

# OKC Patriots Football Handbook

*Patriot Athletic's mission is to be a homeschool alternative for young athletes and to speak life into them while discovering God's purpose.*

The Oklahoma City Patriots were created in 2002 to provide a Competitive Christian based Homeschool Football program for the Homeschool community in OKC and surrounding areas. The Patriots play 11-man football and compete against Public, Private and Homeschool teams.

## Board

George Eastling, President  
Bobby Canty, Treasurer  
Ashley Somers, Secretary

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## Officers

Brad Smith, Shane & La Tisha Bynum, Joy Eastling, Chris Toney, Mike Koehler and Chad McLerran

## **Player Eligibility**

1. To be eligible for High School, the player must not turn 19 before September 1st of the current season. To be eligible for Mid-High, the player must not turn 15 before September 1st of the current season (following OSSAA guidelines)
2. At the Varsity (High School) level a player is only eligible to play for 4 consecutive seasons.\*  
\*Once a player has joined our varsity team, their four years of eligibility begin, even if they do not finish their education, there is only 4 years of eligibility.
3. The player must be enrolled in at least four classes and be able to provide info regarding classes.  
\*Once a player has graduated, even if they still have eligibility left, they are ineligible to play due to not being a high school student.
4. The player must meet one of the following criteria:
  - a. Player is independently home educated
  - b. Player is enrolled in a Public School at Home program and cannot play sports for a public school.
  - c. Player is enrolled in a Private School that does not offer a sports program.
5. A Santa Fe Charter School student who is in good standing with Santa Fe Charter Schools.

## **Annual Physical Examination**

All players are required to undergo an annual physical examination by a licensed medical practitioner. A player will not be allowed to participate in practice or games until this is completed.

## **Concussion Protocol**

Coaches and staff of the Patriots undergo annual concussion training. Players and parents must also familiarize themselves with concussion symptoms and protocols as directed by the state of Oklahoma. All players and parents are required to read the concussion protocol hand out and sign acknowledging that they have read it. A player will not be allowed to participate in practice or games until this is signed. (See attached)

## Academic Standing

Players must be enrolled in at least four classes to be eligible to play for the Patriots. Players must be passing those classes. Coaches will work with parents to encourage players to stress the importance of academics.

Players who are enrolled in a Private School, must have a letter from the administration listing classes enrolled in and that the player is in good academic standing.

Players enrolled in a Public School at Home program must be able to provide a list of classes they are currently enrolled in.

## Moral Conduct Code

### Parent's Commitment

I recognize that by allowing my child to play on this football team that I will be actively involved in the following ways:

1. I am currently home educating my child and he is passing. If my child does not maintain a satisfactory level, I will notify the coach or Athletic Director. I will provide a signed statement of current athletic eligibility as required by the association.
2. I will encourage my child to abide by the team rules and program guidelines (see Athlete's Commitment).
3. I will remain under control at all games and functions. I will not yell negatively at the officials, my child, our players or coaches or the opposing players, parents or coaches.
4. I understand and agree to abide by the following appeal process:
  - a. If I have a problem with someone, I will talk with that person seeking resolution.
  - b. If I am not able to resolve the situation, I will discuss it with a board representative.
  - c. If no resolution is reached, I will then meet with the person and the Grievance Committee.
  - d. If there is still no resolution, the grievance will be brought before the board and the board's decision is final.
5. I recognize that the Patriots program is a competitive football program and that playing time is the sole discretion of the head coach, based on his decision as to what will make the team the most competitive. Furthermore, I agree to support the head coach in his decision whether I agree with him or not.
6. I understand that the sidelines is only for Patriots staff and players only.
7. I understand that the Athletic Board reserves the right to establish rules as needed in order to maintain its moral standards.
8. I understand that if I fail to abide by this commitment statement the Board has the authority to ask my family to leave the program and that we will not be entitled to any refund.

### Athlete's Commitment

By joining the football team I am agreeing to the following team rules:

1. I will strive to maintain passing grades.
2. I will demonstrate the character quality of attentiveness by listening to the instruction of my coaches.
3. I will demonstrate the character quality of faithfulness by attending practices and games.
4. I will demonstrate the character quality of orderliness by following the dress code:
  - a. No jewelry will be worn during practice and games.
  - b. Appropriate dress for all practices and games. The head coach will determine the game and practice dress.
5. I will maintain a positive, teachable attitude no matter how much playing time I receive, how fair I perceive the officiating to be or whether we win or lose.
6. I will demonstrate the character quality of self-control by not participating in profane language, alcohol, tobacco or drugs.
7. I will keep my focus on football and avoid pairing off with persons of the opposite sex during all traveling trips, games and practices.
8. I will demonstrate the character quality of discipline by following rules that my coaches establish.
9. I will not physically or verbally assault any coaches or players. I understand that failure to follow this rule may result in my immediate dismissal from the program.
10. I understand that if I fail to abide by this commitment statement, the Athletic Board has the authority to ask my family to leave the program and that we would not be entitled to any refund.

## **Drug Policy**

The Patriots have **ZERO** tolerance for illegal drugs. Players may be asked to submit to random drug tests during the football season.

