

# HESPERIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

“Home of the Panthers”

Athletic Code of Conduct



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## FOREWORD

This booklet contains information to make the student athlete and their parents aware of the policies and procedures which apply to all athletes participating in Hesperia Community Schools' athletic programs. It is important that a parent read this book, attend the seasonal Parent Night meeting, and understand the materials that are covered by this code.

It is also important to remember that athletics is a privilege and that all athletes are expected to live up to high standards in representing themselves, their family, the school, and the community. We expect all athletes' conduct to be exemplary, whether in the classroom, the competition field or public. All athletes are to respect themselves, their opponents, the officials, the facilities and equipment.

We wish you the best of luck and support as you pursue the opportunity to develop new life-long skills in team work, self-discipline, and responsibility, and also to push yourself both physically and mentally to achieve both personal and team goals.

Hesperia High School's athletic program is an extension of its educational program and adheres to the philosophy and objectives prescribed by the Hesperia Board of Education and the Michigan High School Athletic Association. The contents of this handbook help define the policies and procedures used within the Department of Athletics that are specific to participants and parents/guardians.

## Goals of Athletic Participation

- **STUDENT-ATHLETES LEARN TEAMWORK** – to work with others in a democratic society a person must develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. You accomplish this by placing the team and its objectives higher than your personal desires.
- **STUDENT-ATHLETES LEARN TO BE SUCCESSFUL** – our society is very competitive. You will not always win, but you will succeed when you continually strive to do so.
- **STUDENT-ATHLETES LEARN TO BE A GOOD SPORT** – you must learn to accept success and not let it go to your head. You must also learn to accept defeat knowing that you've done your best. You must continually strive to treat others as you would have them treat you. Through participation in athletics you must develop positive social traits. Some of these traits worth mentioning are: emotional control, honesty, cooperativeness, and dependability.
- **STUDENT-ATHLETES LEARN TO ENJOY ATHLETICS** – many athletes are involved in athletics for many reasons, the least being the enjoyment derived. Hopefully, you will learn to enjoy this period in your life and appreciate your personal rewards.
- **STUDENT-ATHLETES LEARN DESIRABLE HEALTH HABITS** – to be an active, contributing citizen, it is important to obtain and maintain a high degree of physical fitness through exercise and good health habits. Your participation in athletics should demonstrate to you the importance of good health habits.
- **SPORTSMANSHIP**  
As an athlete, you can help us continue to improve upon our reputation as a school which is known for good sportsmanship. We must all work hard in conducting ourselves in a respectful manner. Displays of poor sportsmanship can and will result in sanctions against the offending athlete (i.e., suspension from the following event) and/or school. Always observe the following guidelines for good sportsmanship:
  1. The good name of our school is more important than any contest won by unfair play.
  2. Accept decisions of officials without dispute. They are never responsible for your success, so do not blame them for your failure.
  3. Recognize and show appreciation for the fine play of your opponent.
  4. Be proud of your school's reputation and work hard to protect it.

## Message to the Parents

Welcome to the athletic program at Hesperia Community Schools. We hope that all of your athletic experiences will be positive, and that you, as well as the school will benefit from your involvement in the athletic program. Please take the time to read the entire handbook so that you will have an understanding of our athletic policies, requirements, rules, and expectations.

Participation in athletics is a privilege offered to the students of Hesperia Community Schools. To be a Hesperia athlete you must do more than make a team or participate in a contest. A high school athlete has to be dedicated, enjoy being challenged, and give 100% every day on and off the field. An athlete must strive to do well in the classroom and must maintain the academic requirements prescribed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association and Hesperia Community Schools. The teachers, coaches, and administrators of Hesperia Community Schools are committed to helping each athlete to be the best they can be. Each athlete must make the same commitment.

As educators we, who are concerned with the educational development of young people through athletics, feel that a properly controlled, well-organized athletic program meets the student-athlete's needs for rigorous fitness, relevant to their future in any professional area, and gives them the ability to develop relationships in several settings. It is our hope to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and will further each student-athlete's educational maturity.

A student-athlete who elects to participate in athletics is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and dedication. These are the reasons we place such emphasis on good training habits. Failure to comply with training and self-disciplinary rules may result in the consequences and penalties outlined in this handbook. There is no place in athletics for student-athletes who will not discipline their minds and bodies for rigorous competition or demonstrate appropriate behavior and/or sportsmanship. We are striving for excellence and do not want our student-athletes to settle for mediocrity.

