



**ATHLETICS**  
Harrison Central School District



# **Interscholastic Athletics Handbook for Student Athletes and Parents**



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# Introduction

Dear Athletes and Parents,

Welcome to the Harrison Central School District's interscholastic athletic program. The information contained within this booklet is provided to help communicate our policies, procedures, and expectations.

The main goal of our program is to provide competitive experiences that are enjoyable and successful, and help each individual reach his/her full potential within a safe and healthy environment.

When your daughter/son chooses to participate in one of our athletic programs, he/she will have to commit themselves to certain responsibilities and obligations. This handbook will acquaint you with specific policies and rules necessary for a well-organized program of interscholastic athletics. Our athletic program is governed by the Commissioner of Education's basic code for extra-class activities, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, as well as the Harrison Central School District Board of Education. The Louis M. Klein Middle School and Harrison High School are members of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association and Section One. Please visit their website for further information. <http://www.nysphsaa.org/>

If you have any questions regarding the Harrison Central School District's athletic program or this handbook, please contact the athletic office at (914) 630-3127.

Christopher Galano

Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics

## Contact Information

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Twitter Account  
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Athletic Schedules  
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## Athletic Offerings

<b>Fall Sports</b>	<b>Varsity</b>	<b>Junior Varsity</b>	<b>Freshmen</b>	<b>Modified Middle School</b>
Cheerleading	X	X		X
Boys Cross Country	X			X
Girls Cross Country	X			X
Girls Field Hockey	X	X		X
Football	X	X		X
Boys Soccer	X	X		X
Girls Soccer	X	X		X
Girls Swimming	X			
Girls Tennis	X	X		
Girls Volleyball	X	X		X

<b>Winter Sports</b>	<b>Varsity</b>	<b>Junior Varsity</b>	<b>Freshmen</b>	<b>Modified Middle School</b>
Boys Basketball	X	X	X	X
Girls Basketball	X	X		X
Boys Bowling	X			
Girls Bowling	X			
Cheerleading	X	X		X
Ice Hockey	X			X
Boys Swimming	X			
Boys Winter Track and Field	X			
Girls Winter Track and Field	X			
Wrestling	X	X		X

<b>Spring</b>	<b>Varsity</b>	<b>Junior Varsity</b>	<b>Freshmen</b>	<b>Modified Middle School</b>
Baseball	X	X	X	X
Girls Golf	X			
Boys Golf	X			
Boys Lacrosse	X	X		X
Girls Lacrosse	X	X		X
Softball	X	X		X
Boys Tennis	X	X		
Boys Outdoor Track and Field	X			X
Girls Outdoor Track and Field	X			X

## **Start Dates**

The beginning date of any athletic season is governed by Section I. The high school fall season always begins prior to the start of the school year. All high school sports begin approximately two weeks prior to Labor Day. The tryout period begins on those days. Students not attending these tryouts should not expect to play a fall sport. Middle school interscholastic athletics start shortly after returning back to school after the Labor Day holiday. Winter sports usually start the first week in November. Spring sports start within the first two weeks of March. **START DATES CHANGE FROM YEAR TO YEAR, UPDATED INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED ON OUR ATHLETIC WEBSITE AND SENT OUT TO THE COMMUNITY.**

# Objectives and Philosophy

## Program Objectives

- Provide a fulfilling and positive experience for all students promoting a growth mindset
- Foster physical, social and emotional growth and development
- Cultivate academic and athletic achievement through the development of attitudes and values that motivate students to pursue excellence
- Develop increased knowledge of skills needed to achieve individual and team success through consistency and hard work
- Develop respect for teammates, opponents, coaches and officials by developing emotional control and cooperation
- Stress the importance of physical fitness, proper conditioning, health and safety
- Provide opportunities for students to identify and explore diverse experiences on the athletic field and apply their learning in a variety of settings beyond the field/court

## Philosophy by Level

### Varsity

The varsity level of athletic competition is the culmination of the high school athletic program. The team plays to win the contest, but varsity contestants should acknowledge that important lessons can be learned from losing. It is vital that each team member have a role and be informed of their individual roles in pursuit of the team's goals. While contest participation over the course of the season is desirable, a specified amount of playing time at the varsity level is never guaranteed. The varsity coach is the leader of the team and determines the system of instruction and strategies for that program.

