

# HAMILTON

LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT 2024-2025



*“Every Ranger, Every Reason, Every Day”*

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## MISSION STATEMENT OF HAMILTON LOCAL SCHOOLS DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

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 through Hamilton Local Schools Finals Forms account annually with the school's Athletic Director at the beginning of each sports season. Hardcopy Athletic Physical Forms must be on file with the Athletic Director [2024-2025 OHSAA Physical and Participation Form](#). Student athletes are not permitted to practice or try out for any team until the following information is on file:

- [2024-2025 OHSAA Physical and Participation Form](#)
- Final Forms completed fully
- Attend Mandatory Preseason Parent meeting
- Individual Sport's Code of Conduct

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. **Student 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 Department of Athletics.**

## HAMILTON LOCAL SCHOOLS DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS 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 student 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.

### **DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

The Hamilton Local School Board of Education defines the following data in the student records as directory information: name; address; date and place of birth; extracurricular participation; achievement awards or honors; weight and height of members of athletic teams; dates of attendance, and date of graduation. Directory information will be released without the consent of the student or the parent unless the school has been notified *in writing* not to release such information.

## **RULES CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION**

Ohio High School Athletic Association rules concerning eligibility are to be discussed with the squad. *For continually updated OHSAA eligibility requirements, please visit:*  
<http://www.ohsaa.org/Eligibility>

As a condition for the privilege of participating in interscholastic extracurricular activities, a student must have attained a minimum grade-point average of 1.5 on a 4.0 grading scale. If a student has a GPA below a 1.5 but is eligible according to Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) academic policy for eligibility the preceding grading period, the building principal may determine a plan for the students' continued academic progress, and approve the student's participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities, subject to the approval of the Superintendent/designee.

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:
- 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:
- Seventh and eighth grade students are eligible to participate in athletics if they have passing grades in four of their classes. Incoming seventh grade student athletes are academically eligible for interscholastic extracurricular activities during the first grading period of the seventh grade.

### **PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL STUDENT ATHLETES**

1. Summer school grades earned **may not** be used to substitute for failing grades from the last grading period of the regular school year.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. A student athlete 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).
5. 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 one month of the next school year).

A student who is home schooled (excused from compulsory education) and is enrolled in a member school in accordance with the partial enrollment policy of a Board of Education or similar governing board may be eligible at the school where the student is enrolled and attending. Note: A student entering a member school from a home school must do so at the beginning of the school year after having been homeschooled for at least one calendar year. Failure to meet this one-year provision requires the student to be enrolled for a minimum of one grading period before the student can be declared eligible.

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

Each head coach is responsible for monitoring each student 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/her 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 athlete 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**

Student athletes 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 student athletes 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 effects on athletes participating on an athletic team, student 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 student athletes 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 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 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 our 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.

### **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. This policy includes student volunteers (managers, trainers, statisticians, etc.) and injured athletes still on the team.

#### **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**

### **Positive Learning Under Supervision (PLUS)**

Positive Learning Under Supervision may be used as an alternative to Out-of-School Suspension (OSS). Students will be assigned PLUS at the discretion of the administration. Students may not be allowed to participate or attend any school activities or contests, or be present at activities controlled by the school until the day following the last day of the PLUS assignment.

### **Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)**

Students may be suspended from school for violations of the Student Conduct Policy. Students are not allowed to be present on school property, participate in or attend any school activities or contests, or be present at home or away activities until the day following the last day of the suspension. Students are required to obtain, complete, and return all assignments missed during an Out-of-School Suspension. **Excessive suspensions may result in expulsion.**

### **MEDIA, RECORDING OR TRANSMITTING**

A student shall not record or transmit audio/video/photographs of any student, district employee or other person without the express written permission from the student's parent, employee, or other person.

Participating in activities such as band, drama, athletics, and other school related groups may result in photographs and/or videos being taken and appearing in activity programs, school yearbooks, video and print media, and other sources due to the nature of the activity.

### **SCHOOL LATE ARRIVAL/EARLY RELEASE POLICY**

Student athletes are to follow the late arrival/early release policy in the Hamilton Township High School Student Handbook. Failure of a student athlete to abide by the late arrival/early release policy may result in denial of participation of one or more contests or events as determined by the principal or 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 social media comments, destruction of property will not be tolerated. This includes such acts against the school, opposing team and/or players, coach, fellow player, or faculty member.

#### **Penalty:**

Penalty could range from a warning or denial of participation in all athletic programs for one calendar year from the date of occurrence, to be determined by Director of Athletics and High School Principal or designee: the student athlete or parent/guardian 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, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO POLICY**

The Hamilton Local School District does not permit any student to possess, transmit, conceal, offer for sale, consume, show evidence of having consumed or used any alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, unprescribed drugs, look-alike drugs or any mind-altering substance while on school grounds or facilities; at school-sponsored events; in other situations under the authority of the District or in school-owned or school-approved vehicles. Included in this prohibition are any

substances represented as a controlled substance, nonalcoholic beers, steroids, tobacco and tobacco products and drug paraphernalia.

The Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco policy is 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.

**Penalty:**

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 that has been held by the principal or designee, the athletic director and the parent/guardian of the student athlete.

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

A third violation will result in denial of participation from athletic activities for 180 school days from the date of the due process hearing.

A reduction in penalty may be considered if the student receives professional assistance. Professional assistance may include but not be limited to an alcohol/drug education program; assessment with follow-through based on the assessment findings, counseling, outpatient treatment or inpatient treatment. Please note that all transportation and professional assistance costs will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian/student.

**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 or designee 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 depanting as forms of sexual harassment.



**Penalty:**

The principal or designee 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 or designee 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.

**COMMUNICATION WITH COACHES**

Hamilton Local Schools Department of Athletics encourages parents/guardians to have open lines of communication with their student athlete's coaches. Coaches are permitted to take up to 24 hours after a contest to respond to any concerns that may have been raised by a parent/guardian or student athlete. At no time should a parent/guardian approach a coach before, during or after a contest. All concerns should be first addressed to the student athlete's coach, then the program's head coach and then the Athletic Director.

**SPECTATOR/FAN EXPECTATIONS**

- Remember that school athletics are learning experiences for students and that mistakes will be made.
- A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others.
- Learn the rules of the game so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
- Show respect for the opposing team/players, coaches, spectators, and support groups.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before and during games and afterwards on or near the site of the event (i.e. tailgating).
- Refrain from cheers which downplay the opponent or which use profane or abusive language

**FAN CODE OF CONDUCT**

Hamilton Local Schools, in association with the Ohio High School Athletic Association promotes interscholastic events and sportsmanship. Sportsmanship is an essential part of any athletic contest and is expected from fans as well. Our behavior should be positive, respectful, and encouraging.

Participants and responsible adults involved in Board approved activities are expected to demonstrate the same level of responsibility and behavior at competitions and practices as is expected in the classroom. Hamilton Local Schools further encourages the development and promotion of sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity in all phases of the educational process and in all segments of the community, including participants, coaches, fans, spirit groups, and support/booster groups.

Failure to comply with these principles and/or ejection from an athletic contest (ejection by an official, administrator, etc.) may result in individual bans from district property and events ranging from a game/contest to indefinite bans.

All spectators are asked to cheer FOR your team, support them in a positive way and refrain from any negative, derogatory, or inflammatory remarks toward ANY player, coach or official. We also require all spectators to refrain from entering the field of play, for any reason. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in removal from this contest, and all future contests this season.