When your son/daughter participates in athletics at Hesperia Community Schools our staff will strive to provide your son/daughter with:

- Proper equipment and facilities
- The best teaching and coaching personnel possible
- Equalized contests with skilled officials
- Supervised transportation

Similarly, we feel you have assumed certain responsibilities and obligations when you permit your son/daughter to compete. We take this opportunity to acquaint you with the rules and regulations of our athletic program. Please read it over carefully.

## Message to the Student Athlete

As a student-athlete, you are subject to the following Athletic Code, the rules and regulations of the Central States Activity Association and the rules and regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). MHSAA guidelines can be found in the Athletic Administrator or Principal's office or online at [www.mhsaa.com](http://www.mhsaa.com). Read the following rules carefully, so you fully know and understand them. Your dedication as a student-athlete is essential for a successful athletic program.

## Article I – General Information

### **Student-athlete Defined**

A student athlete is a member of any interscholastic sports team. As an athlete at Hesperia, your peers and community will hold you in high esteem. You will be expected to be a leader, to exhibit self-control, and self-discipline in all situations year around. You will need to develop a strong sense of character, and let this guide you as you face decisions in and out of athletic competition. When you wear the Green and White for Hesperia Community Schools, we expect you to assume the responsibilities that go with it. Keep in mind that many times during your years at Hesperia, our school will be judged by your actions and attitudes.

### **Expectations of a Student-Athlete**

The conduct of a student-athlete is closely observed in many areas of life. It is important that your behavior be above reproach in the following areas at all times:

1. In the classroom, a student-athlete should work hard and have good study habits and good behavior. Detentions must be taken care of promptly. A student-athlete must notify each coach of a detention or other disciplinary consequence, which always takes precedence over practice or games.
2. During competition, a student-athlete must always exhibit good sportsmanship. Use of profanity or illegal tactics is strictly forbidden and will not be tolerated. Student-athletes are not to argue with or show disrespect toward officials, coaches, teammates, opponents or any adult personnel. Disciplinary actions will be left up to the discretion of the coach.
3. On trips, student-athletes directly represent the community, school and coaches. Therefore, it is expected that all concerned will dress in an acceptable manner when traveling and conduct themselves on the bus in a respectful manner.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP FOR FANS AND PARTICIPANTS**

Acceptable behavior includes:

- Accepting all decisions of officials;
- Treating the competition as a game, not a war;
- Giving credit for outstanding effort regardless of the team;
- Showing concern for *any* injured player; and
- Encouraging surrounding fans to display only the best sportsmanlike conduct.

Unacceptable behavior includes:

- Trash talk, taunting, and other intimidating actions on behalf of players or spectators;
- Displaying disgust for officials calls; name calling to distract opponents;
- Refusing to shake hands or give credit to opponents;
- Blaming the loss of a game on coaches, players, or officials;
- Using profanity or displays of anger that draws attention away from the game.

Any person, including adults, who behave in an unsportsmanlike manner during an athletic or extracurricular event may be ejected from the event or denied future admission for conduct that includes, but is not limited to: using vulgar or obscene language; possessing or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or illegal substance; possessing a weapon; fighting or otherwise striking or threatening another person; failing to obey a security officer or school employee; and engaging in any activity which is illegal or disruptive.

## Article II-Philosophy

Competition has long been considered a measure of excellence in our culture, whether it be in the business world, in scholastic achievement, or in athletics. Educational sports programs support the educational program and are an extension of the classroom. Every attempt should be made to encourage as many students as possible to share in the benefits of athletic participation. While participation is to be encouraged, it should be regarded as a privilege to compete for Hesperia Community Schools. Hesperia Community Schools believes that it is critical to provide a variety of activities, in addition to the academic requirements, as we meet the educational needs of our students. The athletic programs are a vital extension of the educational process and we remain dedicated to providing opportunities for our students. Through participation in these extra-curricular programs, student athletes are able to utilize and further develop their character, loyalty, discipline, leadership, teamwork and sportsmanship.

### **Mission**

Being a member of an athletic team is an important activity for the student athlete, the parents, the coach, and the community. Athletics assist the teaching of qualities that are needed to be successful in life. Some of these qualities include: responsibility, *preparation*, self-discipline, loyalty, *leadership*, effort, respect towards others, honesty, integrity, self-esteem, humility, *commitment*, the value of team and the ability to handle competition with *enthusiasm* and grace. The individual who exhibits these qualities at the appropriate times is said to have *character*.

