

Huntingdon Area High School

Student Athlete/Parent Handbook



PHILOSOPHY

Interscholastic athletics supplement and support the academic mission of the school system and assist students in their growth and development. Athletics assists in promoting the importance of teamwork, effort, goals, commitment, as well as their physical, social, and emotional well-being. Interscholastic athletics is highly competitive, but winning is not the primary measure of success. Sportsmanship, respect for participants, and dignity in the face of adversity are more important than the outcome of the contest. All athletes do not perform at the same level, but all can demonstrate effort, dedication, and fair play.

SPORTSMANSHIP

All extracurricular participants in the Huntingdon Area School District must keep in mind that they are always in the public eye and that their personal conduct will always be subject to the scrutiny of their fellow students, fans, opponents, and the media. They, therefore, have an obligation to serve as positive role models by subscribing to the following:

1. Showing respect for authority and property.
2. Maintaining academic eligibility and training rules.
3. Emphasizing the ideals of sportsmanship, loyalty, ethical conduct and fair play.
4. Understanding that striving to excel is important to success in extracurricular activities just as in every facet of life.

Any display of unsportsmanlike behavior toward an opponent, official or spectator during the season will result in counseling by the advisor or coach and possible suspension from participation.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

In order to serve as good role models for our student athletes and help create a positive experience for each athlete and family take time to read and commit to the following statements.

1. I will model and teach good sportsmanship by showing athletes, coaches, officials, and other fans courtesy in my words and actions.
2. I will remember that the primary purpose of interscholastic athletics is to teach teamwork, effort, goals, commitment, as well as their physical, social, and emotional well-being and victory and defeat is of secondary importance.
3. I will work and communicate with the coaching staff in a professional matter and refrain from coaching my child immediately before, during or following competition.
4. I will always remember that it is a privilege, rather than a right, for my child to participate and this experience is about my student athlete, not me.
5. I will follow the correct protocols about issues that may arise with my student and his/her playing time, practice, and or coach experiences.
6. The following are some examples of unacceptable behaviors that could result in loss of attendance privileges:
 - a. Disrespectful, derogatory, or criticizing words or gestures directed at athletes, coaches, fans, or officials
 - b. Blaming officiating, coaching, or participants for loss.
 - c. Displays of anger or profanity that draws attention off of the event.

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing communication and understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to our student athletes. To be successful, communication is vital and requires involvement, dedication, sacrifice, and commitment from parents, student athletes, and coaches.

Communication You Should Expect From Your Child's Coach

1. Coach's and program's philosophy.

2. Individual and team expectations.
3. Location and times of all practices and games.
4. Team requirements, i.e., practices, special equipment, off season conditioning.
5. Procedure followed should your child be injured during practice or games.
6. Any discipline that may result in the denial of your child's participation.

Communication Coaches Expect From Parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concerns with regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
4. Support for the program and the attributes of dedication, commitment, and responsibility that are ingredients for success and excellence. Encourage your child to excel. While your child is involved in interscholastic athletics, they will experience some of the most rewarding and inspiring moments of their lives. It is also important to understand that there might also be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve and develop.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior. It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe is best for the team and all athletes involved. There are certain areas and issues that can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those below, should be left to the direction of the coach.

Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student athletes

If You Have A Concern To Discuss With A Coach

1. Call to set up an appointment with the coach.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call your Athletic Director. A meeting will be set up for you with the coach.
3. Meet with the coach
4. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, after, or during a practice or game. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach, and this situation does not promote resolution nor objective analysis.

Next Steps if the Meeting did not Provide Satisfactory Resolution

1. Call the Athletic Office at (814) 641-2148 to set up an informal meeting with the Athletic Director. At this meeting the Athletic Director, parent/guardian, student athlete, and coach will work to resolve the issue. Playing time, play calling, team strategy, or other student athletes will not be discussed further. This meeting may include the principal or assistant principal.
2. If the issue remains unresolved the parent/guardian/student athlete may submit a formal complaint to the athletic director outlining the issue in its entirety in email who shall forward the written complaint to the building principal, coach and superintendent upon which the superintendent will confer with all parties.
3. If the superintendent is unable to resolve the issue upon the request of the complainant, the superintendent shall forward the results of his investigation along with his recommendation to the school board and all parties. The Huntingdon Board of Education will not be the first to hear a complaint and all issues will follow the proper protocol.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Academic eligibility for extracurricular and athletic activities is based on the premise that academic performance is the keystone of the curriculum and the standard upon which participation is measured. Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) eligibility requirements will be followed along with the HAHS eligibility requirements. These eligibility requirements are applicable for all extracurricular and athletic activities.