### Junior Varsity

The junior varsity level of competition is the program where there is an increased emphasis placed upon team play, physical conditioning and refinement of basic skills. Participants at this level are preparing themselves for the six-day-a-week commitment that is expected at the varsity level. With the goal of becoming a varsity athlete clearly in sight, a high level of dedication and commitment is expected at this level. Winning is considered important and participants should be taught how to cope with game situations and how to manage winning and losing properly. An attempt, but not a guarantee, will be made to play all participants.

### Freshman

This program is similar to grade 7/8 in that basic skill development is stressed, but team and game strategy is increased. An attempt, but not a guarantee, will be made to play all participants.

### Grade 7/8 (Modified Sports)

This program of competitive sports focuses on the fundamentals of the game and team play; rules, training and basic skills. We will make a concerted effort to make as few cuts as possible. If the number of students trying out for a team creates a situation that is difficult to manage, poses a safety problem or is problematic because of facility considerations, reducing team size may become necessary. At this introductory level, emphasis is placed on sportsmanship, social/emotional growth along with commitment and dedication. It is expected that our athletes show effort, commitment and sportsmanship to earn the most playing time. Playing time is earned and may not be equal. (Section 1 dictates a variety of modified sport rules and gameplay).

## Sportsmanship

These guidelines are published in the hope that athletics will be kept in the proper spirit and perspective of a high school athletic competition. It is expected that all fans, athletes and visitors will abide by these guidelines. Your support and cooperation in achieving these expectations is appreciated.

### Athletes

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility and the privilege of representing the school and the community.
- Treat your opponents with respect, during and after the contest. Taunting or unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treat game officials with dignity and respect at all times.

### Spectators

- Remember that the game is for the players. They are here because they want to play and enjoy the experience. Your sportsmanship will enhance their educational experience.
- Refrain from distracting the players during play.
- Recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of affiliation. Applause for an opponent's good performance is a demonstration of generosity and good will, and a positive reflection on our school, student athletes, and community.
- Treat the officials with respect before, during and after the contest. We cannot play the game without officials, as they are an integral part of the game and they should be recognized as impartial arbitrators.
- Display good conduct. The school district has the authority to remove any spectator who does not conduct himself/herself respectfully. Under no circumstances will abusive or inappropriate language or behavior be tolerated.
- Remember that your view of the game could be quite different from that of the official.
- Recognize that as a spectator, you represent the school, as do the athletes.
- Respect, cooperate and respond enthusiastically to cheerleaders, or other student groups who are supporting our team or the opposing team.
- Spectators are to remain off the playing surface at all times, and follows directions from school officials, coaches, and/or officials.

## Communication

Establishing a clear line of communication between student athletes, parents and coaches is vital to the success of the athletic program. The Harrison Athletic philosophy encourages your child to advocate for themselves as the initial steps of the communication process. The student and coach obtain the most accurate perspective of the situation and need to have the ability to openly discuss any concerns. As parents in our program you play a critical role in supporting your own child and being a positive role model for all.

How should concerns be addressed?

1. Athlete  Coach
2. Athlete  AD
3. Parent  Coach
4. Parent  AD

Please do not attempt to confront a coach before/after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for the parent, athlete, and the coach. Please remember that a coach's primary concern before, during and after practice and game situations is the safety and well-being of the entire team. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution and can create an unsafe situation for students by distracting the coach from his primary responsibilities.

### The Next Step

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution? Email or call the Director of Athletics outlining the facts and concerns of the situation. As appropriate, an additional conference will be set up and the situation will be further reviewed.

<b>What is appropriate to discuss with your child's coach?</b>	<b>What is not appropriate to discuss with your child's coach?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The treatment of your child, mentally and physically</li> <li>• Ways to help your child improve</li> <li>• Concerns about your child's behavior</li> <li>• Schedules</li> <li>• Expectation for the team and your child</li> <li>• Requirements for participation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playing time</li> <li>• Strategy and play calling</li> <li>• Other student athletes</li> </ul>

# Athletic Participation

## Registration

Your child will need to have a completed physical from your child's physician to participate in Harrison athletics. FamilyID allows you to scan and upload the physical exam forms through the FamilyID registration process. If you do not have the ability to scan or upload the form, you can provide a hard copy to the nurse's office. Registration through FamilyID is still recommended.

