

Hauppauge School District

Athletic Handbook Code of Conduct For Parents, Athletes & Coaches

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HAUPPAUGE SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETICS

MISSION STATEMENT

The Hauppauge School District has developed an interscholastic athletic program with educational value for all students. It focuses on the development of self-esteem and individual skills as well as fostering an atmosphere of teamwork, citizenship and sportsmanship. In addition we believe our sports program emphasizes discipline, leadership, respect, loyalty and cooperation. The athletic program does emphasize lifelong activities where participation by as many student-athletes as possible is a goal. **It is a competitive and not recreational program.** Winning is neither the most important nor only outcome of the program but is a focus especially at the varsity and junior varsity levels. The district has set high goals and standards and all personnel and students are encouraged to strive to achieve them while maintaining a proper perspective on sports, school and life.

Our programs are governed by the rules, regulations and procedures prescribed by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Section XI and the Hauppauge School District.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for participation are the student must be a bona fide student fully registered and taking at least 3 subjects plus physical education.

Each student must follow, adhere and abide by the regulations set forth by the Hauppauge School District Code of Conduct.

Each student must pass an athletic physical designated by the school appointed physician. Prior to the beginning of each season, the student and parent must fill out an update card if they are playing more than one sport. Information on physicals can be obtained by calling the school nurse.

STUDENT ATHLETE ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

The primary focus for all student-athletes is their work in the area of academics. Those students not attending classes or performing up to their ability in their school work can be temporarily or permanently suspended from athletic participation at any time. **Any student in OSS may not participate in practice or games on that day.**

TRY OUTS AND SELECTION OF TEAMS

As an athletic department we try to keep as many students on our Varsity and JV teams as possible. Size of team is determined by safety factors such as how many athletes a coach can adequately supervise. Additionally, team numbers are determined by the amount of athletes who can positively contribute in some way. Unfortunately some teams have to make "selections" or "cuts". This is a decision that is one of the most difficult decisions a coach must make. When athletes are evaluated during a tryout period coaches are asked to utilize as many "objective factors" as possible. These factors differ from sport to sport but examples might be timing students in an endurance run, shorts sprints or sport specific skills. Some subjective elements come into play like effort and attitude. Generally speaking if a high school athlete does not make a particular team there are other teams that do not cut; football, wrestling, cross country, winter track, spring track which the students can join. Once the first scrimmage has taken place students may not switch to another sport without permission from the athletic office.

PRACTICE SESSIONS

Generally, practices are held between 2:30 – 5:15 pm. Some teams in the fall i.e. volleyball and basketball in the winter, because of limited gym space practice as late as 9:00 pm. Practices may also vary in their location based on the availability of gyms or fields. Additionally, in the spring because of poor weather indoor practices may utilize gyms from 3:00 -9:00 pm. Being a member of a Varsity or JV team means a greater commitment than at the junior high level. Many teams practice and have contests on Saturdays. Sunday practices are avoided unless there is some emergency need. Teams may only practice 6 days in a week during the course of the regular season. You are expected to attend every scheduled practice, scrimmage and contest (not to exceed 6 days per week.) If you must miss a scheduled practice, scrimmage or game, it is your responsibility to give prior notice to your coach, in writing if possible, dated and signed by you and your parents(s)/guardian(s) (preferably with 24 hours notice). Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the coach. Students absent from school for an excused absence i.e. death in the family must receive written permission from the School Principal to participate in practice, scrimmage or contest on the day they are absent from school. Interscholastic athletics are an extension of the physical education curriculum. Participating in athletics is a privilege not a right. **If you are not prepared or do not participate in your regularly scheduled physical education class, you are ineligible to participate in practice, a scrimmage or contest for that day.**

CLUB TEAMS

It is recognized that many times an athlete may have numerous commitments. Some of these may include participation on outside club teams. It is important that the athlete and their parents understand that as a member of an interscholastic team, their primary commitment is to their school team.

SPORTS SPECIALIZATION

We encourage our athletes to play sports year round. There are some students who choose to “focus” on one sport in order to increase their chances at athletic scholarships. It has been our experience that a well rounded athlete is one who can exhibit a variety of athletic skills which multi sport involvement fosters. Most of our athletes who have gone on athletically to the college ranks have been two or three sport athletes.

