



# PLATO ACADEMY ATHLETICS HANDBOOK

Revised August 2025

**PLATO ACADEMY SCHOOLS CORPORATION**

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# **ATHLETICS HANDBOOK, ARTICLE 1**

## **Mission Statement, Vision Statement, Principals of Athletics**

### **1.1 Mission Statement**

The mission of Plato Academy Charter Schools is to assist students in achieving their full potential by requiring and nurturing high academic and behavioral standards in a safe, supporting, challenging and enthusiastic environment, providing a well-rounded K-8 education fortified by a study of the Greek language and culture, and fostered by a commitment and cooperative effort among the school, students, parents, and community: our family.

Η αποστολή των σχολείων της Ακαδημίας του Πλάτωνα είναι να βοηθήσει τους μαθητές της να αξιοποιήσουν πλήρως τις δυνατότητές τους καλλιεργώντας υψηλά ακαδημαϊκά πρότυπα και υψηλά πρότυπα συμπεριφοράς σε ένα ασφαλές, υποστηρικτικό, ενθουσιώδες και συγχρόνως απαιτητικό περιβάλλον, παρέχοντας μια ολοκληρωμένη εκπαίδευση από το νηπιαγωγείο έως και την ογδόη τάξη ενισχυμένη από τη διδασκαλία της ελληνικής γλώσσας και του ελληνικού πολιτισμού, και υποστηριζόμενη από τη δέσμευση και την προσπάθεια συνεργασίας μεταξύ των σχολείων, των μαθητών, των γονέων και της κοινότητας που συλλογικά απαρτίζουν την οικογένειά μας.

### **1.2 Vision Statement**

The vision of Plato Academy Charter Schools is to progress as a family in which all are teachers and learners and are empowered and encouraged to exceed expectations, resulting in successful graduates ready to advance into their next stage of life, equipped with a well-rounded K-8 education fortified by the study of the Greek language and culture, and excited about continuing to achieve their full potential.

Το όραμα των Σχολείων Τσάρτερ της Ακαδημίας Πλάτωνος είναι να προχωρήσει ως μια οικογένεια στην οποία όλοι είναι δάσκαλοι και μαθητές και ενδυναμώνονται και ενθαρρύνονται να ξεπεράσουν τις προσδοκίες, με αποτέλεσμα επιτυχημένους αποφοίτους έτοιμους να προχωρήσουν στο επόμενο στάδιο της ζωής τους, εξοπλισμένοι με μια ολοκληρωμένη εκπαίδευση K-8 ενισχυμένη από τη μελέτη της ελληνικής γλώσσας και του πολιτισμού, και ενθουσιασμένοι που συνεχίζουν να αξιοποιούν πλήρως τις δυνατότητές τους.

### **1.3 Introduction To Athletics**

- 1) Athletic programs are open to all 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade boys and girls.
- 2) Any athlete assigned a detention must sit out one half of a sports contest for basketball, flag football, or soccer. They will sit out one set for Volleyball and one period if for Ball Hockey. Any athlete assigned an in-school suspension (ISS) must sit out one game. Any student assigned an out-of-school suspension (OSS) must sit out a minimum of two games, potentially more depending on the severity of the situation.
- 3) Players must have a 2.0 GPA from the previous quarter to try-out for a sport. Students that currently have an 'F' during the marking period are academically ineligible to try-out. Summer credit recovery does not affect the previous semester's GPA. Students without documentation of grades are ineligible.
- 4) Practice is limited to a maximum of a (1) hour duration per practice.
- 5) Try outs may not be held prior to the official try out date determined by the Director of Athletics.
- 6) In case of inclement weather, the Director of Athletics will communicate with all participating schools in regard to cancellation and/or rescheduling dates. Cancellations are based on playability of facilities and current weather issues.
- 7) Athletes will wear game jerseys on game day. Shorts will be provided as part of their uniform. Volleyball shorts may NOT be worn to school and only as game attire. Shirts will be numbered on the back. Each school will wear the color of their campus, as provided by Plato Academy.
- 8) Physical education equipment should not be used for athletics program games, only for practices. The Athletics Department will provide a standard set of equipment for each contest.
- 9) The schools will be clustered into geographical groups of four or five schools each. Schools only compete within their cluster until playoffs.
- 10) Rosters will be submitted on the proper Roster Form to the Director of Athletics and then to the Game Manager before the contest in all sports on game day.

