

Piedmont Academy Cougars



Athletic Handbook
2023-2024

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Piedmont Academy Athletic Department

Contact Information

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School Year 2023 – 2024

Fall Sports

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Softball Joe Johnson

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Volleyball Maxie Maddox

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Cheerleading Brittney Bryant

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Shotgun Lauren Hilliard

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Winter Sports

Girls Basketball Michael Wilson

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Boys Basketball David Bice

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Fishing Tommy Thomason

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Spring Sports

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Girls Soccer Derrick Adams

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Boys Soccer

Golf Michael Wilson

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Athletic Department Overview

Mission:

The Piedmont Academy Athletics Department is committed to protecting and developing the mind, body, and spirit within each student-athlete in alignment with the school's vision and mission.

Philosophy:

Piedmont Academy strives to provide a positive and well-rounded environment to supplement the student-athlete's classroom development. We seek to develop strong character and prepare them to grow and mature in to responsible and productive citizens. The athletic experience at Piedmont Academy emphasized excellence, discipline, a high work ethic and moral standards. Specifically, the Athletic Department is committed to the following:

- To offer a well-balanced and varied program of interscholastic athletics
- To teach the value of competition
- To foster the development of athletic skills
- To develop leadership skills, strong character and work ethic along with self-discipline
- To teach the value of commitment to team, school, and community
- To foster loyalty and pride in one's self, team, and community.

Governing Association:

The extracurricular activities and athletics for Piedmont Academy are governed by the Georgia Independent Athletic Association (GIAA). All academic and eligibility policies and regulations are set forth by the GIAA.

Athletic Awards:

Athletic Awards will be distributed to the student-athlete at a season ending banquet. Awards will include, but are not limited to, All-Region, All-State, and All-Star game selection.

Letterman Jacket Guidelines:

Piedmont Academy will provide varsity letters and patches for team and individual achievement. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to purchase the letter jacket for their student-athlete. Guidelines for earning a letter and a letter jacket are as follows:

- A certificate and letter will be awarded to the student-athlete following their first season of varsity participation.
- Following a second season of participation on a varsity team, the student-athlete will be able to order a letter jacket.
- A junior transfer student who lettered at their previous school, may earn a letter jacket for their sport following their first season of varsity athletics at Piedmont Academy.

- A senior who participates in varsity athletics for the first time will be allowed to letter and purchase a letter jacket following successful completion of a varsity season.
- After receiving a letter jacket, a student-athlete will earn a var for each additional season they compete on a varsity team.

Athletic Participation and Eligibility

Varsity Eligibility:

All students currently enrolled in 8th-12th grade are eligible to compete in any varsity sport, with the exception of football which requires 9th – 12th grade for eligibility. The head coach of a sport will be the determining factor in deciding 8th grade participation in varsity athletics.

Students are allowed only one year of 8th grade eligibility at the varsity level. Students who are retained are not allowed to participate in varsity athletics their second year.

Additionally, a student-athlete reaching their 19th birthday prior to May 1st preceding the school year of participation will not be eligible to compete.

Academic Eligibility:

Students must pass 3 of the 5 units in the following subject area to be eligible for extracurriculars: English, Science, Math, Social Studies, Foreign Language, Academic electives.

Students failing to pass the minimum required three classes will NOT be eligible to compete until the beginning of the next semester. (i.e. student-athlete becomes ineligible following 1st semester, they will not be up for reinstatement until the following school year begins.)

Summer school credits are limited to two credits.

Class Attendance:

Students must attend school and class for at least 50% of the school day in order to participate in extracurricular events for that day. This means students should either be at school by 11:30 am or they must check out after 11:30 am on a day when a scheduled activity is to take place.

Special circumstances including but not limited to family emergencies and funerals may be reviewed by the Head of School and Athletic Director.

Transfer and Migrant Eligibility:

Any student who transfers schools after entering the 9th grade is a migrant and subject to the following stipulations, as sanctioned by the GIAA

Students who enter 9th grade are eligible, except for those who participated at the varsity level in 9th grade. These students who participate in varsity athletics are subject to the migratory rule.