FAMILY VACATIONS

When parents and student-athletes choose to take their family vacations during sport seasons it must be understood that the time missed by the student-athlete can affect team chemistry and physical conditioning. At the high school level family vacations will impact the student’s ability to make the team or playing time. Coaches will make every effort to inform parents and student-athletes of the season schedule as far in advance as possible.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

All uniforms and equipment issued must be returned to the coach at the end of the season. Students who lose equipment or uniforms will be billed for replacement pieces. Be aware that a replacement jersey or sweat top can be very costly because of the special order that must be placed. **Students who have not returned school issued equipment or uniforms will not be given another in the next season until the previous uniform and/or compensation has been received.**

SECTION XI TEAM, COACHES, FANS, SCHOOL SPORTSMANSHIP

Every contest played in Suffolk County is rated by coaches and officials for sportsmanship. Ratings are collected after each game and sent to Section XI. Results are then tabulated for each team relative to other teams in their league. Additionally, each school gets a post season general rating. Fortunately, most of our coaches, athletes and spectators are well behaved and our sportsmanship ratings are generally quite high.

RETURNING TO PRACTICE FOLLOWING AN INJURY

You must report every injury and illness to your parent(s)/guardian(s) and to your coach. If you receive medical attention for any injury or illness, you may not return to practice, scrimmage or compete in a contest until you receive a written medical release from a doctor or health care facility where you were treated. The note must include the date of the injury/illness, a diagnosis, any restrictions and a date to return to participation. The note must be verified through the health office and the nurse will give you authorization in writing to give your coach.

TRANSPORTATION

Student-athletes will be transported to and from away contests by school authorized vehicles only. Parents are not permitted to transport student-athletes home from away contests without prior approval. Requests must be in writing using the school approved release form and submitted to the coach the day prior to the contest for approval. Late buses are provided home following practices each day. Students misbehaving on the buses will be excluded from district transportation.

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each role, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to athletes. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all players on the squad.
- Locations and times of all practices and contests
- Team requirements, team rules, special equipment, off- season recommendations for improvement of skills.
- Procedure, should your child be injured during participation.
- Discipline, that results in the denial of your child's participation.

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgments based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain topics can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other topics, such as those described in the next segment, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

- Playing Time
- Team Strategy
- Play Calling
- Other Student-Athletes

Coaches are making decisions that are in the best interest of all members of the team or program. Please be supportive of their decisions.

PROCEDURES FOR DISCUSSING A CONCERN WITH A COACH

1. Call to set-up an appointment with the coach.
2. If the coach cannot be reached call the Athletic Office to arrange a meeting.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times and may not benefit either party to attempt to resolve concerns at these times.
4. If you cannot resolve the problem after meeting with the coach call to speak with the Athletic Director.

ATHLETIC BEHAVIORAL CODE OF CONDUCT **Note: This policy is in effect year round (12 months)**

The Hauppauge School District heartily embraces the New York State goals of Education through athletics called, the Educational Framework for Athletics or the 4C's.

The Mission Statement of the Hauppauge School District Athletic Program is to foster the quest for excellence by creating an educational and competitive experience within an atmosphere of sportsmanship. Successful programs develop individual and team potential by promoting high standards of competence, character, civility and citizenship. Each of these qualities is defined as follows:

COMPETENCE

A student athlete in a quality program is competent in terms of: skill development, knowledge of the game/strategies, fitness/conditioning/healthy behavior.

CHARACTER

A student athlete in a quality program demonstrates: responsibility to self, team and school, accountability, dedication, trustworthiness/fair play, self control.

CIVILITY

A student athlete in a quality program demonstrates civility towards others showing: respect, fairness, caring.

CITIZENSHIP

A student athlete in a quality program demonstrates citizenship through actions show evidence of: loyalty, commitment, teamwork, role modeling.

Being a member of a Hauppauge School District Athletic Team is a privilege, not a right. You are responsible, as a member of a team, with your coaches, parents and teachers to continually strive to better yourselves in all the 4C's.