### Registration Process

A parent/guardian should register by clicking on this link:

<http://www.familyid.com/harrison-csd-athletics>

Follow these steps:

1. To find your sports team, click on the link provided above and select the registration form under the word **Programs**.
2. Click on the green **Register Now** button and scroll, if necessary, to the **Create Account/Log In** green buttons. If this is your first time using FamilyID, click Create Account. Click Log In, if you already have a FamilyID account.
3. **Create** your secure FamilyID account by entering the first and last names of the account owner (i.e., the parent/guardian), email address and password. Review the Family ID Terms of Service and then click **I Agree. Click Create Account**.
4. You will receive an email with a link to activate your new account. If you don't see the email, check your email filters or your spam/ junk folder.
5. Click on the link in your activation E-mail, which will log you in to FamilyID.
6. Once in the registration form, complete the information requested. Fields marked with (\*) are required information.
7. Click the **Save & Continue** button when your form is complete.
8. Review your registration summary.
9. There is no payment required for participation in Harrison athletics, so disregard the reference to payment.
10. Click the green **Submit** button. After selecting **Submit**, the registration will be complete. You will receive a completion email from FamilyID confirming your registration.

You may log in at [www.familyid.com](http://www.familyid.com) to update your information and to check your registration(s). To view a completed registration, select the **Registration** tab on the blue bar.

**Support:** If you need assistance with registration, contact FamilyID technical support at [support@familyid.com](mailto:support@familyid.com) or 888-800-5583 x1. Support is available 7 days per week and messages will be returned promptly.

## Tryouts and Team Selection

In accordance with our philosophy and our desire to see as many students as possible participate in the athletic program, we encourage coaches to keep as many students as possible on each team. Time, space, facilities, and safety may place limitations on team size for any particular sport. Choosing the members and captains of athletic teams is the sole responsibility of the coaches. Team selection will be held in a closed environment with only the coaches and the athletes in attendance. Selections are made according to the skill level and leadership abilities of the athletes. At the orientation meeting, the coach shall provide the following information to all candidates:

- Duration of try-out period
- Criteria used to select the team members
- Number to be selected
- Practice commitments of team members
- Game commitments of team members
- Requirements for participation
- When a squad cut becomes necessary, the coach will discuss alternative possibilities for participation in other areas of the athletic program.

## New York State Eligibility Requirements

In order to participate on an interscholastic athletic team, a student **must** satisfy the following minimum eligibility rules. These standards are established by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

- A student must be a bona fide middle or senior high school student and must be taking at least four subjects and physical education. A student attending an alternative education program may represent only the home school. Students who have completed graduation requirements are not permitted to participate in an interscholastic athletic program.
- A student shall be eligible for interscholastic competition in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 until his/her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. If the age of 19 years is reached on or after July 1, the student may continue to participate during that year in all sports.
- A student who engages in interscholastic competition must submit a current completed parental permission forms with their medical history signed by the student and parent and a physical examination screening form completed by a physician. The forms are available in the Health Office.
- A student shall be eligible for senior high school athletic competition in each sport during four consecutive seasons of such sport after entry into the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and prior to graduation. An appeal for an extension of athletic eligibility can be made if the Chief School Officer can show that a student's failure to enter competition during one of more seasons of a sport was caused by illness, accident or other circumstances beyond the control of the student.

# Academic Eligibility Requirements

To ensure that students are eligible to participate in extra-curricular and interscholastic sports, the following Eligibility Policy shall be observed:

