

# École Pine Grove Middle School



## Athletics Policy Panthers

***The following are some guidelines used in the development of athletic policy for École Pine Grove Middle School Extra-Curricular sports programs:***

- These programs are a privilege granted, not a right.
- Student athletes are expected to adhere to specific conduct standards established within the school.
- Student athletes pay player fees.
- Extra-curricular teams are about **skill and character improvement at the forefront**.
- It is about working hard, **learning and having fun**.
- Individuals on teams have roles and responsibilities.
- Everyone's jobs and duties are not the same.
- Everyone on a team is a vital member of the whole and no one is any more a member than anyone else who is on the team.
- Although individuals will be looked after, the programs are about "team".

It may be a generalization, but never the less, when parents watch a game, they tend to see only one player and gauge success through the performance of that player - whom they have seen in game situations only.

The coach has to see performance of all players in practices and games, as well as interact with them on bus rides, watch how they interact with each other, meet with them over problems, follow their school performance, etc. and then make decisions about who should be doing what and when and how often.

Parents may not agree with all of the decisions that a coach may make, but they need to understand that the decisions are made with the best interest of the team in mind. (There is a grievance procedure in place that athletes and parents can follow if they feel an injustice. Starting with a conversation between the player and coach, then parent and coach).

# Pine Grove Athletic Policy

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## GENERAL PHILOSOPHY

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### **Statement of Philosophy:**

Participation, performance and competition in the athletic program will focus on the opportunity for students to develop and exhibit skills to the best of their abilities. All athletic squads will be treated with equality. Team and individual performance will be developed and recognized.

### **Goals of the Athletic Program:**

- To build self-esteem
- To develop skills
- To expand interest in lifetime and leisure activities
- To provide opportunity for personal and social growth
- To encourage all students to participate
- To develop a positive self-discipline
- To develop self-motivation

### **Objectives of the Athletic Program:**

1. Participation in athletics shall be available to any student expressing a desire to be involved.
2. The values of good sportsmanship and the dynamics of teamwork shall be stressed constantly.
3. The importance of teaching young athletes how to give and receive recognition shall be incorporated into practices and games.
4. The interaction of special friendships and the impact of adult role models should always be a part of the awareness of those working with young athletes.
5. Students shall be challenged to strive for the highest level of excellence for each athlete as they participate and compete.

Pine Grove recognizes that extracurricular athletics promotes sportsmanship, team building, good citizenship, high academic standards, and community responsibility. Pine Grove Athletics provide an opportunity for students to explore their unique talents outside of the classroom setting. These activities demand a high level of commitment, excellence, and self-motivation, which will help prepare students for the challenges they will meet outside the school community.

It is a privilege for students to participate in extracurricular athletics. Participation is voluntary and is not a requirement, nor an entitlement. Therefore, extra time and effort are required of those who participate. Since the reputation of the school is often judged by its extra-curricular programs, high standards must be maintained. Those who earn the privilege of representing Pine Grove School in extracurricular athletics are expected to accept greater responsibilities as school citizens.

Participation in extracurricular athletics is open to all students provided they meet the general requirements as outlined in this handbook, and any requirements specific to the activity of their choice.

### **Athletic Code**

The opportunity to participate in the interscholastic athletic program is afforded to all deserving students enrolled at Pine Grove Middle School. **However, like any such opportunity, it must be treated as a privilege. Participants in these voluntary programs are expected to conform to specific conduct standards established by the athletic department and the school administration.** The student-athlete who is found in violation of any rules is subject to removal from the program. Provision is made for the student-athlete, who has allegedly violated one or more of the conduct rules, to appeal any disciplinary action.

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## **Athletic Department**

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**Athletic Director**  
**School Administrator**

Kennedy Carpenter/Bailey Benson  
Mr. Darran Lorne

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## **Programs**

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**École Pine Grove Middle School offers the following sports programs:**

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
<b>Golf</b>	.	.
<b>Cross Country</b>	.	.
<b>Volleyball</b>	.	.
<b>Basketball</b>	.	.
<b>Badminton</b>	.	.
<b>Archery</b>	.	.
<b>Track &amp; Field</b>	.	.

