

HAMILTON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT  
2011 - 2012



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# MISSION STATEMENT HAMILTON LOCAL SCHOOLS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

It is the belief of the Hamilton Local Board of Education that athletics play a vital role in a student's educational experience. Our purpose is to provide each student athlete the educational opportunity to develop lifelong values, good citizenship and ethics through interscholastic athletic competition.

## **REQUIREMENTS OF THE OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND HAMILTON LOCAL SCHOOLS**

A parent of each student-athlete must attend a required OHSAA pre-season meeting in order for his or her child to participate. All student athletes must have completed the following information and have it on file annually with the school's Director of Athletics at the beginning of each sports season. Student athletes are not permitted to practice or try out for any team until the following information is on file:

- Athletic Physical Exam Form
- Emergency Medical Authorization Form
- Insurance Statement and Agreement
- OHSAA Athletic Eligibility Information Bulletin
- Hamilton Local Schools Athletic Code of Conduct Signature Page
- Individual Sport's Code of Conduct
- Pay to Participate Form

The Hamilton Local School District athletic code of conduct has been adopted for athletic participants; any athletic code of conduct violation committed off school grounds and not at a school function will follow the athletic department code of conduct. Athletes committing violations during school hours or at a school function that violate the Hamilton Local School District code of conduct will follow both the Hamilton Local School District code of conduct policies and that of the athletic department.

**HAMILTON LOCAL SCHOOLS  
PAY TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVITY FEE**

**The following activities will require a \$75.00 Activity Fee:**

**Hamilton Township High School**

Baseball  
Basketball  
\*Cheerleading-Basketball  
\*Cheerleading- Football  
Cross Country  
Football  
Golf  
Soccer  
Softball  
Tennis  
Track and Field  
Volleyball  
Wrestling

**Hamilton Middle School**

Baseball  
Basketball  
\*Cheerleading-Basketball  
\*Cheerleading-Football  
Cross Country  
Football  
Softball  
Track and Field  
Volleyball  
Wrestling

**\*Cheerleading-(One time yearly fee)**

The Pay to Participate Activity Fee was instituted to help defray the cost of our extra curricular activity programs. There is a \$225.00 maximum per student athlete per year and a family maximum of \$450.00 per year. All checks are payable to Hamilton Local Schools.

The Pay to Participate Activity Fee must be paid in full before any student athlete can participate in the first game, scrimmage, or competition (whichever comes first). This fee is non-refundable.

The Hamilton Local Schools Pay to Participate Activity Fee plan does not guarantee participation in the event(s). Paying the fee does not alter Hamilton Local School's policies, Ohio High School Athletic Association regulations, Hamilton Township Athletic Department Code of Conduct and individual team or activity rules.

## **HAMILTON TOWNSHIP ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

It is a privilege to be a member of an athletic team in the Hamilton Local School District; a right that can only be earned when one abides by the rules of the school and of the game. Our athletes are expected to be models of good behavior. They are representing the school and the community at athletic events throughout the area. We want to be proud of their efforts.

Any student participating in any school athletic program shall carry either the district's student insurance or provide a written statement signed by the student's parents or guardians that the parents or guardians are providing the insurance.

### **RULES CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION**

**Ohio High School Athletic Association** rules concerning eligibility are to be discussed with the squad.

1. Each student athlete must be academically eligible at the start of each sport season according to the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) academic guidelines and meet the requirements put forth by the Hamilton Local Board of Education.

#### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETES**

- Minimum scholarship requirement of the OHSAA for grades 9, 10, 11, 12: Grade point average on a 4.0 grading scale. If a student has a GPA below a 1.5 but eligible according to OHSAA academic policy for eligibility the preceding grading period, he/she may petition to the building Principal to waive the 1.5 GPA minimum requirements.

If the building Principal approves the petition, the Principal will establish an individualized academic guideline for the student, in order to attain the 1.5 GPA.

