

Paola

Middle School



Athletic Handbook
2025-2026

Physical Packets and Pay to Participate

The following must be completed for your child to participate on an athletic team at Paola Middle School. Complete packets with this information are available on the school website or in the office.

- ☐ KSHSAA Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation completed by a physician
- ☐ KSHSAA Eligibility Checklist
- ☐ KSHSAA Concussion & Head Injury Form
- ☐ Paola Middle School Insurance Form
- ☐ Medical Consent Form
- ☐ \$50.00 Pay to Participate Fee - payable to: Paola Middle School

Tryouts

Paola Middle School offers opportunities for all students to participate in athletics and activities. Depending on the activity, our teams are divided into two categories: Varsity and Junior Varsity. Some teams, such as: Cheer, Volleyball, and Basketball have a cut policy. Some teams have a no-cut policy, such as: Dance, Cross Country, Football, Wrestling, and Track. At Paola Middle School we encourage all of our students to participate in extracurricular activities.

Absences

Students must be in attendance at school in order to participate in games that given day. Students participating in Saturday activities, or activities following a day when school is not in session must have been in attendance for the last two instructional hours of the preceding school day.

Excused Absences:

- When you are at school but do not attend practice, you must inform the coaches prior to the end of the school day to have the opportunity for the absence to be classified as excused. ie...Make-Up work, Appt., etc
- Any absence for illness, appt., etc. that prevents a participant from attending a game or practice that is approved by the coach or administration in advance.

Unexcused Absences:

- When you are at school all day, but fail to contact a coach prior to the end of the school day.
- Absences for appointments, vacations, or conflicting school events that are not approved by the coach and administration in advance.
- Absences that result due to behavior consequences as assigned by the school administration. ie...detentions, Friday Night School, Out of School Suspension. (In-School Suspension during an athletic season: discipline will be at the coach's discretion)
 - ★ **1st unexcused absence:** Playing time will be reduced on the next competition date.
 - ★ **2nd unexcused absence:** Student will miss the next competition day.
 - ★ **3rd unexcused absence:** Student will be dismissed from the team.

Grades

At Paola Middle School, we believe in the concept of Student-Athletes. Student academics come first. Coaches will be made aware of their athletes' grades and will monitor their progress.

We are members of the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA), which requires us to maintain a plan whereby students must maintain academic standards in order to be eligible. The Paola Middle School requirements for eligibility are as follows:

1. *Enrollment- The student shall be enrolled in and attending a minimum of five subjects of unit weight (or its equivalent) during the present semester.*
2. *The student must be in good standing. Students who have been suspended out of school may not participate in or attend any extracurricular activities during any part of the day or days they are suspended.*
3. *The student shall have passed at least five new subjects (those not previously passed) of unit weight, or its equivalent, the previous semester or the last semester of attendance.*

Away Game Transportation

All students are to ride to and from away games on the bus. If parents go to away games, they may take their own son/daughter home, as long as they inform the coach

prior to leaving. In the event that a parent is not present, a handwritten note or phone call from the parent must be made prior to the event to confirm alternate transportation arrangements.

Participation on Athletic Teams Outside of School

The Kansas State High School Activities Association states that a student who is a member of a school athletic squad may not participate as a member of an outside team or as an independent competitor during the same season of the same sport.

Sportsmanship

If a player, coach, spectator, student, or parent is observed acting inappropriately, the school administration expects it to be stopped. That individual may be asked to leave by an official, school personnel, administrator, or police officer. If the person resists leaving, the police may be called and he/she will be escorted out of the event. The individual may forfeit his/her privilege of attending future contests - home or away. If removed from a game, the individual will be required to meet with school administration to discuss the issue. If the individual shows up at a future contest without resolving the issue, he/she may be charged with trespassing.

Uniforms

Uniforms and equipment will be checked out to athletes prior to the first games for each activity. USD 368 approved uniforms will be worn by the athletes representing Paola Middle School, *no exceptions*. Athletes will be required to pay for any lost or damaged uniforms.

If your child is on the Paola Middle School Dance or Spirit squad, these uniforms are purchased by the individual athletes each year and are property of that student.

Parent/ Coach Communication

Be supportive of the coaching staff in front of your son/ daughter. Encourage your child to discuss issues with his/ her coach first. *All students are valued; however, individual playing time at the middle school level is not guaranteed equal and will not be discussed.* If you would like to visit with your child's coach, please, contact him/ her to arrange an appointment. To reach a coach, call the main school number, 913-294-

8030, and leave a voice message with your name, number, and reason for your call. Additionally, you may contact the coach by email. Email addresses are on the school website under “Staff Directory”.

If you would like to speak to the athletic director, [Amy Wright](#), her phone number is 913-294-8030 and her email address is amy_wright@usd 368.org.

Injuries

If an athlete is injured at practice or during a game, the coach may require a note or verbal confirmation from the parent indicating that it is okay for the athlete to resume physical activities. If an athlete is injured and removed from a practice or game due to concussion related symptoms, the athlete will not be allowed to resume practice or game participation until the coach is given a note from the doctor indicating the athlete can resume physical activities. Student Athletes will then go through a 5 step process with our district Athletic Trainer before returning to practice.

ImPact Concussion Testing

The Paola School District takes student injury very seriously. We offer, free to our student athletes, the ImPact concussion screening test. Parents may opt into this test for their student. If a student is suspected to have a concussion, parents will be directed to an ImPact certified doctor in our area to follow up with.

Concussion Screening Protocol

What to do when a student athlete needs to be screened for a possible concussion during practice or a game:

- Immediately remove players showing concussion symptoms from the practice or game field.
- SCAT2 test should be administered. Students that show ANY signs of a possible concussion are not allowed to return to practice or play for the remainder of the day. Football players should have their helmet taken away as a precaution so that they are not accidentally returned to play.

Post-Concussion Protocol

When a participant is removed from practice or a game due to displaying symptoms of a concussion:

- Parents should be notified by one of the following: coaching staff, training staff, or school administration, as soon as possible.
 - Players must be picked up by a parent/ guardian or their designee.
 - Parents should be encouraged to take their child to a physician the same day as the injury occurred. A concussion can digress rapidly in some instances.
 - Parents should be notified about the ImPact Testing program offered by Paola as a resource. This is an optional program that they may or may not want to participate in. If they choose to have their child take a post-concussion test that can be compared to their original baseline exam, this should be arranged with the school administration the next day.
 - Players **MUST** visit an MD or DO before they can begin the *5 Step Program* that allows them to return to play. **Step #5 requires a controlled environment and cannot be completed by participating in a game.**
 - The *5 Step Program* will be administered under the direction of our school trainer.
 - The player can only return to play after the following conditions have been met:
 - ★ Clearance has been granted by an MD or OD
- ~AND~**
- ★ The school trainer has cleared the individual for play after successful completion of the *5 Step Program*.

Frontier League Schools

Baldwin Jr. High School
Clark Middle School
Eudora Middle School
Forest Spring Middle School
Louisburg Middle School
Ottawa Middle School
Paola Middle School
Spring Hill Middle School
Tonganoxie Middle School
Woodland Spring Middle School

Directions to the Frontier League Schools can be found on our
website...www.usd368.org.

