

# **Hamilton Township Boys Basketball**

## **Program Philosophy**

Sports are supposed to be a fun and rewarding time for student athletes. This is also a great way to work on some qualities that we can transfer into our every day lives. Qualities Rangers should have include: honesty, loyalty, respect, and unselfishness. Throughout our journey, this team will build unity, mental toughness, self-sacrifice, and hold a positive mental attitude. These will help us succeed on and off the court. If these are instilled I have all the confidence in the world that this will be a great time for the HT Basketball Program!

## **Expectations**

Being a student athlete comes with a few responsibilities. The student part WILL ALWAYS come first. If we do not perform in the classroom (PASS 5 CLASSES) our fun on the court can be taken away. Being involved in a sport also means that you are expected to act/ behave in certain ways to make our program look good. Any conduct that brings unwanted attention towards us as a team will not be tolerated. BE POSITIVE!!! ANY GUIDELINES SET FORTH BY THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR/HTHS MUST BE HONORED BY ALL RANGERS.

## **Attendance**

When a player has 3 UNEXCUSED absences they will be forced to exit the team. Players need to communicate with coaches if they are going to be missing a practice. We understand that things come up, but all athletes are held to the same standard and asked to be at practice each and every day. If there is a valid excuse (death in the family, doctor visit, sick, test, etc.) it needs to be communicated to your coach. Doctor's notes from visits can be given to coach when you return. If you are injured you are still expected to be at practice to be a part of the team. This is also a great time for you to get treatment. An email will more than likely work the best for us. Please DO NOT talk through another player. You need to be responsible to report your own absence. Even though these are excused absences, when you miss a practice you will be responsible for putting in some extra work when you get back so that you are being a great teammate.

## **Facilities**

Please respect our facilities at home and on the road as well. Be a good citizen and clean up after yourself. From the weight room, gym, locker room, even the bus, we will leave these places just like we found them, CLEAN! When visiting schools, please follow the same policy and respect their building rules.

## **Practice**

- 1) BE ON TIME!! There are consequences for being tardy and this can result in loss of playing time if it becomes an issue.
- 2) Team issued practice gear must be worn at all practices. Forgetting this or not wearing this disrupts the flow of practice and will result in consequences.
- 3) When practices starts all gear/attire must be taken care of so that you start on time. (BE DRESSED AND READY TO GO)
- 4) NO PLAYERS SHOULD EVER BE IN THE GYM WITHOUT A COACH PRESENT. WAIT IN THE HALLWAY OR LOCKEROOM UNTIL A COACH IS THERE.
- 5) We want to have fun, but horseplay will not be accepted. Be focused on the task at hand during each practice.
- 6) Do not use the training room as an excuse to be late for practice. If you need to get taped, for example, this is something you need to plan ahead for. Show up early.
- 7) Leave personal belongings in the locker room in your locker. (Cell phones, bags, etc.)
- 8) You need to have items in your locker locked up while practice is going on. WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS. IF IT IS LOCKED UP THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY ISSUES. THIS INCLUDES CHARGING ITEMS WHILE AT PRACTICE!
- 9) There should be no parents/spectators at practice.
- 10) Weight rooms/film/study tables are practice too. Be at them like you would for practice, ON TIME!!

PLEASE FOLLOW THESE RULES. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN LOSS OF PLAYING TIME OR REMOVAL FROM THE TEAM.

## **GAMES**

We will decide as a team what we will wear to and from games when the season starts. When the team votes on this, we will all be expected to dress this way. Wear our colors and our gear to represent the team well. JV players will arrive 1 hour before their home game starts and varsity players are expected to show up before the start of the JV game. Bus times will be posted for away games as those games approach. Be on time for these away games. The bus will NOT wait and will NOT turn around if you show up late.

Please plan on staying for the entire time if you are a member of the team. Varsity will sit together behind our JV bench and JV will return the favor for the varsity game. There should not be any players going to the concession stand or leaving the bench area during a game. Take care of these things during halftimes of games NOT in between quarters. PARENTS, please respect this setup and try and not sit real close to our bench as we are trying to coach your children. We would appreciate it if the only voices that they are paying attention to are coaches' and their teammates'.

Players are asked to ride the bus to and from games. If an issue comes up that you should need to leave after a game with a parent, there is a form that needs to be filled out and on file the day before the contest in the athletic director's office. **NO FORM, YOU MUST RETURN HOME ON THE BUS UNLESS AN EMERGENCY OCCURS.**

### **DURING A GAME**

- 1) Pay attention, be involved, and be positive.
- 2) Listen to your coach, not the crowd. Great players learn to block this out.
- 3) Play with maximum effort.
- 4) Have good sportsmanship and respect your opponent.
- 5) Do not talk back to officials. Coaches can handle this part of the game.
- 6) Players sitting behind the bench will stand during a timeout.
- 7) Technical fouls will not be tolerated. Not all technical fouls are equal. Depending on the severity, you may not go back into the game.
- 8) When the game ends, please report directly to the locker room so that we can talk and then you are free to go meet parents/fans.
- 9) Parents, please be kind and save talking to a coach until a later date. If you try to do so after a game you have to be aware that we have not seen the film and had a chance to digest what has occurred. This is also a time when emotions can be high. To avoid issues, ask to maybe talk to coach the next day before or after practice.

### **THIS IS A TEAM**

How we carry ourselves as teammates can result in wins or losses. If we take care of business and work hard I have all the faith in our success as the season goes on. Being positive about how we handle day-to-day operations is key. You will get out what you put in as they say. If you are talking negatively about us in public or even on social media this is not helping what we are trying to build. Emotions can sometimes get to us, but we need to learn to move on and learn from what happens. If this becomes an issue, it will be dealt with by the coaching staff here at HT. This goes for comments on social media towards officials as well. Technically, a suspension can be handed down by the OHSAA for negative media comments!

### **PARENTS**

Please be prompt when picking up your child.  
Be supportive of our team!  
Cheer for us and do not root against other players.  
Represent our school well, home and away.  
Avoid the trap of responding to other fans from opposing schools.  
IF an issue comes up during a game report it to a staff member of HT for them to handle. This is not your job.  
Your children feed off of you, always remember that.  
Let the Coaches coach and the players play.  
Let officials do their job and the Coaches handle the effects of their work.

## **PLAYING TIME**

The coaching staff determines this based on practice, workouts, film study, and games. We would like to play as many people as possible, but it is something they must earn! If you have an issue about playing time first encourage your child to meet with us. This helps them speak up for themselves and the issue may be resolved right then. If this does not work feel free to reach out to coach as long as it is not directly after a game, like previously stated.

“I am looking forward to this season and I am really excited to get started. I have been a part of some special sports seasons in my lifetime and I hope to add positive experiences to your lives as we go on this journey together. These are some of the best memories a student-athlete can have from their high school years. Lets work together to ensure they have a blast in ‘18-‘19!!! GO RANGERS!!!! ”

- Coach Merryman

### Contacts:

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