

# HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



Student Athletic Code

This information is presented to you because of your interest in participating in an interscholastic athletic program at Homer Community Schools. In order to be a member of a Homer Community Schools athletic team, it must be understood that the student is representing not only himself/herself, but also the team, teammates, the school, the community, and his/her family. The intent of all involved with the athletic department is to be sure that all team members follow the rules and regulations of this code at all times and represent all concerned in a first class manner.

The Homer Community School District is vitally concerned with the educational development of students through athletics. The district feels that a properly controlled and organized program of athletics meets the student's needs for self-expression, mental alertness, and physical growth. Such programs will foster the student's knowledge and understanding of the pressures of sports and the principles of fair play. It has been established that participation in athletics at Homer Schools is not a right but a privilege. A student athlete must abide by this code continuously and will be held responsible for his/her actions during each season and during his/her off seasons.

*The Athletic Code is to be followed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.*

## **STATEMENT OF ETHICS FOR ATHLETES**

The conduct of an athlete is closely observed in many areas of life. It is therefore important that an athlete's behavior be above reproach both at and away from school. Accordingly, students who participate in athletics are reminded that the REAL ATHLETE...

1. Understands that drinking, smoking, and use of drugs including steroids are illegal, harmful to the body, and hinder maximum effort and performance.
2. Is a good student and plans his/her time so as to give sufficient energy to studies to ensure acceptable grades. In addition, an athlete should give respectful attention to classroom activities and show respect for students and faculty members at all times.
3. Maintains a good attendance record and is not truant from classes or school.
4. Represents the community, school, and coaches and should display proper conduct at all times.
5. Realizes that losing is part of the game and should be humble in defeat and modest in victory.
6. Does not employ illegal tactics to gain an undeserved advantage.
7. Realizes that officials do not lose a game, but are there for the purpose of ensuring that each team receives a fair deal; for this they must receive your every courtesy.

8. Works for the betterment of the school and what is right and good for fellow students.
9. Supports the other athletic teams and makes an effort to attend school activities.
10. Obeys the specific training and practice rules set down by the code.
11. Cares for all athletic equipment as though it were his/her own property.
12. Appears neat and well groomed at all times.
13. Does not let employment interfere with regular practice session or games.
14. Appreciates the importance of proper rest, diet and exercise involved in athletic programs.
15. Practices healthful habits of cleanliness and personal hygiene in daily activities.

### **RULES & REGULATIONS FOR HOMER SCHOOL ATHLETICS**

Homer High School is a member of the "Big Eight" Conference. Other members of this league include **Bronson**, Concord, Jonesville, Quincy, Reading, Springport and Union City. League Championships are determined in all sports when at least five schools are involved in that sport.

Standards of eligibility, under rules and regulation of the Michigan High School Athletic Association are as follows:

1. A student must be enrolled in Homer High School by Monday of the fourth (4th) week of any particular semester to be eligible for a sport that semester.
2. The student whose nineteenth (19th) birthday falls after September 1 can participate during the entire school year.
3. The school is required to have, in its files, a physician's statement that the student is physically fit to participate in vigorous athletics.
4. A student cannot participate in athletic competition more than eight (8) semesters while attending Homer High School.
5. A student's participation in high school sports will cease when he or she graduates from high school.
6. A student must maintain an amateur standing while participating in interscholastic athletics. Amateur standing will be jeopardized by receiving awards valued at more than **\$40.00** or by receiving merchandise or money for athletic participation.

7. Local rules governing all athletes:
- a. **To be eligible, a student must be passing in at least six (6) classes the week preceding the game. Two or more failing grades will make the athlete ineligible for that next week. Eligibility reports will be created on Mondays and will run from Tuesday through Monday. Ineligible athletes are expected to meet with teachers, set up tutoring and/or attend after school programs to obtain help. Athletes who are ineligible for three (3) consecutive weeks during a sports season will be removed from the roster for the remainder of that season.**
  - b. He/she must also have passed five (5) classes the preceding semester to be eligible, **per MHSAA.**
  - c. All players are expected to ride the bus to and from games. If a parent wishes his son/daughter to accompany them home rather than ride the bus, the parent must make arrangements with the coach.
  - d. Athletes must abide by the team rules established by the coach(es) of the sport(s) that they participate in.
  - e. An athlete may forfeit the right to play if his/her conduct is judged by the administration and coaching staff to be unbefitting of a representative of Homer High School.
  - f. The use/possession of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, or drugs of any kind is not allowed. **This is to include vaping, juuling etc. of any kind.**

