

Hillsborough Middle School Athletic Department Athletic Contract

(revised July 2011)

I realize that it is a privilege to participate in all athletic activities at Hillsborough Middle School. Accordingly, I hereby agree to obey the following regulations and training rules setup by the Hillsborough Middle School Athletic Department and the N.J.S.I.A.A.

Academic Requirements

During the season, each student-athlete is required once a month to have a progress report filled out by his or her teachers. The student-athlete will have one week to get the progress report completely filled out. Failure to submit a completed progress report by the date established by the athletic director will result in a one game suspension. Teachers who do not feel comfortable writing comments on the progress report may email the coach and the athletic director at any time during the season to discuss concerns.

If a student-athlete has a grade in any class lower than a 70, he or she will be put on academic probation. A student-athlete will have ten school days to raise the grade to a 70 or higher. If after ten school days the student-athlete still has a grade lower than a 70, he or she will become academically ineligible. It's encouraged that all communication with teachers when getting updates during a student-athlete's probation or ineligibility period occur via email. Any student-athlete who is on academic probation or who is academically ineligible can return to normal status on the team once all of his or her grades are 70 or above.

Academic Probation:

- The student-athlete continues to practice with the team and is permitted to participate in home games.
- The student-athlete is no longer permitted to leave school early for away games. If his or her parents would like to provide transportation to away games at the conclusion of the school day, the student-athlete will be able to participate. Parents may not sign students out of school early to attend away games if they are on academic probation.

Academic Ineligibility:

- The student-athlete continues to practice with the team but is no longer permitted to play in home or away games. This includes no early dismissals for away games.
- The student-athlete is expected to attend every practice and all home games. The coach will determine the non-playing role of the academically ineligible student-athlete at home games.
- Any student-athlete who receives a failing grade on a report card distributed during the season in one or more classes will be ineligible for the remainder of the season.

Tryout Eligibility:

- A student who has failed two or more courses in the immediately preceding marking period will not be permitted to tryout for a sport at HMS. This rule does not apply to marking periods beyond the previous one or the past school year.

Discipline Policy

If a student-athlete receives an AM detention or is sent to the Detention Room during the school day, the following will occur:

1 st offense	Warning
2 nd & 3 rd offense	One game suspension
4 th offense	One week (5 school days) suspension from all team activities including practices and games (cannot attend home games either)
5 th offense	Expulsion from the team

Suspension From School* - First Offense: will result in a game/event suspension equal to the number of days suspended from school up to four days. A suspension of four days or more will result in expulsion from the team. Games/events missed during the suspension will not count toward the length of punishment.

Suspension From School* - Second Offense: may result in expulsion from the team. The athletic director and the vice principal in charge of the disciplinary matter will review the reasons for the suspension. The findings of this review will determine the course of action to be taken.

***Saturday detention is treated the same as a suspension from school.**

General Rules

1. I must be present in school by noon the day of the game to be eligible to participate. In the case of Saturday or holiday events, I must have been present for at least half of the last day of school previous to the activity. NOTE: In all cases where the student has been absent, the eligibility of the student to participate in a school activity shall be left to the discretion of the athletic director.
2. I will maintain a grade average of 70 or higher in every course.
3. At all times, I will conduct myself in an orderly manner, both on and off the school grounds, in such a way as to bring credit to my team, school, and family.
4. On days that I am excused from school early to participate in an athletic event, I will notify my teacher of my absence and obtain any work that I have missed.
5. In all athletic contests played away from school, I will ride to and from the contest in school transportation. Exceptions can be made upon a written parental request and must be received by the coach at least 24 hours in advance unless otherwise stated by the coach.
6. I will be personally responsible for all school athletic equipment checked out to me and will return it in good condition and on time. Equipment I have lost or misplaced will be paid for by me.
7. I will report all injuries to my coach immediately.
8. I realize that I cannot use school facilities unless supervised by a coach.

9. If a medical excuse keeps me out of PE class, I will be unable to participate in practices or games until full medical clearance is given for PE class.
10. On days when I have an early dismissal due to an away event, I will leave class at the exact dismissal time and no earlier. A one game suspension will be the penalty for any student who leaves class earlier than the dismissal time.
11. I will adhere to the district's anti-bullying policy listed below and understand the consequences associated with violating it.

As per district policy #5512.01, the Board of Education prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying defined as any written, verbal or physical act that takes place on school property, bus or at any school sponsored function which has the intention to harm another pupil, damage property, place another pupil in reasonable fear of harm, or exercise power and control over another pupil.

The policy also prohibits such acts via any electronic communication (cyber-bullying) and may impose consequences for incidents that occur on or off school property. The policy further prohibits active or passive support for such acts by encouraging pupils to constructively intervene and/or report them to school officials. (More detailed definitions and consequences for substantiated acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying are outlined in the Student Handbook.)