Transfer from one-member school to another member school:

- A student is ineligible for one calendar year unless a bona fide move is made.
- Transfer from a non-member school to a member school:
 - Student is eligible for competitions as long as the transfer occurs before the deadline.
 - Fall sports deadline:
 - Winter sports deadline:
 - Spring sports deadline:
 - A student who transfers from a member school to a non-member school and back to the original member school is eligible after two weeks provided the student-athlete has not attended another member school in the last calendar year.
 - A student who transfers from one-member school to another member school because legal change in custody from parent/guardian to another adult is eligible provided the student-athlete meets all other requirements and provided that such a change in custody is supported by the appropriate legal documents.

Parent Expectations

Parents play a vital role in the Athletics Program. Parents model attitudes and behavior for their children. All parents are welcomed at any and all games, both home and away to support and encourage our student-athletes as they compete.

It is important for parents to be mindful of the job the Athletic Department and coaches are doing by avoiding negative interference or public criticism, especially in front of their student-athlete, other teammates, or community members.

Parents are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that brings honor and respect to Piedmont Academy. At no time should a parent display inappropriate behavior toward an official, coach, administrator, or student-athletes.

Any spectator/parent who acts in a disruptive manner will be removed from the game. Piedmont Academy reserves the right to deny entry to game or events for anyone with a history of disruptive behavior.

Team Selection

Placing student-athletes at the level where they can contribute physically and develop is important to the coaching staff.

Coaches are in place to manage and direct their team in accordance with the school's vision. A coach's responsibility includes, but is not limited to, evaluation and selection of teams.

Playing Time

Piedmont Academy's policy on playing time is that the Head Coach is the only individual who will determine playing time. Playing time has many factors that come into its determination, including but not limited to, athletic skills, classroom behavior, grades, ability to work well with teammates, practice attendance and various other attributes.

Playing time is not a topic that is up for discussion.

If anyone has any concerns regarding a specific team's structure and policy they are to email Michael Wilson at Michael_wilson@piedmontacademy.com to set up an in person appointment or discuss the matter via email or phone conversation first before confronting or meeting with the head coach.

All parent meetings with a coach will be done with the Athletic Director, or other school administrator if the AD is unable to attend, present.

Participation Fees:

Piedmont Academy relies on participation fees for individual sports and their budget. Additionally, these fees provide funds for regular maintenance, upkeep and minor upgrades to our athletic facilities as well as payment for officials and GIAA mandated coaching certifications. The fees can be found on the main Athletic page at www.piedmontacademy.com

Team Attire:

The student-athlete is a direct reflection on Piedmont Academy. When traveling to away games, the head coach of the sport will determine the team's travel attire. Hair color and facial hair rules will be applied according to the school policy for all practices and games during the school year, including games played during breaks.

Travel:

All teams will travel to away games by transportation provided by Piedmont Academy. Students are allowed to leave away games with their parents or another teammate's parent provided the coach is aware of the plans.

If a student-athlete wishes to leave their car at a designated drop off area to allow for easier travel coming home the parent must communicate that with the coach so plans can be made.

In the event that school transportation is unavailable, alternative plans will be made by the coach and communicated with parents at the earliest possible time.

Simultaneous Sport Activity:

No Piedmont Academy student-athlete may participate in another GIAA sanctioned sport's practice or games until the original sports season is complete, unless approved by the two head coaches of the sports in question. Please know, the coach of the current sport has final say in the decision.

Sportsmanship and Sport Responsibility:

It is the responsibility of all involved in a sport to conduct themselves in a manner which promotes good sportsmanship in practices, team activities, games, and the classroom.

Qualities of Sportsmanship and Responsibility in sport include:

- Commitment to team and practice
- Dealing with adversity in a positive manner helps to develop the mind, body, and spirit
- Appropriate expression of excitement and disappointment
- Accepting one's role within the framework of the team
- Academic success

Coaches Responsibilities:

- Communicate regularly and clearly with parents/guardian regarding practice, games, and travel on a weekly basis
- Support the mission of the school through athletics
- Galvanize our Piedmont community
- Demonstrated ability to develop teamwork, instill sportsmanship, and assist with personal goal setting
- Work as a role model to all student-athletes
- Set a high standard of ownership and pride in the Brookwood program and facilities
- Embrace the multi-sport athlete
- Create an expectation and lead an off-season training program