



HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL

ATHLETE/PARENT HANDBOOK

AND

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

www.harrisonhs.hsd2.org/activities-sports

Athlete's Handbook

Philosophy and Values

Athletics are an important part of the Harrison High School educational program. The experience of participating in athletics is an excellent opportunity for all students who attend school at Harrison.

Participation in a sound athletic program contributes to good sportsmanship, character, physical development, coordination, and a wholesome interest in sports.

Interscholastic sports competition exemplifies the value of the democratic process and of fair play. Through participation, the student athlete learns how to work with others for the achievement of group goals. Participation in interscholastic sports is a living laboratory of equal opportunity in action where all students are treated without favor or prejudice.

Good sportsmanship practices have life-long values. The athlete who acts fairly, who observes laws and customs, who treats others with consideration, and who takes adversity without whimpering earns respect. Students in today's schools are tomorrow's community citizens and, as adults, will demonstrate some of the attitudes they are now learning.

Harrison High School is aware of the importance of the athletic program, but it recognizes that it should never overshadow the emphasis placed on classroom work. We strongly support the maximization of student-teacher classroom contact by minimizing the loss of school time involved in extra-curricular activities.

I. BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

The secret is that athletics are not just a way to have fun or be with friends; they are valuable educational tools. Interscholastic sports enrich a student's school experience and are inherently educational. Athletic programs provide valuable lessons in many practical situations – teamwork, sportsmanship, winning and losing, and hard work. Through participation in athletic programs, students learn self-discipline, build self-confidence, and develop skills to handle competitive situations. These are qualities the public expects schools to produce in students so that they become responsible adults and productive citizens.

Athletics foster success in later life. Participation in high school athletics is often a predictor of later success – in college, a career, and becoming a contributing member of society.

II. GENERAL PROCEDURES

- A. It is important to also understand that all student-athletes are expected to actively participate in all required Physical Education classes even when “in season” during their particular sport. Physical Education is an important and required course for graduation. Students who participate in interscholastic athletics should not expect “special” treatment from teachers to be excused from Physical Education classes even on the day of competition. Physical Education teachers will use prudent judgment with student-athletes on determining their participation level in class on the day of competition.

B. Prospective Collegiate Student Athletes

Many college athletic programs are regulated by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and/or NAIA. If you are planning to enroll in college as a freshman wishing to participate in NCAA or NIAA Division I or II athletics, you must be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center or the NAIA.

Parents are encouraged to visit the NCAA and NAIA websites for the most accurate and up-to-date information. Important areas that influence college eligibility include the following:

1. GPA
2. ACT or SAT Score
3. Approved list of high school courses and core class requirements.

Each NCAA level and NAIA have different criteria.

The application fee may be waived. Check with your high school counselor.

Websites: www.eligibilitycenter.org
www.playnaia.org

III. RESPONSIBILITIES OF ATHLETES

Participation in interscholastic activities as a part of a school's educational program is a privilege and not a right. Students wishing to participate are required to meet standards of personal behavior and academic performance which are related to school purposes. In this regard, the CHSAA and its member schools may exercise the fullest discretion permitted under law.

- A. All athletes are expected to set and maintain the highest standards of conduct and appearance at all times. All athletes will conduct themselves in accordance with the following rules on a year round basis. However, the following rules do not represent a complete list of expectations. In some cases, coaches may adopt a more stringent set of rules. In addition, the Athletic Director and coach reserve the right to use their discretion in any situation that is not specifically mentioned in this document.

We understand that it is a privilege to wear the black and white of Harrison High School. We understand the sacrifices made to be part of this tradition. Therefore, we will have NO part in any incidents of hazing, initiation, harassment, disorderly conduct toward, intimidation of, bullying of, or discriminating against any other student, parent, or coach from Harrison High School, or any of our opponents.

- A. Athletes will maintain a neat and well-groomed appearance at all times. Athletes will not wear gang affiliated clothing, signs, symbols, or paraphernalia. Athletes will not wear any drug-affiliated attire to include, but not limited to, alcohol and tobacco related products.
- B. Athletes will not wear nylon stocking caps, hairnets, or head rags of any kind or color. Sagging pants of any kind will not be tolerated.

