

Pirate Football Handbook

The Pirate Football Program is built on Leadership, Discipline, Loyalty, and Building Respected Members of the Collinsville Community. This handbook is written as an aid to clarify our intent. It is not meant to eliminate communication between players and coaches, but to make certain the lines are open and flowing at all times. We want to insure each area covered is clear and embraced by all participants. Hopefully, we are all here for the same reasons. Together, we can do great things for you and for Collinsville.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COLLINSVILLE FOOTBALL PROGRAM

1. Each player receives a diploma and an education. These are not necessarily the same. Your diploma will come if you follow the plan as set forth by our athletic staff. Education is learning to "pour yourself out" to make a commitment to something higher and more rewarding than yourself. You will learn to give, and in return the more you give, the more you will receive. It is learning to give all you have and not worry about what others might think.
2. Athletics plays an important role in the school, but is not independent of the school. We want to play football at a level that is very difficult for our opponents to maintain for forty-eight minutes. That level of play is what we practice. It is our goal to play at a little higher level than most teams can.
3. Through our football experience, we become better people. It is the intent of the program to teach more than football fundamentals. Players should develop or improve a genuine care and concern for other people. They should become more accountable and responsible and learn for every action there is a reaction. They will learn to be positive about this day tomorrow. They should love their country and this great school. Maroon and gold will become very meaningful. They will understand the influence they have on other people and use this in a positive manner.
4. They will have fun. Football is a game to be enjoyed. To be enjoyed, it must be done correctly. Once learned how to play correctly, there is nothing more fun. A definite objective is the absence of tension or pressure. The player will know that his goal is to give great effort and everything else will take care of itself.
5. Learn the schizophrenic nature of football. On the field, we need physical very aggressive personalities. Outside the white lines, we expect perfect gentlemen. Many times players get these confused. They are tough/aggressive off the field and very meek of the field. These are learned traits and must be practiced and positively reinforced. The ultimate compliment is for faculty/students/community people to say, because of off field behavior, "He is too nice to be that guy I watch on Friday night".

ASSUMPTION

Assumption: A statement that is assumed to be true.

It is important that you understand that we are making four assumptions. You must understand the importance because the program is developed with these assumptions paramount in our minds.

1. **We assume you want to be the best football player you can be.** This is important because when our coaches look at you they see what you could be and will push you to achieve to your maximum. You will never be allowed to settle for less than your best. This causes problems only when this assumption is false.
2. **We assume you expect to play on a championship team.** Our practices, our off-season, and our overall programs are designed to produce a champion. To be a champion is not easy so it is very important that before you decide to be a Pirate you understand we assume very strongly that you want to be a part of a championship team.
3. **We assume you expect to graduate from High School.** Administrators, teachers, and coaches are all working with the above assumption. If you are not in agreement with this, there will constantly be problems.
4. **We assume you want to be a better person.** We have very high expectations of our players off the field. We work with you to help you become a better person. Once a Pirate, you are a Pirate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the rest of your life. There are many benefits that go along with being a Pirate, but along with those benefits are many responsibilities. We will help you become all you can be off the field as well as on the field.

MEDICALLY UNABLE TO PERFORM

There is always a possibility that a player could become injured to the point that he would be medically unable to participate again.

Unable to participate would mean that you could not play football but it does not mean that you cannot be an integral part of the football program. It is simply a changing of your role.

Your role could become one of assisting in a supportive background role. It would be the assignment of a job essential to the program. We want you in our program even if you are unable to play.

GAME DAY EXPECTATIONS

1. Every game will be tough to win. No team wants to or has a burning desire to lose. Some teams desire to win is greater than others. Hence some teams are more difficult to defeat.

When two teams are competing, what you are watching is more a contest of wills than of skills, the stronger will usually overcoming the skill. The skill will prevail only when it is so superior to the other team's skill that the will is not tested.

Force your opponent to play full speed seven seconds every play, knowing that when the game is on the line in the fourth quarter, there is a high probability that fatigue should destroy will. Force him into fatigue by making him give more effort longer than he is accustomed. Know in your mind if we are close going into the fourth quarter, the advantage is ours.