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## **Season of Play**

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The GYAC (Grande Yellowhead Athletic Conference) sets Seasons of Play to ensure that all schools have a fair and reasonable period to compete in. It should be noted that some seasons of play overlap, i.e. fall sports may overlap into winter sports. We believe it is not desirable for a student athlete to have to try and juggle multiple game and practice schedules in these overlapping periods. Therefore:

- Each activity may hold practices according to the *GYAC* seasons of play
- The preceding activity has priority for practice times and games.
- The trailing activity may hold practices according to *GYAC* seasons of play

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## Player Fees and Contracts

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The student-athlete shall pay the "player fees" as charged by Pine Grove Middles School. Player fees are to help cover the cost of transportation, athletic awards night and other expenses such as referee costs, tournament entries and uniform costs incurred by Pine Grove Athletics. **By no means does the payment of fees entitle the student-athlete a certain amount of playing time.** Playing time is at the discretion of the coaches and coaching staff.

**\*\* Fees are due before the student-athlete is eligible to play. Arrangements for payment schedules may be made. Student Athletes will not receive a uniform until these needs are met\*\***

### *2021/2022 Season*

<b>Fees:</b> Golf	(\$165)
Cross-Country	(\$41)
Volleyball B Teams	(\$140)
Volleyball C Teams	(\$80)
Basketball B Teams	(\$155)
Basketball C Teams	(\$105)
Badminton Grade 6	(\$20)
Badminton Grade 7 & 8	(\$40)
Track and Field	(\$41)
Archery	(\$52)

Should a team advance to Provincial competition; each student-athlete will be expected to pay for their hotels and accommodations.

Fees cover reffing costs, bussing costs, jerseys, equipment, team wind ups, and coaches appreciation item.

## Player Contracts

**Student-athletes must sign a contract** (developed and approved by School Administration) **thus taking responsibility** for understanding and accepting the contents, with regard to:

1. academic performance
2. athletic performance
3. expectations
4. responsibilities
5. conduct

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## Uniforms and Equipment

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All uniforms will be provided by École Pine Grove Middle School.

Uniforms will be distributed by the coach or Athletic Director before each game or tournament. The athlete must hand in his/her jersey at the end of the game or tournament. The coach will be in possession of the uniforms throughout the season.

It is the coach's responsibility to cold water wash and hang dry the uniforms in between games. It is the coaches choice if they decide to delegate this responsibility onto students/parents.

Teams may be provided equipment, specific to their activity. This equipment is owned by the school. The care and supervision of this equipment shall be the responsibility of the coach or their designate.

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## Transportation

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All transportation will adhere to administrative procedure as outlined below.

Various types of transportation arrangements can maximize the delivery of programs within the limited resources available to schools. Therefore, the division supports the concept of volunteer drivers and vehicles in providing co-curricular/extracurricular transportation, provided that such arrangements conform to the laws and regulations of the province and are in accordance with the following.

### *Away Games*

- ***A bus will be provided to teams for all away games (not in the town of Edson), athletes will be expected to ride there and back on the bus.***
- Teams will walk from the school to various schools within the town of Edson.

### *Volunteer Owned and Operated Vehicles*

- The volunteer driver must be the owner and operator of the motor vehicle and be in possession of a valid Class 5 Alberta driver's license.
- The volunteer driver must notify his/her insurance company of his/her intention to use their automobile and act as a volunteer driver for the Palliser Regional Schools activity. A minimum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) public liability and property damage insurance coverage must be in force on the automobile before the vehicle can be used to transport students.
- The volunteer driver shall complete the Volunteer Automobile Driver Authorization Form available from the school and provide a current **driver's abstract and criminal record check, including a vulnerable sector check**. No further renewals are required unless the volunteer is aware of a change, in which case the volunteer driver has the obligation to inform the school principal.

- The school must have signed/verbal approval from both parents allowing transportation of their child.
- Teachers and staff driving their personal vehicles to transport students to school activities shall complete the Volunteer Automobile Driver Authorization Form.
- The principal shall be the approving authority for this type of transportation arrangement.

**Student-athletes are encouraged to travel with their group whenever possible.** If they do not travel by the transportation provided by the school, they may travel to and from the site of the activity with their parents or designated adult, providing prior arrangements have been made.

