

Alexander Hamilton Jr./Sr. High School **Extracurricular / Interscholastic Athletic** **Code of Conduct**

All students at Alexander Hamilton Jr./Sr. High School are expected to behave in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of the District's Code of Conduct and the Student Handbooks. The vast majority of Alexander Hamilton students participate in extracurricular and/or interscholastic programs. Representing Alexander Hamilton in interscholastic and/or extracurricular programs is a privilege for students of Alexander Hamilton Jr./Sr. High School. The extension of this privilege depends upon adherence to standards of behavior that reflect positively upon the individual as well as the school.

It is expected that all students will accept the necessary responsibilities with regard to the following:

Academic Responsibilities

Conduct

Training/ Team Rules / Discipline

Personal Discipline

Attendance at Meetings, Activities, Practices, Games and Team Affairs

Care of Equipment and Facilities

Students who represent Alexander Hamilton through the extracurricular and/or interscholastic programs are expected to demonstrate good citizenship in the school and local communities. These expectations apply to every athlete whether on or off the school premises, regardless of whether school is in session at the time of the conduct. Students who do not demonstrate good citizenship will be held accountable for their behaviors, choices, and decisions. Students who do not adhere to these standards are subject to disciplinary action by the school administration.

Academic Eligibility Standards

The Elmsford Union Free School District Board of Education encourages participation in interscholastic athletics by interested and qualified students. The interscholastic athletic program is a direct outgrowth of the Physical Education program. We believe that the athletic program functions as a critical part of the total curriculum. Students will participate in a program that reflects the school philosophy of continual growth and achievement, equal opportunity, and the educational commitment to the physical and intellectual and moral development of each student. Through competitive athletics we seek to promote character, confidence, and self-esteem. The intense social and emotional demands of team play and interscholastic competition provide the areas in education for teaching and demonstrating fundamental values such as commitment, loyalty, hard work, accountability, self discipline, and moral integrity.

In addition, an athlete who fails to meet the following academic eligibility standards is subject to suspension from competition or even permanent removal from the team for the remainder of the sports season.

It is the primary concern of the coaching staff at Alexander Hamilton Jr./Sr. High School that each student-athlete fulfill his/her obligation first as a student, and then as an athlete. The academic eligibility policy was created and adopted with the best interest of the student-athletes in mind.

The academic eligibility policy will be implemented and enforced during a four to six week period during each of the three sports seasons. Each faculty member is given a weekly report in which they have an opportunity to report on any student-athlete who they may have in class during that particular sports season. Each teacher is to identify any student with a cumulative grade of 70 or below. That individual report is handed in to the Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics on Friday of each week the policy is in effect. The reports are summarized and compiled in the form of a report over the weekend, and e-mailed to the coaches, Guidance Counselors, Superintendent and Principal by Monday morning.

1. Any athlete receiving a grade of 70 or below during any week that the policy is in effect will be issued an “extra help form” stating the numbers of required days of extra help he/she must obtain that week. The completed form, signed by the teachers providing the help, must be returned to the Athletic Director on Friday of the week the extra help form is issued. Failure to do so will result in the athlete having to sit out one (1) contest the following week.
2. Students failing one subject during any week that the policy is in effect will be under the same regulations as stated above provided they have met the above guidelines regarding extra help.
3. Any athlete failing two or more subjects during any week that the policy is in effect will be ruled ineligible for competition for one week. During this week of ineligibility, the student/athlete is allowed to practice, but can not participate in any games or competitions. During this time the athlete is not to attend any away contests with the team unless said contests are during a weekend, or a holiday break from school. The student athlete will also be mandated to follow the above guidelines regarding extra help.
4. Any athlete found to be ineligible three times during the course of a single sports season will be permanently removed from the team.

In each of the above cases, a letter is sent home to the parents to inform them of the situation.

Conduct

5. All students, including team managers, are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the behaviors outlined in the District’s Code of Conduct. All team/club/activity participants have a particular obligation to conduct themselves as good citizens in and out of school. Misconduct will result in disciplinary action and possible suspension from the team/club/activity.
6. A student who is suspended either in (I.S.S) or out of school (O.S.S.) for any reason will not be permitted to attend a meeting, event, practice, game, after-school, or school-related activity on the day of the suspension as a participant or spectator. If the suspension does not fall on a game day, club meeting day or day of extracurricular activity the student will be suspended from participation on the date of the next schedule game or extracurricular activity.