2. *We will take the field as one. Huddle our heads together. We will walk through the victory line holding hands then stride to the sideline. The time to be noticed is during the game between the lines.*
3. Every person on the sideline is either helping/hurting. There are not neutral observers. Be in the game-Help-Encourage. Being able to stand out on the sidelines should not be a goal-between the lines is the place to be noticed. If you are not between the lines, make every effort to be a positive factor for your team.
4. Know and believe every close game will be decided by the kicking game. It is the difference. Make it our advantage-Get "teary eyed" about being on "special teams".
5. Stay MAROON. No team will always win every game. No player will ever play a perfect game. Every player and every team can stay true to its color, true to its school, to their parents, and to their community. To give up, to quit, to cut back, to feign injury, to negotiate for peace with opponents is to change color. This would be disloyal to your school, heritage, and those who trust you. Not every person can be great but every person can stay MAROON. Always remember who you are-On/Off the field.
6. At the conclusion of every game, we will shake hands with the opponents and then go to the dressing room for a short meeting. Then we will open the doors for family and friends.
7. We will eat our pre-game meal together. We will go to pep-rallies, dismiss For about 15-20 minutes, and get prepared to eat. Meals will cost \$5.00, and we would love for any parents, friends, or faculty to eat with us. The meal is open to anyone who wants to eat. After our meal, we will report to the field house to your position coach to prepare for our game. You may look at film, scout reports, etc. (or just rest).

SUMMER PROGRAM

The separation of the men from the boys-Mental age and maturity has been mentioned previously, but this is the definition test. Boys will not work out without constant supervision-the correct term for this is babysitting. Men work out whether there is or is not supervision. The test is the conditioning-strength test when players report.

Momentum is either begun or destroyed on reporting date when players look around and see the investment their teammates have made during the unsupervised summer. You can tell on opening day who has prepared themselves. Hopefully "Boys Will Be Boys", **Men Will Be Pirates.**

CONDITIONING TEST

Conditioning is year-round. It is not a sometime thing. We will test athletes the first day of two-a-days to make sure everyone is physically fit for workouts.

OUT OF TOWN

When out of Collinsville, it is important to remind yourself that you may be the only Collinsville person a waitress, coach, clerk, etc. ever has contact with. From you this person will judge our athletic program, our coaches, our individual team, and our school. Be sincere, courteous and respectful. Leave every person you come in contact with a good feeling.

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

Our offices and time are always available to meet with you and your parents. I expect to hear of your problems from you. We cannot operate without communication between coaches and players. Parents will be kept informed of everything.

Parents are welcome at all practices, in the dressing rooms, and just about anytime they want to be around. We want to know exactly how our program is conducted.

DISCIPLINE

Do not confuse discipline with cosmetology. The outer does not always reveal what is on the inside. Do not get so hung up on the outer that you fail to search out the real person inside.

Discipline—doing what is right or necessary in all circumstances.

Not wearing ear rings, short hair, Yes Sir—all give an appearance of discipline. Saying no to drugs, steroids, and alcohol when everyone around you can't, is real discipline. Going across the blocker's face, running the perfect route, stepping with the proper foot when you are 17 points behind; you have family, academic, girl, etc., problems; it is 105 degrees; your ankle hurts—that is discipline.

You cannot win with cosmetics—they will be removed by adversity, hardships, or tears. You can win with discipline. Over a course of a season your athletic ability will not increase enough to make the difference. Discipline techniques can increase enough to make the difference. Yes, Sir, No Sir is courtesy—Technique Pirate Football, no matter the weather, no matter the opponent, no matter the score, no matter the officials—is discipline. Discipline is not an inherited trait it must be learned. We will teach, you must be willing to learn.

DEVOTIONALS

There are three ages to each person. Chronological age is the number of year alive. Mental age is the level of maturity you have reached.

Maturity is defined as the ability to sacrifice a short-term pleasure for a long range goal. It has nothing to do with puberty, chronological age, etc. There are many 40 year old boys just as there are many 17 year old men. Chronological and mental age may be the same or there may be a wide variance.

The third age is spiritual age. This determined by contrasting the percent of selflessness with the percent of selfishness.

Selfless—Having little or no concern for self

Selfish—Concerned exclusively with oneself; concentrating on one's own advantage, pleasure or well being without regard for others.

We have FCA meetings periodically to help our players grow spiritually. These are non-denominational meetings (sometimes with speakers). The FCA meetings are voluntary and are to help make our players better people.

SELFISHNESS

The only reason you will be eliminated from the team is “Selfishness”. Selfishness and Team cannot co-exist. We will eliminate a selfish star to keep a team. The best players do not always win but the best team does. Selfishness is the problem, some of its symptoms are:

1. Stealing - Violation of another's things or space for selfish gain.
2. Tardy - Explained below
3. Absent - Missing practice benefits no one. Missing off-season workout is an absence.
4. I - Concerned with self more than team.

