

Paul Knox Middle School Athletics:

Participation in athletics at Paul Knox Middle School is an extra-curricular function offered to our 7th and 8th grade students. Extra-curricular indicates that athletics are in addition to a main focus: academics. Participation in athletics is a privilege and our student-athletes are expected to represent the school in a positive manner at all times. Any student that engages in behavior that is judged by the administration to be detrimental to the reputation of Paul Knox Middle School may be dismissed from the athletic program.

The Athletic Handbook cannot possibly cover every situation that may arise in our athletic department. The Athletic Handbook, along with the Student Agenda, addresses the majority of issues that take place in athletics. In the event that guidance is not offered in the handbooks, the Paul Knox Middle School administration will dictate policy and procedure.

Philosophy of Athletics at Paul Knox Middle School:

At Paul Knox Middle School, we consider athletics an integral part of the educational experience. Athletics provides opportunities that will help students develop physically, mentally, and emotionally. We view the competition of athletics as a healthy educational and physiological activity because it challenges each student to excel, to discover his or her physical limits, and to work cooperatively with team members. While winning is a natural goal in the pursuit of excellence, the principles of good sportsmanship and enjoyment of competition take precedence at all times and enhance the educational value of contests.

Governing Bodies:

Paul Knox Middle School is a member of the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) and adheres to all regulations set forth by the league. Paul Knox teams participate in the Aiken County Middle School Athletic Conference.

Athletic Team Information

Standards for Participation:

In order to participate in organized athletics, all student-athletes must have a current physical on file with the school athletic department and satisfy all academic requirements for eligibility.

- An up-to-date physical examination must be on file with the athletic director prior to the start of participation. A physical examination is valid from April 1 of the current year through the following school year.
- Satisfaction of all eligibility requirements of the South Carolina High School League and Aiken County Schools.
- Birth Certificate - Each student must submit a certified state or local birth certificate to the athletic director. A photocopy of this birth certificate is kept in the athletic director's office. The original birth certificate will be promptly returned to the parents.
- Proof of Insurance - All student-athletes must provide evidence of insurance coverage.
- Adhere to the Athletic Code of Conduct - All student-athletes must exhibit respectful behavior and adhere to standard policies of conduct. See page 6 and 7 of this handbook.
- Parent acknowledgement of athletic policies - Parents and students should review and sign the athletic policies found on page 9 of this handbook.

Program Goals:

Though the unique nature of each sport dictates its specific objectives, all teams will attempt to

- ， Emphasize the development of basic skills, appropriate attitudes, values and team concepts.
- ， Allow students as possible to participate and share the experience and benefits derived from team membership.
- ， Compete competitively within the Aiken County Middle Schools Athletic League.

Expectations for Parents and Spectators:

Athletic contests can become highly emotional. However, proper behavior at athletic events will be in place at all times during athletic events. The following guidelines are expected at all times at Paul

Respect for school buildings and grounds:

Students will understand that damage to the school building, grounds, or school equipment will result in immediate suspension from the team. The length of such suspension will depend on the severity of the damage as determined by the Athletic Director and Coach. Please note, cleats are not to be worn in the building or on the track at any time.

Social Media Policy:

Playing and competing for Paul Knox Middle School is a privilege. Student-athletes are held in the highest regard and are seen as role models in the community. As a student-athlete, you are responsible to portray your team, your school and yourself in a positive manner at all times.

Texting, Facebook, Twitter, OregonLive.com, Instagram and other social media sites have increased in popularity globally and are used by many people in one form or another.

Student-athletes should be aware inappropriate social media behavior will result in suspension and dismissal from a Paul Knox athletic team.

Examples of inappropriate behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include, but are not limited to, depictions or presentations of the following:

- Photos, videos, comments or posts showing the use or depiction of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or illegal activities.
- Photos, videos, and comments that are of a sexual nature.
- Content online that is unsportsmanlike, demeaning or threatening toward individuals or entities.
- Content online that would constitute a violation of team, school, and league rules (examples: commenting publicly about a coach, teammate, opponent, official, student or staff member).
- Information that is sensitive or personal in nature or is proprietary to the team or the school, which is not public information.

MESSAGE TO ALL SPECTATORS AND PARENTS:

We urge you to support Paul Knox MS Athletics by:

- , Attending sporting events.
- , Being a positive influence at school, practices and games.
- , Lending positive support to players and coaches.
- , Encouraging all players without regard to their role on the team.
- , Encouraging athletes, spectators and parents maintain an appropriate sportsmanlike attitude.
- , Showing respect for the authority of the game officials.
- , Enjoying the athletic experience.

Paul Knox Middle School Athletic Policies

1. The South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) determines eligibility.
2. Each season begins on the official SCHSL starting date.
3. A student-athlete is expected to be committed. A student who quits one sport may not participate in another sport without