

# Pirate Football Policies & Regulations

## Our Mission:

To develop successful student-athletes distinguished by principles of great character, academic excellence, and public service.

## Principles of Great Character:

Our program will spend a great deal of time refining the character of our student-athletes. Character defines who we are, what we do, and how we do it. It is our belief that success begins with great character. The principles we will live by to refine the character of those in our program are as follows:

Commitment  
Fairness  
Gratitude  
Hard Work  
Honesty

Integrity  
Love  
Loyalty  
Moderation  
Persistence

Preparation  
Respect  
Responsibility  
Service  
Trust

It is necessary for our student-athletes to live by principles of great character in order for us to be successful!

## Academic Excellence:

Academic eligibility guidelines established by the state and/or district will be followed throughout football season. Academics come before football! The FHSAA states that a student must have a cumulative high school grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 un-weighted scale, or its equivalent, in all courses taken that are required by s.1003.43(1), Florida Statutes, at the conclusion of each semester to be eligible during the following semester. Athletes should budget their time effectively and strive to maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA.

## Public Service:

It is our belief that another component of success is that of providing a service to our community. Our student-athletes will be provided many opportunities to serve our community. These opportunities include various events ranging from bagging groceries at food stores to mentoring students at local elementary schools.

## Our Vision:

To relentlessly pursue and win the District Championship, gain statewide recognition through play-off participation and win the State Championship.

## Philosophy:

It is our strong belief that the foremost role of a coach is that of a teacher. Our job in the classroom is as important to us as that of a coach on the field. It is essential to set a good example of the importance of education if those expectations are to be met by the students. It is our belief that sports should be an extension of the classroom learning experience. Just as you can not teach chemistry lab on the practice field, neither can some lessons be taught in the classroom. Therefore, it is critical that an atmosphere of learning and growing be fostered in all aspects of a young person's education.

This football program will be all-inclusive. No student will be denied the opportunity to participate as long as they can believe in and abide by the rules. Every player that wants to put forth the effort to be a member of this football program will be treated as just that. There will be no distinction made in regards to how players are treated whether they are starters or demonstration players. They will all have expectations placed on them by the coaches, faculty, and the community. First, they must consider themselves as gentlemen and act in a manner that brings credit to their family, their team, and especially themselves. Secondly, they will be expected to strive for excellence in the classroom as well as on the field.

The most important thing that the players of this program will learn is how to deal with adversity. It is our belief that it is not what happens to you that is important, rather, it is how you respond to it. We will face adversity in our lives and we must learn how to overcome this adversity. This program will strive to keep its players in a positive state of mind. We will treat each other as the family that we are, not only enjoying the good times, but helping each other through the bad times as well.

The goal of this program is not winning championships per se, but rather to provide the players with a tremendously positive experience while striving to be a positive influence in the school and throughout the community. These young people will have a tremendous opportunity to have fun and enjoy this aspect of their education.

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Participation in athletics is a privilege. High standards must be maintained on and off the field to maintain this privilege.

## Attendance at school:

All district and state attendance policies will be enforced throughout football season. All student-athletes should be in school for a full day, everyday. If a student-athlete is late, he must notify Coach Hoffer. The first tardy to a class will result in a "BIG 10" for each additional tardy that day an additional "5" will be added. If a student-athlete has an early dismissal, he must notify Coach Hoffer BEFORE practice that day. Student-athletes must be in school all day on game day, unless excused with a doctor's note.

## Attendance at practice:

All student-athletes must be at practice everyday. Missing practice, excused or unexcused, will result in missing playing time during the game. Each day of missed practice is equivalent to missing one half of a football game. Detentions after school will be considered unexcused absences from practice. If a student-athlete has a club meeting or is making up work after school, he must notify Coach Hoffer BEFORE practice. Missing practice for a field trip must be cleared by Coach Hoffer the week prior to the field trip. Excessive absences may result in dismissal from the team.

## Discipline:

Disciplinary consequences will be adhered to according to district and state guidelines. Athletes are expected to exercise appropriate behavior at all times. The use of profanity and inappropriate conversations will result in a "BIG 5". Any student-athlete that is written up on a referral, receives in-school suspension, and/or is behaving inappropriately will be subjected to a "BIG 10". Any athlete externally suspended from school will be subjected to a "BIG 15", suspended from 1 or more competitions, and risk possible dismissal from the team.