7. The administration reserves the right to suspend an individual for additional games/activities/meetings if the severity of the offense warrants such a consequence.

Meetings / Activities / Practice / Games – Team Affairs

8. Students are expected to attend all meetings, activities, practice sessions, games, or other team/club or activities unless excused. Failure to do so may result in possible exclusion from one or more of these listed activities. School athletic/extracurricular programs must take priority over any outside program.
9. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the coach/advisor in advance of his/her anticipated absences from any activity. If a student is detained for disciplinary or academic reasons, he/she must bring a note signed by the person detaining him/her stating the time he/she was released. On non-school days, it is the obligation of the student to notify the coach/advisor, directly if possible, if he/she will be absent from a practice, contest, or extracurricular activity.
10. A student who is absent from school will not be eligible for participation in or to be a spectator at any interscholastic or extracurricular program on the day that he/she is absent. The only exception to this rule will be when such absence is with prior consent of the school principal for reasons of family emergencies, special appointments, or similar activities which are beyond the control of the student.
11. Any student unable to participate in Physical Education class will not be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Travel

12. As a general rule, all students participating in a game/extracurricular activity are to travel to and return from games/extracurricular activities which take place outside the district on the bus or in transportation provided for that purpose by the district. Students who do not travel to the off campus site with the team/club will not be allowed to participate in the scheduled event. Requests by parents for exception to this rule must be made in writing and approved by the Principal or Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics.

Leaving the Team / Extracurricular Program

13. Any student who joins an interscholastic team or extracurricular club is expected to remain a member until the season, or extracurricular program is completed.
14. If a student would like to transfer to another team or leave an extracurricular program at some point during the school year, he/she should discuss the change with his/her current coach/advisor. This conversation should take place before requesting membership on the other team/club and must have permission from both coaches/advisors before he/she may change.
15. Hazing for any sport or extracurricular program will not be tolerated.

Training Rules

It is the overwhelming opinion of health educators, physicians, and coaches that athletes perform best when they follow intelligent training rules which include abstinence from nicotine, alcohol, or other drugs. Medical research clearly substantiates the fact that the use of tobacco, alcohol, and any type of mood altering substance produces harmful effects on the human body.

The regulations, which are terms of this agreement, regarding the possession and/or use of illegal drugs and alcohol will apply to all students participating in any extracurricular or interscholastic sports programs. These are stated below:

16. All students are expected to observe all rules as prescribed by the coach/advisor with regard to curfew and other pertinent considerations and are to refrain from the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, illegal substances, or any other substance that may cause impairment.
17. Any student involved in an extracurricular activity or interscholastic athletic team shall not possess, use, transmit, or be under the influence of tobacco, alcohol, performance enhancing drugs, or controlled substances of any kind during a school year.

For enforcement purposes, all violations of these rules must be brought to the attention of the building administration by school personnel or by a member of the Elmsford Police Department and these violations will be addressed in a timely manner. Athletes are considered to be in training and therefore **should not be in attendance** at any function where underage drinking/open containers of alcohol/drug possession/use are occurring. The student athlete in attendance will be disciplined whether using or not. Should the student choose to attend, he/she will be held accountable for that choice.

For the purposes of these regulations, a season is defined as the time period of a program beginning with the first official practice/tryout and ending with the last contest, including post-season play.

Examples of Inappropriate Behavior

- **Possession and/or Use of Drugs-** The possession and/or use of illegal drugs and/or paraphernalia or the possession and/or use of drugs or medications without a prescription are strictly prohibited.
- **Possession and/or Use of Alcohol and Tobacco Products-** The possession and/or use of alcohol and tobacco products are strictly prohibited.
- **Hosting of Drinking/Drug Parties-** Student athletes are prohibited from hosting and/or attending a party that involves alcohol, drugs, marijuana, or illegal substances.
- **Elmsford Student Code of Conduct Violations-** Any violation of the Elmsford UFSD Student Code of Conduct, resulting in an out-of-school suspension, will result in progressive levels of discipline under this Code.
- **Hazing/Initiation Ceremony-** Hamilton interscholastic coaches will not permit, nor will Hamilton student athletes stage, any type of “initiation ceremony” or hazing for athletes at any time or at any level. This prohibition includes any athlete giving other athletes haircuts, shaving other athletes, locker/shower pranks, etc.
- **Poor Sportsmanship-** Student athletes, whether participants or spectators, will observe courteous behavior during all sporting events. Booing, whistling, name-calling, obscene gestures, fighting or arguing with the referee, etc. will not be tolerated.
- **Stealing-** Stealing of any kind, including athletic clothing belonging to Hamilton or our opponents, will not be tolerated.
- **Vandalism or Property Destruction-** Vandalism or property destruction offenses may result in internal or external suspension and appropriate penalties for violation of the athletic Code.
- **Verbal and/or physical abuse** directed at teachers, coaches, student opponents, officials, etc. will not be tolerated at any time.

