

**PIUS XI HIGH SCHOOL**

# **Parent-Athlete Handbook**

**PIUS XI.ORG**  
HIGH SCHOOL

Revised: 06/2010

## Philosophy

Pius XI High School believes that participation in interscholastic athletics provides a means for student-athletes to demonstrate talents and abilities, gain the respect of others and self, mature personally and develop important skills that evolve from working together with teammates. We believe that the values that result from school-sponsored interscholastic athletic competition include:

- Socialization
- Building of self-esteem
- Development of a sense of responsibility
- Development of a sense of commitment
- Provision for exploration and expansion of interests

## Mission

The Pius XI High School Athletic Program will provide opportunities for all students to become involved in a variety of sports under the direction of trained, qualified coaches, and will offer a diverse program of interscholastic athletic opportunities that are designed to meet the needs of our student-athletes.

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## INTRODUCTION

Student-Athletes must comply with all current rules and regulations as established by the following organizations:

- Pius XI High School
- The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA)
- The Classic 8 Conference
- Coach of the team

Information regarding WIAA rules and regulations is included in this handbook.

Parents/Student-Athletes may access the entire WIAA Handbook at [www.wiaawi.org](http://www.wiaawi.org).

Classic 8 Conference rules and regulations pertain mainly to schedules and the regulation of sports governed by the Classic 8 Conference. Special areas/topics such as “good sportsmanship” may have specific rules/guidelines that are generated by the high school principals who represent each Classic 8 Conference school.

Rules and regulations for student-athletes participating in the interscholastic athletic program at Pius XI High School are included in this handbook.

Coaches are responsible for establishing rules, regulations and procedures for teams under their jurisdiction. While rules and safety procedures may be reiterated orally on a regular basis, information that is needed by student-athletes on an ongoing basis will be distributed in writing to all student-athletes.

***Prior to being declared eligible for athletic participation, student-athletes must submit the following FORMS ... accurately completed ... to the Athletic Office:***

- **ATHLETIC FORM “A” (Gold form)** ... (Only Pius physical examination “Form A” will be accepted.)
- **ATHLETIC FORM “B” (Blue form)** ... (“Alternate Year Form” ... when required.)
- **ATHLETIC EMERGENCY INFORMATION FORM** ... (back of Form “A” and Form “B”)

**All student-athletes must be in compliance with the academic and behavioral rules, regulations and standards of Pius XI High School, the WIAA and the Classic 8 Conference.** The Athletic Director will review current grades, records from prior schools, and any other relevant information prior to declaring a student-athlete eligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic program sponsored by Pius XI High School.

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS

In order to be academically eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic competition at Pius XI High School a student-athlete must meet two academic standards:

1. A student-athlete must not have more than ONE FAILING GRADE in the last grading period.
2. A student-athlete must have a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 2.0 or above ... **or** ... a grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or above for the last grading period.

Any student-athlete who does not meet the above listed ACADEMIC STANDARDS will immediately be declared INELIGIBLE for participation in competitive interscholastic games/events for the duration of time dictated by WIAA regulations. During this period of academic ineligibility, the student-athlete in question remains eligible to practice with the team, but may not participate in any competitive interscholastic game/event.

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS (continued)

Once the time period of WIAA imposed academic ineligibility expires, the student-athlete in question shall be given a ten day (10 school days) period to “show cause” why he/she should be allowed to maintain their status as a team member. All teachers of the student-athlete will be asked to answer the following questions:

- Is the student-athlete in question doing “C” or above academic work in your course?
- Is the student-athlete in question a “discipline problem” in your classroom?
- Does the student-athlete in question display a “positive academic attitude” in your classroom?

A “negative response” from any of the student-athlete’s teachers will result in a conference involving the Athletic Director and the Head Coach of the particular program. Following that conference, the Athletic Director shall render a final decision as to whether or not the student-athlete in question shall be allowed to remain as a “team member” or be dropped from further participation with his/her team for the remainder of the sport season.

## ATHLETIC CODE

**Co-Curricular Philosophy:** The Athletic Program at Pius XI High School is a vital part of the educational program. Our primary purpose is to assist students in growing and maturing into responsible members of our school and community. Respect, courtesy, honesty and good sportsmanship are basic to good citizenship and should form the basis for all behavior. Since students involved in the athletic program represent Pius XI, their behavior reflects Pius XI values and shapes the perceptions of Pius XI High School and its constituents.

This Athletic Code outlines the standards for students participating in our athletic program. These include standards of behavior in the areas of school attendance, academic achievement, and proper conduct.

