Our Vision

Every Palo Verde Magnet student will be well prepared for the demands of the 21st century through the collaboration of school, home, and community. A Palo Verde Magnet student will graduate knowing how to access learning and will be prepared to flourish and to make valuable contributions to a diverse world.

Our Mission Statement

Palo Verde High Magnet School exists to provide high quality instruction in all curricular areas in a safe and encouraging environment; to refine our students with humanities, technology and the arts. Students, staff, and the larger community are bound together to develop an environment where diversity is appreciated. We are here to promote supportive, engaging, and challenging avenues that will lead students toward post secondary education, life-long learning, and a successful quality of life.

Our Foundation

The Student-Athlete

Our fundamental belief is that all students must have a strong academic commitment. Therefore, we believe that a student-athlete is a student first whose academic success and progress is enhanced by participation in interscholastic programs.

- Palo Verde High Magnet School’s student-athletes are expected to demonstrate their focus and priority on academic learning by being present in their classes.
- A student-athlete who cuts a class will be ineligible to participate in the next scheduled contest.
- A student-athlete who has three or more tardies in a class will be ineligible to participate in the next scheduled contest.
- Three violations of this policy during the season will result in dismissal from the team.
- Students will maintain a 2.5 GPA or attend tutoring to remain eligible.

As a student-athlete, I agree to:
- Maintain regular and consistent attendance and abide by all requirements of the school attendance policy.
- Maintain my academic eligibility.
- Communicate with my teachers, parents and coach when in need of academic support.
- Attend conference periods as needed to obtain academic support from my teachers.
- Attend strength and conditioning sessions year round as coordinated by the coaches and athletic department.
As a **coach**, I agree to:
- Assist my student-athletes to remain eligible during competitive seasons and after
- To secure all possible academic support for student-athletes as needed

As a **parent**, I agree to:
- Never sacrifice academics for athletics

**TUSD Academic Eligibility Guidelines**

- Student-athletes must be enrolled in a minimum of 5 credit-bearing classes during each nine week/semester grading interval of participation
- Senior student-athletes who are on track to meet all graduation requirements need only to be enrolled in 4 credit-bearing classes each nine week/semester grading interval.
- Student-athletes must be passing all classes to participate
- Student-athletes can only become ineligible at the nine week grading periods.
- Student-athletes who become ineligible at the nine week grading period can regain academic eligibility by passing all classes at the next four and one half week grading period.
- All incoming freshman student-athletes must have passed all classes the last quarter of their eighth grade year. Middle school students who have one failing grade on their final report card can regain academic eligibility by enrolling in and passing any semester class offered at the high school or middle school level before school begins in the fall. Students who have failed two or more classes will remain ineligible until the four and one half week progress report indicates that they have passed all classes.

**The Responsibility and Expectations of the Ineligible Student-Athlete**

- To work towards regaining academic eligibility by seeking support and assistance.
- The ineligible student-athlete may attend practices but cannot be involved in the game/performance situation i.e. inter-school scrimmage, sit on the bench, be on the sidelines, be provided a team meal, or suit up in uniform during the ineligible period.
- The ineligible student-athlete cannot travel with the team.
- The ineligible student-athlete must adhere to his or her coach’s guidelines and expectations during the period of ineligibility.
Attendance requirements

Extracurricular activity participation requires that the student-athlete attend classes daily in order to maintain eligibility. The following guidelines shall be enforced:

- Classroom attendance on the day of a performance, contest or game is required except in the case of a valid excuse, and at the discretion of the school administrator. This will be interpreted to mean a student-athlete will attend all classes unless excused by an administrator (illness, staying home to rest, or “sleeping in” are examples of UNEXCUSED absences).
- As soon as the participant has been determined to be in violation of this rule and has been given due process, the participant will be declared ineligible for the next performance, contest, or game.
- Students not attending class on Friday prior to a Saturday activity, or a holiday period, are ineligible to participate in the next performance, contest, or game.
- Students are expected to attend classes the day following an activity.