C. Athletes should present a positive leadership role in contacts with the whole student body and the community.

D. Reasons for athletic suspension and/or removal from the team:

1. Continued willful disobedience
2. Open and persistent defiance of proper authority.
3. Willful destruction or defacing of school property.
4. Behavior on or off school property, which is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other students.
5. Carrying, bringing, using, or possessing a deadly weapon; sale of a drug or substance; or any offense for which expulsion is mandatory or alternative placement occurs will result in automatic dismissal from the team
6. Repeated interference with a school staff member's ability to provide educational opportunities to other students.
7. Sexual harassment, robbery or assault.
8. Any behavior that is destructive to the welfare, safety, or morale of another student or the community at large.
9. Inappropriate use of social media such as Facebook, Twitter, etc. whether directed at another individual, school, team or community.

E. The following sanctions will be imposed for any violation(s) listed above:

1. **First Infraction** – A one (1) game suspension for sports with fewer than 11 contests. A possible two (2) game suspension for sports with more than 11 contests, as determined by coach and athletic director.
2. **Second Infraction** – A second infraction during the same school year will result in possible prolonged suspension or removal from the team for that season or a future season during the school year. The sanction will be determined by the coach and Athletic Director based upon the severity of the infraction.
3. **Third Infraction** – A third infraction during the same school year will result in possible suspension for the remainder of the current school year from all interscholastic athletics from the date of the infraction as determined by the Athletic Director.

F. Violations of any conduct rules may result in forfeiture of letter eligibility.

NOTE: These represent probable sanctions for violation of these rules. The responsible administrator may adjust the sanction to better reflect the infraction. Sanctions can range from minimal up to and including suspension from all interscholastic participation.

IV. SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- A. The use of and/or possession of tobacco, drugs, including steroids, or alcoholic beverages in any form or quantity will not be tolerated.
- B. The following sanctions will be imposed for any violation(s).

1. The first violation will result in a one (1)-contest suspension for sports with 11 or fewer contests. For sports with more than 11 contests, the sanction will be a two (2)-contest suspension. If the suspension results in an athlete missing a tournament or a qualifying contest required to advance in an individual sport, which has more than 11 contests, it shall count as two (2) contests.
2. A second violation occurring at any time during a student's attendance in a Harrison District #2 school will result in a suspension from twice as many contests as provided for in the first violation. If drugs or alcohol are involved in both violations, the student must demonstrate evidence of participation in an alcohol or drug treatment and/or counseling program prior to returning to competition.
3. A third violation occurring at any time during a student's attendance in a Harrison District #2 school will result in suspension from all interscholastic athletics for a period of 365 days from the date of the infraction.

NOTE: These represent probable sanctions for violation of these rules. The responsible administrator may adjust the sanction to better reflect the infraction. Sanctions can range from minimal up to and including suspension from all interscholastic participation.

V. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY

- A. There are attendance requirements that may cause a student-athlete to lose eligibility for a daily or seasonal period. In order to participate in a scheduled athletic contest, student athletes must be in school for three or more class periods on the day of the contest.
- B. Athletes who are suspended out of school may not attend practice, participate or compete during their period of suspension. Athletes who are suspended in-school may be allowed to practice but may not be allowed to compete. Habitual tardiness could also result in possible disciplinary action. **Exceptions can be made in the case of illness, disabling injury, or extenuating circumstances previously discussed with the coach.**
- C. Truancy/Skipping, and/or unexcused absences in any class at any time could cause an athlete to be suspended from practice and/or competition. A conference between the coach, athlete and Athletic Director will be held to determine consequences.
- D. Tardiness: Coach/Athlete conference will occur for tardiness. The coach may recommend a variety of actions based upon the frequency of the tardiness. Habitual tardiness could result in dismissal from the team.

NOTE: These represent probable sanctions for violation of these rules. The responsible administrator may adjust the sanction to better reflect the infraction. Sanctions can range from minimal up to and including suspension from all interscholastic participation.

VI. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Harrison High School is committed to the principle of academic excellence. While athletics and other activities are an important part of high school life, the main purpose of this institution is to prepare

students academically for success in life after high school, either at the next level of education or in their pursuit of vocational skills.

Participation in interscholastic activities as a part of a school's educational program is a privilege and not a right. Students wishing to participate are required to meet standards of academic performance.

Academic athletic eligibility at Harrison is determined under the Constitution and by-laws set forth by the Colorado High School Activities Association and the policies of Harrison High School as follows:

Participating school districts and schools shall have the right to impose stricter standards for eligibility than those set forth by CHSAA. The general eligibility requirements are not intended to restrict any school from setting local academic requirements or otherwise exercising control over its curriculum, grading practices and policies regarding the granting of class credit.

In this regard, the CHSAA and its member school may exercise the fullest discretion permitted under law.