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## Practice and Game Times

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- All gym usage shall be booked through the Athletic Director.
- League games and home tournaments have booking priority over practices.
- Any activity under way shall have priority over the following season of play (e.g. volleyball over basketball)
- There must be a coach or teacher present at all practices and games.
- While all efforts will be made to accommodate requests, it shall be the priority of the Athletic Director to provide a practice schedule which is equitable to all teams in accordance with priorities.

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## Guidelines for Student Athletes

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To be eligible to participate, the student-athlete must be in Grade 6, 7, or 8.

### **Try-outs**

**Students take a risk when they try out for a team** - We will place students on the appropriate team for the age/skill level. Our teams consist of B teams, C teams, and a Club Team. The decisions of the coach and/or the athletic department in these matters are final.

### **Expectations of Student-Athletes**

#### **Attitude**

**A good, positive attitude and a strong commitment** to effort and the team goals and philosophies is a must.

#### **Preparation**

Student-athletes should **come to a school team prepared to concentrate and work hard**. They are expected to be prompt for all practices and games and to be prepared with all equipment and gear.

**It is expected that all players will be on time and ready to go (dressed) for all activities.**

- **Present 10 minutes before scheduled practice**
- **30 minutes before Games**

**Unexcused absences or being late will result in a loss of playing time.**

### **Attendance**

Understanding that sometimes events and occurrences can keep a student-athlete from attending a practice or a game, it is expected that **the student-athlete will notify the coach personally beforehand**, whenever possible, by note or conversation. However, even this prior notification does not ensure the student-athletes' status regarding playing time.

### **Playing Time**

It is expected that student-athletes at Pine Grove learn to **develop an understanding of the TEAM concept. Decisions that are made are done so primarily with the best interests of the team in mind.** If athletes or parents come into a team situation expecting that there will be "equal" playing time for everyone, then it is suggested that a competitive team is not the best place for them to be spending their time as they will likely be disappointed. Coaches alone get the opportunity to make the decisions.

It is our goal at Pine Grove to operate "programs" as opposed to "teams". The difference here is that a program is on-going and serves the student-athletes over the course of their years in the program. A team, on the other hand, functions for only a season. Very often decisions made regarding playing time are made with more in mind than the present desires of everyone involved. Quite often past and future considerations are also part of the overall picture.

**24 Hour Rule-** the 24 hour rule is in place in the event that a player or parent has a question regarding playing time or any other issue. The premise behind the 24 hour rule is that all questions directed at the coach regarding playing time, etc. should be asked 24 hours after the game. If a player or parent has a question regarding this on a weekend, they may direct questions to the coach the following school day.

### **Basic Premise**

The basic premise is that practiced players play, but also that all game time is to be determined by the coach.

### **Academic Performance**

**The student-athlete is expected to keep up with their studies and assignments.** A teacher-student-coach meeting shall be held if necessary to solve problems which occur. The student-athlete will be given a probationary period to get his or her marks and assignments to an acceptable level. If a student is not completing assignments, not maintaining a passing mark or teacher established standards and unable to reach agreed upon levels, the student-athlete will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities until improvement is made and the student-athlete is reinstated. **Doing as well as possible is always expected.**



## **School Attendance**

Attendance at school is the responsibility of the students and parents. Student-athletes must meet school attendance requirements. **Student-athletes must be present game days and practice days or they will be ineligible to participate in games or practices.** Excused exceptions would be for medical/dental appointments, funerals, etc. Ineligibility will be treated on a case by case basis by administration.

### ***As stated in our School Handbook:***

#### **"Miss School – Miss Out" Philosophy**

We, at École Pine Grove Middle School, believe attendance, punctuality, appropriate behavior and effort at school are essential for a successful year. The students who miss school intentionally, misbehaves, or is excessively late will miss out on their academic education and may also miss out on social functions, athletic activities and field studies.

#### **School Teams**

Team sports may include volleyball, basketball, and badminton. Individual sports such as outdoor pursuits, golf and track and field are also open to participation on a seasonal basis. A fee may be required to cover bussing and equipment costs.