## **Annual Team Fee - \$550**

The annual team fee is for the current playing season and will be paid in full by the first practice. This fee is intended to cover the remaining expenses for the team for the entire season as determined by the budget of the Board. Each player receives one t-shirt. This fee also includes insurance coverage for the team and player only, and is essential for any Association sponsored activity. The insurance coverage is provided by K&K Insurance Group, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Insurance in force is \$1,000,000 general liability, and secondary accidental insurance for each player. Secondary insurance means that if there is other health and/or accidental insurance coverage available, all charges must be submitted to them on a primary basis. Subject to terms and conditions of this policy, coverage will apply to the amount not covered by other insurance. If you have other coverage, the other carrier's payment(s) will be used to satisfy the \$100 under this policy. If you have no other coverage, they will apply the \$100 deductible to the charges received until the deductible has been satisfied. Only expenses incurred within 104 weeks from the date of injury will be paid.

## **One-Time Equipment Fee - \$350**

The Patriots are committed to providing a positive experience from the entire football family of the Patriots. It is our intention to maintain quality standards and a safe equipment package for each player at all times. We realize that as the player matures he will need to be refitted with larger gear to maintain a safe standard at any given time. In order to provide this service from Mid-High through High School, the Patriots will own all football equipment, and maintain an inventory of equipment that will accommodate this practice. Each player is assessed a nonrefundable one-time equipment fee. This will provide for the team equipment package throughout the player's eligibility of the Patriots football program. This fee will not necessarily purchase new equipment for that player at that time, but rather maintain the equipment needs of the entire football program. Each year at the end of the season the player will return his equipment, and upon returning for the next year will be fitted again for equipment. The equipment manager can assess equipment needed at that time in order to provide proper fitting for the entire program.

The equipment fee is a requirement of each first year player and is essential in order to provide the athlete with equipment when needed. The Patriots are currently offering extended terms of two years to complete the payment of the equipment fee if needed. This would be a partial payment of \$175 due prior to the beginning of the first two seasons of the player athlete. Please get prior approval from the Treasurer if you plan to take advantage of this offer. Families must be in good financial standing with the patriots. Good financial standing includes paying fees in full or making regular agreed upon payments. Failure to remain in good standing will result in suspension of the player.

## **Program Ad Sales**

Each player is required to sell one page of ads, valued at \$300. Players will be responsible for the balance, if they fail to sell at least \$300.

## Equipment

Equipment issued to the player includes: Helmet, Shoulder Pads, Home Game Jersey, Away Game Jersey, Game Pants, Belt, Girdle, Practice Jersey, Knee Pads, Practice Pants, Equipment Bag.

Each year at the end of the season, players will return their CLEAN equipment, and upon returning next year will be fitted again for equipment. Equipment not returned will be subject to replacement fee.

Helmet	\$300	Shoulder Pads	\$250
Game Jersey	\$90	Game Pants	\$65
Girdle	\$50	Practice Pants	\$25
Practice Jersey	\$25	Belt	\$5
Knee Pads	\$10	Equipment Bag	\$10

## Parent Volunteers

The Patriots would not be successful without volunteers. Each family is **required** to serve at some point during the season.

In order to have a successful season we need the following volunteer positions filled for each home game.

- Gate ( 4 people per game, home and away gate)
- Chains (3 people per game)
- Scoreboard
- Announcer
- Filmer (we also need a filmer for the away games)
- Statistician
- Booster Club Table
- Pre - game setup (at least six people)
- Post-game clean-up (at least six people)

Parents are able to volunteer for the Mid-High team if you have a Varsity player and vice versa. So you can watch your player.

## Off-Season Workouts

Off-Season Workouts begin in January. Workouts are held Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 5:30pm to 8pm. Players need to be dressed and in the gym/field at the start of workouts. Players need water bottles, tennis shoes, cleats, gym clothing (warm and cooler weather). Players are expected to be at every workout.

## Practice

Practice starts in August. Practice is held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 5:30pm to 8:00pm. Players need to be dressed and on the field at the start of practice. Players need to bring water. Players are expected to be at every practice. Players who miss practice may have limited playing time.

Practice field is located at 4712 S Santa Fe Ave, Oklahoma City

## Games/Cost

Players are responsible for transportation to and from games. Players are to be on the field ready to play at the time the Coach designates. Patriots home field is located at 4712 S Santa Fe Ave, Oklahoma City.

Home Game Admission: Adults \$5, Students \$3 (elementary through High School), Seniors \$3 (55+). There is a \$20 family rate, **immediate family only** (parents and children).

## **End of Season Tournament**

The OKC Patriots attend the National Homeschool Football Tournament in Panama City, Florida. Players and coaches will stay together onsite at Laguna Beach Christian Camp. Families are welcome to stay onsite as well. There will be additional fees associated with this tournament. We hope to help offset the additional costs with fundraising.

## **Playing at the College Level**

Over the years, many Patriot players have been able to continue playing at the next level. Universities reach out to the Patriot organization and ask for personal information about players. Due to the personal nature of information that is asked by the universities, the Patriots will not share information without parent permission. Examples of information asked for include the player's personal cell phone, ACT/SAT scores, GPA, parent names and contact info.

For more information about playing at the next level:

NCAA

<http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/home-school-students>

NAIA

[http://www.naia.org/ViewArticle.dbml?DB\\_OEM\\_ID=27900&ATCLID=210783389](http://www.naia.org/ViewArticle.dbml?DB_OEM_ID=27900&ATCLID=210783389)

NJCAA (Junior College)

[NJCAA Eligibility Rules: 2019-20 Edition - NJCAA](#)

Great resource for information on completing Core Course Worksheets on Facebook: Homeschool and NCAA Eligibility