1. A student athlete at Harrison High School must meet the academic guidelines of the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA).
2. During the period of participation, the student must be enrolled in courses which offer, in aggregate, a minimum of 2.5 Carnegie units of credit per semester and must not be failing more than the equivalent of one-half Carnegie unit of credit.
3. Grades and citizenship of students participating in the athletic program will be checked at the close of each one-week period, starting with the second week of the semester.
4. Eligibility publication will take place on a Friday or the last day of class for that week, and enforcement of the policy will be in place the following Monday-Saturday.
5. When semester grades, i.e. report cards are distributed; a weekly eligibility report will not be prepared. The report card grades will be used. (See #2 above).
6. Any student who earns more than one (1) **F** during the weekly eligibility check will be ineligible to compete in athletics for one week, but must practice during the week he/she is ineligible. Once a student has earned more than one **F** for the week, he/she **remains ineligible for that week**, even if the grade is raised to passing during the ineligibility period.
7. To regain weekly eligibility, the student/athlete must be failing no more than one (1) class at the next one-week grade check. AT the end of a semester, the student's final credits in his/her subjects will be used to determine eligibility for next semester participation.

Individual sports programs may have standards which are more strict than those listed above. Students will be held to the strictest standards in place.

VII. CONTEST MISCONDUCT – PENALTIES

- A. Any athlete participating in an athletic event, who flagrantly violates the rules of good sportsmanship, will be removed from the game immediately by the coach, regardless of the action taken by game officials. School administrators and the athletic director have the responsibility to determine if further disciplinary action is necessary.
- B. Any athlete who has been disqualified from a contest for committing any unsportsmanlike act shall be disqualified for the remainder of that contest. The athlete shall be ineligible for the next regularly scheduled contest of the same level (freshman, junior varsity, varsity) as imposed by CHSAA bylaw. After reviewing the situation, the HHS Athletic Department may impose further suspension. If such ejection occurs in the final contest of the season, then that athlete shall be ineligible for the first contest of the next season of sports competition in which the athlete chooses to play.
- C. Any athlete ejected from a second contest during the same season may be suspended for multiple contests of the same level. After review by the HHS Athletic Department, loss of athletic privileges for the remainder of the school year may be imposed. CHSAA may also impose additional penalties.
- D. Any player ejected from a third contest during the same season or school year shall be subject to a penalty determined by the Athletic Director which may include loss of athletic participation for up to 365 days. CHSAA may also impose additional penalties.
- E. Fighting in any interscholastic sport shall be construed to consist of:
 - 1. an invitation to fight, such as closely following an opposition player during a disturbance and making taunting gestures or sounds;
 - 2. throwing a punch or slugging with fists, whether or not a punch is landed;
 - 3. wrestling or tackling an opponent outside a legal play situation.
- F. Fighting shall bring an automatic suspension for the remainder of the contest and from the next scheduled game in addition to any penalty imposed by CHSAA.
- G. Any athlete leaving the bench area during a fight will receive an ejection from the contest and a one (1) game suspension per CHSAA bylaw. After review, additional suspension may be imposed by the HHS Athletic department.
- H. Per CHSAA bylaw, an athlete who is ejected during the final contest of the season will be ineligible to participate in the first contest of the same level in the next season he/she plays. After review, additional suspension may be imposed by the HHS Athletic Department

NOTE: These represent probable sanctions for violation of these rules. The responsible administrator may adjust the sanction to better reflect the infraction. Sanctions can range from minimal up to and including suspension from all interscholastic participation.

VIII. TEAM SELECTION

Choosing the members of an athletic team is the sole responsibility of the coaches of those teams. The students who play in athletic contests will be those individuals who, in the coaches' judgments, will contribute to the team's success. In determining this, the coaches will take into consideration:

- A. Practice attendance
- B. Practice performance.
- C. Any injury that could affect performance or athlete's future health.
- D. Citizenship, which includes adhering to particular sports rules and school rules.
- E. Attitude, behavior, coachability.

It is important to understand that participation on an athletic team at Harrison High School is a privilege and not a right. Being on and maintaining one's membership on the team means accepting all the responsibilities of a student-athlete. However, unlike recreation teams, equal or guaranteed playing time does not exist. In an effort to win, a coach will use players best suited to the conditions or demands of the contest at that time.

Coaches are reminded that, in accordance with our philosophy of athletics and to encourage as many students as possible to participate in the athletic program, they should use as many students as they can in all athletic contests, without jeopardizing the integrity of the sport.