Penalties

Penalties resulting from the violation of the Interscholastic Athletic Code will be imposed by the Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics or district designee. In determining appropriate penalties, the Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics or district designee shall be guided as follows:

ELIGIBILITY CHART

# of Regular Season Scheduled Contests	Scheduled Contest Penalty	Scheduled Contest Penalty
	FIRST OFFENSE	SECOND OFFENSE
8	2	4
9	2	4
10	2	4
11	2	4
12	3	6
13	3	6
14	3	6
15	3	6
16	4	8
17	4	8
18	4	8
19	4	8
20	5	10
21	5	10
22	5	10
23	5	10
24	6	11

***It should be noted, notwithstanding the above chart of penalties, that the facts of an incident may warrant immediate removal for the team if the Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics and the administration believe that the offense committed by the athlete warrants such action.**

18. If a captain/extracurricular officer is found to be in violation of the substance abuse policy (first offense), he/she will forfeit the privilege of holding any position of leadership on any team/activity of the remainder of the school year.

Due Process

- Prior to the imposition of any penalty under the code, a meeting will be scheduled with the athlete, parents/guardians, coach, and the Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics. Student athletes, parents/guardians, and coaches will be notified immediately in writing the exact dates of the scheduled contests for which the athlete must be penalized.
- At the conclusion of the meeting, a letter will be sent to the student athlete, parent/guardians, and coaches as notification of the exact dates of the scheduled contests for which the athlete must be penalized and the tentative date that the athlete may resume participating in contests for that season. The letter will also highlight the probationary period the student athlete will serve according to the Interscholastic Athletic Code of Conduct guidelines.

Elmsford Union Free School District Interscholastic Athletic Code of Conduct

First Offense

The penalty assigned will be adjusted proportionately based on the number of regular season scheduled contests in the season. ***Please refer to Eligibility Chart***

- **Penalties:** Penalties, which cannot be served during the sports season in which they are imposed, will be carried over for completion in the next sports season in which the athlete participates and completes. It should be noted that the school year encompasses three sports seasons; therefore, penalties may be carried over into the next school year. ***Refer to Eligibility Chart***
- **Practice:** The student athlete may continue to practice with the team, unless otherwise directed by the coach, but will not be permitted to participate in the team's scheduled competitions according to the Eligibility Chart. For example, a player on a team with a 16-game schedule found in violation of the code would be expected to practice with the team, but would not be permitted to participate in four scheduled contests. Scrimmages **are not** considered scheduled contests.
- **Re-instatement to Sport:** Upon completion of the scheduled contest penalty imposed, the student athlete, his or her parents/guardians, the Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics, and the head coach will attend a meeting as a follow-up to the letter given during the Due Process period. This meeting will release the athlete to fully participate in any remaining scheduled contests for that sport.
- **Probation:** The first offense begins a period of probation for the student athlete, which will take place from the date of the first infraction running through and completion of two (2) consecutive seasons of the same sport.
- Finally, a student athlete found in violation of the code and penalized accordingly, may not be in attendance at a scheduled contest as part of the team until the approved date given by the Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics **and** the penalty violation is served in full.

Second Offense

- For a second offense within the same sport season, the student athlete will be suspended from the team for the remainder of the season. In addition, the student athlete will be barred from receiving any team specific awards (letter, pin, etc.).
- In addition, the student athlete, parents/guardians, Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics, and coach must attend a Superintendent's Hearing.

The Re-Admission Hearing

During the student athlete's probationary period and after serving a scheduled contest penalty according to the Eligibility Chart, the student athlete, parents/guardians, coach, and Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics must attend a mandatory meeting to discuss the athlete being re-admitted to the Interscholastic Athletic Program.