As students experience the privilege of participating in the Pius XI High School Athletic Program, they must also accept the responsibility of maintaining a set of standards that will bring credit to themselves, their family, their school and their athletic activity. The following are established policies that support the standards and expectations of our Athletic Program. Deviation from the standards will mean suspension from “part of” or “the entire” Pius XI High School Athletic Program. Unless otherwise indicated, the term “violation” in the Code means a confirmed or admitted act.

**Athletic Code:** This Code is in effect at all times ... 12 months a year, 24 hours per day, seven days per week, on or off campus ... from the first day a student-athlete becomes involved in the Pius XI High School Athletic Program until such time that the student-athlete graduates from high school or has completed all school-sponsored athletic activities (summer baseball).

### Violations:

- I. The “possession of”, “use of”, or involvement with the “sale of” tobacco products, alcohol, performing enhancing substances, controlled or illegal substances.
- II. Conduct, in or out of school, that brings discredit to the student, parent/guardian, school or athletic activity/team.
- III. Conduct that is “inconsistent with” or “contrary to” the philosophies and beliefs of Pius XI High School.

## **SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ATHLETIC CODE**

Consequences for violation(s) of the Athletic Code will apply to all sports in which the student-athlete is involved. Falsification of information given during an investigation, falsification of any records under investigation or falsification of any records used to obtain eligibility **will subject the student-athlete to a double penalty.**

### First Offense

1. Suspension for 25 percent of the current sport season's allowed contests to be completed within the current season, or to be extended into the successive season if the entire suspension is not served within the season during which the offense occurs.
2. If the offense occurs when the student-athlete is not currently competing in a sport season, the consequence will be extended to the next sport season in which the student-athlete participates.
3. A written notification will be sent to the parent/guardian and student-athlete detailing the offense, the consequences, any special conditions and the effective dates of suspension.
4. Referral to the Counseling Center for an initial evaluation. Failure to undergo the evaluation could result in additional penalties.

### Second Offense

1. Suspension for 50 percent of the current sport season's allowed contests to be completed within the current season, or to be extended into the successive season if the entire suspension is not served within the season during which the offense occurs.
2. If the offense occurs when the student-athlete is not currently competing in a sport season, the consequence will be extended to the next sport season in which the student-athlete participates.
3. A written notification will be sent to the parent/guardian and student-athlete detailing the offense, the consequences, any special conditions and the effective dates of suspension.
4. The student-athlete will be required to undergo an assessment by an appropriate agency/professional licensed to assess and treat individuals with behavior commensurate with the offenses. All costs associated with the assessment and treatment will be the responsibility of the student-athlete's parent/guardian.

### Third Offense

The offending student-athlete will be suspended from all participation in the Pius XI High School Interscholastic Athletic Program for a period of 12 months from the date of the offense.

### Fourth Offense

The offending student-athlete's participation in the Pius XI High School Interscholastic Athletic Program will be forfeited for the remainder of his/her enrollment at Pius XI High School.

**Note Well:** With regard to Point 1 and Point 2 listed above under both "First Offense" and "Second Offense", the final decision as to whether or not the student-athlete's suspension has been successfully completed will be made by the Athletic Director.

## **SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ATHLETIC CODE (continued)**

### Special Conditions

1. The courts have ruled that participation in athletics is a privilege and not a right. Therefore, student-athletes are often held to a higher standard than other students by virtue of the fact that they are highly visible representatives of Pius XI High School whose negative behavior could adversely impact the image of the school.
2. Ineligibility status for violations of the Athletic Code begins on the date of the violation. Any violations subsequently discovered will subject the individual **and the team** ... in case of participation in a team sport ... to **forfeits for every event in which the individual participated from the date of the violation.**
3. Consequences outlined above will take effect immediately upon verification of the violation. However, in cases where a student-athlete's behavior could affect the eligibility of an entire team and subject that team to forfeits, the alleged offender will be held out of contests until the matter is thoroughly investigated and the appropriate disciplinary action ... if any ... is taken.
4. The Athletic Code is in effect all 12 months of the calendar year and governs the behavior of student-athletes whether school is in session or not ... and ... at both in-school events and events not sponsored by Pius XI High School.
5. If a student-athlete attends a gathering where any substances or items prohibited by the Athletic Code are present, they must depart immediately or, if necessary, make arrangements to **depart entirely from the premises** no later than 30 minutes from the time of their arrival at the gathering ... and ... must refrain from violating the Athletic Code while still at the gathering. Failure to comply with these provisions will be considered a violation of the Athletic Code.
6. Violations of the Athletic Code are cumulative throughout the student-athlete's enrollment at Pius XI High School.
7. All Athletic Code violations will be addressed by the Athletic Director with the assistance of the coach of the sport/team involved, Pius XI High School Administrators and Pius XI High School faculty and/or staff members, when needed.
8. Violations of the Athletic Code could lead to additional penalties assessed by the WIAA or Pius XI High School.
9. The above stated conditions do not preclude a coach or the Athletic Director from creating reasonable additional guidelines and/or reasonable additional consequences specific to a given activity.