1. Students must pursue a full-time curriculum defined and approved by the Administration.
2. Eligibility will be cumulative from the beginning of a grading period and will be reported on a weekly basis.
3. Students who are failing (below 60%) two or more courses will not be eligible to participate in practice or scheduled events for the following week.
4. A student that has failed two or more classes during the previous grading period, except that eligibility for the first grading period is based on the final grades for the preceding school year will be ineligible for 15 school days of the next grading period, beginning on the first day of the next marking period.

ATTENDANCE

A student must be in school by **9:30AM** in order to participate in any extracurricular contest/practice that day. If a student has an early release, the student must be present for five (5) periods in order to participate in any extracurricular contest or practice. An exception will be made if the student has an approved appointment; in which case, the student must present a signed statement regarding the absence one day in advance.

If a student is absent the last school day of the week, and the competition is on a non-school day, the student must have coach and parent permission to participate. It is recommended that the coach call the parent regarding the absence.

If a student is absent from school during a semester for a total of 20 or more school days, the student will lose his/her eligibility until he/she has been in attendance for a total of 45 school days following his/her 20th day of absence.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

Violations of the Huntingdon Area School District "Student Conduct Policy" which requires administrative action will be handled in accordance with the provisions of the policy.

1. If a violation involves a detention or suspension, then said athlete will be suspended from practice/contest of that team for those days.
2. No disciplinary leniency will be granted based on a student's participation in extracurricular activities.

SUBSTANCE USE/ABUSE & POSSESSION

The use and/or possession of controlled substances/drug paraphernalia not prescribed by a doctor are absolutely forbidden. Coaches must immediately notify the athletic director of such occurrences. If a member of an extracurricular team or activity is caught using or possessing such:

1. The student will be referred to the Student Assistance Program (SAP) which will include drug/alcohol evaluation and counseling sessions.
2. The student will be suspended from competition immediately for twenty (20) calendar days.

3. Second or subsequent offenses will result in the athlete being dismissed for sixty (60) calendar days from school sponsored extracurricular activity.
4. The student may practice and travel with the team while serving the athletic suspension.

This policy shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property. Violations of the Huntingdon Area School District "Student Conduct Policy" that require administrative action will be handled in accordance with the provision of the policy.

The Pledge:

I agree to refrain from the possession, use, and distribution of any tobacco products, drugs (unless prescribed), alcohol, and controlled substances, both on and off school grounds, during the school year. If it is verified that I have used any of these substances, I understand that the aforementioned consequences will apply.

HAZING PROHIBITION

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe environment that is free of hazing for students and staff members. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the athletic and educational goals of Huntingdon Area School District and are prohibited at all times.

Definitions

"Hazing," means committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other purpose. The term hazing includes, but is not limited to:

- Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
- Any activity involving the consumption of any alcoholic beverage, drug, tobacco product or any other food, liquid, or substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
- Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects a student to extreme mental stress, embarrassment, shame or humiliation that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from remaining in school.
- Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or of school district policies or regulations.

General Statement of Policy

No student, teacher, administrator or other school district employee, contractor or volunteer shall plan, direct, encourage, aid or engage in hazing. No student, teacher, administrator or other school district employee, contractor or volunteer shall permit, condone or tolerate hazing. Apparent permission or consent by a person being hazed does not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy. A person who engages in an act that violates school policy or law in order to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization shall be subject to discipline for that act. This policy applies to hazing behavior that occurs on or off school property and during and after school hours. The school district will act to investigate all complaints of hazing and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator or other school district employee, contractor or volunteer who is found to have violated this policy.

Reporting Procedures

Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of hazing or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy.

The Athletic Director is the person responsible for receiving reports of hazing at the building level. Any person may report hazing directly to a school district school resource officer or to the superintendent.

Teachers, administrators, other school district employees as well as contractors and volunteers shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances or events that might include hazing. Any such person who receives a report of, observes, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall inform the Athletic Director immediately.

Submission of a good faith complaint or report of hazing will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades or work assignments.