- Student athletes must have received passing grades during the previous nine-week grading period in subjects that earn a minimum of five (5) credits per year toward graduation.

#### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Minimum scholarship requirement of the OHSAA:

1. Seventh and eighth grade students are eligible to participate in athletics if they have passing grades in five of their classes. Incoming seventh grade students are academically eligible for interscholastic extracurricular activities during the first grading period of the seventh grade.
2. Summer school grades earned may not be used to substitute for failing grades from the last grading period of the regular school year.
3. In order to play in a game, players must be in attendance for one-half day during the day of the game. The student must be in attendance for the entire day on the day following a contest.
4. When a player is removed from or quits a team, organized conditioning or participation on another team is forbidden until the original sport regular season (as defined by the OHSAA) is completed.
5. A student may be declared ineligible by the administrative office for reasons of discipline (which may include, but is not limited to a violation of state, local, or federal criminal or juvenile law).
6. Medical clearance and insurance waivers are required prior to participation. Physicals are valid for a period of time as defined in the OHSAA Handbook (if the pre- participation athletic evaluation is conducted between May 1 and June 1, the pre- participation evaluation, signed by the medical examiner, is valid for one calendar year plus the remainder of the next school year).

## **STUDY TABLE AND INTERIM ELIGIBILITY CHECKS**

Each head coach is responsible for monitoring each athlete's academic progress during the season. If a coach feels that a student athlete is falling below standard, the head coach can require mandatory study tables for students below standard until his academic performance is considered acceptable.

Any student athlete receiving two grades of "D" or below on interim eligibility checks will be required to have his or her grades monitored by the head coach on a weekly basis until the student has a grade of "C" or better in each class or upon a review of the following interim or marking period. Also, upon receiving an interim report, each student athlete receiving two grades of "D" or below will be placed on academic probation and must attain passing marks in classes that would account for five units of credit to remain eligible on a week to week basis until the next interim report. The Athletic Director will monitor weekly grades for participation purposes.

## **NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE**

Students that are interested in competing at the college level should become familiar with the NCAA by visiting the web site at [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org). This section provides information on how student-athletes can comply with NCAA bylaws in order to compete in intercollegiate athletics. It includes information on what high school students need to do to be eligible to compete their first year in college, as well as guidelines that coaches and prospective student-athletes must follow during the recruiting process.

## **PRACTICE RULES**

Individual coaches will establish written rules and regulations regarding practice, attendance and conduct at games.

## **BLOOD DRIVE DONATION**

Although blood drive donations are supported by The Hamilton Local School District, due to the immediate negative affects on athletes participating on an athletic team, athletes are not permitted to donate blood while in season. Athletes are encouraged to schedule a blood donation when not participating in a sport in-season.

## **SUPPLEMENTAL STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE**

The Hamilton Local School District recognizes that students may suffer injuries in the course of attendance at school. Accordingly, the District provides insurance coverage as authorized by Ohio law and makes available to parent's insurance coverage for other incidents. The District is not permitted to use public funds for insurance to cover injuries sustained in the course of attendance at school and is immune from damage as is authorized by Ohio law and Chapter 2744 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Sovereign Immunity Law of the State of Ohio.

The Board provides parents the opportunity to purchase group insurance coverage, at no cost to the Board, for injury resulting from accidents sustained by students in school, on school grounds, at an activity sponsored by the school, while traveling between home and school or in any activity round-the-clock. The purchase of this program is optional.

The Board requires, as per Board of Education Policy JHA, that some type of accident insurance cover students participating in interscholastic school athletics. The insurance may be the accident policy, which has been approved by the Board or a similar policy type acquired elsewhere by the student or his/her parents. The requirements of this policy are contained in the district athletic handbook.

The board maintains insurance coverage for injury resulting from accidents sustained in the course of transportation under the authority of the Board.