Attendance and punctuality are mandatory. You are to attend every function and be on time. Failure to attend a function or arriving late are very selfish acts. The person that is tardy or absent is concerned with no one but himself. Arrange your schedule to prepare for circumstances that may cause you to be late or absent.

If you are tardy or absent, you are expected to call. We have great confidence in you – When you are absent, we fear the worst. Be selfless – call and let us know the situation. The only problem we cannot handle is the one we don't know about.

If you are absent you will make up any work you missed. It is your responsibility to get with your coach and determine what needs to be done.

LEADERSHIP

- I. **Leader Defined—Person who can alter or change behavior or attitude of another individual or group of individuals.**

- II. **Characteristics of a Leader**
 - A. **Usually the best or most gifted player**
 - B. **Usually the older more experienced players**
 - C. **The ability to get things started or going**

- II. **Expectations of a Leader**
 - A. **Set example by actions**
 - 1. **On field practice**
 - 2. **Game night performance**
 - 3. **Off field, in community**
 - 4. **In classroom**
 - 5. **With young Pirates**
 - B. **Solve problems of teammates/friends**
 - C. **Be courageous and loyal in adversity**
 - D. **Tough enough to stand up for what is right**
 - E. **Trust coaches enough to visit about problems/complaints**

- III. **What you can expect fro Coaches**
 - A. **Make effort to never scream/yell at you**
 - B. **Make effort to never put you in a tough position in front of your teammates**
 - C. **Trust and depend on you to lead team, identify and solve problems**

LOCKER ROOM / MEETING ROOM

These are your football homes. You are responsible to keep your individual area clean and, as a team, keep the area neat. You are not required to have everything in your locker in one exact manner. You are trusted to keep it orderly and neat. If this should be a problem – your position coach and you can work on this together.

I will try to always pick up locker rooms and meeting rooms after all practices. I will also pick up tape, etc., left on the floor. Since I am paid only as head coach, I feel it is fair that you guys pay me to pick up after you. Each article is 100 yards.

SHOWERS / CLEANLINESS

You will be required to shower after each practice. Furnish your own towel. Keep socks, jocks, and all practice equipment washed at least every two (2) days. You can take home, but if that is not feasible, check with coaches about washing equipment here at school. Get to practice early when equipment has been washed so you can get everything ready for practice.

Collinsville Athletic Grooming Policy

- a. Hair should not extend from the head more than 2" or over the eyebrows. Hair should not be below the top of collar of a normal dress shirt. The ear hole must be visible.
- b. Sideburns trimmed and not extend below the lobe of the ear. Sideburns should be the same width from top to bottom.
- c. Facial Hair- The athlete shall be clean-shaved. No Facial Hair.
- d. Dress- The athlete should be neatly dressed and without head bands of any kind.
- e. Athletes will not wear earrings at anytime.

I I . SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Students who represent Collinsville Athletics by their participation in any University Interscholastic League activity are expected to exemplify the highest standards of conduct and safe, healthy behavior. Use of alcohol, tobacco, and/or drugs will not be tolerated. An athlete agrees to abide by this Substance Abuse Policy and its consequences for his/her entire tenure at Collinsville ISD. To ensure consistency among different groups, the following penalties for failure to adhere to these guidelines will be implemented.

Abusive Drugs

- **First Offense**
Athlete will run 25 miles.
- **Second Offense**
Athlete shall be suspended from participation in any extra-curricular activity for 30 calendar days following the date the student and parent are notified of the test results.
- **Third Offense**
Athlete shall be suspended from participation in any extra-curricular activity for 365 calendar days following the date the student and parent are notified of the test results.

*** Second and third offenses: during the period of suspension, the student shall not be permitted to participate in practices. Before returning to participation, the student shall be retested.

*** This is not based on a year-to-year format, but is cumulative for an athlete's entire tenure.

Alcohol

- **First Offense**
Athlete will run 20 miles before becoming eligible to play again.
- **Second Offense**
Athlete will be suspended for 14 calendar days and run 30 miles.

- Third Offense
Removal from the athletic program for 365 calendar days.

*** All running punishments will be over and above all other regular activities, workouts, and practices.

Tobacco

- First Offense
Athlete will run 10 miles
- Second Offense
Athlete will be suspended for 7 calendar days and will run 20 miles.
- Third Offense
Athlete will be suspended for 14 calendar days and will run 30 miles.
- Fourth Offense
Athlete will be removed from the athletic program for 365 calendar days.

