Handbook for Parents

- Communicate with the coaching staff if there is any problem that the player cannot work out. **The first link in the communication chain should be player to coach, then parent to coach.**
- Maintain high expectations of your student athlete, but try to avoid extra pressure. Encourage your student athlete to be the best they can be.
- Understand that middle school athletics is an extension of middle school education. Your student athletes will be asked to make a commitment, as a parent, support that commitment to athletics as you would a commitment to the classroom.
- Encourage your student athlete to be responsible for the school's athletic equipment. This includes the care of it and returning it on time. Once the equipment is checked out to the student it is the financial responsibility of the student.
- Represent Heaton Middle School with class at all times.

Player-Coach Relationship

1. This is the most important relationship.
2. Parents can affect this relationship by criticizing the coach to their son/daughter.
3. Parents should always remember that the athlete has to return to practice the next day.
4. Parental coaching at home may impede the athlete's progress.

Parent-Coach Relationship

1. Allow the coach to instruct and guide the team.
2. Do not question or confront the coach immediately after the contest.
3. If you want to discuss a problem with the coach, make an appointment with him/her and discuss your concern in a calm, courteous and logical manner.

Fan-Umpire/Referee Relationship

1. Umpires/Referees are necessary to the game.
2. Umpires/Referees are bound by a code of ethics that makes them impartial to the outcome of the game.
3. Fans, and particularly parents, should never harass or taunt umpires/Referees.

Sportsmanship

1. Parents should demonstrate good sportsmanship and serve as role models.
2. Specific obligations:
    - No vulgar or inappropriate language.
    - No trash-talking or taunting other team or umpires.

- Outsiders must never intrude upon the field during a contest.
- Cheers should be for our team, not against the opponents.
- Positive support is encouraged at games.

Responsibilities of the Athlete

1. Put the team's goal, welfare and success ahead of your own.
2. Attend all practice sessions.
3. Be receptive to coaching.
4. Be responsible for all uniforms and equipment.
5. Represent the school well and follow team rules.
6. Report all injuries to the coach.
7. Must conform to school eligibility regulations.

Responsibilities of a Coach

1. Select the squad.
2. Determine the style and philosophy of play.
3. Teach at practice sessions.
4. Determine who starts at playing time.
5. Establish team rules.
6. Select team captains.
7. Always make safety and the athletes' welfare the top priority.
8. Place the team's needs before the individual's.

Participation on a Team

1. It is a privilege not a right.
2. Players must accept all responsibilities in order to stay on the team.
3. <u>There is no equal or guaranteed playing time. All playing time must be earned by the athlete in practice.</u>

Eligibility

1. Athletes are bound by the district's no pass-no play policy. Grade checks will be run weekly and students that are failing a class will be held accountable.
2. The first week a student is failing any class, they get until Friday of that week to raise all grades to a passing level. (All work must be turned in by Friday) This is the "probation" week. Students can still practice and play in contests during the "probation" week. If the student raises their grades they are fully eligible the next week.
3. If a student is failing any class after the "probation" week, they will be ineligible until all grades are at a passing level.
4. Eligibility will run Monday-Saturday. Students will not be able to regain eligibility mid-week. If they are ruled ineligible on Monday, they cannot play in a contest that week (through Saturday). They can still practice (depending on coaches rules) while ineligible. If a student is ineligible two weeks in a row, they will not be allowed to practice and need to spend time raising their grades.