Cutting the Team

While our ultimate goal is to promote the greatest athletic participation possible at Harrison High School, it may be necessary in some sports to cut a squad. This may occur due to limitations of our facilities, regulations specific to some sports, travel restrictions, and other factors.

Every coach has the responsibility and authority for selecting his or her team. The criteria for selecting the team, is developed by the coach.

It is also important to remember that there are no guarantees. Players from the previous year's JV team, for example, do not automatically make either the JV or varsity squad the following year. Having been a member of a team during the previous year or even being a senior does not ensure that a student-athlete will make the squad.

Parents should expect that every candidate is treated fairly and given every consideration. Coaches are sensitive to feelings of disappointment, will handle the task as positively as possible, and be available to answer student-athletes' questions.

While we understand that being cut is disappointing for many student athletes and even for their parents, we unfortunately cannot always keep everyone. Anyone cut from a team is welcome to try out again next season or to try another sport. When parents and student-athletes understand and support the coach's decision, this difficult process becomes a less painful experience for all.

The Purpose of a Freshman/C Squad Team

Freshman teams exist to provide those student athletes unable to participate on the varsity squad an opportunity to develop skills and gain experience. While the student athlete's age, size, or skill level may be the limiting factor in not making the varsity team, participation on a freshman team may enhance the student athlete's potential to make the varsity squad in the future.

A caution, however, must also be given. Being a member of a freshman team does not guarantee that a student athlete will automatically move up the following year to the junior varsity or varsity squads. The student athletes best suited for varsity competition will make the squad each year.

Striving to win is important in athletics; however, compiling a great record or winning a championship should not be the primary objective of a freshman team. The development of student-athletes should be the ultimate purpose of a freshman squad while at the same time acknowledging the value of winning, learning, and enjoying being a member of a team.

IX. PRACTICE SESSIONS

- A. Team members of all sports are required to attend all scheduled practices and meetings during the established sport's season. If circumstances arise whereby the student cannot attend a practice or meeting, the individual coach will determine the validity of the reason. **In all cases, however, the coach must be notified prior to the practice or meeting missed by personal contact, phone call, or written statement from the parent or guardian.**
- B. Practice sessions are normally closed to spectators and there is a very sound reason for this. These sessions are the equivalent of a teacher's classroom and there is real, quality instruction taking place. Interruptions and interference to a student-athlete's concentration and focus in practice cannot be allowed any more than a disruption would be tolerated in an academic setting. Education in any setting cannot be compromised.
- C. Harrison High School practice sessions:
 - 1. May last up to 2 ½ hours and there may be multiple sessions in a day.
 - 2. May start and end at different times due to the schedule of the coach or of our facilities. Check with the coach for the specific times.
 - 3. Will not be held when school is dismissed early due to inclement weather.
 - 4. Will not be held when school is not in session due to inclement weather.
 - 5. May be held on Saturdays and over holiday periods.

X. TRAVEL

All athletes must travel to and from "away" athletic contests in vehicles provided by Harrison, unless alternate arrangements are approved in writing by the head coach.

- A. Athletes are to remain with their team and under the supervision of the coach when attending away contests and/or overnight trips.
- B. Athletes who miss the bus will not be allowed to participate in the contest unless there are extenuating circumstances.

- C. All regular school rules that apply are to be followed at all times, i.e. home events, away events and overnight events. Failure to follow the rules will result in appropriate sanctions.
- D. Athletes suspended from regular school transportation may not ride the athletic/activity bus.

XI. INJURY PROCEDURES

- A. Athletes must report all injuries to their coach.
- B. If a student athlete has sustained an injury and the coaches are not aware of the problem, parents are encouraged to assist coaches in understanding the extent of the injury.
- C. Injuries that occur while participating in athletics should be reported to the coach. If the injury requires medical attention by a doctor or treatment center, an injury report form must be completed.
- D. Once a physician treats an athlete, the athlete must obtain the doctor's permission in writing in order to return to the activity.
- E. In the event that an injury takes an extended time to heal, the athlete is expected to attend practices, meetings, and games, even though they cannot actively participate.
- F. All students must present documentation that they are covered by health insurance as part of the required paperwork to begin the season.