*** Alcohol and tobacco offenses are based on a year-to-year format.

INFORMATION SHEET FOR ALL COACHES

“PLEASE KEEP”

- 1. The greatest single factor influencing the success of the Pirate Football Team in the quality of our coaching staff. Each coach must do his part to make this system great from Junior High through Varsity.**
- 2. Be enthusiastic (compliment rather than gripe). Do not criticize other coaches for any reason to anybody. If there is a problem, come to me and let's get it worked out. (I will stand up for you and I expect the same from you).**
- 3. We start two-a-day workouts on August 7th at 8:00am.**
- 4. Convince Junior High and “B” Team boys that the greatest accomplishment possible would be for them to make the Collinsville Varsity someday. Sell them on the idea.**
- 5. Know our defense and offense and know them well. Also be sold on them. They are the best, and we must convince the boys that they are the best. Study our system until you know it frontwards and backwards.**
- 6. Coaches should be here at least 30 minutes before practice and be prepared to stay 30 minutes after practice. We will have coaches meetings after practice. Coaches do not leave before the boys. I would rather spend too much time at the field house compared to not enough.**
- 7. We will not work out on good field unless necessary until after last home game.**
- 8. We will grade workout films after practice. We will experiment some with our video tape.**
- 9. We want boys to think they are good. We as coaches can have a lot to do with this (not cocky—just confident).**
- 10. Junior High and “B” Team use the same defense and offense that Varsity uses. Teach these younger boys a lot of fundamentals.**
- 11. After practice, coaching staff should walk around in dressing room, talk to the boys, treat injuries, boost morale, and clear up any misunderstanding you may have had with boy on field. Also, this helps to keep horse-play down. Boys should never go home angry or with a feeling that they do not belong. We plan to have a coach in the dressing room at all times this year.**

12. Don't be lazy—if coaches drag, then so will the boys. I believe in putting in as much time as it takes to be a winner. I would like for each coach to be at every game if possible.
13. Set an example on and off the field that you would want coaches to set for your son one day.
14. I expect you as coaches to train, sacrifice, and do whatever has to be done for the Pirates to be as good as they can possibly be.
15. Do not sit around coaches office while athletes are in dressing room or weight room. Stay with them unless we have a coaches meeting. Only time to sit around is after the boys have gone.
16. Coaches need to be on the field on time. Taping coaches may be late, but stretching needs to start on time. A coach will be in charge of locking dressing room and field house during workout.
17. If each young man is not a better person when this football season is over than he was when the season started, then our program needs more evaluation.
18. Junior Varsity Coach that is at a Varsity game will go to the doctor with anyone who might get injured.
19. Need to have a coach in training room if it is open. A coach will be in charge of Training Room.

20. (Read to Yourself)

It's always nice to be a winner, or to be part of a winning team. When Collinsville looks bad, take it upon yourself to evaluate your area of responsibility and help find a way to solve the problem. If a fumble occurs, the backfield coach fumbled too; find out why. If a back does not block correctly, I missed it too. If a pass receiver dropped the ball, I did too. If the quarterback doesn't fake properly, it is my fault. I taught him and I may have overlooked something. If our opponents strengths and weaknesses were not found properly from our scouting, I goofed. If our line looks lazy, it's my fault. If the boys weren't mentally ready, I had something to do with it.

Yes, when any one of these things happen, it's the coaching staff's fault (mostly mine). But when we win, we all win. We had something to contribute to the team success.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S JOB

1. Assistant Coaches:

- A. Athletic Directors have the authority to hire or release all coaches in the system.**
 - B. Athletic Directors make all coaching assignments in school system. (Subject to approval of Superintendent, Principals, and Board)**
 - C. All coaches responsible to Athletic Director or anything concerning athletics. The only way an athletic program should be carried to the Superintendent is through the Athletic Director. If the Athletic Director cannot settle the problem, both will go to the Superintendent with the problem. If the Superintendent cannot settle the problem, the Superintendent, Athletic Director, and the Board will settle the problem.**
- 2. Orders for athletic goods will go through the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director will okay buying and paying for materials. The Athletic Director will have P.O. #'s that must be completed before the approval of a purchase can be made.**
- 3. The Athletic Director is responsible directly to the Superintendent for all athletic matters. He is responsible to the Principal in all academic matters.**
- 4. The Athletic Director will be responsible for all scheduling from Elementary through High School (could be delegates to someone else). These schedules need to be in a designated place. Schedules need to be approved by the principals.**

****No workouts or games on Wednesday night or Sunday**

****Do not give keys to gym or field house to kids or outsiders. Have guts enough to say "NO". Alarm System will be on in the school. Know codes. Make sure back door is closed securely.**