TUSD Student Rights and Responsibilities

The student-athlete is responsible for following and upholding the TUSD Student Rights and Responsibilities during anytime that they are affiliated with school-sponsored events and during any athletic functions.

- Coaches will immediately report to the Assistant Principal for Athletics any violation that would call for a Level 2 and above action as described in the TUSD Guidelines for Student Rights and Responsibilities.
- The student-athlete will be disciplined as outlined by the TUSD Guidelines for Student Rights and Responsibilities by a school administrator.
- The student-athlete will not be able to participate in any activity, practice or contest during a school suspension, alternative program or out-of-school.
- Further discipline may be imposed for any suspension or dismissal from the team as to be determined by the coach.
- The student-athlete will be eligible to participate upon return from his or her suspension beginning the morning that the student-athlete is permitted to return to the classroom.
Our Standards

1. Students are our highest priority, their dignity, worth and self-esteem are vital.
2. Students are responsible for maintaining academic eligibility beyond their season(s) and throughout the school year.
3. Winning is an attitude that results from preparation, effort and deep commitment.
4. Well qualified coaches and their assistants are an important element of a successful program.
5. Student-athletes who work together raise their moral, their satisfaction and their performance.
6. Parent support and involvement enhances student growth and raises the quality of programs.
7. Open communication and mutual respect among coaches, students and parents provides the cornerstone of a successful program.
8. Student participation in extracurricular activities is an essential part of the high school experience it provides learning experiences that prepare students for life after high school.
9. School pride is enhanced by well-designed athletic and activity programs.
10. High school athletics and activities should be fun and should reward all participants.
11. Our student-athletes will participate in year-round strength and conditioning opportunities as outlined by coaches and the athletic department.
Our Values

“Pursuing Victory with Honor”

TUSD Interscholastics and Palo Verde High Magnet School Athletics and Activities Department uphold the fundamental concepts that are outlined in the AIA Arizona Accord, “Pursuing Victory with Honor.” The AIA "Pursuing Victory With Honor" initiative will support an environment at Palo Verde High Magnet School where the student-athlete, coach, official and spectator is committed to "Pursuing Victory with Honor" and teamwork through TRUSTWORTHINESS, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, FAIRNESS, CARING AND CITIZENSHIP.

Character Counts

We uphold and support the six pillars of ethical values as stated in “The CHARACTER COUNTS” program. The six pillars of ethical values are as follows:

➢ **Trustworthiness:** Be honest • Don’t deceive, cheat or steal • Be reliable — do what you say you’ll do • Have the courage to do the right thing • Build a good reputation • Be loyal — stand by your family, friends and country

➢ **Respect:** Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule • Be tolerant of differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Don’t threaten, hit or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements

➢ **Responsibility:** Do what you are supposed to do • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do your best • Use self-control • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act — consider the consequences • Be accountable for your choices

➢ **Fairness:** Play by the rules • Take turns and share • Be open-minded; listen to others • Don’t take advantage of others • Don’t blame others carelessly

➢ **Caring:** Be kind • Be compassionate and show you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in need

➢ **Citizenship:** Do your share to make your school and community better • Cooperate • Get involved in community affairs • Stay informed; vote • Be a good neighbor • Obey laws and rules • Respect authority • Protect the environment
John Wooden’s Pyramid of Success

In a period of 14 years, ending with his tenure at Indiana State University, John Wooden worked on his famous "Pyramid of Success." He put success, according to his definition, at the apex.

"The first two blocks of the pyramid are the two cornerstones because to be strong, you have to have a strong foundation," said Wooden. "The cornerstones of success to me, in anything, are hard work and enjoy what you’re doing. So, one cornerstone is industriousness and the other is enthusiasm.

"Success is peace of mind which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming."

