

Harrington Park Athletic Code of Conduct

MISSION STATEMENT The mission of the Harrington Park School Athletic Program is to create an environment that maximizes student participation, supports academic progress, and promotes physical and social development. It is expected that all student-athletes display competitive spirit, exhibit good sportsmanship, and exemplary character throughout the year.

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY We believe that participation in athletics can provide students with the opportunity for personal growth. Teamwork, the mental and physical challenges of training and competition, and the experience of winning and losing graciously and respectfully are important life lessons that will serve students well in their future. Developing good character habits requires time and effort. Coaches and parents can help students develop such habits by discussing, modeling, and reinforcing the desired attitudes and beliefs over time. We also understand that participation on an athletic team demands a commitment that involves both dedication and sacrifice. This is required of not only student athletes, but also of coaches and parents.

The interscholastic program will be conducted in accordance with existing Board of Education policies and regulations (2431) and (5600). While the Board of Education takes great pride in supporting winning programs, it does not condone "winning at all costs." The athletic program will be conducted in such a way that it honors the Harrington Park way.

The major objective of the program is to provide opportunities for student-athletes to develop habits and positive attitudes with regard to the ideals of educational athletics. These opportunities will contribute to the physical, mental, social and emotional development of the students/athletes.

Participation in school-sponsored athletic programs is a PRIVILEGE that carries with it a responsibility to the school, the student body, to the community and the participants themselves. At no time will the athletic program supersede the total educational curriculum in its emphasis.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for any athletic activity, the athlete:

1. Must meet all eligibility requirements prior to the first tryout/practice date.
2. Must have a completed and signed Athletic Code of Conduct Form prior to the first tryout/practice date.
3. Must receive a medical examination once every 365 days by a licensed medical physician, physician's assistant or a family practitioner.
4. Must earn C- or better must be attained in all subjects.

5. Must not participate (practice or play) if ineligible.
7. Must be present in school in order to participate in practices or games.
8. A player injured requiring medical attention and/or absent due to illness must meet eligibility requirements. This player may not participate in practice or a contest without a medical clearance. Students absent from athletic practice 5 or more days due to illness or injury shall receive a medical release by a licensed physician before re-admittance to practice or play.

Sportsmanship

Student-athletes represent their school, their community, and their family, and good sportsmanship is expected at all times. Poor behavior before, during, or after practices and competitions **will not be tolerated**. The coaching staff and Principal (or Assistant Principal) will employ appropriate disciplinary measures including loss of playing time, suspension and/or dismissal from the team when violations occur. Level and length of disciplinary measures will be determined by the severity of the infraction.

Attendance at Practices/Games

Student-athletes must be in attendance in school in order to participate in a game or practice. Student-athletes are expected to be in attendance at all practices, scrimmages, team meetings, and contests. Appropriate discipline including loss of playing time and dismissal from the team will be used without prejudice or favoritism by the coach and/or building administrator if the student is late or absent for practice. Student-athletes should provide advance notice to coaches if they will be absent for medical reasons, family situations, vacations, and other such valid reasons.

Classroom Behavior

Student-athletes are students first and are expected to conduct themselves properly in the classroom. Student-athletes who are discipline problems in class by being tardy, insubordinate, disruptive, receive a detention from a teacher or administrator or any other violation of the Student Code of Conduct face disciplinary action by the coach or building principal to include loss of playing time, dismissal or suspension from the team and/or suspension from school.

Suspension from school - Any disciplinary action that results in an in or out of school suspension will include loss of playing time, dismissal or suspension from the team.

Drug/Alcohol Policy

Athletics and the use of harmful substances are not compatible. The Harrington Park School District and its coaches are concerned about the health and safety of our students. Athletes have an obligation to themselves, their team, and their school. As a member of an athletic team, they represent their families, community and the Harrington Park School. The use of tobacco, alcohol and/or drugs will not be tolerated.

Equipment

All equipment, uniforms, etc. given to student-athletes must be returned at the conclusion of the season in good condition. Student-athletes will be financially responsible for items returned in poor condition or not returned at all. Athletes will not be allowed to participate in any other sport until obligations from previous sports are resolved.