## Levels of Participation

No. of Failed Courses	Eligibility Status	Description
1	<b>Probation</b>	<p>FULL participation throughout the quarter provided that a <i>Eligibility Progress Report</i> is submitted weekly. A complete report is signed by <i>all</i> teachers, a parent/guardian and the coach/advisor.</p> <p>Students are required to attend extra help in the failed course weekly. Additionally, students are expected to maintain good academic standing in all classes in order to remain eligible to fully participate.</p>
2	<b>May Practice No Play</b>	<p>MAY practice and attend meetings, but may not compete in games or participate in events.</p> <p>After 2 weeks of positive <i>Eligibility Progress Reports</i>, students will move to “Probation” and must continue to submit complete reports throughout the quarter. A complete report is signed by <i>all</i> teachers, a parent/guardian and the coach/advisor.</p> <p>Students are required to attend extra help in the failed courses weekly. Additionally, students are expected to maintain good academic standing in all classes.</p>
3 or more	<b>No Practice No Play</b>	<p>May NOT practice, compete, or participate in any interscholastic sport, or extracurricular activity.</p> <p>After 2 weeks of positive <i>Eligibility Progress Reports</i>, students will move to “May Practice/No Play” and must continue to submit complete reports throughout the quarter. By doing so, students will eventually be eligible to move to the status of “Probation”. A complete report is signed by <i>all</i> teachers, a parent/guardian and the coach/advisor.</p> <p>Students are required to attend extra help in the failed courses weekly. Additionally, students are expected to maintain good academic standing in all classes.</p>

## Probation

Any student failing ONE subject shall automatically be placed on probation by the committee and will remain on probation for the marking period. A student on probation may participate in all extra-curricular activities and interscholastic sports provided that he/she adheres to the following criteria immediately upon being notified of his/ her status:

## Ineligible

Any student failing TWO (2) subjects at the end of a marking period will be declared ineligible, under the status “May Practice/No Play”. Students with this status are ineligible to compete in any interscholastic sport or extracurricular activity, yet they may practice and attend meetings. After a minimum of two weeks of positive progress reports, a student will be moved to “Probation” status, allowing the student to compete in interscholastic and/or extracurricular activities, but must continue to complete the weekly eligibility reports until the end of the marking period. Failure to submit weekly progress reports on time and/or negative reports can result in a change in status back to “No Practice/No Play”.

Any student failing THREE (3) or more subjects at the end of a marking period will be declared ineligible, under the status “No Practice/No Play”. Students with this status are ineligible to compete in any interscholastic sport or extracurricular activity and may not practice, compete, or participate in any inter-scholastic sport, or extracurricular activity. After a minimum of two weeks of positive progress reports, a student will be moved to “May Practice/No Play”, allowing students to practice and attend meetings, but not yet compete or perform in interscholastic and/or extracurricular activities. Students must continue to complete the weekly eligibility reports until the end of the marking period. Failure to submit weekly progress reports on time and/or negative reports can result in a change in status back to “No Practice/No Play”.

1. The Eligibility Committee meets every Wednesday at 2:45. Students wishing to discuss their status are welcome to attend and speak with the committee during this time.
2. Students need to ensure that they submit *Eligibility Progress Report* (forms can be found in B104) in advance of the Committee meeting. Ideally, forms should be completed by ALL teachers each Friday and submitted the following Monday after being signed by a parent/guardian and coach/advisor. In the event of a student or teacher absence, students have until 2:30 PM Wednesday afternoon to submit a completed form.
3. The student *must* seek help in those subjects failed and provide proof of it to the Eligibility Committee.
4. Poor performance or incomplete forms may cause the student to be declared INELIGIBLE. Failure to submit a weekly progress report on time will result in the student being declared ineligible until the next meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter eligibility is determined by 4<sup>th</sup> quarter grades of the previous academic year. If a student is declared ineligible or placed on probation at the end of the fourth marking period, but has passed the courses for the year, he/she will be placed on probation for the first quarter. If a student is declared ineligible or placed on probation at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period, as a result of failing one or more subjects in that quarter which resulted in a failing grade for the course, he/she needs to attend and pass summer school. Failure to attend and pass summer school will cause the student to begin the next school year with the same status that was determined at the conclusion of the year.

It is an honor to represent Harrison High School in co-curricular activities and representatives should be worthy of that privilege. A student may be suspended from an activity due to lack of good citizenship or academic decline. Good citizenship shall be defined as adhering to the rules and regulations of the classroom, activity, school, and district.

## Athletic Placement Process

The New York State Education Department and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association endorsed a selection/classification system whereby middle school students can qualify for high school athletic programs after a screening process to determine their readiness (physical maturity, fitness and skill) to compete in interscholastic athletic competition. The intent of the Harrison Central School District athletic program is to provide students in grades 7-12 an opportunity to participate at an appropriate level of competition based on readiness rather than age and grade.