- John Wooden
Sportsmanship

The ideal of sportsmanship can be found everywhere in our culture. The need for fair play is expressed in every part of life. However, the term’s origin can be found in athletic competition and events associated with sports. The ideas from sportsmanship have embedded a solid concept of good citizenship and high behavioral standards. Palo Verde High Magnet School is committed to observance of the rules of fair play, respect for others and graciousness in defeat.

AIA Sportsmanship Rules

If an AIA contest official determines that a coach or player has acted in an unsportsmanlike manner during a playing period or intermission, the coach or player may be ordered to leave the contest.

A coach or a player ejected from a contest for any reason shall be subject to the following without appeal:

First Ejection: Ineligible for the next contest at that level of competition and all other contests during that interim at any level. Any person ejected from a contest shall not participate in any way during the remainder of that day.

Second Ejection: Ineligible for the next two contests at that level of competition and all other contests during that interim at any level. Any person ejected from a contest shall not participate in any way during the remainder of that day.

Third Ejection: Similar information of the Sportsmanship Rule in Article 16, Section 16.1, Paragraph 16.3.1 of the AIA Bylaws by the same player during the same season will result in cessation of the season for the player concerned.

End of Season Ejection: If a penalty is imposed at the end of the sport season and no contest remains, the penalty shall be enforced at the beginning of the subsequent season of competition in which the coach or player participates, regardless of the sport.

EJECTION FROM TOURNAMENT GAMES: SUSPENDED REST OF THAT DAY AND THEN THE NEXT GAME ON THE NEXT DAY.

In addition, the following penalty will be imposed by TUSD Interscholastics for any student-athlete ejected from a contest:
First Ejection: One game suspension (AIA regulation) plus one additional game suspension and a letter to student/parent regarding future ejections/penalties.

Second Ejection: Two game suspension (AIA regulation) plus one week suspension and a letter to student/parent regarding future ejections/penalties.

Third Ejection: One game suspension (AIA regulation) plus removal from the team.

Required Student Forms
All student-athletes participating in AIA sanctioned interscholastic athletics/activities must also have on file in the Activities Office the following.

1. A current physical examination dated after March 1, of each year.
2. An official birth certificate for proof of age. (Only needed if it is your first participation in an activity at THS). If the athlete does not have a copy of the birth certificate, a Baptismal certificate or Passport is an acceptable substitute. Any student who turns 19 years of age on or before September 1st is ineligible for participation.
3. A fourth quarter grade report for incoming freshmen (fall season only).
4. A transcript from a previous school attended for all upper classmen transferring to Palo Verde High Magnet School.
5. If the student is a transfer from another high school, he/she must complete the transfer form at www.aiaonline.org/520/
6. A completed parent permission form for participation and a completed parent permission form for student photo release.
7. A completed interscholastic emergency card.
8. A $50.00 receipt showing that you paid your participation fee through the Student Finance Office.
9. Remember: There is a 24-hour turnaround to process all paperwork. We highly recommend that you complete your participation packet at least 2 weeks before the activity begins.
Participation Fees

1. Participation fees for no-cut sports (Cross Country, Football, Swimming, Tennis and Track and Field) must be paid in the Palo Verde High Magnet School Finance Office prior to the first day of practice in that activity. **No delayed or deferred payments will be accepted.** There is a $150.00 activity fee limitation per student, $200.00 per family.

2. You may transfer your participation fee to another sport within the school year **prior** to the first game of the season of that sport. **After the first game, the fee is no longer transferable.**

3. Activities that required tryouts and then go through a participation cut process must be paid **within two weeks** after tryouts/practices have started **once the student has made the team.**

4. Activities that go through the tryout and cut process require all participants who make the team to pay their participation fee **before they can return to practice.**

5. **All participation fees are an Arizona State tax credit, therefore participation fees are non-refundable.**

The **Educational Enrichment Foundation** offers a paid scholarship to help alleviate a financial situation. The scholarship forms are available in the **Office for Athletics and Activities.**