Student-athletes are in positions of status among their peers, in school and in the community, representing not only their teams but the district as a whole. As such, they are expected to conduct themselves as positive role models, not simply by adhering to this policy, but by modeling respectful conduct, self-discipline and good citizenship. Such positive behavior extends beyond the sports season or the field or court, but to all interactions with their peers inside and outside of school.

Basic Training Rules

1. I will not keep late hours during the athletic season as defined by the coach.
2. During the season, regardless of the amount, I shall not use an alcoholic beverage and/or tobacco. Also, I shall not use and/or consume, have in my possession, buy, sell or give away any substance defined by law as an illegal drug. Although alcohol is not classified as an illegal drug, possession, consumption, selling and/or distributing by anyone under the age of 21 is illegal.
 - a. First violation outside of school – After confirmation of the first violation, the student-athlete will lose eligibility for the next two consecutive interscholastic athletic events (regular schedule) or two weeks of a season in which the student is a participating...whichever is greater. After the first violation, the student-athlete will be required to confer with the school district's drug counselors concerning the effects of misuse or abuse of mood-altering chemicals. Conference with the school district's drug counselor is not required with tobacco related situations.
 - b. Second violation outside of school – After confirmation of the second violation, the student will be dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season.

If the violation occurs during the school day, on a school bus or at a school sponsored event (practice, game, field trip, dance, etc.), then the consequences outlined in board policy #5530 (Substance Abuse and Drug Free School Zones) would take effect, which are:

- a. 1st offense = 5 days ISS, 30 calendar day suspension from participation in or attendance at school activities, including but not limited to games, notification of the police, SAC evaluation, possible referral for professional evaluation, 5 mandatory counseling sessions with SAC, and a meeting with parents, SAC, guidance counselor, VP and CST if appropriate to discuss the need for substance abuse services
 - b. 2nd offense = everything noted for 1st offense except it will be a 10 day ISS, and a mandatory professional assessment by certified drug and alcohol specialist at parents' expense
3. Any ejection from a contest will result in an automatic two game suspension where the student-athlete will not be permitted to attend the two games. A display of unsportsmanlike conduct towards an opponent, coach, teammate, or official or use of profanity during practice or a game will result in counseling by the coach and athletic director with a possible suspension or removal from the team depending on the severity of the act. Additional disciplinary action may result in accordance with the HMS student code of conduct policy.
4. An excused absence is an absence with prior notification given to the coach due to:
- a. A trip sponsored by the school which is directly related to the curriculum, or
 - b. A family trip for which the coach has received a letter from the parent/guardian outlining the nature of the trip and why it requires an absence from the practice/event. An excused absence from a scheduled event or practice will result in:
 - * No penalty for the first two excused absences
 - * Suspension from one contest for the third excused absence.
 - * Expulsion from the team for the fourth excused absence. Appeals will be heard by the athletic director.
5. An unexcused absence is an absence that does not qualify in 4 above (excused absences). An unexcused absence will result in:
- a. Suspension from the next contest following the first violation. Attendance with the team at the event (home only) from which the student is suspended is required. Absence from this event will be considered as an unexcused absence from an event (home only).
 - b. Expulsion from the team for the second unexcused absence. Appeals will be heard by the athletic director.

I hereby understand that the violation of any of the regulations may result in the loss of athletic privileges. I agree to abide by the regulations outlined in this athletic contract and any other regulations set forth by the coach of the sport in which I am participating.

Please read the following page of the HMS Athletic Contract which reviews the locker room expectations and security policy.

HMS Athletics
Locker Room
Expectations & Security Policy

As a student-athlete at HMS, I promise to adhere to the following guidelines:

- I will demonstrate appropriate behavior and language while in the locker room.
- I understand that if valuable items are brought into the locker room, it will be at my own risk. It is strongly encouraged not to bring the following valuables into the locker room: expensive jewelry, iPODS, cell phones, watches, portable video game systems, money, and/or any other expensive items.
- I will secure my belongings with a lock and label the locker with the abbreviation of my team.
- I will report incidents of wrongdoing that occur in the locker room to my coach or the Athletic Director.
- Once practice or a game begins, I will not enter the locker room unless under the supervision of a coach or faculty member.
- If I have to leave a practice or game early, I will bring my belongings to the bench or practice area.
- I will not ask a PE teacher, custodian, or any other faculty member with a key to unlock the team room door during the school day. I understand the team room will be locked prior to period 1 and will not be unlocked until the school day is over. I will not store any PE belongings in the team room.

***PLEASE SIGN THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM & RETURN TO YOUR COACH WHEN REQUESTED. DO NOT SUBMIT THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM PRIOR TO THE SEASON WITH YOUR PRESEASON PAPERWORK. KEEP THIS CONTRACT FOR YOUR RECORDS.**