Normally, a student is eligible for high school athletic competition during each of four consecutive seasons commencing with the student's entry into ninth grade. An eighth grader who, after appropriate screening and classification, is placed on a high school team shall be eligible for five consecutive seasons of eligibility. A seventh grader, processed in the same manner, shall have six consecutive seasons of eligibility.

## Playing Time

School district coaches have the sole responsibility for the selection of all team members. The team selection is based solely on the assessment of the coaching staff who will consider the students' athletic ability, sportsmanship, academic performance, and citizenship when making choices. The amount of playing time, the position the athlete plays and the level at which they play (Varsity, JV, and freshman) is the sole decision of the coaching staff. At the varsity level, in particular, the emphasis will be on developing the most competitive team possible given the talent of the athletes. Younger students (freshman and sophomores) may play over older students (juniors and seniors). There is no guarantee of playing time particularly at the varsity level. It is possible that students at the varsity level may not play during contests.

## Changing Teams

In fairness to coaches and team members, an athlete can leave one team and join another only under the following conditions:

1. Any player cut from a team during tryouts may immediately tryout for another team if that team has not already completed its scheduled tryouts.
2. Any player, during the first five days of tryouts may leave one team and tryout for another team with the Athletic Director's approval.

Students who leave a team after tryouts are over cannot switch to another team unless there are extenuating circumstances which must be approved by the Athletic Director. Lack of playing time is not considered an extenuating circumstance.

## Practice Sessions for Scrimmage and Game Eligibility

All required practice sessions shall be organized and planned for a reasonable length of time and shall include activities specific to the sport. Depending on the sport and level of play, each team member is required to participate in a minimum number of practice sessions prior to the first team scrimmage and/or contest. In order to meet the minimum practice requirement, the athlete must be engaged in rigorous activity. Practice sessions are sport specific, so that practices in one sport would not apply to another sport in the event an athlete changes teams. Athletes must have an approved medical examination and health update before being cleared in writing by the nurse to practice.

## Team Captains

Selection as a captain of an athletic team is an honor. The captain's responsibilities begin when he/she is selected. Captains are expected to provide leadership and to set a positive example for other athletes and members of the school community.

## Captain's Practice

The Harrison Central School District does not, in any way, sanction, encourage or condone "Captain's Practices." Students should not feel pressured or compelled to participate in off season workouts. Students do not have permission to practice or play on school grounds on their own. Athletic insurance will not cover students that are injured during unauthorized practice.

## Uniforms/Equipment

An athlete is responsible for each item of equipment issued to him/her. Lost or stolen equipment must be paid for at the replacement cost. An athlete will not be allowed to receive awards, participate in a subsequent sport or receive his/her diploma until their equipment record has been cleared. Considerable financial resources are expended to supply the best equipment for player use and safety. Please treat uniforms and equipment with respect and must be returned in a usable condition.

## Team Lockers

All athletes are entitled to a team locker. Lockers are school property on loan to students. The locker should be returned in the same condition in which it was when assigned. Any malfunction of lockers must be reported to the coach immediately. Each student is encouraged to make sure that the locker is kept securely locked at all times and to share neither the combination nor the locker with any other student. The locker should not be used to store valuable items or large sums of money, as the school and district is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Each student-athlete will vacate his/her locker at the conclusion of the season.

# Attendance Requirements

## School Attendance

Attending all classes is a high priority for student athletes. Students must attend 50% of the school day in order to participate in practice or competition that day. A note stating the reason for coming to school late must be brought to the attendance office prior to being admitted to classes that day. All notes must be approved by the school administration in order for athletic participation to take place. Abuse of this policy will result in athletic ineligibility.

## Athletic Attendance

Athletes are required to be at all practices and contests, on time, during the course of the season. Exceptions may include essential school obligations, sickness, injury, etc. Daily attendance will be taken by coaches. Every athlete is required to practice for a specific minimum number of days in each sport before participating in an athletic contest. The number of days varies with each particular sport. Coaches are responsible for sharing this information with athletes.

## Physical Education

All athletes are expected to fully participate in physical education class. No athlete is excused from physical education for athletic reasons.