XII. EQUIPMENT

- A. Harrison High School will furnish game uniforms for all teams. It is the responsibility of athletes to furnish their shoes, socks, mitts, undergarments, towels, etc.
- B. School equipment checked out by the student athlete is his/her responsibility. He/she is expected to keep it clean and in good condition at all times.
- C. If a student destroys or loses issued equipment/uniforms, etc., restitution/payment must be made to the athletic office for the replacement cost of the item(s)
- D. Any student athlete that makes the decision to leave the team will make an appointment with the head coach to notify him/her of their decision, and hand in any school issued equipment.
- E. Each coach will give a deadline date for school issued equipment to be turned in. Failure to turn in equipment by that date will result in a \$40.00 fine from the athletic department, even if turned in at a later date. In the case of equipment not returned or returned in non-usable condition, the student-athlete will be charged for the replacement of this equipment.

- F. Students who use a uniform/equipment, etc. to participate in all-star games, all-state games, etc., must return the items within 72 hours of the event. If the items are not returned, the student will not be allowed to participate in a subsequent season's sport until items are returned. If the student is a senior, transcripts will not be released until the items are returned or restitution made.

XIII. LOCKER ROOM REGULATIONS

Be alert for slippery floors and/or changes in floor surface or elevation. Use caution. Report any hazardous conditions to the coach.

- A. Only coaches, authorized staff, and assigned players are allowed in the locker rooms.
- B. Horseplay, roughhousing, hazing, initiations, bullying and throwing objects are not permitted in the locker rooms.
- C. Do not wear cleats or spikes in the locker room or building. Knock off all dirt outside the building without hitting shoes against the wall.
- D. Athletes are responsible for keeping the locker room neat and orderly. Do not leave anything on the floors. Use trash cans for all trash.
- E. Report any foot or skin infections or irritations to coach(es) immediately.
- F. Secure all personal belongings in assigned locker and fasten the lock. Harrison High School will not be responsible for items stolen from the locker room.
- G. In-season sports have priority on all lockers in the locker rooms. Pre-season coaches will obtain permission from the in-season coaches for use of the locker rooms.
- H. Glass containers are not permitted in the locker room.
- I. Athletes will not permanently occupy a locker during the off-season.

XIV. GYM/FIELD USE REGULATIONS

- A. No students are allowed in the gymnasium or on a field without the supervision of a certified coach. Restricted coaches will not have supervision of athletes in the gymnasium, on a bus, or at an activity.
- B. Any student found in the gymnasium or on a field without proper authorization or supervision will be referred to an assistant principal.
- C. During the practice of any sport, only those students involved in the particular sport are to be present in the gymnasium or on the field. Pre-season sports coaches will seek permission of all in season coaches for desired use of the gymnasium or field.

- D. No food, or chewing gum is allowed in the gymnasium, on a field, stadium or track at any time, including during contests.
- E. No street shoes are allowed on the gymnasium floor.
- F. All students are responsible for taking good care of the gymnasium and fields and keeping them neat, clean and orderly at all times.

XV. BOB IRVING WEIGHT ROOM REGULATIONS

- A. All athletes must have a physical not more than one year old and blue emergency cards on file regardless of whether they are in-season or pre-season, in order to use the weight room.
- B. Shirts and shoes are required at all times. No street clothing will be worn in the weight room. Athletes must be in properly fitted practice attire while working out.
- C. No one is allowed in the weight room alone.
- D. All athletes must be under the supervision of a certified coach.
- E. All lifters must work with a partner.
- F. All weights are to be replaced on racks after use. It is the responsibility of those who use this area to keep it clean.
- G. All students will follow the program used in the Weights and Conditioning class.
- H. No food, or chewing gum is allowed in the weight room.
- I. Horseplay and/or profanity are not allowed.
- J. There will be no abuse of equipment; any broken equipment will be reported immediately. The person or persons responsible for damaging or breaking the equipment may be responsible for paying for repair or replacement of the damaged equipment including labor and shipping.
- K. Athletes will work with the instructor to determine safe workout/training weights and routines.
- L. Remember that strength training is not only a supplement to other athletic programs, but also a highly skilled activity.

XVI. IN-SEASON AND OFF-SEASON PRACTICE

- A. The Colorado High School Activities Association governs opening and closing dates for interscholastic sports. **All pre-season conditioning practices can begin three (3) weeks after a sports season begins, or with approval of the Athletic Director .**

- B. Boy's golf may hold tryouts one (1) week prior to the official starting date with the qualification that if a student is unable to attend at that time, he will be allowed to try out the following week.
- C. Practice sessions shall not be called intramural. No formal practice is to be held during the school year, with the exception of the designated season. Refer to the Colorado High School Activities Association's interpretations on practice.
- D. The sport season ends for a member of Harrison's athletic teams when the athlete is released by the head coach for the team with which the athlete has been playing.