Team Rosters

- Once a participant has turned in all the required forms as listed above, they will then appear on the **team roster.**
- All participants must appear on the team roster prior to participation in any tryouts, practice or games, or before receiving any equipment or awards.
- It is the responsibility of the coach or sponsor to assure that each participant is on the team roster before any tryouts, practice or games, or before receiving any equipment or awards.
- The Assistant Principal for Activities will be responsible for declaring a student eligible.
Expectations and Behaviors
For Student-Athletes and Parents:

**Student-Athlete:**
- I agree to conduct myself in a manner that promotes sportsmanship and fosters the “Six Pillars of Character” at all times.
- I agree to refrain from hazing, taunting, or physical confrontations with opponents and teammate.
- I agree to attend all practices and games as scheduled by the coaching staff.
- I agree to practice hard and work to the best of my ability at all times.
- I agree to refrain from drug, alcohol or tobacco use.
- I agree to treat my coaches, teammates and opponents with respect.
- I agree to follow all team rules and regulations.
- I agree to refrain from actions which would bring discredit to myself, my team, my family and my school.
- I agree to respect the integrity and judgment of game officials even if I disagree with their judgment.
- I agree to seek approval in advance from the Athletic Director and/or Principal for any form of visible demonstration.
- I agree to participate in scheduled year-round strength and conditioning opportunities as organized by coaches and the athletic department.

**Parent/Guardian**
- I agree to show respect and positive support for coaches and officials, prior, during and after the game.
- I agree to demonstrate respect and support for all players prior, during and after the game.
- I agree to be mindful of my role at all times, to provide support, to not openly instruct during the game or openly interpret the rules.
- I agree to participate in cheers that support, encourage and uplift the teams involved.
- I understand that school athletics is an extension of the classroom, offering learning experience for the student-athlete.
- I agree to meet with coaches as necessary regarding my student-athlete’s absenteeism or academic concerns.
- I understand the spirit of fair play and the good sportsmanship expected by our school, our conference and the AIA.
A Positive Balance Between a Parent and their Student-Athlete

Balance is the key to a healthy relationship between a parent and their student-athlete when it comes to being involved in school activities. The following guidelines are recommended to ensure that high school interscholastic performance and participation enhance a student-athlete’s learning experiences that can be carried on throughout life.

- Frame the athletic experiences of your student-athlete as a part of high school and for the enjoyment of the sport.
- Recognize that being part of a team brings lessons from adverse events. Support your student-athlete to learn from the lessons of adversity. This will make your student-athlete a more resilient person and will benefit their growth into adulthood.
- Model, support and guide your student-athlete to accept responsibility and to support their teammates. Blaming others blinds one to their own accountability.
- Guide your student-athlete to balance between holding on to perceived injustices and moving forward positively.
- Do not allow your child to degrade the coach or his/her staff. Support your child to understand that we are all human and make mistakes, including coaches.

The following recommendations will also enhance your student-athlete’s interscholastic experiences:
- Encourage participation in as many sports as your child want to play.
- Emphasize commitment to the program.
- Encourage good decision making.
- Encourage your child to be a leader.
- Encourage your child to go the extra step.
- Encourage your child to never give up.
- Do not make the focus of participation scholarships for college.
Expectations and Behaviors of Coaches

We expect our coaches to be engaged in the skill acquisition of their student-athletes during practice sessions and in the performance of those skills during competitive events.

- All coaches will adhere to the responsibilities as outlined by the TUSD Interscholastic Handbook.
- All coaches will adhere to the AIA Coach’s Code of Ethics.

Palo Verde High Magnet coaches are expected to teach and model to all student-athletes the following ethical guidelines:

- To accept and to understand the seriousness of the responsibility and the privilege of representing the school and the community as a student-athlete.
- To live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
- To learn the rules of the game thoroughly so as to assist the student-athlete to achieve a better understanding and appreciation of the sport.
- To treat fellow teammates and opponents the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or friend.
- To be honorable when you win and to be gracious when you lose a contest.
- To respect the integrity and judgment of officials even if one disagrees with their judgment.