In addition, if a penalty occurs and the student athlete chooses to participate in another sport after committing a violation and serving the penalty, the athlete, parents/guardians, Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics will attend a meeting with the coach of the team for which the athlete intends to try out and participate.

Counseling Recommendation

The Elmsford Union Free School District recommends that all students committing Interscholastic Athletic Code of Conduct Violations consider seeking counseling and/or treatment. If an athlete so chooses to complete such counseling/treatment, he or she is encouraged to bring documentation provided by the center as proof of acting in good faith to improve his or her conduct.

Equipment / Uniform / Facilities / Property

It is the student's responsibility to care of any uniforms, equipment, or other school property during the course of the athletic season or school sponsored extracurricular activity. It is also the responsibility of the student to return all school property at the conclusion of the season or extracurricular activity. Failure to return a uniform in the event of loss, theft or damage due to carelessness carries a financial responsibility.

Alexander Hamilton Jr./Sr. High School
Interscholastic Athletics

Code of Conduct Contract

I, **(student athlete's name)** _____, realize that participation in any Extracurricular Activities and/or Interscholastic Athletic Programs during the school year at Alexander Hamilton High School is a privilege afforded to me only if I comply with the rules and regulations of my school district.

I am aware of the risk of injury which is inherent in all sports participation. I also realize that this risk may be severe, and may include the risk of fractures, brain injuries, paralysis or even death.

As a participant of the Alexander Hamilton Extracurricular Activities and/or Athletic Programs, I promise to conduct myself in a dignified and respectable manner and display a high degree of integrity while representing my district. I understand that failure to act in a proper and dignified manner may result in disciplinary measures.

I am aware that academics have top priority. I have read and understand the district policy. I agree to the terms and conditions set forth in this policy. I understand that attendance at any function where underage drinking/open containers of alcohol/drug possession/use are occurring is in direct violation of the Extracurricular/Interscholastic Athletic Code. In addition, I acknowledge that use, transmission, and/or possession of tobacco, controlled substances, performance enhancing drugs or alcohol is strictly forbidden. I am aware that any violation of the Extracurricular and/or Interscholastic Athletic Code of Conduct would result in the imposition of penalties pursuant to the policy and the Elmsford Union Free School District.

SPORT _____ **YEAR** _____

Student Athlete's Name
(Please print)

Student's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian's Name
(Please print)

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

Alexander Hamilton Jr./Sr. High School
Interscholastic Athletics
Parental Consent Form

Students Name: _____

I give my consent for my son/daughter to participate in _____ (Sport) sponsored by Alexander Hamilton High School. I also grant permission for my son/daughter to participate in the scheduled trips as a member of the aforementioned team.

I hereby covenant and agree to release and hold harmless the Elmsford Union Free School District from and against any and all liability, loss, damages, claims, or actions (including costs and attorneys fees) for bodily injury and/or property damage, to the extent permissible by law, arising out of participation in interscholastic athletics.

I understand participation in interscholastic athletics involves rigorous physical activity and risks of physical injury, and we assume these risks. I also realize that this risk may be severe, and may include the risk of fractures, brain injuries, paralysis or even death. I hereby give consent for emergency transportation and treatment in the event of illness or injury. I hereby accept responsibility for the payment of any emergency transportation or treatment on behalf of the participant. I further certify the participant is in good physical condition, and has no medical or physical conditions that would restrict his/her participation in this sport.

All athletic activities (including non-contact sports) carry some risk of participants sustaining an impact to their head which results in a mild traumatic brain injury, commonly referred to as a concussion. This can be a potentially serious condition with significant health implications, and any student athlete exhibiting its signs and symptoms should receive immediate medical attention. Parents and legal guardians are encouraged to visit the New York State Department of Health's website for further information regarding mild traumatic brain injuries (MTBI). (www.health.ny.gov/publications/3278.pdf)

My parental consent is effective for the _____ school year for the above mentioned sport only.

I am aware that all athletic uniforms and equipment are purchased by the Board of Education, and issued to the student athlete in good faith. Such items are expensive and are purchased to provide maximum protection, service, and a positive appearance for the wearer. Every effort is made by the school to prevent loss or unnecessary damage to uniforms and equipment. I realize that the acceptance of an athletic uniform, and/or equipment by my son/daughter carries a financial responsibility in the event of loss, theft or damage due to carelessness.

(Date)

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian