**Parent/Player Handbook**

Panther Parent/Player Handbook

Daily Goals:

* Develop self-confidence as an individual and trust in your teammates
* Strive for excellence
* Practice and play with energy and passion

Season Goals:

* Compete!
* League Championship, District Championship, State Championship
* How will your team be remembered?

Career Goals:

* Finish high school
* Learn lifelong qualities
* Become a productive community member

EXPECTATIONS-players/coaches/parents

Each **player** is expected to

1. Do your best.

2. Base all decisions in the best interest of team.

3. Treat others the way you want to be treated (Golden Rule).

4. Be a good teammate.

5. Be on time.

The **Coaching** Staff will:

1. Base all decisions on what is best for the team, and then what is best for the individual.

2. Be honest.

3. Be fair.

4. Help put you in a position to reach your goals.

5. Communicate with players

THE PANTHER **PARENT**

*Parents Coaching*

*We understand that each parent has their son’s best interest at heart. Please allow the panther coaching staff to be the sole coaches of you son during practice and games. We are more than happy to meet with parents who have concerns. If you have concerns, please follow the following protocol:*

*1st- Talk with your son*

*2nd Have your son talk with his coach (we are here to help)*

*3rd Set up an appointment with coach*

*4th Set up an appointment with Athletic Director and coaching staff.*

*Note-At the varsity level, playing time is up not up for discussion. Coaches will decide what is best for the team.*

Make sure your son has everything he needs before he gets to the field so there is no reason to visit the inside of the dugout before or during the games.  Players will be given time between games to talk with parents and get food.

*Player/Coach Communication*

*As coaches we believe it is our duty to communicate regularly with players about their role on the team. Sometimes it is not what they want to hear. We will always provide information that will help your son meet his personal goals.*

Criteria for Team Selection

Athletes should view tryouts like they would a job interview. We do not to see it as cuts. A good employee will have traits that will make the company or in this case, team, grow and succeed. Working well with others and having the willingness to learn are equally important traits. We steer away from people that will cause disruption.

Know that being a part of the team means doing what is best for the team and accepting the role you have earned.

Teams will be chosen in a two stages

Stage 1-An overall number of kids will be chosen the first go around (within 3 days of 1st day- approximately 35-45 kids).

Stage 2- Individual skill competitions performed to decide Panther roster (as much time as coaching staff needs to make sound/fair judgment).

We feel it is important that you understand how we decide on our team.  The following four criteria will be used.

1.      Knowledge of game. We will not play people who do not know their assignments.  We will spend the time with you if you so desire.  Everyone can and should know their assignments.

2.      Hustle.   Hustle is one thing that you can control. It is expected!

3.     What will you bring to the team? Baseball is a team game played through individual battles.  The individual who can win each battle, lead by example, and help the team succeed in all phases is very valuable to. Individuals who can play more than one position well are also very valuable.  Everyone can be a team player.

4.      Talent. If the above criteria are equal, then the individual who has the most talent and plays the most consistently will make the team.  However, having talent without the first three qualities will not get you on the team.

Everyone has the same opportunity to earn a position on the team.  An individual who is strong in the first three qualities will help the team be more successful than an individual who just has talent.  Deciding the team roster is very difficult.  Our main concern is to be honest and fair with each of you and watch players mature into fine young men.

PANTHER BASEBALL RESPONSIBILITIES

Sportsmanship

Coaches, players and parents are expected to display good sportsmanship during both the good and bad times. Please represent our team, school, and community.

Discipline –

Discipline will be handled in various forms- Loss of playing time, conditioning, and suspension.

Tobacco, Alcohol, Supplements, and Illegal Drugs

Panther players are expected to maintain a healthy lifestyle.  Supplements need to be checked with the coaching staff before use.  WIAA has very strict policies on all supplements.  Tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs present severe health risks, even if used only once.  If a player wishes to gain strength, speed, or weight, please seek advice from the coaching staff and your family doctor.

Appearance

Please take pride in how you look. Remember you only get one first impression.

Academics

Panthers strive to achieve high academic marks and are expected to meet all of the academic requirements as stated in the Athletic Department Policy.

***AWARDS AND RECOGNITION***

Awards:

The players with the best statistics will be nominated for all-conference, all-state, and other awards.  Please understand these awards are voted on by other coaches and sportswriters, and their decisions are final.

MVP/Inspirational-

Awards voted on by teammates at the end of the season.

Brian Flones Award- This award was established by Ed Knaggs in honor of Wenatchee Superintendent, Brian Flones. Brian “walked on” and tried out for the Seattle Seahawks and made the squad-this is a feat that just does not happen! It was all the years Brain persevered and pushed himself day in and day out which helped him achieve his lifelong dream. This is an award given to a player that demonstrates similar characteristics.

Weight Room and Equipment

Equipment:

The equipment used during practice and games belongs to the baseball program.  It is your responsibility to make sure that it is taken care of so that it looks good and it lasts.

Weight Room:

The weight room is where we gain strength and flexibility.  Make sure that all weights are put up after you use them.  Get in the weight room and get your work done.  The weight room is no place for horseplay.

Injuries and Sickness

All injuries that occur during practice or a game should be reported to the coach immediately.  This will insure that the proper treatment can be initiated as soon as possible.  If you are unable to attend practice because of an injury, personally, let the coach know during the school day.

If a player is sick on a game day, please let me know before noon.  This will allow the team to prepare for the game knowing that they will not have that player available.

If a player needs treatment for an injury or taping prior to a practice or a game, get it done.  This is not to be used as an excuse for being late.  Allow yourself the time to get the treatment.

If a player is out of action due to sickness or injury, they are still required to attend all team functions, practice sessions, and games.

Team Travel

Conduct

* You are representing one of the finest baseball programs in the state.  Be proud of that, and conduct yourself in a first class manner at all times.
* Team rules still apply.  Road trips should be fun and educational, but our objective is to win.
* At all times, be courteous to waiters, waitresses, and other motel/restaurant employees.
* Make sure a coach knows where you are at all times. Player can only dine where coaches are present.

Attire:

* Dress neatly and be well groomed.
* Players are expected to dress nice on game day.

All players must ride to the game on the team bus unless prior approval is received from the coaching staff and the athletic director’s office.

Game Day Responsibilities

Reminders:

* Never lose your poise.
* No arguing with or looking down upon an umpire.
* Don’t talk to your opponents in a derogatory manner.  You beat your opponent with your bat, ball, or glove, not with your mouth.
* Encourage your teammates.
* Remember that momentum is always coming at you.  Don’t get discouraged if the breaks don’t go our way, they will even out.
* Always play with enthusiasm, enjoy playing the game.
* Always hustle on and off the field.
* Don’t throw equipment.

Our goal is to win one game at a time.  In order to do this, enjoy competing in each individual battle.  Treat every situation as a battle (hitter vs. pitcher and fielder vs. runner).  The more battles we win in the game, the better our chances of winning the game.

Summer/Fall Baseball

Summer and Fall baseball was started to allow individuals the opportunity to improve their baseball skills.  Although it is not mandatory to play baseball in the summer or fall to make the spring team, I would encourage everyone to play in both seasons.  The goals of the summer/fall seasons are as follows:

1.      Improve individual skills.

2.      Become a better teammate.

3.      Understand the philosophy behind the game.

4.      Learn from other coaches and players.

5.      Have fun.

If an individual doesn’t participate in summer/fall baseball programs, he needs to be playing another sport.  Every sport has its rewards and can lead to success on the field in baseball.

Go Panthers!