Parent / Coach Relationship

Parents Can Expect Coaches to Communicate:

- Their coaching philosophy.
- Expectations that the coach has for your child participant and the team.
- Locations and times of all practices and contests.
- Team requirements: i.e., fund raising, extra expenses, out of season conditioning, extra equipment, etc.
- Team rules and procedures.
- Consequences and discipline that may result.
- Discipline and/or consequences that may result in the denial of your child’s participation.

Coaches Can Expect Parents to Communicate:

- Directly to the coach regarding any concerns that need to be expressed.
- To give notice of scheduling conflicts well in advance.
- Their questions or concerns in regards to the coach’s philosophy and/or expectations.
Appropriate Concerns to Discuss With Coaches:
- How you can help your child to improve.
- Issues with the treatment of your child, both mentally or physically.
- Concerns about your child’s behavior.

Issues not appropriate to Discuss with Coaches:
- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Team position
- Play calling
- Other Players

The 24 Hour Rule

The 24 hour rule applies to parent conflict resolution with a coach. It is designed to protect practice time and competitive events. It safeguards the outcome of issues under stress that can be damaging to the program and embarrassing for the athletes. If a parent needs to express a concern about a decision that has been made by a coach which concerns your player, you must give yourself 24 hours before you contact the coach.

- If you have a concern, you will talk to the coach at the appropriate time and place. Never before, during, or immediately after a practice or contest.

The time away from the situation will give you a chance to search for perspective that may give you a new way to look at the circumstances. Discussion with the coach will be much more productive with two calm adults who share an interest in the same student.

Due Process for Resolving a Concern

Step 1: Student-Athlete: The student participant talks directly with the coach. If this is too difficult for a student to handle alone, he or she may seek assistance from the Athletic Director and or Principal for Athletics.

Step 2: Parent/Guardian: After the student has spoken with the coach and you feel that further clarification is needed, please then contact the coach to discuss the issue.

Step 3: Athletic Director: If after meeting with the coach and the issue at hand is still unresolved, you will need to meet with the Athletic Director.

Step 4: Athletic Director and Assistant Principal: If the issue still has not been resolved, contact the Assistant Principal in charge of athletics.
Step 5: Director of TUSD Interscholastics

Guidelines for Behavior of the Spectators

- Remember that you are at a contest to support and to cheer for your team and to enjoy the skill and competition, not to intimidate or ridicule your team, coaches, the other team and its fans.
- Remember that interscholastic athletics are a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempts to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people.
- Remember that a ticket is a privilege to observe the contest; it is not a license to verbally assault others nor to be generally intolerable.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of contest officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete and respect their willingness to participate in full view of the public.
- Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during and after contests, on or near the site of the event.
- Use only those cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.

Remember:
- Parents and spectators should be aware that the school will remove them from the premises and can prohibit them from attending future contest due to unacceptable behaviors. **Board Policy KFA – Public Conduct on School Property.**
- The possession or use of tobacco products is strictly prohibited on any TUSD property. **Board Policy GBED – Possession and Use of Tobacco Products**

Acceptable Behavior

- Apply the principles of “Pursuing Victory with Honor” as stated by the AIA that reads: The AIA "Pursuing Victory With Honor" initiative will create an environment in Arizona where the student-athlete, coach, official and spectator is committed to "Pursuing Victory with Honor" and teamwork through **TRUSTWORTHINESS, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, FAIRNESS, CARING AND CITIZENSHIP.**
- Applause during introductions of players, coaches and officials.
- Accept all decisions of officials.
- Spirit Line participants lead fans in positive school cheers.
- Handshakes between participants and coaches at the end of a contest, regardless of outcome.
- Applause at the end of a contest for performances of all participants.
- Everyone showing concern for an injured player regardless of team.
- Encourage surrounding people to display only sportsmanlike conduct.
Unacceptable Behavior

- Yelling or waving arms during opponent’s free-throw attempts.
- Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs or gestures.
- Booing or heckling an official’s decision.
- Criticizing officials in any way; displays of temper with an official’s call.
- Yells that antagonize opponents.
- Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good performances.
- Blaming loss of game on officials, coaches or participants.
- Laughing or name-calling to distract an opponent.
- Use of profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game.
- Doing own yells instead of following the cheers of the Spirit Line.

