



HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

RULES AND EXPECTATIONS FOR HCPS ATHLETIC PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Athletic programs provide an opportunity to learn valuable life lessons such as goal setting, teamwork, sportsmanship, and dedication to task. All athletes must abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (please see www.mpssaa.org), and the Rules and Regulations for Interscholastic Athletics in Harford County Public Schools (please see <http://www.hcps.org/departments/curriculum/physicaleducation/handbook/default.aspx>).

In addition to the Rules and Regulations stated above, all athletes must adhere to the following rules and expectations listed below, either on campus, or at a school related activity, such as but not limited to an HCPS sponsored dance, fieldtrips, and off campus sporting events.

1. **ALCOHOL, DRUGS, TOBACCO**

Confirmed use, possession, or distribution of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs, in violation of school rules will be subject to the rules pertaining to citizenship and eligibility.

2. **CITIZENSHIP**

It is the expectation that all athletes are to display respect towards faculty members, coaches, peers, and members of the community in general. Athletes are expected to adhere to school rules and regulations. Serious and/or repeated violations of school rules may result in suspension or removal from a team. If a student should receive either an in-school suspension or an out-of-school suspension, they are also suspended from all practices and games for the same time period of said suspensions. Suspension from athletics may be extended if deemed appropriate by the school administration.

3. **HAZING**

Hazing is an activity that is forbidden in Harford County Public Schools and includes any action or creation of a situation, which recklessly or intentionally subjects a student to the risk of bodily harm, injury, or humiliation. Any athlete found to be involved in hazing activities may be subject to loss of eligibility to participate in extra-curricular activities.

4. **ATTENDANCE**

Students shall attend school and participate in all class activities for the entire school day to be eligible to participate in practices and games. When a contest is on a Saturday or non-school day, the student must be present the last school day prior to the contest. Exceptions to this statement are documented medical appointments and extenuating circumstances which shall be determined by the school Principal.

5. **TRANSPORTATION**

All athletic team members are required to travel to and from athletic contests on the team bus. In order for a student to travel with his/her parent, an Alternate Transportation Form that has been approved by a school administrator, prior to departure for the event, must be presented. <http://www.hcps.org/departments/docs/curriculum/athletics/Form-Alternative-Transportation.pdf>

6. **UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

Each athlete is responsible for all school-issued uniforms and equipment. Participation in additional athletic seasons will not be permitted until all obligations with regards to uniforms and equipment have been met.

7. **AWARDS**

In order to receive an athletic award, an athlete must complete the season in good standing and have met any obligations in terms of uniforms and equipment.

The above-stated rules and expectations are for the benefit of student athletes in Harford County Public Schools. They are intended to build character and foster respect in athletics. Participation on an athletic team is not a right, but rather a privilege that must be earned through skill, effort, and behavior. Athletes need to be cognizant of the fact that as a member of an athletic team, everything you do is a reflection of your family, school, and community.

We have read and understand the Rules and Expectations for participation in Harford County Public Schools Athletic programs.

We acknowledge that providing our signatures and submitting this form are a **REQUIREMENT** for participation in the HCPS Athletic program.

_____ Student name (print) _____ Student signature _____ Date

_____ Parent/Guardian name (print) _____ Parent/Guardian signature _____ Date

NOTE: *Please understand that the above listed expectations are universal to all Harford County Public Schools and are minimal in nature. Each school or specific athletic team may impose additional or more restrictive rules and expectations in addition to those set out above.*

Updated 4/9/19