## **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Student-athletes must be in school by 8:30 a.m. in order to participate in that day's practice or event. Student-athletes who arrive at school after 8:00 a.m. are tardy and must report to the Attendance Office.

A student who participates in athletics may not participate in that day's event, whether a practice or a game/match/meet, if the student-athlete is absent for any part of the school day, or if he/she leaves school for any part of the school day unless legally excused by the school.

If a student-athlete's absence is due to a medical/dental appointment, the funeral of a family member or close friend, or a court date, the student-athlete may participate in that day's athletic practice or competition only when a written excuse from the medical or dental provider's office, the parent/guardian in the case of a funeral, or the court system in the case of a court appearance, is brought to the Attendance Office upon the student-athlete's return to school.

## **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS (continued)**

If the student-athlete does not return to school prior to the end of the school day, the written excuse must still be brought to the Attendance Office prior to 4:00 p.m. ... or to the Athletic Director via the Head Coach after 4:00 p.m. ... in order for the student-athlete to be eligible to participate in that day's practice or competition. The Athletic Director will make the final determination of eligibility.

## **AWARDS FOR ATHLETICS**

In order to receive a Pius XI High School athletic award, a student-athlete must finish his/her season in "good standing". If a violation of the Athletic Code occurs during the season, and the suspension for the violation extends "to or beyond" the end of that particular sport season, thus preventing the student-athlete from finishing the season in "good standing", the athletic award may be "given" upon the re-establishment of "good standing" by the student-athlete ... and ... the recommendation of such action by the Head Coach to the Athletic Director.

Coaches will establish the specific criteria for awards for student-athletes participating in each particular sport, and will distribute the criteria to all team members at the beginning of the season. The normal progression for athletic awards is explained in the "Pius XI High School Athletic Awards" section included in this handbook. In addition to individual awards distributed by the school, there will also be opportunities for trophies, ribbons, medals, etc. to be awarded at WIAA tournaments, conference events and other tournaments/meets. Criteria for those awards are established by the issuing entities.

## **CLASSIC 8 CONFERENCE**

Pius XI High School is a member of the Classic 8 Conference which is comprised of the following schools:

- Hartland Arrowhead High School
- Catholic Memorial High School
- Kettle Moraine High School
- Mukwonago High School
- Pius XI High School
- Waukesha North High School
- Waukesha South High School
- Waukesha West High School

Classic 8 Conference rules, regulations and schedules are formulated by a committee consisting of the principals/administrators of the member schools. Other conference duties are delegated to this committee of principals/administrators and to the Commissioner of the Classic 8 Conference.

## **EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS**

Student-athletes are responsible for the safe-keeping and maintenance of all school-issued uniforms and equipment, and must return all uniforms and equipment ... with only signs of reasonable wear ... to the school at the conclusion of the sport season. Because all student-athletes are issued a specific uniform and/or piece of equipment, there is no substitution of equipment allowed. Neither may student-athletes exchange uniforms or equipment.

## EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS (continued)

Failure to return school-issued uniforms and equipment at the end of the sport season will render the student-athlete immediately ineligible until the missing item(s) is/are returned, or the school is reimbursed the actual replacement cost of the item(s).

Failure to return or reimburse the school for missing items by the end of a student-athlete's senior year will render that student-athlete ineligible for commencement at Pius XI High School. The student-athlete's diploma will be mailed to his/her home address upon satisfaction of all monetary responsibilities.

The securing of personal valuables is the responsibility of the student-athlete. Nevertheless, theft of athletic uniforms, equipment or of personal items from student-athletes' lockers, backpacks, carrying bags, etc. will be treated as a serious breach of the Athletic Code and will result in disciplinary action being brought against any guilty party or parties as delineated under "Violations of the Athletic Code".

