

Porter High School Tennis

Players & Parent Handbook

2021-2022

Head Coach: Daniel Stoltz

Campus Athletic Director: James Russell

Assistant Athletic Director: Clarneva Pierre

Principal: Cesar Condarco

Purpose of the Parent Handbook

This handbook has been developed in order to establish a foundation for all athletes, coaches, teachers, administrators and community members to build upon. It is imperative all involved are of one philosophy and objective to avoid confusion and personal agendas. The expectations for athletes and their coaches within the New Caney Independent School District Athletic Department are high due to the fact that athletic completion is highly visible within the community. It is with full consideration and recognition of that fact this handbook has been developed.

Philosophy of Athletics

Interscholastic athletics is an integral part of the overall education process. Through competitive athletics, a successful athletic program will enable a student athlete to realize the power of reaching his/her full potential. In most situations, the overall success of the athletic program sets the tone and atmosphere for the entire school. Athletics create opportunities for developing a positive self-image. Finally, the most important aspect of the athletic program is to develop young men and women to become constructive, contributing members of society.

NCISD Athletic Program Objectives

To provide the opportunity of athletic participation to every student who has the ability and desire to do so, while creating and implementing a positive environment that encourages both athletic and academic excellence.

Parent/Coach Relationships

Communication Coaches Expect From the Parents

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance
- Notification of injury or illness in a timely manner

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss With Coaches

- Coach's interaction with your child
- Ways to help your child improve athletic skills
- Concern about your child's interaction with others

Parent-Coach Meeting Procedure

- Call the school and ask for the coach's extension and or email
- Request a meeting
- If the coach is unavailable, call the Campus Athletic Coordinator and request a meeting to be arrange
- Do not confront a coach before or after a practice or game.

If the issue cannot be resolved with a parent-coach meeting, the parent should follow the line of communication listed below:

- Call the Campus Athletic Coordinator

Open Door Policy:

I want all parents and players to know that my door is always open to discuss problems or issues you may have with tennis or otherwise. I value a strong relationship with both the players and their parents as you are all vital to the success of this program.

I ask that you schedule an appropriate time either before or after practice to discuss whatever concerns you may have.

There are only two scenarios that I will **NOT** discuss with a parent or player.

- Line-ups/team management of practices, travel, or matches.
- Any issues about a child/player other than your own.

Questions concerning the understanding of this policy should be directed towards Coach Stoltz for clarification

Fall Team Tennis

Varsity Team Tennis will be played in the fall consisting of 1- 6 singles, 1-3 doubles, (boys and girls) and 1 mixed doubles. The first team to win 10 matches wins the dual match.

Top 4 Varsity teams advance to the playoff and the top 2 teams in the region will advance to state.

Spring Tennis

Spring tennis is more individual tennis however your points count for the team (in tournaments).

The spring team will consist of Boys and girls: 1 and 2 singles, 1 and 2 doubles and 1 and 2 mixed doubles

In all tournaments the number one team will play the other team's number two team in their first round match, unless the tournament host chooses a different format. The number 1 and 2 player in each event from District 20-5A will advance to regional

Line Up Policy:

Singles

- The singles line up consists of the top six varsity players and will be determined by a compass draw and challenge matches.
- There will be a designated challenge period with a beginning and end date where players will be able to continue challenging up as long as they are winning their challenge matches.
- It should be noted that just because you earn your singles spot through challenge matches does not guarantee that you will remain in the starting line-up. As the Head Coach I reserve the right to remove anyone from the line-up for lack of effort, dedication, work ethic, attitude, grades, or lack of performance.

Doubles

- Doubles teams and line-ups will be selected by the Head Coach.
- While singles consist of the top six players who earn their spots through the tournament and compass draw, doubles teams will be based on trial and error.
- Doubles are very different from singles. It requires different strategies, team chemistry, and certain skill sets.
- Just because you are one of the top six singles players does not mean you will play in the doubles line-up.
- You may be the number 6 player in singles but struggle in doubles
- By that token you would play in the singles line-up but would be withheld from the doubles line-up.
- This gives more players an opportunity to play in varsity matches and creates the best chance for Porter High School Tennis to be successful.

It should be noted that just because you earn your doubles spot does not guarantee that you will remain in the starting line-up. As the Head Coach I reserve the right to remove anyone from the line-up for lack of effort, dedication, work ethic, attitude, grades, or lack of performance.

NOTE: I will not discuss line-up, practice/match management concerns with any player or parent.