XVII. LETTER REQUIREMENTS

- A. Specific award requirements for earning sport athletic letters are as follows:
 - 1. **Football, Basketball, Soccer, Volleyball:** play in at least three-quarters (3/4) of the total number of varsity quarters, periods or games.
 - 2. **Baseball:** play in two-thirds (2/3) of all varsity innings (pitchers must pitch in 1/4 of all innings).
 - 3. **Wrestling:** Participate in two-thirds (2/3) of varsity matches.
 - 4. **Track and Field:** earn 25 points during the regular season or score points in a state meet.
 - 5. **Cross Country:** run three-quarters (3/4) or more of the varsity meets.
 - 6. **Golf:** Play in three-quarters (3/4) of the varsity matches
 - 7. **Swimming:** Participate in three-quarters (3/4) of dual meets and invitationals or score points in district, league or state meets.
 - 8. **Softball:** Play in two-thirds (2/3) of the varsity innings.
 - 9. **Cheerleading:** A pep squad member must two seasons in order to letter. (Seasons can be in different years, i.e. Fall season in two separate years or Fall season in one year and Winter season in the next.)
 - 10. **Tennis:** Participation in 2/3 or more of the total varsity matches.
 - 11. **Team Managers:** To be determined by the coach.
- B. In a case where an outstanding athlete has contributed greatly to the benefit of the team, and has not met the specific requirements for a letter, he/she may be awarded a letter upon the recommendation of the coach and the approval of the athletic director.

- C. A student athlete, who is injured while participating in a sport and is not able to participate further, may receive a letter, based on a recommendation by the coach and approval by the athletic director.
- D. A student athlete, who is a member of a team for three (3) years, including his/her senior year, without earning a letter in that sport may be awarded a letter.
- E. A student athlete who is ineligible more than four (4) weeks of the season, or who is ineligible at the close of the competitive season, automatically forfeits all rights to any athletic award, unless extenuating circumstances prevail (this must be approved by the athletic director).

A student must finish the season in good standing in order to be eligible to receive a letter for that sport. Action resulting in suspension, either in-school or out-of-school, at any time during the season may disqualify an athlete from being eligible for a letter.

XVIII. CODE OF ETHICS

In accordance with The Colorado High School Activities Association

In order to be of maximum effectiveness in serving and fostering the education of the students so entrusted to us, and in promoting and supplementing the regular curriculum, it is the duty of all concerned with our secondary athletic and activities programs to:

- A. Cultivate an awareness that participation in athletics and activities is part of the total educational process and as such, the coach/advisor should neither seek nor expect academic privileges for the participants.
- B. Emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play as they relate to the lifetime impact on the participants.
- C. Develop a working awareness and understanding of all rules and guidelines governing competition, both in letter and intent.
- D. Recognize that the purpose of athletics and activities is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well being of the individual participants.
- E. Avoid any practice or technique, which would endanger the present or future welfare or safety of any participant.
- F. Adhere to policies, which do not force or encourage students to specialize or restrict them from participation in a variety of activities.
- G. Refuse to disparage an opponent, an official, an administrator or spectator in any aspect of the activity.
- H. Strongly encourage the development of proper health habits, including the non-use of chemicals, alcohol, tobacco and other mood-altering substances.

- I. Exemplify proper self-control at all times, accepting adverse decisions without public display of emotion or of dissatisfaction with the officials or judge.
- J. Encourage all to judge the true success of the athletic and activities programs on the basis of attitude of the participants and spectators, rather than on the basis of wins or losses.

Hazing

In athletic settings, some may view hazing as a harmless rite of initiation or an important activity for team bonding. However, it is actually a form of harassment and represents a Harrison High School disciplinary offense.

Harrison High School prohibits recognized groups, organizations, athletic teams or those that attend events or activities sponsored, organized or supported in any way by those organizations, from hazing members, prospective members, or other persons seeking to obtain benefits or services from any of these organizations.

Hazing is an action or activity, with or without consent from a person, whether conducted on or off Harrison High School property, which is designated to or has the reasonably foreseeable effect of humiliation, denigrating, offending, physically or mentally abusing or exposing to danger a person, as a condition, directly or indirectly, of the person's consideration for, continuation in, admission to, membership in, participation in activities of, receipt of benefits or services from, an organization or group.

Any participant who chooses to not follow the above policy will be subjected to consequences on a case by case matter.