**Note:** Participation in these school teams is subject to the "Miss School, Miss Out" policy and is dependent upon successful completion of school work, positive attitude toward school and good attendance and punctuality. Students issued one (1) out-of-school suspension or two (2) or more in-school suspensions may be removed from the team. **Participation in any activity is at the sole discretion of the staff supervisor.**

#### **Substance Use**

Student-athletes must abstain from possessing, buying, consuming, using, selling or giving away any illegal or non-prescription substance including e-cigarettes, tobacco, alcohol, or recreational drugs.

#### **Dress Code**

Student-athletes are expected to **dress appropriately** when representing their teams and Pine Grove Middle School. Specific dress code may be determined by the coach and/or administration.

#### **Sportsmanlike Conduct**

Student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which would benefit a good ambassador or representative of our school. Also, student-athletes are expected to treat officials, opponents, fans, teammates, coaches and all facilities with the utmost respect. If a student-athlete is ejected from play he or she may not be eligible to participate in the next competition according to the Athletic Director and School Administrator's discretion.

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## **Guidelines for Parents**

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## **Role of the Parents**

### **Parents**

Parents and families will play a vital role in the "team" concept. They are a major support system, and their assistance will help the program to operate better.

In order to gain maximum enjoyment, and be a supportive influence, **parents should learn the game as best they can.** Knowing the systems and "why" things happen the way they do will add to the enjoyment.

Parents need to **cheer for the team** - not just their own child. The kids learn that it is all about the team, not the individuals on it, and the parents need to grasp this concept for the team to operate properly.

Much work goes into the planning, organizing, practicing, and competition components of a sport season. The coach and school will deal with the majority of the load, but there are areas that parents and family can help out. Fundraising, transportation, scorekeeping, clean-up, taking admission etc. are all areas where parents and family can get involved (COVID dependant).

## **Spectator Conduct**

The conduct of student-athletes, coaches, fans and anyone else involved in an activity who has ties to the school, reflects back on the school. **It is expected that all involved will act in a reasonable and responsible manner** or be held accountable for their actions.

## **Student-Athletes / Parents Grievance Procedures**

The student-athlete and the coach should try to make every effort to resolve disputes when they arise.

Meetings with coach/ player or coach/player/parent can oftentimes be enough to settle an issue. This avenue should be taken whenever necessary.

1. When a student-athlete or parent has a grievance, an appointment with the coach can be requested to discuss it.
2. If the problem has not been resolved, then the Athletic Director can be approached with the matter.
3. If there has still not been a resolution, then the Principal may be approached.

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## **Guidelines for Coaches and Volunteers**

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### **Volunteer Forms**

All coaches and volunteers will need to provide the required paperwork to the office and the athletic director before coaching, mentoring, or transporting students.

### **Volunteer Coaches**

Community coaches are invaluable to Pine Grove Athletics. Coaches must uphold the values of the PGMS philosophy of respect for parents, athletes, and coaches. If any verbal, psychological, or physical abuse is reported by athletes, parents, or colleagues the coach may be relieved from his or her duties.

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## Guidelines for Tournaments (COVID dependant)

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The host team will be required to be at the venue for the duration of the tournament. Student athletes will assist in running score clocks, acting as line officials, and covering concession shifts. Teams that are not participating in the tournament will volunteer their services acting as ambassadors for Pine Grove Middle School.

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## Guidelines for COVID-19

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Due to the constantly changing environment we live in, all practices/games are subject to change.

### **Spectators**

#### *Home Games*

- Spectators **must** wear a mask and maintain social distancing
- Spectator attendance is restricted to 1/3 fire code capacity. If we reach this limit, procedures will be taken by the staff gym supervisor

#### *Away Games*

- Depending on the opposing school team, spectators may or may not be allowed. Prior to away games, you will be notified if spectators are permitted.

# École Pine Grove Middle School

## *Panthers*

### Athletics Policy Agreement 2021-22

We have read and understand the contents of this policy and agree to accept its terms.

Date

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Student Athlete

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Print

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Signature

Parent

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Print

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Signature

\*Please hand in to your coach. The coach will pass on any paperwork to the Athletic Director.