## **SPORTS PER SEASON/TEAM TRANSFER**

Student athletes are permitted to participate in multiple sports during the same season. A preseason meeting will be held with the student athlete, athletic director, and head coaches of the two sports involved. The athlete will declare a “primary” sport. A mutually accepted agreement regarding practice schedules and game/meet participation for the entire season will be developed by the athletic director and signed by all participants in the meeting.

If a student athlete is “cut” from a team during a try-out period, he/she may tryout for another team during the same season with permission from the athletic director and head coach of the second sport. Student athletes may not transfer from one sport to another after the first scheduled contest in that sport has been played.

## **STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING**

All student athletes are encouraged to participate in the Hamilton Township strength and conditioning program. The program is adjusted to meet the needs of all student athletes, in season and out of season.

## **TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS**

Student athletes are required to ride the team bus to and from athletic events. Departure from this requirement will release the Hamilton Local Board of Education and its employees from all liability for any adverse results that may occur. Any and all exceptions must have a travel release form obtained from the athletic director, signed by the parent/ guardian and be on file with the athletic director prior to the dismissal of school on the day of the contest. Reasons for not riding the team bus must be urgent to family needs to justify not traveling with the team.

## **CONDUCT / APPEARANCE**

While representing Hamilton Local Schools, each student athlete will display proper conduct and appearance that will create a positive image upon himself/herself, teammates, and the student body of the Hamilton Local School District. Each student athlete will wear the appropriate attire on days of contests, as his/her coach requires. Student athletes are not permitted to wear jewelry during competition, practice or in the weight room. This policy includes student volunteers (managers, trainers, statisticians, etc.) and injured athletes still on the team.

Students must maintain natural hair color, keeping hair and facial hair neatly trimmed.

Penalty:

First Violation-Warning, asked to conform to appearance expectations. All Subsequent Violations-Denial of participation from the game, contest, meet or match.

## **RULES CONCERNING STUDENT ATHLETE BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE**

### **SCHOOL SUSPENSION**

When a student athlete is serving an out-of-school suspension, he/she is excluded from participation in all athletic activities/events and practices during the specified duration of the suspension. When a student is serving an in-school suspension, he/she may be given permission to attend school activities or participate in athletic contests. The principal or designee makes this decision based on the offense for which the student was assigned an in-school suspension.

### **SCHOOL EARLY RELEASE POLICY**

Student athletes are to follow the lockout policy in the Hamilton Township Student Handbook. Failure of a student athlete to abide by the lockout policy may result in denial of participation of one or more contests or events as determined by the principal or his designee. If transportation back to practice is a problem, the student athlete can request a study hall during the season of participation.

### **DESTRUCTIVE CONDUCT**

Any destructive conduct that discredits the school or its athletic teams such as, but not limited to; theft, vandalism, physical assault, or destruction of property will not be tolerated. This includes such acts against the school, coach, fellow player, or faculty member.

Penalty:

Denial of participation in all athletic programs for one calendar year from the date of occurrence: the student athlete may request, in writing, a hearing in front of the Superintendent or his designee to seek to be reinstated to the athletic program earlier than one calendar year.

## DRUG AND TOBACCO POLICY

The policies mentioned below are in effect for the entire calendar year including the off- season. These rules **MUST** be observed at all times and in all places. Policy violations will be documented and accumulated throughout the middle school and high school career of the athlete.

- A. No student athlete shall possess or use tobacco in any form
- B. No student athlete shall possess or use alcoholic or mock alcoholic beverages
- C. No student athlete shall possess un-prescribed drugs or misuse prescribed drugs
- D. No student athlete shall possess or use any illegal or counterfeit drug or substance

### Penalty:

Upon the first violation will result in the denial of participation in athletic contests for 10 school days with a maximum of 4 contests, whichever comes first. The athlete will be released to practice following a conference has been held by the principal or his designee and the parent/guardian of the student athlete.

Second violation will result in denial of participation in any athletic activity for 90\* school days from the date of the due process papers and the loss of any award the student athlete may have qualified.