BEHAVIOR VIOLATIONS

1. Hauppauge athletes are to avoid taking, selling, consuming any type of alcohol or drug not prescribed by a physician including cigarettes or tobacco products. Students found in violation of this policy may be suspended from athletic participation.
2. Hauppauge athletes are not to engage in any behavior inside or outside of school that is illegal or an embarrassment to the team. Students in violation of this clause are subject to the Student Code of Conduct and may be suspended or eliminated from athletic participation.
3. It is our goal to learn and teach in a healthy, vibrant and safe environment where all are valued, welcomed and accepted. To that end, all adults are expected: (1) To model acceptable behavior with other students and adults at all times. (2) To be diligent in identifying unacceptable behavior. (3) To bring to the attention of school officials those who violate these rules.

HAZING

Hazing, a form of harassment whether it be physical or verbal, should not be condoned by a victim, a coach, staff, family, school administrator, fellow student and especially team members. Any student found to have committed an act of harassment against any student in the district, including team members, will be faced with disciplinary action which may include suspension from their team and from school. Team members are fully expected to notify a coach or other school official if any such behavior is observed. School employees who fail to enforce this policy or any violation of the Hauppauge School District Code may be subject to disciplinary action.

WHAT DOES UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR LOOK LIKE?

Specific examples/terms that we wish to prevent are found below. Please understand that some of these may belong to other categories of infractions/offenses. Additionally, this list is not fixed or complete. Here are some terms that we in the Hauppauge School District have discussed and identified as bullying, hazing, or harassment:

Verbal Infractions: Mocking, name calling, coercion, taunting, negatively teasing, threats (verbal, written or electronic).

Physical Infractions: Pushing, shoving, kicking, hitting, spitting, extortion, stalking, restraining, humiliating acts, defacing property, demeaning, use of violence or threats.

Social Alienation and Shunning: Gossiping, rumor spreading, ridicule, slurs (ethnic, religious, sexual or racial) social rejection, grudge carrying, threatening looks, public humiliation, and maliciously excluding.

Students are asked to report all inappropriate actions immediately to a teacher, coach, administrator or parent.

ATHLETIC CONTRACT: PARENT

As a parent who is also committed to the education, maturity and athletic success of your child, we encourage you to make a formal commitment as described below. Our partnership together will increase the likelihood of a successful season, regardless of the final win/loss record of the team.

PARENT'S COMMITMENT

I understand that as a parent I play a vital role in the development of my child's athletic ability and character, and therefore in the success of the Hauppauge School District's Athletic Program. Recognizing this role, I therefore commit to the following as a parent of a member of the:

- Be positive role model so that through my own actions I can help to make sure that my child has the best athletic experience possible.
- Be a "team" fan, not a "my kid" fan.
- Weigh what my child says in any controversy, and work with coaches and/or athletic department to gather all the facts.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups.
- Be respectful of all officials' decisions.
- Not instruct my child before or after a game, because it may conflict with the coach's plans and strategies.
- Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people.
- Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the sport.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Help my child learn that success is experience in the development of his/her skills, and that he/she can feel positive about their skill development during the season, regardless of the team's record.
- Take time to talk with coaches in an appropriate manner, including proper time and place, if I have a concern. I will respect the coach by following the designated chain of command.
- Support the alcohol, tobacco and other drug-free policies of our school by refraining from the use of any such substances before and during athletic contests. I will also support my child and hold him/her accountable for their commitment to non-use of substances, improper behavior inside and outside of school including hazing, harassment and bullying as outlined in the Athletic Code.

Note: There is a great website that is most valuable for parents interested in current issues pertaining to sportsmanship: www.sportsparenting.org

NOTE: TO ALL INVOLVED PARTIES:

Please sign the last page of this guide, stating that you have read and understand the expectations of all involved in the educational mission of athletics at the Hauppauge School District. This form must be signed by parent, athlete and the coach before the athlete may participate in any athletic contest.

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Athletes & Coaches***

RETURN THIS PAGE SIGNED BY ALL PARTIES TO YOUR COACH

I have read all of the materials in the Hauppauge School District Athletic Handbook for Parents, Athletes and Coaches. I am aware of the expectations set forth in the handbook including behavior/expectations inside and outside of school including bullying, harassment, and hazing in addition to the chemical health code of conduct.

I agree to support the athletic department in its enforcement of these expectations of conduct and understand the consequences of my son/daughter's failure to do so.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Coach's Signature

Date

*Full copy of the Code of Conduct is available on the District Website under the Athletics Heading

