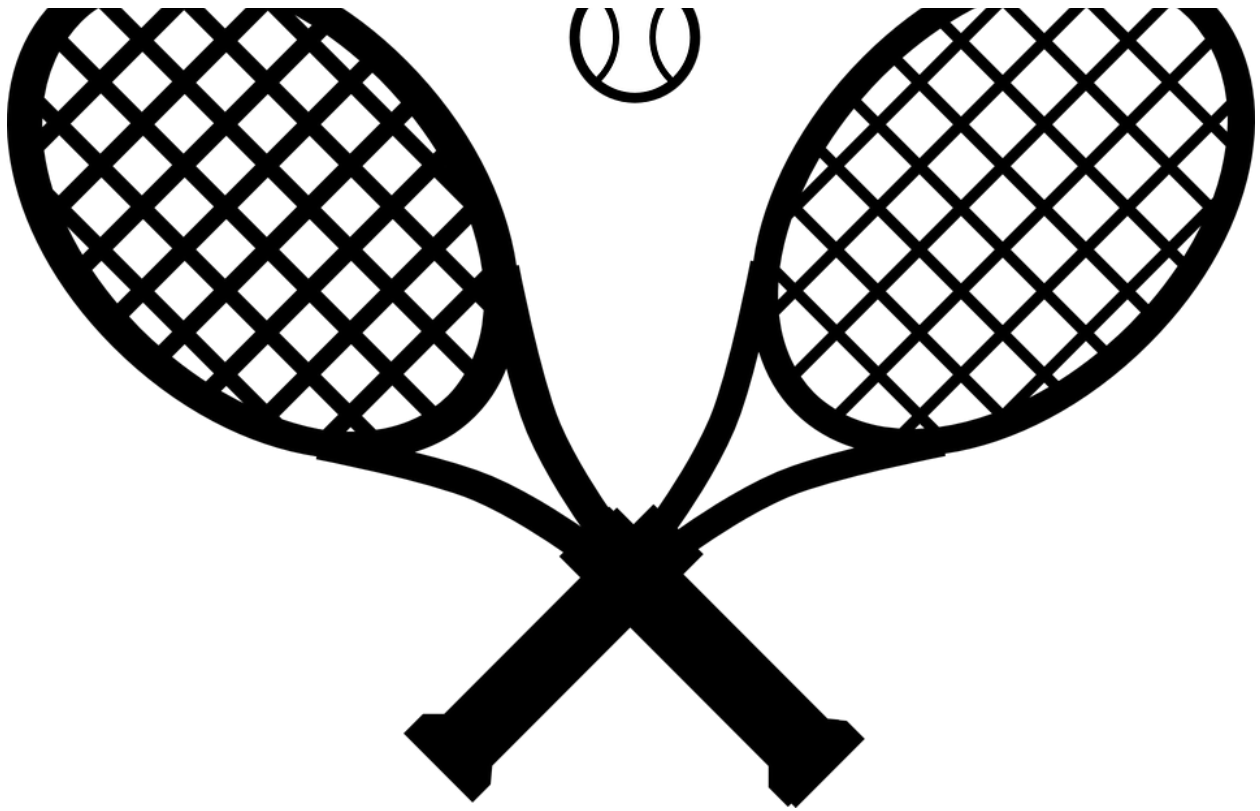


PORT WASHINGTON PIRATES Tennis



Player and Parent Handbook

Dear Tennis Players and Parents,

Thank you for considering to join the tennis team at Port Washington High School. Tennis is a sport that you can play your whole life and does not require a whole team to function. You can play tennis just about anytime and anywhere if you have a willing opponent and a court. Our main goal for our tennis program is to make tennis fun and to develop your tennis skills along the way. We will teach participants the lifelong lessons of teamwork, confidence, adversity and overcoming obstacles.

While preparing for the season, remember it is critical you play beforehand - the season comes and goes too quickly for you to rely on team practices alone to build your game.