## **1.4 Principals of Athletics**

To fully use the potential in athletics for educational experiences, interscholastic programs should be organized and conducted in accordance with these six basic principles:

- 1) Students' involvement in interscholastic athletics is an integral part of Plato Academy's educational experience. The fundamental purpose of the Plato Academy Athletic Program is to empower in each student-athlete a life-long appreciation for physical activity, to provide the opportunity to become experienced, skilled, and confident in any athletic area chosen, and above all, to make the athletic experience rewarding and educational.
- 2) Plato Academy Schools athletic programs are committed to providing all student-athletes with an experience which will inspire them to fully develop their individual gifts.
- 3) Each student should be provided with the opportunity to participate in a reasonably diverse athletic program in the area of their own choice and at a level of play and difficulty that is demonstrated by one's ability, interests, or grade level. Each student should be afforded the opportunity to benefit from the leadership and guidance of dedicated and knowledgeable coaches who place great emphasis on commitment, sportsmanship, teamwork, skill improvement, and achievement.
- 4) The welfare of the participant should be placed above any other consideration. What happens to the athlete who participates in the sports program is of primary importance. His or her welfare should transcend any other consideration. Victory is highly desired, important, and should be sought, but not at the sacrifice of other values concerned with the development of the participant.
- 5) Our primary goal is to provide the most educational, enjoyable, and memorable experience for each of our student-athletes. Sportsmanship, not Gamesmanship, is our competitive model. We respect the game and its rules.
- 6) A player who earns a place on a team should be proud of this accomplishment. However, in choosing to accept the earned position, a player should know there are no guarantees governing their playing time in contests. The player's adeptness in the sport, proven effectiveness, attendance, grades, willingness to cooperate with team personnel, effort, and qualities of good sportsmanship will all be determinants upon which the coach will decide whether to play the student in a contest, and the quality of time they will receive.

# **ATHLETICS HANDBOOK, ARTICLE 2**

## **Principals of Conduct and Sportsmanship of Athletics**

### **2.1 Participation is a Privilege**

As defined by the Florida High-School Athletic Association, participation in interscholastic athletics by a student is a privilege, not a right. To earn this privilege, students must abide by the rules and meet standards of academic performances and personal behavior that are related to school purposes.

### **2.2 Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct**

Interscholastic athletic programs must encourage good character, enhance integrity of education, and promote civility in society. Student-athletes, coaches and all others associated with interscholastic athletic programs, as well as those who attend interscholastic athletic events, should adhere to the fundamental values of honesty, integrity, respect, caring, cooperation, trustworthiness, leadership, tolerance, and personal responsibility.

#### **2.2.1 Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct by School Representatives**

Players, coaches, administrators, staff, and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with a school shall practice and promote the highest standards of sportsmanship and ethics before, during, and after any interscholastic event.

#### **2.2.2 Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct by Spectators**

Spectators have a very important role in the program. Spectators must also promote the highest standards of sportsmanship and ethics before, during, and after any interscholastic events. This includes, and is not limited to:

- Supporting and encouraging the student-athletes
- Being a “fan” to all participants involved, whether your school or another
- Refraining from the use of profane or vulgar language – verbal abuse
- Refraining from using defamatory statements directed to others about the school administration, faculty, or student body, whether online, in writing, or in person
- Refraining from physical harm, threat of physical harm, intimidating, or aggressive behavior
- Refraining from directing gender, racial, or ethnic slurs, spitting, or using obscene gestures toward contest officials or opponents

### **2.2.3 Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct by Participants**

As mentioned in 2.2.1, Players connected directly and indirectly with a school shall practice and promote the highest standards of sportsmanship and ethics before, during, and after any interscholastic events. This includes, and is not limited to:

- Treating all opponents and fans with respect
- Show respect for your coaches, the opposition's coaches, and the officials
- Demonstrating self-control
- Refraining from the use of profane or vulgar language – verbal abuse
- Refraining from using defamatory statements directed to others about the school administration, faculty, or student body, whether online, in writing, or in person
- Refraining from physical harm, threat of physical harm, intimidating, or aggressive behavior
- Respect and accept all official's calls and decisions without gestures or argument
- Refraining from directing gender, racial, or ethnic slurs, spitting, or using obscene gestures toward contest officials or opponents
- Win with dignity, lose without excuses
- Conduct yourself at all times in a manner the represents character and sportsmanship traits that are acceptable
- Adhere to all school and team rules

## **2.3 Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

### **2.3.1 "Unsportsmanlike Conduct" Defined**

A participant, spectator, or school representative who commits an act of malicious and hateful nature toward a contest official, an opponent or any other person attending an athletic contest shall be guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct. Such acts may include, but are not limited to, profanity, striking or threatening a contest official, participant or additional attendee; physical contact with an opponent which is beyond the normal scope of competition; spitting on a contest official, opponent, or additional attendee; directing gender, racial or ethnic slurs toward a contest official, opponent, or additional attendee; or other acts deemed to be unacceptable conduct according to administration, the Athletic Director, or the contest official.

#### **2.3.1.1 Penalty for Student-Athletes.**

Student-athletes who commit unsportsmanlike acts before, during, or after a contest will be subject to the following suspension levels as determined by the Athletic Director:

**Level 1 Suspension.** A student-athlete who commits an unsportsmanlike act or a flagrant foul for which he/she is ejected from the contest will be ineligible to compete for the remainder of that contest and for a minimum of the next two (2) contests, at the same level of participation in the sport of the suspension and in any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport, at any level, during the period of suspension, in all sports.

**Level 2 Suspension.** A student-athlete who receives a second Level 1 Suspension or commits an unsportsmanlike act will be ineligible to compete in any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport, at any level, for a period of up to six (6) weeks.

**Level 3 Suspension.** A student-athlete who receives a second Level 2 Suspension or commits an egregious unsportsmanlike act, as determined in the sole discretion of the Athletic Director, will be ineligible to compete in any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport for a period of up to one (1) year.

**2.3.1.2 Restoring Eligibility for Student-Athletes.** The Athletic Director may restore the student's eligibility upon the completion of the following:

- Completion of the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) Sportsmanship course, found here:  
<https://nfhslearn.com/courses?searchText=sportsmanship>
- Certificate of completion mailed to the Athletic Director:  
[athletics@platoacademy.net](mailto:athletics@platoacademy.net)
- Suspension period has been served
- The student has signed a written statement of intention to comply with these standards in the future and has emailed it to the Athletic Director and school administration team.

**2.3.1.3 Penalty for Coaches or Other Representatives of the School's Athletic Interests (Including Spectators).** Coaches or other representatives who commit unsportsmanlike acts before, during, or after a contest will be subject to the following suspension levels as determined by the Athletic Director:



**Level 1 Suspension.** A coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests who commits an unsportsmanlike act for which he/she is ejected from the contest, will be ineligible to coach or attend the remainder of that contest and for a minimum of the next two (2) contests, at the same level of participation in the sport of the suspension and in any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport, at any level, during the period of suspension, in all sports. Your student-athlete will also be removed and will not be able to return until you have restored your eligibility.

**Level 2 Suspension.** A coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests who receives a second Level 1 Suspension or commits an unsportsmanlike act will be ineligible to coach or attend any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport, at any level, for a period of up to six (6) weeks. Your student-athlete will also be removed and asked to serve a Level 1 Suspension.

**Level 3 Suspension.** A coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests who receives a second Level 2 Suspension or commits an egregious unsportsmanlike act, as determined in the sole discretion of the Athletic Director, will be ineligible to coach or attend any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport for a period of up to one (1) year. Your student-athlete will also be removed and asked to serve a Level 1 Suspension.