### **Hesperia Athletics Mission/ Belief Statements**

The athletes, coaches and parents of the Hesperia Athletic Department believe:

1. Student-athletes will develop leadership characteristics through athletic competition that carry into the classroom and prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
2. Student-athletes serve as role models within the school community and are expected to act in a manner that demonstrates positive character traits and a willingness to serve others.
3. Self-discipline, sportsmanship and an enthusiastic love of the game are essential to a sound athletic foundation.
4. Teamwork builds relationships, which helps create strong and lasting friendships through athletic competition.
5. Participation in athletics is a privilege: with that privilege, comes responsibility.
6. Hard work through preparation and a strong commitment to be the best are important ingredients to the success of Hesperia Athletics.

### **Athletic Program Goals**

1. The first goal of our program is to develop character.
2. The second goal of our program is to improve preparation, commitment, and participation. This will create enthusiasm within the program and community.
3. The third goal of our program is to provide student athletes with the necessary tools to prepare themselves physically, emotionally, and mentally to compete in life.
4. The final goal of our program is to develop champions on and off the field.

## Article III – Expectations

### **SPORTSMANSHIP**

It is expected that proper sportsmanlike behavior at athletic contests is ongoing and adhered to by all athletes, coaches, and spectators. The guidelines the Central States Activities Association has adopted for fans will be followed at all school sponsored events, at home or away. Cheers and signs are to be positive and respectful, fans should be considerate and courteous, noisemakers of any kind are not allowed, and the throwing of objects will not be tolerated. Hesperia Community School students are expected to follow the Student code of Conduct as printed in the student handbook at all school-sponsored activities, home and away.

Administration and contest management will determine if these guidelines are being followed. Failure to adhere to behavior expectations may result in a warning and ejection from that contest, and/or a suspension of privileges to attend school activities for a specified period of time. Disciplinary action will be determined based on prior occurrences and/or the severity of the offense.

Sportsmanship will be a topic that is addressed with the student body and spectators annually by the administration. The athletic director will annually in August provide the superintendent with a copy of the plan of an educational program to promote good sportsmanship and a system of progressive discipline for failing to behave according to the code of good sportsmanship. The code of conduct will be publicized at all school sponsored events.

### **EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS AND GUARDIANS**

Successful programs have student athletes, parents/guardians and coaches working toward common goals. As a source of encouragement, as a behavior model, and as a program and student supporter, parents/guardians are a critical part of this triangular partnership. Successful athletes and successful programs are often directly influenced by supportive and caring parents/guardians. In this important capacity, these standards should be practiced:

1. Recognize the importance of discussing and understanding with the student athlete the prerequisite of team membership, time commitments, team rules and a commitment to always doing one's best along with other team, student and family responsibilities.
2. Encourage participation while respecting the student athlete's choice of team or other activity involvement. Sometimes a choice may have to be made if a compromise between two or more interests is not possible.
3. Attend parent meetings and other school support group meetings.
4. Encourage and support involvement by attending contests.
5. Demonstrate positive support at contests as a way of modeling good sportsmanship.
6. Recognize that mistakes, poor choices, the need to try independence, the expression of ideas and thoughts, failure as well as success, are all important aspects of a young person's growing and learning opportunities.
7. Recognize that the real value of athletic involvement rests in the positive educational lessons that become growing and learning opportunities for the student athlete.
8. Recognize that parents are a strong and positive force in supporting, shaping and encouraging the real value of athletic involvement.
9. Understand and support the team concept and recognize how each student athlete accepts, contributes, and works toward this goal.
10. Recognize how playing time relates to skill level, practice effort, team roles, and out of season preparation.
11. Understand and support the adherence to training rules.



## PARENT COACH COMMUNICATION PLAN

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult roles. By establishing an understanding of each, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to students. As parents, when your children become involved in the athletic program, you have a right to understand the expectations placed upon your child. This begins with clear communication from his/her coach. It is essential that parents be represented in the parent meeting that each head coach sponsors prior to each season.