Listed below are key things you need to be aware of as you consider coming out for the tennis team.

Overall Skills

Need to have the basic skills of tennis including, groundstrokes, volleys and serving. As well, a basic understanding of the game.

Attitude and Commitment

For our team it is essential to have a positive attitude and a willingness to accept feedback on your game. You will be playing opponents at all different levels and it is critical that you have good sportsmanship on and off the court. Port Washington players will be respectful towards opponents and teammates, no matter the situation. Unacceptable behavior, such as criticizing teammates and/or opponents or throwing your racket will not be tolerated. Port Washington High School tennis players will represent themselves, their team, school, and community in a positive manner.

Tennis is a mental game, we will talk throughout the season the importance of mental toughness.

ATTENDANCE

As a member of this team, the expectation is that you will attend all team related events. Tennis is a short season so it is critical that you are present at all practices and matches. You must be at the tennis courts at the scheduled start time, prepared and ready to go for practice and matches. It is your responsibility to schedule all other events around tennis. This includes jobs, clubs, activities, driver's ed and any other appointments. **No excuse, except illness, injury, or a family crisis or emergency will be accepted for missing practice /game/tournament. This includes being late or leaving early for those same events. Above all, you need to communicate a reason for your absence/tardiness or need to leave early with your coach in advance. It is not your teammate's or parents responsibility to inform your coach why you are absent, running late, or leaving early.** This communication will be given to your coach well in advance by either a phone call with a voice message or by meeting with your coach in person. If you miss a practice due to anything other than illness, injury, or emergency, you will be required to take responsibility for your actions.

You will be allowed three (3) unexcused absences during the season and any absence thereafter will result in suspension from the team.

Unexcused absences include things such as jobs, clubs, activities, driver's ed., school suspension, detention, vacations and any appointments. No call/no communication to your coach for an absence will result in an immediate suspension from all playing time at next scheduled match or tournament. Our season is short and there is competition for playing time, so it is important that each athlete attends all practices and matches. Learning to make good decisions, keeping and fulfilling commitment(s) to your team is part of being a young athlete. As athletes and individuals, we will at some point be presented with situations where we must make a decision that can impact the team, yourself, and others.

PRACTICE & MATCH GUIDELINES

You must be on time and prepared for practice every day at the scheduled start time. This means that you are completely dressed and ready to go with your racket. ***You must be in school all day and attend every class period to be eligible to practice that afternoon or play in a game.*** .

LOCKER ROOM

The Port Washington Tennis Team will be using the locker room so you can store your valuables/belongings and have a space you can call your own! The locker room is for players and coaches only. It is a privilege to use the locker room; this is a special place in which you should have pride. Keep the locker room as clean as possible by picking up after yourself. Be respectful. It is your responsibility to bring a lock to secure your locker.

MATCH DAY

We will have matches during the week and on the weekends! You need to be physically and mentally ready and prepared for matches. **ALWAYS be on TIME.** As tennis players, we are always competing against daylight and we need to get started as quickly as possible.

- You will need to be dressed in our required uniform. In tennis if you are not in our uniforms you can be called with a technical and lose a game in your match.
- At the start of a meet, varsity will line up and coaches will announce the line up. When your position is called you will shake your opponent's hand and the opponents coach's hand.
- At the end of the match you always need to shake hands with your opponent and report your score to the hosting school and your own coach.
- A tennis match is a silent game when points are in play. It is only acceptable to say "Good job" "Nice Shot" or clap once a point has been completed. It is not acceptable to say anything negative about the opponent or the team. *This includes teammates and family members.
- Players are expected to support their teammates when they are not on the court. This means moving to different courts and cheering on your teammates. Cell phones should not be out when you should be watching your team.
- These are suggestions on what items you should bring for a match: water, snacks/food, sun lotion, 2nd pair of socks, 2nd pair of shoes in case of broken shoe laces, blanket. Saturday matches can last all day so it is important to be prepared and comfortable.