#### **2.3.1.4 Restoring Eligibility for Coaches or Other Representatives.**

The Athletic Director may restore the coach or other representatives' eligibility upon the completion of the following:

##### **Level 1 Suspension**

- Completion of the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) Sportsmanship course, found here: <https://nfhslearn.com/courses?searchText=sportsmanship>

##### **Level 2 Suspension**

- Completion of the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) course titled 'The Parent Seat', found here: <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/the-parent-seat>
- Completion of the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) course titled 'Positive Parenting within School Programs', found here: <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/positive-sport-parenting>

##### **Contest Officials**

- If it involves a contest official, completion of the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) Interscholastic Officiating course is also required: <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/interscholastic-officiating>

##### **Additional Completion Tasks**

- Certificate of completion(s) mailed to the Athletic Director: [athletics@platoacademy.net](mailto:athletics@platoacademy.net)
- Suspension period has been served.

# **ATHLETICS HANDBOOK, ARTICLE 3**

## **Administrative and Sports Coordinator Control and Staff Responsibility**

### **3.1 Administrative/Sports Coordinator Responsibility**

Responsibilities of all administration:

1. Prior to Season
  - a) Verify all student-athlete's eligibility.
  - b) Admin or "designee" pulls grade report when needed.
  - c) Verify all personnel are Level II cleared (coaches, game managers etc.).
  - d) Verify transportation.
  - e) Request schedule changes prior to the season, if needed.
  - f) Communicate with Athletic Director if school facilities are being used.
2. Prior to Contest
  - a) Verify location of contest.
  - b) Verify schools' knowledge of contest.
  - c) Communicate any behavioral incidents to Athletic Director.

### **3.2 Coaching Control and Responsibility**

Responsibilities of all head coaches:

1. Prior to the season:
  - a) Must be Level I (Yearly) AND Level II (Every 5 years) Certified to be around students.
  - b) Must be CPR/First Aid/AED Certified
  - c) Must have completed the following courses through the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS):
  - d) Concussion in Sports:

<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/concussion-in-sports-2>

- e) Heat Illness Prevention:

<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/heat-illness-prevention-2>

- f) Sudden Cardiac Arrest:

<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/sudden-cardiac-arrest>

- g) Must email certificate of completion for each to:  
[athletics@platoacademy.net](mailto:athletics@platoacademy.net)

## 2. During the season:

- a) Directly responsible to the administration for the proper operation and supervision of their athletes in practices, competition, and transportation. This includes supervising students at practice/games until they are all picked up by their families.
- b) To be loyal to their school, principal, and other administrative policies.
- c) Responsible for care and storage of practice equipment.
- d) Responsible for complete inventory of practice equipment.
- e) Attend mandatory meetings pertaining to their sport.
- f) Responsible for clean-up of facilities used by their sport.
- g) Responsible for setting up required practice facilities for their sport. This includes arranging for water and equipment.
- h) Carry out the policies and procedures of athletics as approved by Plato Academy Schools Corporation.

## 3. At Site Responsibilities:

- a) Must be at the contest 30 minutes prior to start of contest and stay until last student leaves.
- b) Introductions with game officials.
- c) Assist Athletics Director with monitoring crowd and address all issues.
- d) Assist Athletics Director in making decisions on weather-related issues.

### **3.3 Game Managers/Sports Coordinators**

Responsibilities of all Game Managers/Sports Coordinators:

1. Host and non-host:
  - a) Attend contest from start to finish.
  - b) Check rosters of each team.
  - c) Help with contest scoring.
  - d) Assist Director of Athletics with other responsibilities.
  - e) Facility set up (and clean up when necessary)
  - f) Submit game report at conclusion of contest.

## **ATHLETICS HANDBOOK, ARTICLE 4**

### **Interscholastic Contests and Championships**

#### **4.1 Definition of Interscholastic Contest.**

An interscholastic contest is any competition between organized teams or individuals of different schools in a sport recognized by Plato Academy Schools Corporation, and therefore shall be subject to all regulations pertaining to such contests.

#### **4.2 Protests.**

Any decision made by a contest official shall not be contested. The decisions of the contest officials are final.

#### **4.3 Volleyball**

1. Fall I season - practice begins as determined by PSL. Matches will consist of 2 out of 3 games to determine the winner. All games will be rally scoring. The first two games score shall be 25 points with a least a 2-point advantage over the opponents. The third game shall go to 15. The winner must win by two.