### **COMMUNICATION THAT YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM THE COACH**

- Philosophy of the coach, including issues such as playing time
- Expectations that the coach has for the players
- Locations and times of all practices and contests
- Team requirements, i.e. practices, special equipment, out of season conditioning
- Procedures to follow should the athlete be injured during participation
- Discipline that may result in the denial of participation

### **COMMUNICATION THAT COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS**

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of schedule conflicts well in advance
- Specific concerns with regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

As students become involved in the programs at Hesperia High School, they will hopefully experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way they are expected to. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

### **APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES**

- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgments based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the above list, certain things can and should be discussed with the coach. Other things, such as those below, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

### **ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH THE COACH**

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between coach and parent. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. Call to set up an appointment. The Athletic Office phone number is 854 - 7100. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director and they will facilitate a meeting place and time. In order to promote a resolution to the issue, the following procedure should be followed when a conference is necessary.

### **Step 1: Start with the Source**

The player/parent will speak directly to the coach. A “cooling off” period of 24 hrs will be granted for all parties before a resolution is sought. This meeting should be done in private, away from practice sites and game arenas. This meeting should be done face to face.

*Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. This can be an emotional time for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature rarely promote resolution.*

### **Step 2: Move to Program Head**

This step should be used if the issue/conflict is between an assistant or volunteer assistant of the sport in question. If going to the source did not resolve the issue, then the head of the program should be notified and he/she will attempt to mediate a solution. If the “source” of the problem **IS** the head of the program, move to step 3.

### **Step 3: Contact Athletic Director**

If an agreeable solution is not reached, then the athletic director will conduct a meeting between the parties involved and attempt to reach a solution.

### **Step 4: Contact the Principal**

If an agreeable solution is still not reached, then the principal will conduct a meeting between the parties involved and attempt to reach a solution.

### **Step 5: Notify the Superintendent**

At this point in the process, individuals who still believe their disputes have not been resolved adequately can submit a written narrative of their complaint to the School Superintendent. A copy of this will be given to all concerned parties, who will be afforded the option of a written rebuttal. After the superintendent has reviewed the documents he can conduct a meeting between the parties in an effort to resolve the issue.

### **Step 6: Request non-partisan School Board mediation**

This is the final step and for extreme cases/incidents. If after meeting with the superintendent the same procedure as in step 5 should be followed to set up a meeting with the school board.

## Sports Offered

### *GIRL'S SPORTS*

#### Fall

Cross Country (9-12)  
Basketball (7 & 8)  
Volleyball (9-12)

#### Winter

Basketball (9-12)  
Volleyball (7-8)

#### Spring

Softball (9-12)  
Track and Field (7-12)

### *BOY'S SPORTS*

#### Fall

Cross Country (7-12)  
Football (7-12)

#### Winter

Basketball (7-12)  
Wrestling (7-12)

#### Spring

Baseball (9-12)  
Golf (9-12)  
Track and Field (7-12)

- 1. Interscholastic Competition:** As a student-athlete, you are not permitted to participate in interscholastic competition until the following items have been completed and are on file in the Athletic Office:
  - A physical examination by a physician. The physician and parent or guardian must sign the Physical Form, including the medical treatment consent, parent or guardian consent, and emergency information. The physical form is available in the Athletic Office. Physicals are valid for the following year if they were done after April 15.
  - Athletic Permission Form signed by the parents and/or guardian and student-athlete that indicate that both parties have read this athletic handbook and understands our policies.
- 2. Insurance:** All athletes are encouraged to have insurance coverage as the participation in athletics puts students at risk for injury. The school district does not cover medical costs for students choosing to participate.
- 3. Injuries:**
  - A Certified Athletic Trainer, physician and/or qualified health care provider may prohibit any student-athlete who sustains an injury from returning to participation until evaluated and released.
  - Any student-athlete who has been referred to a physician must have a written release from a medical doctor (MD) or doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO) in order to return to participation.
  - A parental medical release or waiver is not acceptable for a return to participation following an injury.
  - If a student-athlete is restricted in any physical education class, that student-athlete may not be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletic activities.
- 4. Participation:** An athlete may participate in only one varsity sport per season, unless it is agreed between both coaches and the athletic administrator that it is in the best interest of the student athlete to compete in multiple sports in the same season. Students cannot participate on a non-school sponsored team in the same sport when in season.
- 5. Missing practice:** An athlete should always consult his/her coach before missing practice. Missing practice or a game without permission from the coach could result in a loss of play during the next scheduled competition. Note: A suspension from school cannot be counted as an unexcused absence or absences.

