

# **HARTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**A. Academic Rule:** All athletes must meet all academic standards of the South Carolina High School League and the Academic Performance guidelines in the student-athlete code of conduct at Hartsville High School.

**B. Code of Conduct:** A firm policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the athletic program at Hartsville High School. The community, school administrators, and the coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics. The welfare of the student is our major consideration and transcends any other consideration. Another consideration is the instilling of honor, duty, loyalty, and values within the students that participate in athletics. All athletes shall abide by a code of ethics, which will earn them the honor and respect that participation and competition in the interscholastic program affords. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the athlete, the team or the school while in season, out of season, on campus or off campus, will not be tolerated.

**C. Penalty for Unacceptable Conduct:** Due to the serious nature of this rule the coach, the Athletics Director and the Principal shall meet and determine the penalty according to the degree of the infraction. The penalty shall range from a minimum of one game/contest suspension in the season or succeeding season to a maximum of permanent denial of participation

**Definition of terms for unacceptable conduct:**

- **Theft-** stealing, borrowing without permission, or taking of personal property that belongs to another person, school, team or organization.
- **Vandalism-** willful or malicious breaking, destruction, or defacement of public or private property.
- **Disrespect-** actions that show or express a lack of high regard or reverence for others (your fellow students, opponents, and especially those who have earned a position of honor (teacher, coach, official, administrator, parent, adult). This includes the use of unacceptable language (cursing) in addressing others. Profanity will not be tolerated!
- **Immorality-** any action that shows or expresses a disregard of right and wrong.
- **Hazing-** any action that humiliates, degrades, abuses, or endangers another person, regardless of that person's willingness to participate. These actions may include initiation rituals into a team or club.
- **Sexual Harassment-** actions, comments, threats, verbalization, coercion, jokes, teasing, or intimidation that are of sexual nature and are unwelcome by those exposed to them, whether they are staff members, visitors, or other students.

**D. Attendance Rule:** A student-athlete shall not participate in athletics (game or practice) on the day he/she has been absent from school for more than 3 periods without just reason. Just reason shall be anything beyond the control of the student, with the exception of illness. Doctor/dental appointments and HHS/DCSD activities absences are just reason; however, confirmation notes will be required by the athletics director or coach of that sport. An athlete who leaves school early due to an illness is considered too ill to participate in athletics. An athlete who arrives at school late because of sickness must arrive before 11:30 am to be granted permission to compete. Students must comply with the minimum attendance requirements in all classes to remain eligible.

**E. In-School Suspension (ISS)** – Any athlete that is placed on ISS status is allowed to practice and or compete. However, the athlete may also be suspended from participating in a contest or practice if the coach of their sport deems it necessary. If allowed to attend practice, he/she may be assigned to perform extra work or duties during or after the practice.

**F. Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)** – any athlete on OSS status will not be allowed to participate in practice or games during the suspension. Athletes serving OSS will immediately be suspended from participating in the next contest

**Note:** Students and coaches should be aware that students on OSS are not allowed to be on campus or attend any school functions.

**G. Individual Coaches' Rules:** Coaches may establish additional rules and regulation with approval of the athletics director and principal for their respective sports. The additional rules need to include specific discipline for ISS. These rules pertaining to a particular sport must be given by the coach in writing to all team members and explained fully at the start of the season. Penalties for violations of the rules shall also be in writing and shall be administered by the coach. The coach will retain a signed statement from the athlete and parent stating they have read all rules and regulations.

**H. Academic Performance:** Academic performance comes first; therefore, standards that are consistent and impartial need to be implemented that recognize that the athlete's primary responsibility is to schoolwork. Procedures for the implementation of the policy are as follows:

- A. Grades and/or progress reports of student-athletes will be reviewed every interim by the coaching staff to apprise them of the student-athlete's academic status. If a student is failing two or more courses at the first interim, the student will have a warning status and weekly progress reports from the course teacher must be turned in to the head coach. Students will be able to participate in athletics.
- B. Students failing two or more courses after the probationary status are ineligible to participate in contests for a minimum of ten days. That student-athlete will have until the next reporting time to make sufficient progress to ensure that he/she is passing all subjects needed for eligibility. During that time student athletes will be able to participate in practices, provided that he/she attends scheduled tutorial sessions with their teachers and turn in weekly progress reports to the head coach. If at any time during the ten days the student-athlete's grades improve, he/she will be removed from probationary status. If the student-athlete has any two or more failures at the next reporting period, he/she will be declared ineligible and will remain ineligible until the next reporting time when no failures occur.

**I. Athletic Participation:** A student chosen to be a member of a Team is a representative of that sport, Hartsville High School and the Hartsville community. It is vital that Student-athletes continue their involvement and participation throughout the season.

- A. Dismissal - An athlete dismissed from a team for violation of rules or conduct cannot practice with or join another team until the season of dismissal is complete.
- B. Quitting – An athlete quitting a team for any reason during the season will not be permitted to try-out/work out for another team until the sport he/she quit is complete.
- C. If a student-athlete is dismissed or quits a team twice in 1 year, he/she is not allowed to participate in sports for the remainder of the year.

**J. Parental Involvement and Athletic Achievement: The role of parenting is extremely important in athletics. Both parenting and coaching are difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better equipped to accept the actions of others and provide greater benefit to our children.**

- 1. Communication a parent should expect from a coach:**
  - Philosophy
  - Expectations
  - Practice & contest locations and times
  - Team requirements
  - Procedures to follow should your child become injured
  - HHS Athletic Department policies and procedures
- 2. Communication coaches expect from parents:**
  - Concerns expressed directly to the head coach
  - Notification of any scheduling conflicts well in advance
- 3. Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:**
  - The treatment of your child
  - Ways to help your child improve
  - Concern's about your child's behavior
- 4. Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:**
  - Playing time
  - Team strategy
  - Play calling
  - Other student-athletes
- 5. Procedures to follow if a parent needs to discuss a concern with the Head Coach:**
  - Call to set up an appointment with the Head Coach
  - Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or after a practice or a contest.
  - The phone call should be to set the appointment time.
  - The meeting in person should help create resolution.
- 6. Positive team support with positive behavior**
  - rewards the team
  - Cheer for your team with positive remarks and actions
  - Good sportsmanship is contagious
- 7. Negative behavior while attending events will not be tolerated**
  - Verbal warning
  - Dismissal
  - 3rd offense – removed from all events

As your children become involved in the many athletic programs offered at Hartsville High School, they will experience some of the most rewarding and memorable moments of their lives. Please join us as we share these special moments together.

**WE ARE... .. THE RED FOXES**