## School Vacation Periods

Athletes who miss practice and/or contests during the vacation periods will be subject to each coach's rules regarding this issue. Vacations by athletic team members during a sport season are discouraged. Parents and athletes wishing to go away during a particular season may want to defer participation so as not to create conflicts. No student athlete will be guaranteed the same place on the roster upon returning from an extended leave from the team. Athletes who do not go on vacation might assume new roles in the makeup of the team. Athletes must be recertified (additional practice sessions) for game participation after an extended absence from the team.

## Observance of Religious Holidays

The Harrison Central School District Athletic Department recognizes the right of all students to practice the teachings of their religion and observe religious holidays. All requests to be excused from practice and/or games to attend religious services or religious education programs will be honored without penalty. The scheduling of scrimmages or games shall be prohibited on the following religious holidays. Rosh Hashanah (2 days, beginning at sunset of the previous day), Yom Kippur (beginning at sunset of the previous day), Christmas Day, Passover (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> day, beginning at sunset of the previous day), Holy Thursday (evening), Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

## Early Dismissal

For some athletic events students must be dismissed from school before normal dismissal times. Early dismissal from classes for athletic reasons does not release student athletes from class work responsibilities. Each athlete must make arrangements for getting assignments, taking missed quizzes or tests, or handing in homework.

## Conflicts in Extra-Curricular Activities

The Harrison Central School District provides numerous opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities. These activities are conducted according to an overriding philosophy that is consistent with the academic program.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities; however, students should not be allowed to sacrifice the quality of their academic program to participate in athletics.

The Athletic Department recognizes that students should have the opportunity to engage in a broad range of learning experiences. However, a student who attempts to participate in too many extracurricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of conflicting responsibilities. Students are cautioned not to overextend themselves. Participation on athletic teams requires a demanding commitment of time to a rigorous schedule of practice and competition that, in addition to weekdays, includes weekends, holidays and vacation days.

## Athletic Trainer

The role of the athletic trainer is to:

- recognize and treat the athlete's injuries
- provide rehabilitation services and/or recommend further medical treatment
- provide coaches with up to date information on conditioning and the prevention of injuries
- be the point person for all medical concerns in regards to athletics

## Injuries

Any student sustaining an injury while participating in an interscholastic sports program should report the injury to his/her coach immediately. If this injury requires medical evaluation or follow-up, the coach along with the athletic trainer will complete an accident/insurance claim form that provides information related to the injury. The athletic secretary will keep a copy of the accident/insurance report and will send the original to the injured student's parent or guardian. Parents/guardians are responsible for submitting all insurance claims. **These forms are not submitted by the school.**

Any injury requiring medical follow-up and/or continued medical or chiropractic treatment will need to have a written medical clearance from the physician/chiropractor before the student will be allowed to return to physical education or interscholastic athletics. Injured athletes cannot return to interscholastic athletics until participation in physical education commences. In all cases when a question regarding the health, fitness or ability of an athlete to return to athletic participation is raised, the decision of the District Physician will be final.

## Risks Associated with Athletic Participation

The very nature of athletic competition provides for potential risk and injury to occur. Even with protective equipment, proper supervision, and sound instruction, injuries still do happen. In extremely rare cases, even death could result. All athletes and parents need to be aware of the potential hazards that exist within the athletic arena. We in the Harrison Central School District Athletic Department will always do whatever we can to ensure that our athletes have a safe and healthy athletic experience.

## Return to Action after Injury or Vacation

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association handbook clearly states how many days of practice are needed before a scrimmage or game. Those students returning from a prolonged injury or vacation generally need approximately half the number of practices listed in the handbook before having their eligibility restored. All students coming back from injury, who have seen a physician, must have a doctor's note stating that they have been cleared before being declared eligible for practice and interscholastic competition.

## Health Insurance Coverage

The District provides an insurance program to pay for valid claims on an “excess basis” for injuries received while participating in the Harrison Central School District Athletic Program. All claims must first be submitted to the student’s personal insurance carrier. Once the primary carrier has assigned benefits, the District’s plan will review the claim. All claims carry a \$50 deductible. The excess athletic insurance will pay only the usual and customary portion of the balance of the medical expenses not provided or reimbursed under the primary carrier coverage.