Team Captains

Team Captains are an integral part in the success of PHS Tennis. Captains will be selected during the beginning of the season and selection will be based on the following character traits:

- Leadership
- Work ethic
- Attitude
- Appreciation
- Accountability
- Unselfishness
- Competitiveness

Team Captains are expected to help in the management and preparation of the team. In the coach's absence they carry the full responsibility of the team and are to be respected on the same level as the coaches.

Daily Workouts

All parents and spectators must stay in the stands during practice and during matches.

- JV and Freshmen will work out every day in their athletic class.
- Each player will be assigned a locker.
- Players will need a racket, tennis (court) shoes, and water jug. Players will be expected to suit out every day and participate. A doctor's note will be the only excuse to not participate OR tutoring

Varsity workouts will be everyday during their athletic class and continue after school.

Materials needed:

Rackets: Bring at least two

Clothing: Boys

- Athletic shorts with pockets t-shirts (tennis attire)
- Water jug
- Only court shoes will be allowed on all tennis courts

Girls will wear shorts with pockets, dress, or skirt, tank or t-shirts

- Hair must be pulled up. No jewelry during practice or on the court.
- Water jug—bring to practice and all matches.

****Only court approved shoes will be allowed on all tennis courts. Jeans are not allowed.**

If you cannot attend a practice please call/text/email the coach(s) the morning before practice. When you are absent from practice you will be required to make-up the time missed. (Exceptions: UIL events, or academic work)

Court Conduct

- While on or off the court, there will be no verbal or racket abuse. Porter High School players will represent Porter/ NCISD with poise and class.
- All players will call their own lines. No parent or spectator will call lines.
- If you have discrepancies, call a line judge. No Parents will be allowed to coach, give hand signals or be on the courts.

Only Porter Coach(s) are allowed to be on the court.

- If you are a Porter High School player and you are not on the court you are a cheerleader and are to encourage your teammates.

A coach or parent will deliver food to your site.

Court Sites: Many times you will be at different sites- You will be under the care of a site director if the coaches are not present, show them respect as you would your own coach. Do not leave a site without the site director or coach's permission. Unless previously worked out with the coach, all players must stay until the completion of the final Porter match to support their teammates. You may bring extra snacks and or drinks that will last the day.

Match Play

Be prepared when you walk on the court—Equipment, water filled and rackets ready.

Call the lines to the best of your ability- Be fair and be precise.

During your match, be open to coaching.

If you split sets, go to the official first and then find a Porter Coach.

If you need to take a restroom or injury break you must first notify the official.

Report your score to the site director then your Coach.

NO one will leave the tournament until the last match is played.

Everyone will support each other until the last match is completed.

Academics

Your grades are first and foremost a priority. Grades will be checked at a minimum every 3 weeks. We will be using email and eligibility reports. We as coaches will stay in close contact with your child's teacher. If your child fails a course they will be ineligible for 3 weeks and will be subject to consciences including but not limited to removal from practice, removal from line-up. **If your child is failing ANY class (including AP or UIL exempt)** Coach Stoltz reserves the right to remove them from participating in tennis activities until the grade is passing and they have completed all requirements set forth by Coach Stoltz. Consistent struggles with classroom performance may result in the removal from the tennis program. If your child cannot take care of business in the classroom, they do not need to miss school for tennis.

Awards and Letter Jackets

At the end of the season hopefully I or a tennis booster club will host an awards banquet.

The team awards will be presented at this time.

To be considered for a letter jacket you must:

1. Complete the full year in tennis at the varsity level.
2. Play in at least 4 district varsity matches in the fall and 4 varsity level tournaments in the spring, or a combination of 8 varsity level fall/spring matches/tournaments on the varsity level for two consecutive years.
3. Participate in Spring tennis

Wrong choices could result in consequences of not lettering. The Head Coach also reserves the right to grant or refuse a letter award to any player.

Athletic Requirements for High School Scholarships

As your high school tennis coaches we want to prepare you for college tennis. There are several things we can do together to prepare you for the next stage of tennis.

- Make the best grades possible
- Work hard during practice
- Play each match the best you can showing your skills and sportsmanship
- Take the SAT and/or ACT test
- Register with NCAA clearinghouse at the end of their junior year
https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/college/index_college.html

During your high school tennis seasons, I will keep records of your match play; take pictures and record video of your match. When you communicate with me that you are interested in playing college tennis, I will contact several college coaches on your behalf.