BUS TIME

The bus time will be announced days in advance of a meet. Typically, bus time will be 10-15 minutes before the bus departure. It is crucial that you have your uniform and gear needed for the match.

POSITION ON THE TEAM

Your position on the team will be determined by the coaches based on one's tennis skills, challenge matches, and team dynamics. There will be 10 spots on a varsity team, 4 singles and 3 doubles teams. Two or three challenge matches will be played the first or second week of practice to help determine one's position. During the season a player can request to challenge a teammate in the position above them. A player needs to communicate with the coach and a

date in time will be set. The two players will play one match. Once the match has completed coaches will still have discretion on player lineup changes. For how to move forward. After spots have been determined, multiple challenge matches with the same two players must be discussed with coaches.

COMMUNICATION

The coaches will keep you informed on any upcoming information during the season such as: apparel information, schedule changes, fundraising events, organization of team events such as pasta parties, team photos and picture day, monthly practice schedule, camps and clinics, etc.

COMMUNICATION REGARDING PLAYING TIME

Please do NOT talk to the coach about position or lineup change during or immediately following a match or a tournament. If you and/or your child have a concern about position, it is best to set up a meeting with the coach (along with your child) to discuss position/line up and the reasoning behind why these decisions were made. Remember, if your child has not addressed position/line up concerns with his/her coach we expect that conversation to occur first.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss With Coaches

- The treatment of your child – both mentally and physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

Our coaches are professionals who make tough decisions based on what they believe to be the best for the team and all athletes involved. Certain things can and should be discussed with coaches. Other things, such as those in the following section, must be left to the discretion of the coach and will not be discussed, either in person, via phone or email:

Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches

- Team Strategy
- Play Calling
- Other Athletes or Coaches
- Playing Time (unless framed such as "what can my child do to earn more playing time?")

Situations may arise that may require a conference between the coach and a parent. These are to be encouraged, and it's important that both parents/guardians of the player have a clear understanding of the other's perspective done in a respectful manner.

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

The Port Washington Tennis Program attitude is very important. We encourage a positive attitude from everyone who is on the team. All team members should be supportive and respectful of each other. A positive experience and growth process can only be achieved by having an atmosphere in which a team works together as a whole and not as individual players. As a team member for Port Washington Tennis it is very important to respect all adults involved with the sport. This starts with the coaches, who try their best to bring out the best in all our players and are dedicated to the sport of tennis. Every coach will see individual talent in a different way. Allow the coach to bring out this talent as it will make you a stronger, more talented and valuable player. We ask that on the court, you as a player do not argue with the opponents/coaches of the game. We know not all calls are correct. We would like you to

concentrate on things you can control, which is your attitude & playing ability. Good sportsmanship is a must. On and off the court, whether at a tournament or at practice only a positive showing of sportsmanship will be tolerated. Each athlete will be expected to comply with the rules and regulations outlined in this handbook. Athletes will conduct themselves in such a manner that they bring credit and respect to their families, teammates, the Port Washington Tennis Program and the Saukville/Port Washington School District. Anyone who willfully performs any act that is detrimental to; themselves, their school, or the Port Washington Tennis Program shall be subject to discipline, suspension, or expulsion from the program.

DISCIPLINE: Will mean any form of corrective action deemed necessary to correct the problem in accordance with team rules and the athletic code.

Each athlete will be told what needs to be corrected and given a specific time frame in which to accomplish it. The athlete will be expected to participate in practices and travel to matches and tournaments even though they may not play. If an athlete makes no attempt to correct a specific problem in the specific time frame, he/she may be suspended or expelled from the team.

SUSPENSION: Will mean a suspension from participation in any team related activity for a specific number of days in accordance to/with team rules and Athletic Code. A suspension is usually a last chance result of a disciplinary problem.

EXPULSION: Will mean that the athlete will be denied the right to any future participation or privilege in the Port Washington Tennis Program.

