



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](http://www.mpssaa.org)), and the Rules and Regulations for Interscholastic Athletics in Harford County Public Schools (please see <http://www.hcps.org/departments/curriculum/athletics.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 in the community.

**1. ALCOHOL, DRUGS, TOBACCO**

Confirmed use, possession or distribution of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs, will result in removal from the team for the remainder of the season.

**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. Exceptions to this statement are documented medical appointments and extenuating circumstances which shall be determined by the school Principal. (Also see HCPS Rules & Regulations, page 14)

**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, a parent note that has been approved by a school administrator, prior to departure for the event, must be presented.