## Causes for suspension/dismissal (other than previously stated):

Any use of alcohol, tobacco, or any illegal drugs will be just cause for automatic suspension and/or dismissal from the team. Being arrested for any reason will result in automatic suspension and/or dismissal from the team. This includes what the athlete does on his own time (after school, practice and on the weekends) for the duration of the season. Refusal to do a "BIG 5", "BIG 10", or "BIG 15" is also just cause for dismissal from the team.

Athletes should choose their friends wisely. If they are "hanging" around people who are doing the wrong things they will be considered "guilty by association" and risk possible dismissal from the team.

If an athlete is suspended from the team, a meeting with Coach Hoffer, the student-athlete, the parent, the grade level administrator, and athletic director must take place to discuss reinstatement of the athlete.

## Travel to & from games:

Athletes must travel on the bus with the team to and from all games.

## Behavior at games:

On the bus, to and from, and during the course of the game, all athletes are representing Port Charlotte High School. All standards established in the code of student conduct are in effect for the duration of the game. Athletes must behave with respect for all others and show good sportsmanship at all times. During the game, no athletes should at any time leave the school grounds. Any athlete not in compliance with the guidelines set by the coaches will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension from competition in future games.

## Food and drinks:

Due to the high energy demands of athletic competition, athletes should practice good nutritional habits to optimize their athletic performance. "Junk" foods and drinks should be limited. These foods and drinks include, but are not limited to: french fries, candy bars, potato chips, soda, energy drinks, cookies, cake, etc. Athletes should consume grilled, baked, and/or broiled meats, fresh fruits and vegetables, and whole-grain breads and pasta. Athletes should drink water, milk, diluted 100% fruit juice, and/or sports drinks.

An individualized nutrition plan is available for each student-athlete to promote healthy and safe nutritional habits.

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## Parental Responsibilities:

It is our strong belief that the parents have a vital role in the development of the student-athlete. Parents should use this as an opportunity to get involved in this very important aspect of their son's life. Naturally, there are aspects that the parents and coaches must consider when dealing with one another. We as coaches fully understand the passion to which parents care about their children and we also know that we must balance the individual needs of the players versus the overall needs of the team. Through proper communication, we feel this can be a very rewarding experience for everyone involved.

## We need your help. What kind of help do we need from the parents?

1. Help us to ensure your son is eating properly.
2. Help us to ensure your son is getting 8 hours of sleep per night.
3. Help us to ensure your son is properly hydrated.
4. Help us to ensure your son is studying and getting his homework done in order to remain eligible.
5. Help us to ensure your son is at each practice. We will provide your son with schedules ahead of time. Once the season starts in August, please make sure family vacations, etc. do not come into conflict with practice and/or games.
6. Help support us by volunteering for 2 hours during the season. You are an automatic Booster Club member by your son's participation in football. Please make yourself available to volunteer with things such as pre-game meals, post-game meals, concession stand help, merchandise sales, fundraisers, etc. As a general rule of thumb, if every parent would volunteer 2 hours per season, we would have more than enough help.
7. Help support us by being optimistic and positive when speaking about our program. You are just as much a part of the football program as your son.
8. Help support us by attending games and having fun. Enjoy this once in a lifetime experience as a parent.

## What you can expect from our coaches:

First and foremost we consider it a privilege to coach and work with your son. Participation in athletics is also a privilege. Your son will be held to high standards by our coaches on and off the field. Every decision we make will be objective and with the Team's best interest in mind. We will not criticize or complain about the players because they are the only ones we have - we will coach them - no matter what their ability is!!! We will be honest and upfront with them. We will also be honest and upfront with the parents. We feel this is the foundation of a solid relationship that is based upon a mutual respect and necessary to be successful.

We are at Port Charlotte High School to maintain a championship program. Our program exists to make our players (your son) better people. We will constantly look for better ways to motivate and teach our players. We will help people; they may help us in return. We will emphasize improvement...we will strive for perfection, while realizing we will not achieve it and accept any result thereafter because we gave all that we had. WE WILL WIN because we understand that winning is a byproduct of the things we do and how we do them.

## Contact Information:

Head Coach: David Hoffer

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## **THE SUCCESS OF PIRATE FOOTBALL DEPENDS ON PEOPLE LIKE YOU!**

\_\_ CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE AND RETURN BOTTOM TO COACH HOFFER \_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read the Pirate Football Policies and Regulations. I have shared this information with my parent(s)/guardian(s). My parent(s)/guardian(s) and I agree to and will comply with all stated policies and regulations expected to be upheld by members of the Pirate Football program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student-Athlete Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)