High School Athletics versus Club Programs

The high school athletic program is designed and operated deliberately as a valued educational experience for all participating student-athletes. Competitive success is desired and valued, but is always secondary to the education result. High school athletics is truly co-curricular and is not a club program.

Quitting a Sport / Activity

- Any student who wishes to quit a team must talk to the coach, report the situation to the Athletic Director and return all equipment. Parents are encouraged to be active and supportive during this process.
- Any student who quits a sport may not participate in another sport / activity, including practices, and post season playoffs during the same season until acknowledgment is given to the head coaches / sponsors of the two sports involved and approval granted by the Athletic Director.
- Any student who quits a team cannot return to that team during that season without meeting the requirements of the Athletic Director and coach of that team, i.e. team rules, team penalties, etc...

Awards / Lettering

- Each head coach will establish requirements for team awards and lettering.
- Student-athletes will receive in writing at the start of the season the requirements for lettering and the earning of other awards.
- Successful completion of a sport season is required to be eligible for a letter or other team award.
TRAVELING

All participants are to use District provided transportation to and from the site of all away contests. Exceptions:

1. Parents may obtain and complete a TUSD Interscholastic Athletic Transportation Guidelines (TUSD 0828A) form to transport their own son/daughter to and or from a contest. The Athletic Transportation form must be completed in advance of the contest so that written approval can be obtained by the school administrator.

- **Parents may not provide transportation for any other participant to or from an away contest site.**

2. Students may drive themselves ONLY, after completing a TUSD Interscholastic Athletic Transportation Guidelines (TUSD 0828B) form and after receiving the written approval from the school administrator. This must be completed in advance of the contest.

- **Students are not allowed to transport any other students, spectators, players, etc.**

**We recommend:** When completing a TUSD Interscholastic Athletic Transportation Guidelines form, check the box for the **SEASON**. This does not mean that you have to always transport your son or daughter, but it will save you from completing a form each time that you need to transport your child.

**Tryouts**

A coach/sponsor will establish guidelines and procedures for trying out for their team / activity. In the guidelines they will stipulate the criteria for making the team and the procedures in place to make sure that the tryouts are fair for everyone involved. Students will be afforded the time to speak to a coach if they are not selected to evaluate areas for improvement.

**Uniforms**

- The student-athlete is totally responsible for any uniform, practice gear, jacket, etc... issued to him/her by the Palo Verde High Magnet School Athletic Department. The student-athlete will be responsible to reimburse Palo Verde High Magnet School Athletic Department for any lost, damaged or stolen equipment.
- All uniforms will be worn as designed. Alterations will not be allowed to the uniform.
- The student-athlete will be responsible for returning all issued equipment/apparel to the appropriate coach or equipment manager. Upon completion of the season or termination (for any reason) from the team, the student-athlete is responsible to turn in the uniform/equipment within one week.
- A student-athlete may not receive any awards or be able to register for or withdrawal from school until his or her responsibility toward issued equipment/uniform has been met.

**Arizona Tax Credits**

Tax credit contributions support arts and after-school activities, including sports, clubs, tutoring, or study groups. When you contribute to a tax credit program at a TUSD school before Dec. 31, your state tax liability will be reduced by the amount you contribute. In other words, you get your money back, dollar-for-dollar, in the form of a tax reduction.

For information on how to make a tax credit contribution for your child’s team or club please contact the Office for Finance at 225-5044.