## Code of Conduct

Harrison athletes are expected to abide by the Harrison Central School District Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct may be found in the Student Handbook or by following the links below.

Harrison High School:

<http://www.harrisoncsd.org/docs/hhs/StudentHandbook.pdf>

Louis M. Klein Middle School:

<http://www.harrisoncsd.org/docs/lmk/Handbook%20CODE%20OF%20CONDUCT.pdf>

## Hazing

Hazing is a very serious form of misconduct and will not be permitted or tolerated by any member of a HSCD athletic team. Hazing is a complex social problem that is shaped by power dynamics operating in a group and/or organization. Hazing refers to any activity expected of someone joining a group that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the victim’s willingness to participate.

## Theft

Stealing will not be tolerated under any circumstances, whether it is from teammates, opponents or others. Any athlete involved in a theft faces immediate dismissal from his/her team and normal school district disciplinary procedures will be imposed. This is a zero tolerance policy.

## Steroids

The Harrison Central School District does not condone the use of prohibited substances such as steroids, nor support the use of other over the counter supplements which contain artificial or naturally occurring substances that increase heart rate, blood pressure, or promote unhealthy muscle tissue growth. Use of any of these products, which may be detrimental to your health, is a violation of the Athlete’s Code of Conduct. This is a zero tolerance policy.

# Transportation

## Team Transportation Policy

The Harrison Central School District provides transportation to and from all athletic contests. All athletes are required to use school district transportation. Athletes may not participate in a practice or contest if they drive themselves to the event or if they use alternate transportation without permission from the coach and/or the Athletic Director. In **extenuating circumstances**, parents may need to drive **their own children** to or from a contest. If this is desired, parents/guardians must make the request in writing prior to the start of the contest. In all cases, parents/guardians will have to be the party with whom the athlete is riding home. The person giving the ride will present themselves to the coach after the contest before the athlete is excused. Again, no athlete can travel home with another parent/guardian unless their own parent/guardian is present.

## Transportation from Daily Practice Sessions

Late buses are provided for our middle school and high school athletes at 4:45 PM and 5:45 PM. Other arrangements must be made to pick up your children on game days since games generally end after 5:45 PM. It is important that all parents picking up their children be prompt. Coaches should not have to wait with children in the parking lot after practices or games are long over.

# Prospective College Athletes

## NCAA

Students enrolling in a Division I or II college or university who wish to participate in athletics must meet specific academic eligibility requirements. Initial academic eligibility is determined by the N.C.A.A. Clearinghouse at the end of the junior year of high school and final eligibility is determined after high school graduation. Forms for registering with the N.C.A.A. Clearinghouse are available online at [www.NCAAClearinghouse.com](http://www.NCAAClearinghouse.com) in the Guidance Office, as is specific information about academic requirements. Please consult your school counselor or the N.C.A.A. Hotline at 1-800-638-3731 for further information.

Some student-athletes have a goal to participate in athletics at the collegiate level. The Harrison Athletic Department and school counselors are very willing to help student athletes pursue this goal. To this end, we offer several important tips.

1. Communication with the coach and school counselor is imperative. Student athletes who have a strong desire to compete at the collegiate level should schedule an appointment with their coach and school counselor to discuss this important decision in their junior year.
2. Read the “Guide for the College Bound Athlete” available online.
3. The driving force behind college selection should ultimately be the academic fit. Athletic opportunities are important, yet secondary to the academic fit and opportunities.

Coaches and student athletes should work in conjunction with the high school counselors to develop an appropriate list of potential college choices.

4. Take the SAT and ACT tests.
5. The student athlete should create a resume that represents their overall high school experience and highlights academic and athletic accomplishments.
6. The student athlete should create a letter of interest to be sent or emailed, along with the resume, to the coaches at the respective schools.
7. The student-athlete should register with the NCAA Clearinghouse at [www.NCAAClearinghouse.com](http://www.NCAAClearinghouse.com)

We advise parents not to have unrealistic expectations for students or to put undo pressure on them to perform. The NCAA reports that only 10% of high school athletes participate in their sport in college. In addition, for every 1000 high school athletes there are only 3 full athletic scholarships available. Students should not put all of their hopes into receiving an athletic scholarship nor should they be so intent on playing a sport in college that they neglect other areas of academic life.