## HAZING

Hazing occurs when an act is committed against a student, or a student is coerced into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm to the student or to any third party in order for the student to be initiated into, or affiliated with, any school group, club, athletic team, grade level, activity or organization. Hazing is strictly prohibited at Pius XI High School and will subject the violator to enhanced disciplinary action as explained below.

Hazing is defined as:

- Any activity involving unreasonable risk of physical harm including, but not limited to paddling, beating, whipping, branding, electric shock, sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, placement of harmful substances on the body, and participation in physically dangerous activities.
- Any activity involving the consumption of alcohol, drugs, tobacco products or any other food, liquid or other substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of physical harm.
- Any activity involving actions of a sexual nature or the simulation of actions of a sexual nature.
- Any activity that subjects a student to an unreasonable level of embarrassment, shame or humiliation, or which creates a hostile, abusive and intimidating environment for the student.
- Any activity involving any violation of federal, state or local law, or any violation of school or school district policies and regulations.

Any student-athlete who knowingly participates in, has knowledge of, or who participates in the planning of any hazing ritual or incident will be considered "in violation of" the hazing policy. All first offense hazing violations will be treated as a **second offense** violation of the Athletic Code. A subsequent hazing violation will be treated as a **third offense** violation of the Athletic Code.

## INFORMED CONSENT

Prior to participating in interscholastic athletics, it is important for the student-athlete and the parent(s)/guardian(s) to understand that injuries can occur. These could include minor injuries such as bruises or abrasions. Occasionally, student-athletes incur injuries such as muscle strains, sprains or broken limbs. Although the occurrence of catastrophic injuries is minimal, it is possible that a catastrophic injury can occur rendering the participant paralyzed in varying degrees. Death as a result of a catastrophic injury is also a possibility.

## **INJURIES**

Following any injury, the coach must file an Athletic Injury Report with the Athletic Director. That report is shared with the Athletic Trainer. In the case of minor injuries not requiring the services of a physician, the Athletic Trainer and the coach will determine when the student-athlete is ready to return to practices and competitive events.

If a student-athlete is injured during the sport season and is under a physician's care, the student-athlete must obtain a written release from the treating physician prior to resuming active participation in practices and competitive events.

If a student-athlete develops a medical condition or is injured outside the sport season ... whether a valid physical exam form is "on file" at the school or not ... and there is any chance that participation in interscholastic athletics could heighten the seriousness of the condition or render the student-athlete more prone to injury, the Athletic Director reserves the right to request a written clearance from the treating physician prior to declaring the student-athlete eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics.

## **INSURANCE**

All student-athletes are required to be covered by health insurance in cases of accident or injury and **no cost of medical conveyance or treatment will be borne by Pius XI High School or any of its employees or representatives.**

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) certify that they have adequate insurance coverage on their son/daughter when they "sign" Athletic Form "A" or Athletic Form "B". The completed Athletic Form ("A" or "B") must be "on file" with the school prior to the student-athlete participating in the interscholastic athletic program.

## **AUTHORIZATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT**

In view of the standards established by the Federal Government under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) all parents/guardians of student-athletes are required to "sign" the "Authorization of Emergency Medical Treatment" (reverse side of Athletic Form "A" or Athletic Form "B") that can be used in cases of injury or illness to a student-athlete.

## **OUT-OF-TOWN TRAVEL POLICIES**

Parents/Guardians who permit their student-athlete to participate on a Pius XI High School athletic team are agreeing to accept the team's schedule of games/meets/tournaments/etc. as issued by the school's Athletic Department. Occasionally the schedule may include contests at locations outside the metropolitan Milwaukee area.

In the event that a coach has scheduled an out-of-town athletic contest, or a team qualifies for the WIAA State Tournament, parents/guardians will receive written communication from the coach detailing, at the very least, the following information:

- Destination.
- Name, address and contact information for the hotel/motel/etc. at which the student-athletes are staying. If the student-athletes are staying at individual residences, a list of addresses and telephone numbers will be provided to parents/guardians prior to the team leaving Milwaukee.
- Telephone numbers where the coach and the student-athletes can be reached.

## **OUT-OF-TOWN TRAVEL POLICIES (continued)**

Further, the coach will also include:

- Behavior rules that will be in effect during travel and any overnight stays.
- Any special disciplinary action that will be taken in cases of a breach of the rules.

