



# Toledo Lucas County Police Athletic League, Inc.

## After-School Activities & Youth Participation Eligibility Policy

### I. Purpose and Policy Statement

The Toledo Lucas County Police Athletic League, Inc. (Toledo PAL) is committed to providing safe, structured, and positive after-school activities and programming for youth within the Toledo and Lucas County communities. The primary purpose of Toledo PAL's after-school programming is **prevention**—to engage youth in constructive activities that promote personal responsibility, academic success, healthy lifestyles, and positive relationships with law enforcement and community mentors.

Toledo PAL programs are specifically designed to serve youth who may lack access to safe, affordable, and supervised after-school opportunities due to economic hardship, limited community resources, or other social barriers. Through athletics, educational enrichment, mentorship, and character-building activities, Toledo PAL seeks to **reduce risk factors associated with delinquency and prevent youth from entering the criminal justice system**.

This policy establishes eligibility requirements, participation standards, and exclusion criteria to ensure the safety, integrity, and preventive mission of all Toledo PAL after-school programs.

### II. Program Scope and Preventive Focus

Toledo PAL after-school programs may include, but are not limited to:

- Organized sports and athletic training
- Academic support and tutoring
- Life skills and leadership development
- Mentorship and character education
- Health, wellness, and nutritional education
- Community service and youth engagement activities

All programming operates under a **prevention-first framework**, emphasizing early intervention, positive peer interaction, and consistent adult supervision. Programs are not designed to serve as alternatives to detention, probation supervision, or court-mandated programming.

### III. General Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for participation in Toledo PAL after-school activities, youth must meet the following general criteria:

- a. Be of the appropriate age range designated for the specific program.
- b. Be enrolled in a recognized public, charter, or private school, or approved alternative education program.
- c. Demonstrate a willingness to comply with Toledo PAL rules, codes of conduct, and behavior expectations.
- d. Have a complete registration form signed by a parent or legal guardian.

*Participation is voluntary and contingent upon continued compliance with this policy.*

### IV. Participation Restrictions and Disqualifying Statuses

To maintain a safe, positive, and preventive environment, certain individuals may **not participate** in Toledo PAL after-school programs due to their legal, disciplinary, or affiliation status. These restrictions are not punitive but necessary to uphold program safety, insurance requirements, and the organization's preventive mission.

#### 1. No Felony Convictions

**Policy:**

Youth with felony convictions are not eligible to participate in Toledo PAL after-school programs.

**Rationale:**

Toledo PAL programs are preventive and early-intervention in nature and are not designed to serve adjudicated felony offenders.

**Example:**

A youth who has been convicted of felony burglary in the juvenile court system would be ineligible to participate until the conviction is legally expunged or otherwise resolved in accordance with applicable law.

## **2. No School Suspensions (Current or Ongoing)**

**Policy:**

Youth who are currently serving an out-of-school suspension are not eligible to participate during the suspension period.

**Rationale:**

Toledo PAL aligns with school discipline policies and reinforces accountability, school attendance, and behavioral expectations.

**Example:**

If a student is suspended for five days due to fighting at school, the student may not attend Toledo PAL after-school programming during the suspension but may reapply upon reinstatement to school.

## **3. No Open Misdemeanor Cases**

**Policy:**

Youth with open or pending misdemeanor charges are not eligible to participate until the matter is resolved.

**Rationale:**

Open legal cases may present supervision, liability, and safety concerns inconsistent with preventive programming.

**Example:**

A youth with a pending misdemeanor theft charge awaiting court disposition would be temporarily ineligible until the case is closed or dismissed.

## **4. No Gang Affiliations**

**Policy:**

Youth who are confirmed to be affiliated with gangs, as identified through law enforcement, school administration, or credible documentation, are not eligible to participate.

**Rationale:**

Gang involvement poses safety risks and undermines Toledo PAL's mission of promoting positive peer relationships and violence prevention.

**Example:**

A youth identified by school officials and law enforcement as actively associating with a known gang and displaying gang symbols would be excluded from participation.

## **5. Cannot Be on Probation**

### **Policy:**

Youth currently on juvenile probation are not eligible to participate in Toledo PAL after-school programs.

### **Rationale:**

PAL programming is not a substitute for court-ordered supervision or probation requirements.

### **Example:**

A youth placed on juvenile probation for a curfew violation or assault offense would be ineligible until successfully discharged from probation.

## **V. Appeals and Reinstatement Considerations**

Toledo PAL recognizes that youth circumstances can change. A youth who was previously ineligible may be reconsidered for participation upon:

- Resolution of legal matters
- Completion of suspension or probation
- Demonstrated behavioral improvement
- Written request from a parent or guardian

All reinstatement decisions are made at the discretion of Toledo PAL leadership in consultation with program staff and, when appropriate, the PAL Executive Board, school, or juvenile justice partners.

## **VI. Compliance, Safety, and Enforcement**

Toledo PAL reserves the right to:

- Verify eligibility through school records, parent disclosure, or lawful collaboration with community partners
- Remove any participant who violates program rules or misrepresents eligibility status
- Update or amend this policy as needed to remain compliant with legal, insurance, and best-practice standards

## **VII. Conclusion**

- The Toledo Lucas County Police Athletic League, Inc. is committed to helping youth who face barriers to opportunity by providing safe, structured, and positive after-school programs. By setting clear eligibility criteria and focusing on prevention, Toledo PAL enhances its ability to

guide youth away from negative influences, reduce involvement in juvenile justice, and encourage long-term success through mentorship, accountability, and community engagement.

**Effective Date:** January 16, 2025

**Approved By:** Board of Directors, Toledo Lucas County Police Athletic League, Inc.

**Applies To:** All After-School and Preventive Youth Programs