School District Action

Upon receipt of a complaint or report of hazing, the school district shall undertake or authorize an investigation by school district officials or a third party designated by the school district.

The school district may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the complainant, reporter, students or others pending completion of an investigation of hazing.

Upon completion of the investigation, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be administered consistently. They will appropriately discipline prohibited behavior and deter others from hazing. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with other school policies and applicable collective bargaining agreements and statutory authorities.

Reprisal - The school district will take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator or other employee of the school district, or any contractor or volunteer who retaliates against anyone who makes a good faith report of hazing, or who testifies, assists or participates in an investigation or hearing about a hazing incident. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment.

COMPREHENSIVE INITIAL PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION

Student athletes are eligible only if they have completed a comprehensive pre-participation physical evaluation ("CIPPE"), performed by an Authorized Medical Examiner before their first sport season's first practice of the school year. A CIPPE may be performed no earlier than June 1st; and, regardless of when performed during the school year, remains effective until the next May 31st.

IMPACT CONCUSSION TESTING

Each student athlete will complete the ImPACT baseline test prior to their season and is good for 2 years. Information about ImPACT and concussion programs and protocols please visit <https://www.impacttest.com/>

Concussions and symptoms are taken very seriously. Athlete suspected of a concussion will immediately be removed from practice or game and not permitted to return even if symptoms subside. The trainer will work with each athlete to determine when they may return to full game play.

TRAVEL

Extended Trips are defined as any travel that requires an overnight stay. Students must travel to and from contests, away from Huntingdon, in transportation provided by the school.

The only exceptions are:

1. Injury to participant that would require alternate transportation.
2. Prior arrangement made in writing between the participant's parent/guardian and the advisor or coach for the student to ride with the parent/guardian or another approved parent.
3. When school transportation is not provided and alternative means are approved.

EQUIPMENT & UNIFORMS

Equipment and uniforms are issued to students on a loan basis and are to be worn only when authorized by the advisor and coach. If any of the equipment is not returned at the conclusion of the season, an obligation will be issued to the student for the fair cost of replacing it. Until the obligation is resolved, the student will not be permitted to participate in any future activity.

PRACTICES & CONTESTS

Each member of any extracurricular activity is required to make a commitment to that group during the season. Part of the commitment involves being at every scheduled practice and contest throughout the season. Unexcused absence(s) from scheduled practices/contests will result in:

1. Counseling by the advisor or head coach and notification of parents, if necessary; and
2. Suspension from the extracurricular activity and possible dismissal for remainder of the season if subsequent violations occur.

A student who has been injured and has had medical treatment cannot participate until medical clearance has been granted.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. No athlete may quit one sport and try out for another after the season has begun without mutual consent of both coaches.
2. Any civil law infraction or conduct by a student that occurs during a season that is determined by the administration, advisor or head coach to be detrimental to the extracurricular program, or the school district, will result in counseling by the school administration, advisor or head coach and possible suspension/dismissal from the group.

COMPLETION OF SPORTS SEASON

In order for the student-athlete to be eligible for a letter, team and/or individual awards, it is required that he/she complete the sports season, including post-season playoffs and tournaments. No awards will be given to any student-athlete suspended and/or dismissed for the remainder of the season for violations.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

Violations of the Huntingdon Area School District "Student Conduct Policy" which require administrative action will be handled in accordance with the provisions of the policy.

1. For example, if a violation involves a suspension, then said athlete will be suspended from practices/contests of that team for those days.
2. No disciplinary leniency will be granted based on a student's participation in extracurricular activities.

JURISDICTION

The rules and regulations for extracurricular participants will apply to any violations, on and off school premises, during the season of participation.

COACHING RULES

Any additional rules and regulations developed by the advisor or head coach of any sport must be approved by the principal and/or athletic director prior to the season. These additional rules and regulations must be in writing and on file in the office.

**Huntingdon Area School District
Athletic Department
Student Athlete/Parent Agreement**

Please sign and return this page of the Student Athlete /Parent Handbook to your coach. This must be on file with the Athletic Department before the student athlete is allowed to participate in any competitions

We have read and understand all of the information in the Student Athlete/Parent Handbook.

Student Athlete Name (Print) _____

Student Athlete Name (Signature) _____

Date _____

Parent Name (Print) _____

Parent Name (Signature) _____

Date _____