

The Hamilton Boy's Soccer Coach's Pledge

The Hamilton Boy's Soccer Coach's Pledge extends beyond a knowledge of athletics and reaches into the life of each of our players. It is one of the most important responsibilities and involves at least the same level of effort and commitment that we coaches expect of the players. Mutual respect and team membership are to be expected equally of the players and the coaches and, for the coach, involves the following promises:

As a Boy's Soccer Coach at Hamilton Local Schools I Promise:

1. To be a model of appropriate language and behavior.
2. To respect and dignify each of my athletes as an individual
3. To promote the safety of each athlete and to ask no more in practice or competition than each is capable of delivering, but...
4. To promote the conditions and circumstances that encourage each athlete to realize his or her full potential.
5. To impose time demands that acknowledge the primary importance of each athlete's academic and family responsibilities.
6. To promote among all athletes and coaches a solid sense of team membership.
7. To reflect in my coaching the best and most recent thinking/strategy in soccer.
8. To assist, whenever appropriate and mutually convenient, with the post high school planning of my players as it relates to athletics.
9. To be available to parents at times that are mutually convenient (see Parent/Coach Communication)
10. To work, whenever appropriate, with other school personnel to guarantee the best interests of each of our student-athlete soccer players.

Parent/Coach Communication

The Relationship Between Parents and Coaches

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefits to the student athlete. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our program, you have the right to understand the expectations that are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's team.

Communication You Should Expect From Your Child's Coach

1. Philosophy of the Program and Coach
2. Members of the coaching staff and which coach or coaches will be working with your child.
3. Expectations of the coach for your child and the team.
4. Location and times of all practices, contests and other team events.
5. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, team rules.
6. Procedures should your child be injured during practice or a contest
7. Discipline procedures that may result in the denial of your child's participation.

Communication the Coach Expects from the Parents (see process noted at the end of this page)

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concerns in regard to the coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
4. Specific medical problems that could adversely impact your child's performance and safety.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with the Coach

1. The treatment of your child mentally and physically
2. Ways to help you child improve
3. Concerns about your child's behavior
4. Family concerns that may have an emotional impact upon your child and their athletic participation.

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with the Coach

1. Playing time for your child.
2. Team strategy.
3. Lineups and substitutions.
4. Other student athletes on the team

Unacceptable Contact with the Coach

1. Prior to and during practice
2. Prior to, during and directly after a game.

These are typically either very busy times or in the case of a contest, very emotional times for all parties involved. Things can and will be said that are not meant. Meetings of this nature do not promote a resolution to the situation.

Procedure for contact with the Coach

There are situations that may require some sort of resolution. These are encouraged in order for all parties involved to have a clear understanding of the others position. When you feel such is the case, please follow the following procedure:

First, have your child approach the coach after a practice and address the situation personally on his own. Part of our job (parents and coaches) is to help these individuals to learn how to deal with conflicts on their own. In most cases, this will resolve the situation. After this approach, if you feel the situation needs resolved further, contact the coach outside of the practice or game time and set up a time when all parties can meet. Finally, should you still feel a need for further resolution, I will set up a time for you, your son, myself, and any of my coaching staff to sit down and meet with the athletic director.

Hamilton Township Boy's Soccer Team Rules

Each player in the Hamilton Boy's Soccer Program is expected to conduct himself in a manor that does not adversely affect or reflect badly upon himself, his family, his teammates, his soccer program or Hamilton Local Schools. The following rules are designed to help guide you with your participation in the program. However, there is no replacement for basic team commitment, dedication and the use of common sense.

1. Players are expected to be on time and in attendance at all team functions, including but not limited to practice, games, scrimmages, weightlifting, film sessions, study tables and team meals unless prearranged with the coaching staff ahead of time. This includes injured players.
2. Players will be given team practice gear (shirt, shorts and socks) and are required to wear it to all team practices.
3. Players will be given game equipment and are expected to be prepared appropriately for all team contests, home and away.
4. Age and size appropriate shin guards with a NOSCAE stamp are to be worn for all practices and games unless otherwise directed by the coaching staff.
5. Cell phones and texting is not permitted at any time during practice or games unless otherwise directed by the coaching staff. This includes the pregame period 45 minutes ahead of a scheduled contest. Individual music player head sets may be used during warm up time only.
6. Players will be assigned a locker space in the locker room. They are expected to maintain the space with pride and realize the privilege they have as a member of the soccer program.
7. No stealing, from teammates or opponents.
8. All players are to ride to and from contests with the school bus unless prearranged in writing with the athletic department secretary 24 hours ahead of the game day.
9. Any player absent from practice without a written or personally communicated parental excuse will not play the next subsequent game.
10. Any player receiving any type of school disciplinary action such as extended day or ISS will, at minimum, not start the next subsequent game and, depending upon the severity of the disciplinary issue, may not play the next subsequent game.

Failure to comply with the rules above will result in a consultation with the coaching staff and will be dealt with on a case by case basis. Consequences will range anywhere from a simple verbal reprimand all the way up to suspension or dismissal from the team, depending on the nature and severity of the misconduct.

These rules are in addition to those already established in the Hamilton Local Schools Athletic Code of Conduct and the Hamilton Local Schools Student Handbook.

By signing below, I am indicating that I have read, understand, agree with and will abide by the rules set forth above.

Student Athletes Signature

Date

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date