Prior to the implementation of the above sanctions, a conference with the athlete, the head coach and/or athletic director will be conducted to ensure the athlete's understanding of the problem and its actions.

The Port Washington High School Activities Code will be strictly adhered to and supported by the coaching staff and its players and will work in unison with the Team Handbook.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Your child has a large amount of options in sports these days. Port Washington Tennis asks you as a parent to help your child decide whether or not they are willing to put in the effort and commitment that is necessary to achieve the positive outcome we are looking for. This would include an effort as a parent to get your child to all practices and team organized activities on time. This includes proper nutrition and sleep so a consistent improvement in skills can be realized. We ask that parents learn the rules of tennis. By learning the rules it makes the practices and games more enjoyable for all. This will also help you understand what the

coaches are working toward and why we do things a certain way. We as a program try to explain any rules and regulations of the game so we can all be better spectators and be positive role models for our children. It is very important for the parents to respect the coaches, administration and the officials. If the parents do not respect the people of authority involved with the sport of tennis then how can we expect our children to respect the coaches, administration and officials? Children learn by example, therefore, be a positive role model for your child. Keep in mind everyone is trying to do the best job that they can and your support is appreciated. Obscenities in and around practices and games will not be tolerated. If you learn to keep your composure you can teach your child will do the same.

When your child becomes a member of the Port Washington Tennis Program, they also become a member of Port Washington Athletics. When that happens they sign an agreement to follow the code of conduct outlined by the Athletic Department and the School District. In that code are rules for parents and spectators to abide by. Please take the time to review them. If these rules

are broken there are a set of consequences for both the parents and player and possibly the team. Remember when you attend an event you represent not only yourself but also our school and community.

Above all, we want our parents to enjoy their time as a Port Washington Tennis Parent through actively supporting, cheering, positively encouraging, trusting and reinforcing the coach's decisions with your students!

LETTERING AND YEAR END AWARD CRITERIA

The culmination of hard work, a great attitude and commitment result in being rewarded for those efforts. The following criterion is set to determine year end awards and lettering:

School Athletic Awards

Numerals (Gold Border) – 1st Time participant

JV Patch – JV Participant

1st Career Letter at the High School – Letter (Gold Border) & Chevron with Sport Emblem

2nd Career Letter in Specific Sport – Chevron

3rd Career Letter in Specific Sport – Chevron

4th Career Letter in Specific Sport – Pirate Patch – 4 Yr. Letter Winner & Chevron

To earn above awards, players must not have any Code violations, Team violations, all gear returned and not have more than two (2) unexcused absences throughout the season. Player must also be an active participant on a specific team for more than 75% of all matches played throughout the year to qualify for specific award. (Example: If player starts on the Freshman team and is moved up to the JV, they must play in 75% or more of all matches played by the JV team for the year to qualify for the JV Patch.)

To qualify and earn any one of the above awards, players must not have any Code Violations, Team violations, all gear returned and may not have any unexcused absences over the course of the year.

TEAM CONTACT LIST, WEBSITE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

Once the teams are formed, team contact lists will be assembled. Each list will consist of all team participants' names, parent's names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.

This list will be distributed to all coaches by the head coach. The coach for each team will then distribute to their team. Corrections can be made directly to the head coach as soon as they are noticed.

Regularly check out the Port Washington Athletics Website (www.portwashingtonathletics.org) as this is where a majority of the answers to questions will be posted – locations, dates and times of practice, matches, tournaments, etc. **Please sign-up for the messaging system that our website offers for the latest in schedule changes sent via text or email.** We also urge members to make sure we have a regularly-used and correct email address on file as information will be communicated that way.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me.

Melonie Zielinski

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(262) 268-5676 (School)

(262) 388-4051 (Cell)

PORT WASHINGTON PIRATES
Tennis

Please read, sign, and date this form and return the completed form to your head coach.

I, _____,
have read and understand the rules and expectations regarding participation on the Port Washington Tennis team.

Player signature

Date

Parent signature

Date