2. The schedule will be determined by the Director of Athletics.
3. Dress roster of up to 12 for interscholastic competitions. Unlimited practice and inter-squad rosters. Being a member of the dress roster does not guarantee playing in each contest.
4. The NFHS volleyball rules will be followed.
5. Height of the net should be seven feet and four and one eighth inches (7 feet, 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" )
6. Use one volleyball association official. The volleyball official will be paid at the rate approved by Plato Sports League.
7. The libero can be used and must wear a different color uniform top.

#### **4.4 Basketball**

1. Winter I season – practice begins on the date determined by PSL.
2. Six to ten games schedule.
3. Mouthpieces are optional.
4. Dress roster of up to 15 for interscholastic competitions. Unlimited practice and inter-squad rosters. Being a member of the dress roster does not guarantee playing in each contest.
5. The game will consist of 4 quarters, 6-minutes each for JV and 7-minutes each for Varsity. This will also consist of a 3-minute half time. The clock will stop on each whistle. 2 30-second time outs and 3 full timeouts per half (1 minute each).
6. Should the game end with a tie score then a 3-minute overtime will be played to determine the outcome.
7. Officials will be paid at the rate approved by the PSL.

## **4.5 Soccer**

1. Fall I/Spring season - Practice begins on the date determined by PSL.
2. Schedule will be released after tryouts are completed.
3. Mouthpieces are optional. Shin-guards are mandatory.
4. Slide tackling is permitted.
5. Dress roster of up to 18 for interscholastic competitions. Unlimited practice and inter-squad rosters. Being a member of the dress roster does not guarantee playing in each contest.
6. The NFHS soccer rules will be followed. Exceptions to the NFHS rules will be allowed:
  - Rule 3, section 3 Substitutions: Unlimited substitutions at any stoppage of play will be allowed.
  - Rule 4, section 1 Numbering of jerseys.
  - Rule 7, two 25-minute halves, five-minute halftime.
7. OVERTIME: Regular season ties will finish as a draw, and (1) point will be awarded to each team. Playoff ties will move to overtime and will consist of two (5) five-minute periods. Teams will switch ends of the field at the end of the first overtime. The team with more goals at the conclusion of the second overtime

shall be declared the winner. If still tied, the contest will proceed directly into penalty kicks until finished.

8. Officials will be paid at the rate approved by the PSL.



## **4.6 Flag Football**

1. Winter II/ Spring season - practice begins as determined by PSL. A formal schedule of contests will be released after tryouts. Basic rules are listed below:
2. The playing field shall be 70 yards long (including [2] 10-yard end zones) and 25 yards wide.
3. Mouthpieces are required.
4. Athletic rubber bottom cleats are preferable.
5. Flag belts with two 16" flags must be worn outside of a player's clothing. If caught tying flags, the player will be suspended for one game and the team will forfeit the contest without question.
6. No jewelry or watches may be worn during play.
7. Junior (JV/Girls) and Youth (Varsity Boys) size footballs will be used for game balls.
8. Dress roster of up to 14 for interscholastic competitions. Unlimited practice and inter-squad rosters. Being a member of the dress roster does not guarantee playing in each contest.
9. PSL Rules will be followed. Two twenty-two minute halves; clock will not be stopped; two-minute halftime.
10. The offense has (7) seconds to get the ball across the LOS. If the ball has not crossed at (7) seconds, the ref will blow the whistle and the ball will be considered dead, resulting in a loss of down.
11. The defense may blitz as many times in a defensive series, as long as it is from the 7-yard cone.
12. OVERTIME – In overtime, each team will receive (1) offensive possession. The team that scores, wins the game. If no team scores, the game moves into the 2<sup>nd</sup> overtime period. Both teams will have a chance to score from 10-yards out. If neither team scores, play move to a 3<sup>rd</sup> and final overtime. Each team will have one offensive play to get as many yards as possible. Most yards' wins.
13. The Plato Sports League will provide the officials per contest. They will be paid as stipulated in the contract as approved by the league.

