coaches will present team specific information and be available to answer any questions.

Parent/Guardian Game Requirements

Each family will be responsible for assisting at games on scheduled dates. These dates will be designated by the Team Director prior to the season. Game assistance is mandatory for each family who has a player participating in the sport in season. During each scheduled date, one adult member of the family must be in attendance to work the designated area.

The assistance areas are 1) Concessions, 2) Gate, 3) Scorers Table. These areas will be specified.

Each Director will have a training date and provide instruction sheets for cover the responsibilities for that event date.

The Parent Volunteer Calendar will be issued to each participating family. You should check the dates you are required to work. You will also see a listing of all families participating in the sport in season. **It is the responsibility of each family to either participate as scheduled or coordinate a substitute family to take the date.** We recommend that if you arrange a substitute, you exchange dates, placing you back on the calendar. Getting a substitute does not absolve you from your required volunteer requirements at a later date.

No-Show: If you no-show on game date, your school account will be charged $75 for each date missed. If you do not meet your required number of volunteer dates, your account will be billed for each time missed. Home school based players will be invoiced by the school. This fee should be considered a deterrent, not a penalty. It is our hope that no dates are missed and all families participate as scheduled. Only involve the Director if you are unable to secure a substitute for the date needed.

29. Club Volunteers

Each club will be given an opportunity to earn money towards their fundraising goals by working concessions at athletic events. A min of two students from a designated club will serve during the athletic event/s. They will support the parent volunteer. The club commission will be dispersed at the end of the particular sports season.

Club Commission Schedule **(Total amount club will earn during game event)**

Volleyball/Basketball (10 to 12 game slots each sport)

$20 One game
$30 Two games
$35 Three games
$40 Four games

Football (4 to 5 slots)

$50 One game

Soccer (4 to 5 slots)
$20 One game
$30 Two games

Baseball / Softball (6 to 10 slots each sport)

$20 One game
$30 Two games

Archery (1 to 2 per year)

$50 per tournament

30. Parent/Coach Relations

Parents should support the team in public with Christ-like sportsmanship, encourage loyalty to team and school, and provide positive reinforcement to all athletes. Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to our student-athletes. When your child becomes involved in Peachtree Academy Private School Athletics, you should understand what expectations are placed upon your student. This begins with clear communication from the coach of the program.

Peachtree Academy Private School coaches will provide this in their preseason meetings;

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Location and times of all practices, meetings and contests.
3. Team requirements: practices, special equipment needed, out-of-season conditioning, and special concerns for the specific sport.
4. Procedures to be followed should your child be injured during participation.
5. Discipline that may result in the denial of your student's participation.

Communication that coaches should expect from the parents:

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification on any schedule conflicts made to coach well in advance.
3. Specific concerns with regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your student becomes involved in Peachtree Academy Athletics, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important they understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your student wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged. Examples:

1. Ways to help your student improve.
2. Concerns about your student's attitude.
3. Academic support and college opportunities.

It is very difficult to accept your student's not playing as much or where you may hope. Coaches make judgements based on what they believe to be the best for all student-athletes in their program. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your student's coach. Other things should be left to the discretion of the coach. Examples:

1. Team Strategy.
2. Playing Time.
3. Team selection
4. Play calling
5. Matter concerning other student-athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote resolution:

1. Set up an appointment with the coach.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic office. A meeting will be set up for you.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a game or practice.

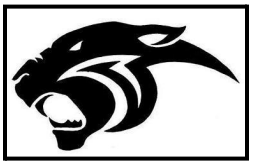
If the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, the next step is to set up an appointment with the Athletic Director and coach to discuss the situation.

Peachtree Academy Athletics and athletics across the nation were established because research indicates a student involved in these programs has a greater chance of success during adulthood. Many of the character traits required to be successful participants are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided here

makes both you and your student's experience with the Peachtree Academy Private School Athletic program less stressful and more enjoyable.

31. Panthers Athletic Booster Club

The Panthers Athletic Booster Club is under the control of the school's Athletic Director. Each Head Coach has the opportunity to organize a booster club sub-committee. The sub-committee may be asked to help in the team's organization to include but not limited to; organizing parent volunteers, pre-game readiness, post-game recovery, game logistical management, and fundraising efforts. Information concerning the organizations By-laws and membership can be found on the Peachtree Academy web site under the Athletic tab.



Parent/Guardian Statement of Understanding

I have read the Athletic Handbook and understand the requirements to compete in athletics at Peachtree Academy Private School includes both player and parent/guardians. It is understood that the parent/guardian support requirements are considered a serious matter and are part of the lifeblood of any athletic program.

Our family understands the commitment needed by both player and family.

The fee penalty for not fulfilling required scheduled support is understood.

Please sign and return to your Director.

Parent Signature: _____ Date:_____