## 6. **Dual Sport Athletes**

Athletes may participate in more than one sport per season if the following criteria are met.

- a. Both coaches must agree to allow the athlete to participate.
- b. The athlete must select their primary sport and attend all practices and games of their primary sport. An athlete must not miss any practice or game time to participate in their secondary sport.
- c. A practice and game schedule must be provided by both coaches that include practice and game times of both sports.
- d. The health and welfare of the athlete must be considered by all parties involved.
- e. The athletic administrator must provide a letter to both coaches and the athlete that permission to be a dual sport athlete has been granted.
- f. The student must be of good academic standing.

## 7. **Conflicts in extracurricular activities**

An individual student who attempts to participate in several extracurricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations. The athletic department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular activities, and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts. Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. This would include being cautious about belonging to too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means notifying the faculty sponsors/coaches involved immediately when a conflict does arise.

When a conflict arises the sponsor(s)/coach(s) will work out a solution so the student does not feel caught in the middle. Competition/performance takes precedence over practice. If both groups have a competition/performance then a conference competition/performance will take precedence. State competition/performance will take precedence over all other competition(s)/performance(s).

If a solution cannot be found between the sponsor(s)/coach(s), the principal will make the decision based on the following criteria.

The relative importance of each team(s)/group(s) competitive schedule and the contribution the student can make to the team/group. The principal will consider how long the event has been scheduled and will have a discussion with the parents.

## 8. **Equipment and Uniforms**

1. An athlete is financially responsible for all equipment and/or uniforms issued to her/him.
2. Destroyed, lost or stolen equipment or uniforms must be paid for, or the athlete will:
  - A. Not be allowed to participate in the next sport he/she goes out for;
  - B. Not receive their athletic awards;
  - C. in the case of seniors, they may not receive their diploma, not walk in graduation

## 9. **Transportation**

When the school provides transportation to out of town contests, all athletes must travel to and from the contest in the transportation provided by the athletic department, unless other arrangements are prior approved. Athletes will remain with their team and under the supervision of a coach when attending away contests. All regular school bus rules will be followed, including: food, noise, remaining in seats, care and respect for vehicles. An athlete may return from an athletic contest with their parent provided the administration, and or coach is prior notified by the parent.

## **Squad Selection**

Any student who meets eligibility requirements may try out for an athletic team. Teams will be selected by the coaching staff in the sport or through other pre-arranged procedures. Coaches will select their teams based upon their judgment of talent and knowledge of the athletes.

A student could try out for an athletic team before the midpoint of the season with coach's approval, unless the team has a player limit policy. Students who wish to participate or try out in these sports after the first official day, but prior to the midpoint of the season, must make arrangements with the head coach and/or administration.

No student may try out for an athletic team, with or without a player limit, after the mid-point in the season, unless approved by the head coach. A transfer student who is eligible to participate may try out after the midpoint of the season with the approval of the head coach.

## **Dropping a Sport**

No student should quit any sport without first consulting the coach and explaining his or her intentions. An athlete will not be permitted to participate in another sport until the season of the dropped sport has been completed, or she/he has the authorization of both coaches involved.

If this is the case, the following procedure must be followed.

- All changes must have the written approval of the athletic administrator.
- Return all equipment issued to you.
- The coach must submit the athletic dismissal/withdraw form to the athletic office.
- The student may be subject to penalty at the discretion of the Athletic Director.

## **Additional Rules and Regulations**

Each coach has the authority and responsibility, with the approval of the Athletic Director, to establish his/her own rules and regulations as they pertain to his/her sport that are in addition to the rules covered by Hesperia Community Schools Athletic Code of Conduct. All team rules must be in writing and clearly communicated to each team member and his/her parent(s) at the beginning of the season. Coaches have the right to dismiss participants for conduct considered detrimental to the team. To assure that such decisions by individual coaches are reasonably just and fair, any decision can be appealed to the athletic director.

## Article IV – Eligibility

### Academic Eligibility

At Hesperia High School, there is a two-part eligibility requirement. Student-athletes must meet both to be eligible to compete. The first part is semester eligibility and the second is weekly eligibility.

### **Semester Eligibility**

For a student-athlete to be eligible for the semester, they may not have more than 1 “F” or similar failing grade in the previous semester. If a student has received multiple failing grades they will be ineligible the following semester or until credit is recovered. Upon completion of credit recovery they will become eligible again and can compete immediately.