## **PHYSICAL EXAM**

The WIAA requires that all students who participate in interscholastic athletics must have written evidence of current physical fitness to participate in sports as determined by a licensed physician or an Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber (APNP) “on file” in the Athletic Office no less than every other school year. **No student-athlete will be permitted to participate in the interscholastic athletic program (practices/games/meets/etc.) until this requirement (completion and filing of Athletic Form “A”) is fulfilled.**

Physical exams taken on April 1<sup>st</sup> and thereafter are valid for the following two school years. Physical exams taken before April 1<sup>st</sup> are valid only for the remainder of that school year and the next school year. Physical exam forms (Athletic Form “A”) are available in the Athletic Office.

## **ACADEMIC INELIGIBILITY TIME PERIOD FOR FALL SPORTS AND SUMMER BASEBALL**

The WIAA provides that the academic ineligibility status determined at the end of the second semester will be adjusted as follows for student-athletes in fall sports in which the date of earliest allowed competition is before the first day student-athletes are in class and for student-athletes in summer baseball:

- **Fall Sports** – The minimum ineligibility period shall be the lesser of ... (1) 21 consecutive calendar days beginning with the date of earliest allowed competition in a sport or (2) one-third of the maximum number of games/meets allowed in a sport (rounded up if one-third results in a fraction).
- **Summer Baseball** – The ineligibility period shall be a minimum of three weeks (21 consecutive calendar days) as of the end of the second semester.

## **TRANSFER STUDENTS**

During a transfer student’s first semester at Pius XI High School, he/she will be granted athletic eligibility status that is based on the status the student-athlete had at his/her previous school. All WIAA requirements regarding transfer students must be met.

Note Well: If a transfer student comes to Pius XI High School with a status of “ineligible for athletics” due to disciplinary action that was taken at the prior school, the resultant penalty must be served and successfully completed before the transfer student can be declared “eligible of athletics” at Pius XI High School.

## **TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

If parents/guardians provide transportation “to or from” interscholastic athletic events, or allow their son/daughter to provide transportation “to or from” these events, the following policies are in effect:

- Where parents/guardians provide transportation for their son(s)/daughter(s) “to or from” a scheduled event, the parents/guardians shall assume all resulting liability, and Pius XI High School shall assume no liability.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICY (continued)

- Where parents/guardians transport students other than their own son(s)/daughter(s) “to or from” a scheduled event, the parents/guardians transporting the students shall assume all resulting liability, and Pius XI High School shall assume no liability.
- Where a student-athlete transports himself/herself “to or from” a scheduled event, the parents/guardians of that student-athlete shall assume all resulting liability, and Pius XI High School shall assume no liability.
- Student-athletes are not allowed to transport other student-athletes/students “to or from” a scheduled event.

All parents/guardians of student-athletes agree to “comply with” the Pius XI High School Transportation Policy listed above by “signing” the appropriate Athletic Form (“A” or “B”) and filing that form with the Athletic Department prior to transporting their child/children, allowing their student-athlete(s) to be transported by another designated adult, or requesting that their student-athlete(s) transport themselves to an interscholastic athletic event.

## WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (WIAA)

Pius XI High School is a member school of the WIAA. As such, we are bound to follow all rules as established by the WIAA and its member schools. Individuals wanting to read/review the WIAA Rules and Regulations in their entirety may access them on the WIAA website at [www.wiaawi.org](http://www.wiaawi.org).

## PIUS XI HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC TEAMS

### Fall Sports

#### Boys

Cross Country  
Football  
Soccer  
Volleyball

#### Girls

Cross Country  
Golf  
Swim  
Tennis  
Volleyball

### Winter Sports

#### Boys

Basketball  
Ice Hockey\*  
Swim  
Wrestling\*

#### Girls

Basketball

### Spring Sports

#### Boys

Golf  
Tennis  
Track and Field

#### Girls

Soccer  
Softball  
Track and Field

### Summer Sport

Boys Baseball

### All Seasons

Girls Pom Poms

\* Girls *are* allowed to participate in Ice Hockey and Wrestling.

# PIUS XI HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC AWARDS

## Description of Awards

Numerals: .....	Year of graduation (i.e. 11)
Bar: .....	A chenille bar
Metal Bar: .....	A metal bar
Chevron: .....	A chenille chevron
Minor Letter: .....	A three inch "P"
Major/Minor Letter: .....	A six inch "P"
Major Letter: .....	A nine inch "P"
Pin: .....	A pin representing the sport ... to be placed on the Major Letter

## Freshman Year

**Level:** Freshman or Junior Varsity

1 <sup>st</sup> Sport	Numerals
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sport	Bar
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sport	Bar
4 <sup>th</sup> Sport	Bar

**Level:** Varsity

1 <sup>st</sup> Sport	Major or Major/Minor Letter Pin or Metal Bar
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sport	Major or Major/Minor Letter Pin or Metal Bar
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sport	Pin or Metal Bar
4 <sup>th</sup> Sport	Pin or Metal Bar

## Sophomore Year

**Level:** Junior Varsity

1 <sup>st</sup> Sport	Minor Letter
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sport	Chevron
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sport	Chevron
4 <sup>th</sup> Sport	Chevron

**Level:** Varsity

Same as Varsity Level for Freshman Year.

