



Atlanta Police Department – Standard Operating Procedure			
	APD.SOP.3192 – Police Athletic League (PAL) Effective Date: December 31st, 2024		
Chief Darin Schierbaum	Signature by: DS	Date Signed:12/31/2024	Expires: 2028

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

APD Staff,

The Policy and Standards Section is dedicated to providing the department, and its employees, with accurate, understandable and transparent policies. In order to publish policies that reflect the most up-to-date standards, the Policy and Standard Section regularly reviews all policies to ensure that they are reflective of the current mission and objectives of the Atlanta Police Department.

No significant changes were found during the review and renewal of APD.SOP.3192 Police Athletic League, however, we encourage you to read the policy below to better understand how the Program:

- Promotes crime prevention among Atlanta's Youth.
- Encourages engagement in positive social programs.
- Supports academic achievement and self-esteem in disadvantaged youth.

Thank you and stay informed!

Policy and Standards Section
Planning, Research, and Accreditation Unit

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. [PURPOSE](#)..... 3
- 2. [POLICY](#).....3
- 3. [RESPONSIBILITIES](#)3
- 4. [PROCEDURE](#).....4
 - 4.1 [Funding](#).....4
 - 4.2 [Participation & Volunteering](#).....4
 - 4.3 [Programs](#).....4
 - 4.4 [Vehicle Operating Procedures](#).....4
- 5. [DEFINITIONS](#).....5
- 6. [CANCELLATIONS](#).....5
- 7. [REFERENCES](#)..... 5

	Atlanta Police Department – Standard Operating Procedure APD.SOP.3192 – Police Athletic League Effective Date: December 31, 2024	
---	---	---

1. PURPOSE

The Mission of the Atlanta Police Athletic League (PAL) is to provide a safe environment for youth to reach their full potential, through partnerships with dedicated police officers and community; utilizing athletics and other programs geared to improving the quality of life of its participants.

The purpose of this policy is to establish policies and procedures for the Police Athletic League (PAL) and its involvement in the community.

2. POLICY

The Police Athletic Leagues will promote confidence, self-esteem, civic engagement, academic achievement, and social principles by coordinating athletic activities and educational programs for the youth in Atlanta.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 The Community Oriented Policing Section Commander is responsible for the implementation of PAL and its programs.
- 3.2 The PAL Commander will complete a yearly review of PAL sponsored activities. (CALEA 6th ed. Standard 44.1.3)
- 3.3 PAL supervisors will monitor their subordinates to ensure conformity to this written directive.
- 3.4 Officers assigned to PAL will implement various academic and athletic programs for PAL members, including school visits and assisting the Bureau of Parks and Recreation to facilitate summer camp programs. (CALEA 6th ed. Standard 44.2.5)
- 3.5 Provide a safe and healthy environment for all. PAL staff will adhere to the Child Protective Policy recommended and provided by our community partners, the Department of Parks and Recreation, ensuring a 1 to 15 adult-to-child span of control is always maintained while youth are under PAL supervision and custody.

4. PROCEDURE

4.1 FUNDING

PAL is funded by public and private contributions, which are administered by the Board of Directors. Funds raised for PAL are used to purchase and maintain equipment and material used by PAL participants.

4.2 PARTICIPATION AND VOLUNTEERING

- 4.2.1 Youth living in Atlanta between 8 and 18 years of age are eligible to participate in the Police Athletic League Program.
- 4.2.2 Volunteers are encouraged to participate by contacting the PAL directly. Due to the nature of the PAL program, all volunteers will be subjected to criminal background checks.

4.3 PROGRAMS

4.3.1 The primary activities of the PAL program are to:

1. Formulate sports programs to provide intramural competition for socio-economically disadvantaged youth of Atlanta.
2. Provide educational programs to assist youth with homework and areas of educational deficiencies.
3. Provide individual counseling to students and youth; refer troubled youth to appropriate agencies for assistance.
4. Coordinate employee intramural sports competitions within the Atlanta Police Department (APD).
5. Maintain collaboration and support with the National Police Athletic League and the Department of Parks and Recreation as required by the charter and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

4.3.2 PAL sport programs are developed to increase participation and physical wellbeing with activities such as Basketball, Baseball, Football, Cheerleading, Boxing, Track & Field and Table Tennis.

4.3.3 PAL art programs are designed to engage participants with activities such as dancing, drama and theatre.

4.3.4 PAL education programs are available to assist students with educational development such as homework assistance and after school programs. PAL education also provides Field Trips, Safety Education and assistance with computer training and essay contests.

4.4 VEHICLE OPERATING PROCEDURES

4.4.1 The function of vehicles assigned to PAL is to support the daily activities of the program.

4.4.2 Due to commercial driver license (CDL) requirements, PAL staff members will not transport more than 15 persons (driver included) in an assigned van, without first obtaining a valid CDL. In addition, at no time will the number of occupants exceed the number of installed seat belts in any assigned PAL vehicle. All occupants are to be secured (seatbelts) in the passenger compartment of approved vehicles while they are in operation.

4.4.3 At no time will 1 (one) PAL Staff member or adult volunteer be allowed to transport PAL participants. All transports must have a minimum of 2 (two) PAL Staff members or adult volunteers.

4.4.4 All vehicles must be inspected daily, and any identified problem(s) must be documented and immediately reported to a PAL supervisor. The supervisor will subsequently determine whether to shop or maintain the vehicle in service. All vehicles must be cleaned of all debris on a daily basis and the exterior washed when deemed necessary.

4.4.5 PAL staff personnel and/or authorized APD personnel are authorized to transport PAL participants and coaches to authorized athletic events. This authorization includes transporting PAL participants from the PAL center to their respective residences located within the city limits of Atlanta as well as transporting PAL participants to authorized events.

	Atlanta Police Department – Standard Operating Procedure APD.SOP.3192 – Police Athletic League Effective Date: December 31, 2024	
---	---	---

- 4.4.6 In support of non-athletic events, PAL staff personnel and/or authorized APD personnel will provide transportation to authorized PAL participants from participating schools to participate in after school activities as defined by the PAL Commander.
- 4.4.7 When authorized by a parent or legal guardian, PAL staff personnel and/or authorized APD personnel must transport members home or to an alternate location approved by the parent or legal guardian. PAL staff personnel and/or authorized APD personnel may also transport members that walk home on a space available basis when requested.
- 4.4.8 The use of assigned PAL vehicles is authorized for transporting summer camp members on field trips. PAL staff personnel and/or authorized APD personnel will not transport summer camp members to and from their residence. Parents and/or guardians are responsible for delivering, signing in each member, and picking up campers at the end of the camp day.
- 4.4.9 PAL staff personnel and/or authorized APD personnel are not authorized to operate a designated PAL vehicle in an emergency mode while transporting authorized members.
- 4.4.10 PAL staff personnel and/or authorized APD personnel will not transport PAL participants or summer camp participants in their personal vehicles under any circumstances.

5. DEFINITIONS

NA

6. CANCELATIONS

APD.SOP 3192 Police Athletic League, effective March 4th, 2020

7. REFERENCES

- Atlanta Police Athletic League by Laws
- Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) 6th ed. Standards; 44.1.3 and 44.2.5.