XIX. PARENT RELATIONSHIPS

Being a parent is often challenging, this effort and responsibility is frequently complicated by being a parent of a student athlete. This handbook, with its guidelines and suggestions, will give you some insights into this responsibility. There are many relationships, which are involved in being the sport-parent of a student athlete.

The role of the parent in the education of a youngster is important. The support shown in the home is often manifested in the ability of the student to accept the opportunities presented at school, in the classroom and through co-curricular activities.

There is a value system -- established in the home, nurtured in the school, which young people are developing. Their involvement in classroom and other activities contributes to that development. Integrity, fairness and respect are lifetime values taught through athletics, and these are the principles of good sportsmanship. With them, the spirit of competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of the results. Please see the information at the end of the handbook for additional tips and expectations regarding sportsmanship.

A. The Player-Coach Relationship

The player-coach relationship is perhaps the most critical relationship in athletics. Unfortunately, a sport-parent can have a pronounced effect on this very important and delicate

relationship. While you may not agree with all decisions of a coach, how and when you express your feelings can have a decided effect upon your child.

If you express a negative opinion in front of your child, you need to remember that he or she will return to practice the next day and may carry with him or her your convictions. Your son or daughter will then have to interact with this coach. You, as the sport-parent, can greatly affect this delicate relationship.

Receiving technical or strategic instruction at home may interfere and conflict with the instructional process at practice sessions and games. This may ultimately impede your son or daughter's progress and affect their playing time or whether they win a starting position.

B. The Parent-Coach Relationship

In your role as a sport-parent, you obviously love and are concerned about your child's welfare. You want the best for him or her. But a student athlete can have only one coach. Allowing the coach to instruct and guide the team is crucial in many respects.

Should you have any questions or concerns, do not approach the coach immediately at the conclusion of a contest. At this time, coaches have other responsibilities and it may be an emotional time. Call and make an appointment for a later time and approach this meeting in a calm, courteous and logical manner.

One of the responsibilities, which a coach has at the conclusion of a contest, is to have a brief meeting with his or her players. Student-athletes should not pause to talk to parents or friends immediately after games. These brief meetings are essential to the learning process involved in athletics.

C. The Parent-Player Relationship

Some sport-parents may try to live through their child's athletic efforts. Being positive and supportive is important, but adding pressure and unrealistic expectations can be extremely harmful. Allow your son or daughter to enjoy and grow from this valuable experience. In numerous national studies, it has been determined that most student-athletes participate for enjoyment or fun. Excessive pressure or expectations can alter this most fundamental reason for playing.

When you do speak with your child after a contest don't dwell on his or her play, how many points they scored or if they started. Instead, first ask how the team did? Did your son or daughter play hard, give 100% and have a good experience?

D. Relationship with Officials

There is an age-old refrain often used by irate fans, "How much are you paying the officials?" The home school does not obtain or hire the officials. All officials are assigned by a commissioner or assigner of the particular sport and neither team has control of which officials are assigned.

Officials agree to and follow a code of ethics. They really do not care or have a vested interest in which team emerges as the victor. It is also important to understand that they are a very necessary part of a game. A contest cannot be played without them.

So while you may not agree with all of their calls, please do not harass or taunt them. It is also important to remember that they are in charge of the contest and have complete authority to have unruly spectators removed. In many sports, a team will see the same official several times during a season. Coaches, athletic administrators and schools often work hard to establish a rapport and good working relationship, which can easily be damaged by spectators.

E. Spectator-Cheerleader

Cheerleaders try to infuse spirit into the fans/spectators and to lead them in selected cheers. Taking this responsibility into your own hands is not appropriate. Fans that leave the stands to direct cheers may often cause or lead to confrontations with the opponents. Following the cheerleader's directions, therefore, is absolutely necessary at all athletic contests.

The emotion and atmosphere at athletic contests can be very exciting and the cheerleaders need to be allowed to direct and control this aspect of the event.

Good sportsmanship, whether a student or a parent, shows a true leader within the school and the community. As a parent of a student, your sportsmanship goals should include:

1. Realizing that athletics are part of the educational experience, and the benefits of involvement go beyond the final score of a game;
2. Encouraging our students to perform their best, just as we would urge them on with their class-work, knowing that others will always turn in better or lesser performances;
3. Participating in positive cheers that encourage our athletes; and discouraging any cheer that would redirect that focus;
4. Learning, understanding and respecting the rules of the game, the officials who administer them, and their decisions;
5. Respecting the task our coaches face as teachers; and supporting them as they strive to educate our youth;
6. Respecting our opponents as students, and acknowledging them for striving to do their best;
7. Developing a sense of dignity under all circumstances; and
8. Be a fan...not a fanatic!