## **4.7 Ball Hockey**

1. Winter II season - practice begins on the date determined by PSL.
2. Dress roster of up to 16 for interscholastic competitions.
3. Each school will field a co-ed team
4. It is expected that all games will be played on a standard outdoor ball hockey rink built by the Tampa Bay Lightning with dimensions of not less than 80-feet long and not less than 40-feet wide.
5. The Lightning shall supply the Referees for all Plato Street Hockey games during the regular season and the playoffs.
6. Each team shall be permitted to play 5-position players plus a Goalie, except when shorthanded due to penalties, injuries, illness or suspensions to players. Each team shall utilize 3-Forwards (Center, Left Wing, Right Wing), and 2- Defensemen (Left Defenseman and Right Defenseman). The Goalie shall wear appropriate protective padding including Chest Protector, Leg Pads, Catching and Blocking Gloves, and Mask/Helmet at all times.
7. Line Changes shall be made at the discretion of the Head Coach and shall be made during a stoppage in play, provided that at NO TIME may a team have more than 5-players and a goalie on the playing surface. Violation of this rule shall result in a TOO MANY PLAYERS penalty.
8. An official game shall consist of three (3) FIFTEEN MINUTE (15) running time periods, with not more than a 3-minute break between periods. Teams will switch ends at the end of each period, with the Home team determining which net it will defend to start the game. The Referee shall keep the time on his or her person and shall call out the LAST MINUTE OF PLAY in each period.
9. In the event a regular season game is tied at the end of regulation play, the game is a "tie" and both teams will receive one-point in the league standings. In the event a playoff game is tied at the end of regulation play, there will be a 3- player SHOOTOUT with each team alternating shooters. In the event the game remains tied after the 3- player shootout, there shall be 1-player Sudden Death Shootout to determine the winner. Each team shall receive 3-points in the standings for a Win and 1-point for a Draw and 0-points for a Loss.

## **4.8 School Championships**

### **4.8.1 Volleyball**

First and Second place winners from each cluster:

- Played the week following the regular season.

### **4.8.2 Basketball**

First and Second place winners from each cluster:

- Played the week following the regular season.

### **4.8.3 Soccer**

First and Second place winners from each cluster:

- Played the week following the regular season.

### **4.8.4 Flag Football**

First and Second place winners from each cluster:

- Played the week following the regular season.

### **4.8.5 Ball Hockey**

First and Second place winners from each cluster:

- Played the week following the regular season.

### **4.8.6 Determining Cluster Winners in Volleyball, Flag Football, Soccer, Ball Hockey, & Basketball:**

1. Fewest Losses.
2. Head to head competition.
3. Total points scored for the season. (Flag Football and Basketball)
4. Points awarded for win or tie. (Volleyball, Soccer, Hockey [3 for Win...1 for Tie])
5. In case of a 3-way tie, there will be a play-in scenario on the last Friday of the season. A blind draw will determine the seeding. In basketball, soccer and football, the play-in will consist of a half; in volleyball, a play in will consist of one game to 25 points.

### **4.8.7 Team Seeding**

Seeding format Will be as follows:

Seed #4 @ Seed #1

Seed #3 @ Seed #2

Winners of each move to the Championship Game. Non-winners will play each other for 3rd place.

# **ATHLETICS HANDBOOK, ARTICLE 5**

## **Student Eligibility**

### **5.1 General Principals**

**5.1.1 Participation in Interscholastic Athletics is a Privilege.** Participation in interscholastic athletic programs by a student is a privilege, not a right. Students who participate are required to meet the requirements established in state law and by their respective schools.

**5.1.2 Ineligible Student – Academically Ineligible.** An academically ineligible student shall be permitted on the sideline of play but may not wear any portion of a team uniform or participate in the contest.

**5.1.3 Ineligible Student – School Suspension.** An ineligible student shall not be allowed on or near the field of play or to be wearing any portion of a team uniform.

### **5.2 Attendance Policy**

**5.2.1 Absent from school.** Any student who is absent from school on the day of the contest may not participate that day unless the absence is pre-scheduled and signed off on by school administration. These exceptions may be, but not limited to; field trips; doctor appointments; dentist's appointments; family emergencies.

**5.2.2 Late to school.** A student may still participate in athletic contest if they are late to school and can provide a signed note to the front office.