### **Weekly Eligibility**

Student-athletes who receive 2 or more F's in a week (Monday – Friday) during the athletic season will be declared ineligible for competition for the following week. Grades are pulled on Friday. The coaches and players are notified of anyone failing. The student has until the following Friday to improve their academic status. (Deadline for any changes is Friday by 3:15pm). Students receiving 2 or more F's will not be eligible to participate for the following week (Monday through Sunday). A list of ineligible athletes will be sent to coaches on that Friday.

Eligibility will start the second week of every marking period and/or two weeks after practice begins for a new sports season.

Student-athlete eligibility will be accumulative through the end of each grading period. (I.e. A student-athlete has an E in a class on Friday, the last day of the grading period, since Monday starts a new grading period, the student-athlete no longer has an E in that class).

If a student-athlete is failing a class, but is making progress towards improvement, the teacher may give the student-athlete a grade of “P” (progressing) if s/he chooses. Student-athletes receiving a grade of “P” are eligible to participate in athletics, but must provide a written documentation from the teacher that explains why they are receiving that grade.

**Note:** Students will be expected to notify their parents when receiving a warning (W) approximately one week before a scholastic fail (F) is recorded.

**Penalty: (would be the same for both eligibility policies):** An athlete who fails to meet the weekly standards will NOT participate in the following week's athletic contest(s) (Monday – Sunday). He/she will be expected to practice and will be subject to all team rules and regulations unless otherwise directed by the coach and/or Director of Athletics. He/she may not dress for the game, or travel to away games that get out before school ends, but will be expected to sit on the bench with the team.

## **Attendance**

We expect our participants to attend all required practices and games of their activity. However, realizing that there can be conflicts in time and scheduling over which participants may have little if any control, an excused and unexcused approach will be used by all coaches of high school activities.

Pre-excused: A participant knowing that a conflict exists and having an acceptable reason for missing a practice will not be penalized. Acceptability of the reason is at the discretion of the coach. A participant who misses a practice or practices with a pre-excuse, while not being subject to any punitive action, may not be able to perform in a game situation due to lack of preparation.

Excused: Absence due to illness, death in the family, and other emergency situations brought to the attention of the coach.

Unexcused: Any participant who misses a practice without a pre-excused or excused absence will face disciplinary action.

NOTE: Any suspension resulting from an unexcused absence will take place on the first contest following the unexcused absence.

Participants must attend six (6) of the seven (7) classes during the day in order to be eligible to compete or practice on that day unless absence is pre-excused by the athletic director or principal.

If a student is unexcused absent for any part of the day, that student is ineligible for participation in athletic events that day.

Skipping a school disciplinary consequence to attend an extracurricular activity:

First offense - one contest suspension

Second offense - two contest suspension

Third offense – students may be suspended indefinitely and may not be reinstated until a meeting with the legal guardian and Athletic Director has taken place and a resolution has been reached.

## Article V – Code of Conduct

**Purpose:** The purpose of the athletic code is to establish standards for the athlete in the area of academic performance and athletic behavior for those individuals who voluntarily become involved in the interscholastic athletic program.

A student who voluntarily participates in a sport sponsored by Hesperia Community Schools agrees to abide by the Hesperia Athletic Code of Conduct throughout the year in which the student participates in the sport. The year is a calendar year 365 days. Compliance with the athletic code of conduct is not limited to school sponsored sports activities or school premises.

The code is not a complete list of undesirable conduct by athletes. Hesperia athletes are considered to be examples and role models and expected to act accordingly during their high school career. Any student athlete whose conduct is found to be a discredit or to cause unfavorable notoriety to the athlete, the team, or HHS during their high school career, shall be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the coach, Athletic Director or principal, whether or not the conduct is specifically described in the athletic code of conduct.