\*An evaluation at a treatment facility will be asked of the student and if a chemical dependence is found, the student will be asked to go into treatment program at no cost to the Hamilton Board of Education or its employees. If the student undergoes recommended treatment, the penalty will be reduced to 45 days.

Third violation will result in denial of participation from athletic activities for 180 school days from the date of the due process papers. The student athlete must provide a negative drug test before being allowed to try out for another sports season.

### *New Option 2005 – 2006*

*A student suspended for a third violation has the option to undergo treatment at an in-house treatment facility for drug and alcohol abuse. All cost to attend the treatment will be the responsibility of the athlete and his/her parents (guardian). After satisfactory completion of the program, upon approval by the*

*Superintendent of Hamilton Local Schools or designee, he/she may compete the following sports season and submit to and pass a drug test when requested by the Director of Athletics. The athlete / guardian will incur the cost of such test.*

*If the athlete violates the drug and alcohol policy for a fourth time, the athlete will be denied participation in athletics for 180 school days.*

Self referral/integrity clause\*: If an athlete violates the athletic drug and alcohol policy and reports himself/herself before being questioned by the coach, athletic director or principal, the denial of participation in athletic events will be reduced by one-half for the first and second violations only. Note: The self-referral/integrity clause does not apply to student athletes after being caught in violation of the drug and/or alcohol by school administration or other authorities.

## **HAZING**

Hazing activities of any type are prohibited at all times. No student, including leaders of student organizations or teams shall plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing.

Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by any individual subject to hazing does not lessen the prohibition of this policy.

Penalty:

The principal will determine the disciplinary action taken for any student athlete involved in hazing. This is a serious offense and may result in not only denial of participation in athletics, but suspension from school and possible recommendation for expulsion.

## **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Sexual harassment is prohibited at all times. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to: sexual advances, touching of a sexual nature, graffiti of a sexual nature, displaying or distributing sexually explicit drawings, pictures, and written materials, sexual gestures, sexual or dirty jokes, pressure for sexual favors, touching oneself sexually or talking about one's sexual activity in front of others, spreading rumors about or rating students regarding sexual activity or performance, and courts have added the acts of mooning and departing as forms of sexual harassment.

Penalty:

The principal will determine the disciplinary action taken for any student athlete involved in sexual harassment. This is a serious offense and may result in not

only denial of participation in athletics, but suspension from school and possible recommendation for expulsion.

**REPRIMAND BY THE PRINCIPAL OR ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

The principal and athletic director retain the right to discipline any student athlete for improper attitude, conduct, or other cause which may reflect unfavorably on the Hamilton Local School District's athletic programs, academics, or administration.

Penalty:

Penalty could range from a warning or denial of participation for a length of time up to a maximum of one year from the date of the infraction.

**DETACH, READ, SIGN, AND RETURN THIS SHEET ONLY**

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT  
CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT FORM,  
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK FORM,  
AND

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE FORM

I hereby apply to participate in interscholastic athletics and or activities in the Hamilton Local School District. I understand participating in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. I realize a risk of being injured inherent in all athletics or activities. I realize injury may be severe, including fractures, brain injuries, paralysis or even death. I agree to accept this risk during my participation in athletics and/or activities.

**Signature of Student** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**We as parent(s) or guardian of** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Print Student's Name)**

Hereby grant our son/daughter permission to be a candidate for the athletic and/or activity programs. We understand participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a given right. We agree to assist our son/daughter in fulfilling his/her obligations as a candidate and potential team member. Furthermore, we realize there is a risk of being injured, which is inherent in all athletics and activities. We realize injury may be severe, including fractures, brain injuries, paralysis or even death. We consent to permit our child to participate in athletics and/or activities.

**I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Hamilton Township  
Athletic Department Code of Conduct**

**Signature of Student Athlete:**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Parent(s) or Guardian(s):**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_