Infractions

The Harrington Park School District supports the constitutionally protected right that individuals are innocent until proven guilty. However, in cases involving student-athletes, these situations detract from the image of the team and the program, and contribute to a loss of focus by other members of the team. Therefore, an individual involved in an infraction that is not covered under other policies in this handbook may be suspended from participation until the situation is resolved.

Hazing

Hazing of any type or form shall not be permitted. "Hazing" means the any intentional, knowing or reckless act occurring on or off campus directed against a student, by one person alone or acting with others, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety for the purpose of pledging.

Physicals

A student-athlete may not practice or compete until a physician certifies that he/she is physically able to complete. The required Participation Physical Evaluation must be conducted within 365 days prior to the first official practice in an athletic season. Submit this form to the Health Office prior to the first day of practice.

Travel

Student-athletes must ride the bus with the team to and from all scrimmages and competitions. Exceptions to this policy **may** be made for sufficient reason if prior arrangement is made in writing through the office of the Principal (or Assistant Principal) or Coaches. Coaches may waive the policy only for valid reasons that arise at a time when the Principal (or Assistant Principal) is not available, and will only release an athlete to his/her parent/guardian.

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

Parenting and coaching are both extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a greater benefit to children. As parents, when your child is involved in our program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on him/her. This begins with clear communication from the coach of the sport.

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM ATHLETES & PARENTS

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
- Notification of illness or injury as soon as possible.

As your child becomes involved in his/her programs at middle school, he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you and your child wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged. It is the first and most integral step to understanding and resolution.

APPROPRIATE/INAPPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

- The treatment of your child.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you hoped. Coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what they believe to be best for all student athletes involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach.

The three items listed below should be left to the discretion of the coach:

- Playing time, positioning, and event entry.
- Team strategies, game tactics, play calling.
- Any discussion about other student athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and player, or coach and parent. These conferences are encouraged. It is important that all parties involved have a clear understanding of the other person's position. When a conference is necessary, the following procedure should be used to help resolve any concerns.

- Call the coach to schedule an appointment.
- If the coach cannot be reached, call the School Administration; they will set a meeting for you.

- Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote positive resolutions.

THE NEXT STEP:

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

- Call and schedule an appointment with the School Administration to discuss the situation.
- At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary.

COACHES CODE OF ETHICS

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. The Harrington Park Athletic program to enhance academic achievement and develop the whole child. Each student is to be treated with the utmost respect and his/her welfare should be considered in all decisions by the coach at all times.

- The coach shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession.
- The coach will value that he/she is instilling the values and beliefs we believe in as a school community

PARENT PLEDGE

As a parent/guardian, I acknowledge that I am a role model. I will remember that school athletics is an extension of the classroom, offering learning experiences for the students. I must show respect for all players, coaches, spectators, and support staff. I will participate in cheers that support, encourage, and uplift the teams involved. I understand the spirit of fair play and the good sportsmanship expected by our school system. I hereby accept my responsibility to be a model of good sportsmanship that comes with being the parent/guardian of a student athlete.

STUDENT/ATHLETE PLEDGE

As a student-athlete, I am a role model. I understand the spirit of fair play while playing hard. I will refrain from engaging in all types of disrespectful behavior, including inappropriate language, taunting, trash talking, and unnecessary physical contact. I know the behavior expectations of the Harrington Park Athletic Program, and hereby accept the responsibility and privilege of representing my school and community as a student-athlete.

Conduct Guidelines

- Be respectful by using appropriate language
- Treat everyone fairly
- Treat everyone with dignity and respect
- Arrive on time for all practices, meetings, and contests

- Play by the rules, demonstrating and encouraging good sportsmanship
- Represent my school and self in a manner that reflects self-control
- Comply with all school and team rules and policies
- Report any injury or aggravating condition to your coach or health office

Note: Consequences for violation of student athlete pledge and conduct guidelines can result in disciplinary action

Please sign and return to your coach.

We have read and understand the Harrington Park Athletic Code of Conduct.

Student/Athlete Name _____ **(Please Print)**

Student/Athlete Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Coaches Signature _____

Sport _____ **Date** _____