

HIGHLAND PARK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC POLICY

DRUGS, ALCOHOL, and SMOKING will not be tolerated. The Highland Park Extra-curricular/Co-curricular Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy will be strictly enforced. The following information applies to all students who participate in extra-curricular and/or co-curricular activities that are enrolled at Highland Park High School. It is felt that these students represent Highland Park in the community and state in multiple settings and these students should adhere to a level of behavior and conformity indicative of this role. These students serve as role-models and hence have an obligation to handle themselves in a manner that befits responsibility.

The District requires drug testing of any student in grades 7–12 who chooses to participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities. Athletic participation is an activity for which testing is required. A student participating in athletics shall be tested for the presence of illegal drugs and alcohol randomly throughout the school year. *See Board Policy FNF(Local)*

The purposes of the drug-testing program are to prevent injury, illness, and harm resulting from the use of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs or alcohol; help enforce a drug-free educational environment; deter student use of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs or alcohol; and educate students regarding the harm caused by the use of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs or alcohol.

In the event a student athlete tests positive for illegal or performance-enhancing drugs, the District shall notify the parent and student of drug and alcohol abuse prevention resources available in the area.

Consequences of positive test results shall be cumulative through the student's enrollment in middle school and shall begin anew for high school. Upon a first offense of receiving a confirmed positive drug test, a student shall be suspended from any extracurricular activity for 15 school days following the date the student and parent are notified of the test results. During the period of suspension, the student may participate in practices but not in any competitive activities or performances.

Upon a second offense of receiving a confirmed positive drug test, a student shall be suspended from any extracurricular activity for 30 school days following the date the student and parent are notified of the test results. During the period of suspension, the student may participate in practices but not in any competitive activities or performances.

Upon a third offense of receiving a confirmed positive drug test, a student shall be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity for the remainder of the student's enrollment in the District middle school or high school, as appropriate. During the period of suspension, the student shall not be permitted to participate in practices.

If a student's suspension from participation in extracurricular activities is not completed by the end of the semester, the student shall complete the assigned period of suspension during the following semester or during the first semester of the following school year.

A student or parent may appeal a decision made under this policy in accordance with FNG(LOCAL). The student shall be ineligible for participation in extracurricular activities while the appeal is pending.

The following infractions will be left to the discretion of the Head Coach. Situations will arise that require a coach to make decisions based upon what's best for the team and not necessarily the individual. All disciplinary actions will be consistent and fair based upon the information available to the coach at the time of the infraction.

PROFANITY – will not be tolerated. First offense will result in disciplinary action as seen fit by the Head Coach.

STEALING – Taking things that do not belong to you will not be tolerated. A player caught and proven guilty will result in disciplinary action by the Head Coach.

CONDUCT – If you want to be a member of any athletic team you must follow all school rules and procedures while attending class. You are expected to act properly in class, giving your teachers and staff courtesy and respect. Any assignment to ISS or suspension from school for any reason will result in disciplinary action by the Head Coach.

HAZING - There will be no initiation or hazing of any athlete. Players are encouraged to support each other and also report any incidents to the coaches immediately. Upper classmen will assume the role as leader, mentor, and help in keeping hazing completely out of our program: set the example for our under classmen to follow.

ATTENDANCE – Do not cut classes or be tardy. Do not miss an athletic period unless it is absolutely unavoidable. If an athlete must be absent they need to call and talk to a coach before their athletic period. If an athlete misses an athletic practice they will be required to make up all work missed. Excessive absences will result in game suspension(s) or possible termination from team. Regular attendance to practice and games is very important in order for the team to improve. Everyone is expected to come to practice and stay until all work is done.

If a player misses a practice without notifying his coach or coaches playing time will be effected if they have no excuse for the absence.

INJURY OR ILLNESS – If you have an injury, see the trainer and they will either treat you or refer you to a physician. If you are going to miss a practice or a game because of injury or an illness, we must have a note from a trainer or a doctor. If you are unable to physically participate, you will still be expected to dress out and accompany your team and watch all plays, etc. unless given special permission from the Head Coach.

EQUIPMENT – Our athletes are responsible for all equipment checked out to them, if they lose any item they will have to replace it. An athlete should not lend his clothes to anyone. Each athlete is responsible for taking care of his locker area. We are not responsible for any items that are lost in the locker room. Be sure to lock your locker or take your valuables with you. Your school issued practice clothes are to be worn to practice everyday.

JEWELRY – Jewelry is not allowed during a sporting event or in warm-up; therefore, it will not be worn during practice. Players are encouraged to lock all jewelry up in their lockers at all times.

PARTICIPATION AND PRACTICE is the key to a successful athletic program. The coaching staff will encourage all athletes to participate in all sports. All sports will practice

before or after school and some holidays. Each sport will have specific scheduled practice times.

IF A PLAYER QUILTS or is dismissed from the team in or out of season, that player gives up all rights to any honors they have earned but not yet received. The player will be removed from athletics or placed in the off-season program. The Head Coach and Athletic Director will determine the athlete's placement. The player may not participate in another sport until the sport they left has ended. The player can try out for the team the next year with permission of the head coach. A two-week grace period is given at the beginning of all sports; if a player chooses not to participate during that time no disciplinary action will take place.

EARNING a VARSITY LETTER – to letter at the varsity level, players must give total effort towards the successful contribution to the team. The Head Coach will determine a varsity letter. Letterman jackets will be awarded to athletes during the year they letter.

CONFERENCES - During the week we will always maintain an open door policy for those individuals that would like to come in and visit. The Head Coach will be available to meet with parents pending their schedule. We will not talk to parents after games about playing time but we will be glad to schedule an appointment after the athlete has had a conference with his position coach and/or the Head Coach. Athletes need to talk to coaches about problems before parents do.

TRAVEL POLICY - All athletes' travel and return with the team unless previous arrangements have been made to do otherwise. Parents cannot take other players home from out of town games. Athletes are encouraged to ride with the team.

MEAL POLICY – Highland Park ISD will provide meals for student athletes on trips of over thirty miles or at all day events.

INSURANCE for ATHLETES – Highland Park is not responsible for injuries of students that participation in sports. However, Highland Park will carry supplemental accident insurance covering practice and competition for athletes.

ATHLETIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

A condition to participate in Highland Park Athletics is to sign the acknowledgement that the student and parent or guardian have read the athletic policy and agree to its content.

I understand that the coaches will oversee student participation in the program and have a right to enforce discipline for any rule violations that may occur, including removal from the athletic program.

I have read the Highland Park Athletic Policy and understand the procedures, and consequences for engaging in prohibited conduct.

Date: _____

Players Signature: _____

Parents Signature: _____

Please sign and return acknowledgement page with proper signatures.