### **5.3 Academic Requirements**

**5.3.1 2.0 GPA (No F's or D's) Required for Academic Eligibility.** A student must have a 2.0 GPA based on a 4.0 scale, in all core classes, at the conclusion of each quarter. A student must have a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 unweighted scale, in all core classes, at the conclusion of each quarter to be academically eligible during the next quarter.

**5.3.2 Try-outs for each sport.** If a student currently has an 'F' in a core class, they are not academically eligible to participate in try-outs for that current or upcoming sport. If a student has a 'D' in a core class, they are permitted to try-out but academic limitations may prevent the head coach from selecting that student.

## **5.4 Middle School Age Limit**

A student who reaches the age of 15 prior to July 1st shall become ineligible to participate at the middle school level. The 15-year middle school age limit applies to a participating student only when:

- a) Teams representing middle schools compete against each other; or
- b) Teams representing middle schools compete against private schools.

## **5.5 Physical Evaluation**

A student must have a physical evaluation each year and be certified as being physically fit to participate in interscholastic athletic programs prior to participating in interscholastic athletic competition or engaging in any practice, tryout, workout, or other physical activity associated with the student's candidacy for an interscholastic team. A physical evaluation shall be valid for a period not to exceed one calendar year from the date of practitioner's signature. The student cannot be allowed to participate in any activity related to interscholastic athletic programs until the fully executed physical evaluation form is on file in the school.

## **5.6 League Participation Agreement**

**5.6.1 Release of Liability.** A student must have the consent of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to participate in interscholastic athletic programs prior to participating in interscholastic athletic competition or engaging in any practice, tryout, workout, or other physical activity associated with the student's candidacy for an interscholastic team. The student and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must also release the Plato Academy Schools Corporation, its respective schools and contest officials from all liability for any injury or claim that may result from the student's participation in interscholastic athletics. This Participation Agreement must be provided through Google Forms for that purpose. The form must be signed by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The student cannot be allowed to participate in any activity related to interscholastic athletic programs until the fully executed consent form is on file in the school.

**5.6.2 Media Release.** During the school year, Pinellas County Schools and Plato Academy Schools Corporation may produce, reproduce, broadcast or publish student names, likenesses and/or voices on multiple media formats, including but not limited to:

- WPDS-Ch. 14
- Written publications
- District websites

- School websites
- Teacher websites
- Social Media Sites
- Marketing Materials

All documents on district-sponsored websites are required to conform to school board policies, including Policy 7.33, Use of Electronic Resources. In addition, news media, including representatives of television, radio, newspaper and magazines, are periodically permitted on school board property and may take notes, still photographs, sound recordings and/or video that may include you and/or your child. These items may appear or be used in news or feature stories by print, television or radio media. Pursuant to Section 540.08 and Section 1002.22, Florida Statutes, the school board is required to obtain express written permission before using any student's name or likeness in the above described manner. If you do not object to the use of your child's name, picture or voice for any purpose mentioned above, signing the Participation Agreement grants your consent pursuant to Section 540.08(1) and Section 1002.22(2)(a), F.S. By you and your child agreeing to participate in any Interscholastic Contest, you and your child are agreeing to the terms of the Media Release.

## **ATHLETICS HANDBOOK, ARTICLE 6**

### **Roster Compliance and Enforcement**

#### **6.1 Roster Submission**

Rosters shall be submitted to the Athletic Directors' email upon completion of tryouts using the Roster Template Form that is provided. Once rosters are submitted, families are notified within twenty-four (24) hours of their child making the team.

##### **6.1.1 Player Addition After Roster Submission.**

Once a roster is submitted to the Athletic Director, rosters and teams are closed and additional students will not be permitted. In the event that a team has roster questions or still needs to fill empty spots, a direct conversation with the Athletic Director will happen in order to determine the next course of action.

#### **6.2 JV and Varsity Playing Rules**

- JV (5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>) players may only play up on the Varsity (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>) level if that campus does not have a JV (5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>) team or they need additional support to fill a roster.
- Once they play on the Varsity (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>) team, they must remain on the Varsity (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>) roster for the season.
- Varsity players (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>) are NEVER permitted to play down on the JV (5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>) team.