I will write a letter of intent to these coaches stating your abilities as a tennis college recruit.

The Porter HS counselors have a specific college counselor to help fill out necessary paperwork. You must work hard and communicate with your coach that you are interested in playing college tennis.

THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION IS THE GOVERNING BODY OF MOST COLLEGE SPORT. YOUR FIRST STEP TOWARDS PLAYING YOUR SPORT AT COLLEGE LEVEL IS TO REGISTER WITH THE NCAA INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY CLEARINGHOUSE

Roll of a Tennis Parent

Your role as a tennis parent is just as crucial to the success of Porter tennis as is the coach and/or player. You are the reinforcement at home, cheerleader in the stands and overall supporter of not only your child but the team and coaches as well. If we are going to do what has never been done before we must work together and communicate.

Parents are expected to adhere to all of the team rules before, during and after the match. You will be held to the same standard as your kids while representing Porter HS and PHS Tennis.

Communication

1. Your child is expected to inform the coach of upcoming doctor/dentist appointments, out of town travel, family events or anything that will result in them missing practice or a match. It is crucial that you communicate with them and preferably the coaches in a timely manner so that we may make adjustments to practice/match line-ups.
2. I understand emergencies occur but under normal circumstances notification on the day of is not sufficient time.
3. It is important that coaches and parents are in agreement about program goals and means to reach those goals. Positive reinforcement at home is vital to seeing progress occur.

Before Match Expectations:

- Have child (s) early to buses when traveling out of town
- Early to sites when playing in-town (they will be expected to be at their sites 1 hour in advance to physically/mentally prepare themselves for their match.)
- Ensure your child has proper equipment
 1. Rackets, hats, sunscreen, snacks, water, tennis shoes, etc.
- Ensure that your child (s) plays with a positive attitude and good sportsmanship

During Match Expectations:

- Clap only after good shots. (This should be done for your child and their opponent)
- Let the players keep score. (Even if you know the score is wrong you are to let the players on court work it out themselves.)
- Let the players call their own lines. (Parents are **not** allowed influence line calls in any form of communication)

Parents are **not** allowed to give advice/coach during matches. (This includes both verbal and nonverbal communication)

Parents and spectators must sit outside the fence during matches and are **not** allowed on the court.

After Match Expectations:

- Be positive regardless of the outcome of the match or their performance.
- Make sure your child reports the score and checks with the site director to see when they play next.
- Make sure your child has a ride home after the completion of a tournament.
- Make sure your child picks up after themselves and does not leave anything.

Consequences for not adhering to program rules/district policy can result in removal from the event where the offense occurred and/or future events.

Porter Travel Policy

The follow rules will apply when traveling to and from an out of town trip:

1. Only Porter tennis uniforms or approved school attire will be worn.
2. All students will ride with the team to and from matches. In case of emergency a trip change can be picked up from the coaches two days prior to the tournament.
NOTE: choosing to leave without approval could result in a suspension from future matches.
3. The top 8 will wear travel clothes when it applies
4. Keep bus clean- Pick up all candy and food wrappers
5. While riding on the bus: stay seated, keep voices within reasonable volume.
6. A headset is required with all music

Match Play: During the spring season you may be playing at different sites. The hosting coach will act as a sponsor if your coach is not present. The coaches will be traveling to different sites. Do not leave that site without your coach's permission.

1. Wear the issued uniform during the entire tournament.
2. Porter Coach(s) are the only coach(s) allowed to coach.
3. No verbal or racket abuse will be allowed.
4. Bring water bottle filled to the courts- Don't expect coaches to fill the water jugs
5. Have your hair pulled up- Boys will be clean shaved and hair groomed- No ear rings.
6. No music will be allowed at matches –except during warm-up.
7. If you are not playing you are watching another match.
8. **CELL PHONES** will be allowed on the courts only during warm-up (music only).

Never will there be any Public Display of Affection. Please read and sign that you understand the Porter Travel Policy rules:

NOTE: The coaches nor Porter HS/NCISD can provide a guideline for every situation that might occur throughout the year. Therefore; Coach Stoltz reserves the right to make decisions and institute new policies in accordance with NCISD District Policy that may or may not be covered in this manual.

Acknowledgement of Guidelines for Port Tennis 2021 - 2022

I have read and acknowledge the guidelines set forth in the Porter Tennis Handbook.
I have read and signed the travel policy.

Athlete's Print Name

Parent/Guardian Print Name

Athlete's Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Date