You can have a major influence on your youngster's attitude about academics and athletics. The leadership role you take in sportsmanship will help influence your child, and our community, for years to come.

F. Guidelines for Parent and Student Athlete Participation

1. All meetings with coaches are to be made by appointment only. Coaches will make their work numbers available to parents. Parents will refrain from calling coaches at their

homes, unless completely necessary. There will be no meetings between parents and coaches on the athletic fields, gyms, or locker rooms.

2. The sole purpose of an extracurricular parent booster group is for positive reinforcement and support of the athletes, the athletic program, and to assist in the fund-raising for that program. There are no other agendas.
3. Coaches are NOT required to discuss player position, playing time, offensive, defensive or game philosophy/decisions with parents.
4. There will be no establishment of parent groups, websites, athlete groups, etc., without the written consent of the head coach, the athletic director, and the principal of Harrison High School.
5. The protocol when resolving an issue between student athlete and coach is as follows;
 - a. student athlete will make an appointment and meet with the coach,
 - b. next step > student athlete and parent will make an appointment and meet with coach,
 - c. third step > student athlete and parent will make an appointment to meet with coach and athletic director,
 - d. final step > student athlete and parent will make an appointment to meet with coach, athletic director, and principal.

Please feel free to call with comments concerning this handbook. Hopefully, you have found it useful. You might also want to take ten minutes and share this information with your son or daughter. Have a great season!

SPORTSMANSHIP EXPECTATIONS

Acceptable Behavior

1. Applause during introduction of players, coaches and officials.
2. Players shaking hands with opponents who foul out while both sets of fans recognize player's performance with applause.
3. Accept all decisions of officials.
4. Cheerleaders lead fans in positive school yells in positive manner.
5. Handshakes between participants and coaches at end of contest, regardless of outcome.
6. Treat competition as a game, not a war.
7. Coaches/players search out and congratulate opposing participant or coach.
8. Applause at end of contest for performances of all participants.
9. Everyone showing concern for injured player, regardless of team.
10. Encourage only sportsmanlike conduct.

Unacceptable Behavior

1. Yelling or waving arms during opponent's free-throw attempt.
2. Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs, or gestures.
3. Booing or heckling an official's decision.
4. Criticizing officials in any way; displays of temper with an official's call.
5. Yells that antagonize opponents.
6. Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good performances.
7. Blaming loss of game on official, coaches, or participants.
8. Taunting or name calling to distract an opponent.
9. Use of profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game.

Do's and Don'ts

1. Cheer **for** your team.
2. Don't yell at your opponents.
3. Do not use vulgar or profane language.
4. Yelling at officials **will not** be tolerated.
5. Do not yell at or distract a player shooting foul shots.
6. Taunting and trash talking directed at players, coaches and fans is not permitted.
7. Remain in the bleachers during the contest.
8. Do not interfere with our opponent's cheerleaders and their attempt to lead cheers.
9. Do not kick the bleachers; not only does this display poor sportsmanship, but this also damages them.
10. As a parent, please set a positive example for our students and student athletes.

If you see or hear something, which is inappropriate, please help us by saying something to the offending individual.

Remember, that purchasing a ticket provides you with the opportunity and privilege to watch a contest; it is not a license to verbally assault others or to be obnoxious.

HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EJECT ANY SPECTATORS WHOSE CONDUCT IS DETRIMENTAL TO GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP. MISBEHAVIOR AT SPORTING EVENTS MAY LEAD TO PROSECUTION OR SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HARRISON ATHLETIC RULES AND PROCEDURES

I, _____, desire to be a participant in the interscholastic athletic program representing Harrison High School. Participants include team members, team managers, and other students eligible to receive an athletic letter award. My signature acknowledges the following:

1. I have read and understand the Harrison Athletic and Parents Handbook and agree to comply with it.
2. I reside in the attendance area for Harrison High School; or I have received permission from appropriate school authorities to attend a high school not in the attendance area of my residence; or I attend a high school in Harrison District #2 which does not sponsor this particular interscholastic activity; or I am enrolled in a high school in a contiguous school district which does not sponsor this particular interscholastic activity; or I participate in a non-public home-based educational program in attendance boundaries of Harrison High School.

Student's Signature

Date

Grade

Address and Phone Number

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Address and Phone Number