## Junior Year

Awards are the same as above for Varsity Level. If a Junior student-athlete plays a Junior Varsity sport, the student-athlete will be awarded a Major/Minor Letter.

## Senior Year

With few exceptions, Seniors are only eligible to play on the Varsity level; therefore, a Senior student-athlete will receive a Major Letter and Pin, or Major/Minor Letter and Pin, or Metal Bar.

*Note Well: Any student-athlete who has "majored" all four years in the same sport will receive a Four-Year Major Certificate. In extenuating circumstances, exceptions to the above stated Awards Policy may be made at the discretion of the coach ... with the approval of the Athletic Director.*

# **PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION**

## **Parent/Coach Relationship**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely rewarding and challenging 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 children.

As parents, when your child becomes involved any program at Pius XI High School, you have a right to know what expectations will be placed on your child. Within the interscholastic athletic program this begins with clear communication with the coach of your child's team.

### **Communication You Should Expect from the Coach**

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child, as well as all of the players.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements ..... i.e. fees, special equipment, etc.
5. Criteria for awards that will be presented at the end of the season.
6. Discipline that could result in suspension of your child's participation.
7. Concerns about your child's behavior.

### **Communication a Coach Expects from Parents**

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concerns regarding the coach's philosophy or expectations.

As your child becomes involved in the interscholastic athletic program at Pius XI High School, he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important for the parent(s) to understand that there may also be times when things do not go the way you or your child wish. At these times, forthright discussion with the coach is encouraged.

### **Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with the Coach**

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and/or physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

Remember that coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be "best" for the team and all of the individuals involved.

### **Issues NOT Appropriate to Discuss with the Coach**

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other student-athletes.

## **PROBLEM SOLVING PROCEDURE**

Co-curricular activities enhance the overall educational experience of the student. The development of lifetime skills such as honesty, integrity, respect, dedication, commitment and loyalty are all important qualities for students to learn. One of the most important lifelong skills that can be developed through participation in a co-curricular activity such as interscholastic athletics is problem solving. If we believe that co-curricular programs mimic life, then the potential exists for conflict in interpersonal relationships. Conflict is an inevitable part of the human condition. Student-athletes need to learn to embrace it as an educational opportunity. Although problem solving skills are best developed in the home, Pius XI High School feels an obligation to reinforce their development and endorses the following guidelines to assist in reaching the goals of healthy dialogue and conflict resolution.

### **IF A PROBLEM EXISTS, PLEASE FOLLOW THESE STEPS SEQUENTIALLY:**

1. First, the student-athlete should reflect on the program philosophy and goals as stated by the coach. Then, he/she should take a personal inventory and an insightful look at his/her goals, desires and motivation. How do they match up with the program?
2. Second, the student-athlete should speak to their parent/guardian. The parent/guardian should encourage the student-athlete to “advocate” on his/her own behalf. Discussion should focus on resolving the question listed in Point #1 above. If no resolution is reached, please proceed to Step 3.
3. Third, the student-athlete should talk to the coach. Discuss concern(s)/problem(s) frankly. The parent/guardian should avoid denying the student-athlete this educational opportunity by meeting with the coach on behalf of their child. Following this session, the parent/guardian and student-athlete should discuss the meeting. If no resolution is reached, please proceed to Step 4.
4. Fourth, the parent/guardian should call the coach to arrange a meeting. The student-athlete should be included. Please avoid approaching a coach after a game/meet/etc. Following this session, the parent/guardian and student-athlete should discuss the meeting. If no resolution is reached, please proceed to Step 5.
5. Fifth, the parent/guardian should call the Athletic Director to arrange a meeting that includes the Athletic Director, the coach, the parent/guardian and the student-athlete. If no resolution is reached after this meeting has taken place, please proceed to Step 6.
6. Finally, the parent/guardian should call the Chief Administrator of the school to arrange a meeting that includes the Chief Administrator, the Athletic Director, the coach, the parent/guardian and the student-athlete.

**PIUS XI HIGH SCHOOL**  
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