### **Section I – Prohibited Conduct or Activities**

A student-athlete shall not:

1. Use or possess any tobacco, tobacco products, vape, etc. at any time either during or outside of the season. This would include, but is not limited to cigarettes, cigars, vapes, smokeless & chewing tobacco.
2. Attempt to obtain, use, or possess alcoholic beverages or malt beverages.
3. Use, possess, purchase or sale of other illegal substances or illegal look-alike drugs.
4. Use any drug, medication or food supplement in a way not prescribed by the manufacturer or a physician.
5. Use or sale of any drug, steroids, medication or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes is prohibited. As defined by the department of community health.
6. Student-athletes are not to engage in or be in association to activities deemed to violate state or federal law (including, but not limited to theft, vandalism, consumption of alcohol, use of drugs, etc.).
7. Student-athletes are not to engage in inappropriate conduct at any time during the school year or engage in actions or behavior that may adversely affect the general welfare or reputation of the team and/or school or which may endanger the health and/or safety of any individual person or group. Inappropriate conduct may include cheating, fighting, and unfavorable notoriety, violation of a civil or criminal law, or any socially unacceptable behavior that brings discredit to the athlete, parents, school or team.

### **Section II – Reporting Violations**

Students and their parents/guardians shall be informed of the Activity Code prior to participation in the school activity program. The fact that the code is included with the student handbook will be considered notification. Students and their parents/guardians shall certify in writing that they have read the code and are aware that it is applicable to their son or daughter as long as their son or daughter is a participant.

NOTE: ACTIONS DISPLAYED ON THE INTERNET ARE CONSIDERED A SOURCE OF EVIDENCE IN DETERMINING A VIOLATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT.

NOTE: SUSPENSIONS FOR CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS ASSESSED BY OTHER SCHOOLS WILL BE CARRIED OVER TO HESPERIA SCHOOLS FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS.



Reports of violations of the code:

1. As reported by the police or the police liaison officer.
2. As witnessed and reported by a staff member or chaperon of violations by a student while on school property, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school sponsored event.
3. As witnessed and reported by a member of the coaching staff or a school administrator.
4. As reported by the parents/guardians of the student.
5. As reported by the violating student athlete.

Reports by the above individuals of violations of the code shall be forwarded to the athletic director. The athletic director will notify the participant and the parents/guardians of the participant of the specifics of the violation and provide the participant with the opportunity to discuss his or her actions. The athletic director will then determine whether a violation has occurred and will provide written notification to the participant and to the parents/guardians of the participant of the penalty to be imposed for a violation found to have been committed.

### Reasonable Suspicion

*Reasonable suspicion* is intended to target situations when there are objective facts or specific occurrences that support the conclusion that a student-athlete may be using alcohol or other prohibited drug substances. Reasonable suspicion may also be triggered by a previous positive test or an arrest and/or suspension for possession/use of illegal substances within the preceding twelve months. *Reasonable suspicion* is based on a common sense conclusion upon which practical people ordinarily rely. These conclusions can be drawn from observed or reliably described human behavior that is determined to be warning signs for possible drug/alcohol use (e.g., changes in emotional and physical condition and academic/athletics achievement, witnessed drug use, possession, etc.).

All Athletic Department personnel are required and other teaching or administrative staff are encouraged to report to a student-athlete's respective head coach, head athletics trainer, administrator or athletic director specific facts or observable behaviors that indicate that a particular student-athlete may be violating the policies expressed in this program.

### Section III - Consequences

FIRST OFFENSE: Suspension for 25% of current season (based on number of contests), continued if necessary to the next season of participation

SECOND OFFENSE: Suspension for 50% of season (based on number of contests), continued if necessary to the next season of participation

THIRD OFFENSE: Loss of sports eligibility for one calendar year from offense.

FOURTH OFFENSE: Loss of eligibility for the rest of the athlete's career at Hesperia Community Schools

- A. Depending on the date of the violation, suspension may run into two sport seasons, to fulfill a full sport season. This will be determined by using the percentage (%) of the penalty. Hesperia Community Schools reserves the right to assess discipline at any step of this policy for serious violations of its provisions.
- B. Suspensions begin on the day of the first scheduled game, if an athlete violates the athletic code before the date of the first game, their consequence will not cost them the whole season.

### Section IV - Penalties for Violations (post season)

If the violation occurs during the postseason, the student-athlete will become immediately ineligible for the remainder of the postseason. Depending on the number of the violation (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc.) or the seriousness of the violation, the penalty may be extended into the next sport season. If a student athlete does not participate in another sport(s) season, all school awards and honors will be withheld.

## Section V - Penalty Enforcement

All current student-athletes and potential student-athletes shall be considered under the jurisdiction of the athletic code, upon enrollment in the Hesperia Community Schools. It is understood that the Principal, designee or other administrator may suspend from athletics a student-athlete at any time when the student-athlete's conduct may have a detrimental effect upon the image of Hesperia Community Schools.