**The following disciplinary action will be used for a violation of 7-e & 7-f:**

- \* **1st offense** - *Student is suspended for 50% of regular scheduled games for that sport season and will carry over to the next sport season if 50% is not left in the current season.*
  - \* **2nd offense**—*Student is suspended for one calendar year from date of offense.*
  - \* **3rd offense**—*Suspension from all athletics for the remainder of the athlete's high school career.*
8. Athletes must attend school regularly:
- Any athlete who misses any-part of the school day on the day of an athletic event or practice may not participate.
  - *The athlete must be in classroom attendance all day* in order to dress and participate in an athletic contest that day. Under emergency circumstances, exceptions to this rule *may be granted* by the Athletic Director, Principal or Assistant Principal. The coach is to be notified of the granting of the waiver.
9. Athletes must follow the directions of all coaches.
10. Since athletes are representing Homer High School, they are expected to conduct themselves as ladies or gentlemen at all times.
11. All training rule violations must be reported directly to the athletic di-

rector and principal. Observed violations should be reported by any coach to the principal and athletic director.

12. Appeal Procedure - No athlete will be disqualified on hearsay evidence. The athletic director is obligated to confront the athlete and proceed with enforcement and proper disposition within three (3) school days following the violation except in extenuating circumstances. The athletic director will notify the parents of the athlete in writing and by a telephone call. Students and parents will be informed of the Athletic Code prior to each athletic season. It is the responsibility of the athlete to be aware of all school and state rules and regulations concerning the eligibility and behavior expected of the student athlete.

### 13. Quitting Policy

- Student athletes who join a team should take this as a commitment.
- If a student athlete decides to quit a team, he or she must fulfill all team requirements of team membership which include returning all uniforms and equipment that was issued, meeting any financial obligations and meeting with the coach in person to discuss the reason(s) for quitting.
- The student athlete must schedule this meeting with the coach and athletic director within one week of quitting to discuss the reasons for leaving the team.
- Parents are invited by the athletic director to be present when the student athlete meets with the coach and athletic director to discuss the reasons for leaving the team.
- If the player does not meet with the coach to discuss the reasons for quitting the team, the athlete will miss 25% of the next season.
- Any athlete who quits a team will not be allowed to join another athletic team or intramurals until the completion of the season of the sport in which the athlete quit. Any exception to this rule must be approved by the coaches of the teams involved, the high school principal and athletic director.

**Reinstatement Procedure:** A conference with the athlete, coach, principal, and athletic director must be held before eligibility is restored. Eligibility restoration or reinstatement on any team is not automatic.

**Appeal Procedures:** Within three (3) school days following the application of a penalty, the student/parent may appeal the decision in writing to the athletic director and principal. A decision will be made within three (3) school days of the appeal filing date.

## PARENTS/SPECTATORS

"All parent/spectators must conduct themselves in a manner that is conducive to the expectations of the MHSAA, the Big 8 Conference and Homer Community Schools. Unsportsmanlike behavior such as inappropriate language/gestures or berating comments directed at officials, spectators and

game participants/personnel will lead to disqualification." When a parent/spectator is disqualified during a contest for unsportsmanlike behavior, that parent/spectator shall be prohibited by his/her school from attending for the remainder of that day of competition and from attending at least the next day of competition for that team. That person shall not be present on site or within sight, sound or communication.

## **PARENT-COACH RELATIONSHIP**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. As parents, when your children become involved in Homer's athletic program, you have the 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 son's / daughter's coach**

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the team.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

### **Communications coaches expect from parents**

1. Concerns addressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and / or expectations.

As your children become involved in the programs at Homer Community Schools, they 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 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. Concerns about your child's behavior.
3. Your child's role on the team.

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

### **Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches**

1. Playing time in a negative manner (Questions regarding what your son/daughter can do to improve and earn more playing time are acceptable.)
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other student athletes' playing time or performance.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote resolution to the issue of concern.

**If you or your child has a concern to discuss with a coach, you should:**

1. Discuss the issue with your son/daughter, and help them try to resolve it before speaking with the coach.
2. Call the coach to discuss it, or set up an appointment.
3. 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 do not promote resolution.
4. State the facts to the best of your knowledge, and have a resolution of the issue in mind.
5. If the coach cannot be reached, contact the athletic director to arrange the meeting for you.

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

1. Call and set up an appointment with the athletic director to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.

Since research indicates a student involved in extra-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided within this document makes both your child's and your experience with Homer Community Schools' athletic program less stressful, more enjoyable, and as fruitful as possible.

### **Fundraising**

Fundraising may be used by athletic programs for equipment, uniforms, apparel for athletes and coaches and coaches clinics, conferences, mileage and assistant coaches pay. If you have questions regarding a fundraiser, please contact the head coach of the program your child is participating in.

*School Board Approved 2021-2022*

\* Revisions to this document approved by the Board of Education are bolded and underlined\*

Approved



# Sportsmanship Makes Winners