- A. These regulations are in effect throughout the calendar year (365 days).
- B. When serving a team suspension, a student-athlete must attend all practice sessions and (unless excused) must be present (not in uniform) at all contests. The only exception to this rule would be if a student-athlete were suspended for the full season in one sport. The student-athlete would not be allowed to participate with the team.
- C. If a second penalty is imposed while a previous penalty is being served, the penalty for the second offense will not begin until the penalty for the first offense has been served.
- D. If a penalty is not completed during a given sports season, the portion not served will be carried over to the next sport that the student-athlete participates in. (This would apply to student-athletes who are sophomores, juniors or seniors).
- E. Student/athletes serving out of school suspensions are ineligible to practice or compete during the time they are suspended. For suspensions ending on Friday, a coach may allow the athlete to compete on a Saturday. In-school suspensions will not hinder a student/athlete's ability to participate. After-school suspensions may or may not affect the athlete depending upon whether the required time conflicts with the practice or game schedule. After-school suspensions will be assigned on the next scheduled date, regardless of conflicts.

## Section VI - Appeals Process

The appeal process has two (2) levels of review. All requests for an appeal must be made in writing. Any appeal by the student-athlete must be initiated within five (5) school days after notification of penalty. If any of these steps are not followed, the right to appeal will be denied.

- A. **First level:** The Athletic Director will schedule a conference with parents/guardians, the student-athlete and the Athletic Council as soon as possible, following the request for appeal. The Athletic Disciplinary Council shall be composed of the following persons:
  - Principal or Designee
  - Athletic Director
  - One Faculty representative selected by the Athletic Director
  - One Faculty representative selected by the student-athlete
  - One (1) male coach selected by the Athletic Director
  - One (1) female coach selected by the Athletic Director

Note: The student-athlete's current coach may not serve on the council.  
A decision will be rendered within five (5) school days of the conference.
- B. **Second level:** The Superintendent or a designee will schedule a conference with parents/guardians and the student-athlete as soon as possible, following the request for appeal. A decision will be rendered within five (5) days of the conference.
- C. The student-athlete may not participate in any interscholastic competition while the appeal is pending.

## **MHSAA REGULATIONS**

### **PHYSICAL EXAM**

An annual physical examination must be completed and the card on file in the athletic office before an athlete may participate in tryouts or practice. Current physicals are those received on or after April 15 of the previous school year.

### **AWARDS**

Athletes may not accept any award or merchandise exceeding \$25.00 in value for athletic performance. Athletes accepting memberships, privileges, services, negotiable certificates, or money are in violation.

### **LIMITED TEAM MEMBERSHIP**

Athletes may not participate in any outside competition in a sport during the season after the athlete has represented his or her school except individual participation in a maximum of two individual sports meets or contests. Athletes may not have participated in so-called all-star charity or exhibition football or basketball games during the school year. As an example, an athlete may not play high school basketball or softball at the same time they are playing on a church basketball or softball team.

### **ENROLLMENT**

A student must have been enrolled by Monday of the fourth week of the first trimester or following the midway point of the school year in a minimum of four classes in a high school.

### **AGE**

The student must be under 19 years of age at the time of the contest unless the student's 19th birthday occurs on or after September 1 of the current school year, in which case the student is eligible for the balance of that school year in all sports.

### **SEASONS OF COMPETITION**

The student must not have more than four 1st and four 2<sup>nd</sup> semester seasons of competition in a sport.

### **SEASONS OF ENROLLMENT**

The student must not have been enrolled for more than eight semesters in grades 9 through 12, inclusive. Seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive. Three weeks of enrollment or participation in one or more athletic contests constitutes a semester of enrollment.

### **PREVIOUS SEMESTER RECORD**

A student must have passed four (4) classes during the past semester.

### **CURRENT SEMESTER RECORD**

A student must be carrying and doing passing work in four (4) classes during the present semester.

### **DISQUALIFICATION RULE**

The MHSAA Regulations Handbook states that students and coaches who are disqualified from one contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be disqualified from the next contest in all sports.

### **GENERAL CONDUCT**

Conduct reflecting poorly on the athletic program or the Hesperia Community Schools shall be brought to the attention of the athletic director or the assistant principal.