

High Point Academy

Athletic Policy

Purpose:

Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right. The athlete must earn this privilege through dedication, desire and discipline. Without the pursuit of these, the athlete can in no way do justice to him/herself, the team or the school. The athlete must discipline him/herself to be a good citizen and student in order to achieve athletic excellence. Athletes are members of a team. As a member of a team, athletes have an obligation and a commitment to the team. The choices and decisions of each athlete will reflect on the team as a whole. In order to pursue athletic achievement and character development in a determined course of action, the following “Athletic Policies” must be understood and agreed upon by the school, the student-athlete and his/her parents.

Attendance:

Attendance is the first step toward dedication. When you try out for a team you are making a commitment to your coaches and teammates that you can be counted on. All team members of every sport are expected to attend scheduled practices and meetings. The athlete should not obligate him/herself to a job that in any way interferes with practice time or regular competition time. No practices should be missed except for a personal or medical emergency. **A student should always consult his/her coach before missing a practice or game.** Missing a practice or game without good reason will be considered an unexcused absence. Unexcused absences may result in loss of playing time. Excessive unexcused absences from practices, games or meetings may be cause for removal from athletics.

An individual student who attempts to participate in several extracurricular school activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations. Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. Students should notify the faculty sponsor/coaches involved immediately when a conflict does arise. When a conflict does arise, the sponsors/coaches will work out a solution so the student does not feel caught in the middle. If a solution cannot be found, the principal will make the decision based on the following:

- A) The relative importance of each event.
- B) The importance of each event to the student.
- C) The relative contribution the student can make.
- D) How long each event has been scheduled.
- E) A discussion with the student’s parents.

Once the decision has been made and the student has followed that decision, he/she will not be penalized in any way by either the sponsor or coach. If it becomes obvious that a student cannot fulfill the obligations of a school activity, he/she should withdraw from that activity.

Students who miss over half of the school day due to illness will not be able to play in a contest or practice on that date. Students missing school for reasons other than illness must have an excused absence in order to participate. Final authority for infractions of this rule will rest with the principal. Students absent from school on the day prior to a non-school day athletic event will be eligible to participate the day after the absence.

It is the responsibility of the student to see his/her teacher(s) the day before they are to be released to participate in an athletic activity. All work should be made up at the convenience of the teacher.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for athletics, the athlete must be in compliance with the rules and regulations of the South Carolina High School League. These regulations are based upon academic requirements and legal enrollment and are detailed in the HPA Student Handbook.

Participation:

A student may participate in only one school sponsored sport per season unless the two coaches/sponsors agree to the student's competing in both activities and priorities are set to settle conflicts **before the season**. If a conflict arises that has not been previously agreed upon by the coaches, the athletic director will determine what activity the student athlete will participate in after receiving input from the athlete and his/her parents.

Quitting or dropping a sport in season is an intolerable habit to acquire. A quitter may lose the privilege of participating in the athletic program. If a student finds it necessary to drop a sport for good reason, they must immediately consult the team's head coach who will then report the situation to the athletic director. If a student wishes to change sports during a season, he/she shall consult with both coaches concerned and the athletic director. If both coaches fail to agree, the student cannot begin a new sport (including conditioning) until the season of the sport in which he/she is currently involved has been completed. This procedure assures a smooth transfer which is in the best interest of all involved.

Equipment:

School equipment or uniforms issued to the student-athlete is the student's responsibility. Loss of any equipment or uniform is the athlete's financial obligation, and failing to meet that obligation can result in denial of participation in the athletic program and a "stop card" being issued to the student by the school office.

Code of Conduct:

An athlete is expected to govern his/her behavior in accordance with the rules and regulations found in the HPA Student Handbook and as set forth in team rules which shall be communicated to each athlete by their head coaches. Violation of the student's obligations under the handbook, the athletic policy and team rules may result in removal from competitive athletics. Any athlete exhibiting behavior(s) which cause(s) embarrassment to himself/herself, the team, the Athletic Department, or the school may be suspended from the team. The principal, athletic director and the head coach will determine if the athlete is eligible to return to participate in future athletic events.

Athletes are also expected to have exemplarily behavior outside of school. An athlete arrested, under investigation, on probation etc., will be suspended from competition until cleared by the principal. (Excluding minor violations, such as traffic violations.)

Hazing:

The athletic department will not tolerate hazing by students, staff and third parties as part of any school sponsored activity. All students must avoid any action that could be viewed as planning, directing, encouraging, assisting or engaging in any hazing activity. Students should also not engage in acts that have a foreseeable potential for causing physical harm to any person for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any athletic team that is connected to High Point Academy.

State law defines hazing as “the wrongful striking, laying open hand upon, threatening with violence or offering to do bodily harm by a superior student to a subordinate student with the intent to punish or injure the subordinate student, or other authorized treatment by the superior student of a subordinate of a tyrannical, abusive, shameful, insulting or humiliating nature.”

Any hazing activity, whether by an individual or a group, will be presumed to be a forced activity, even if the student willingly participates.

Any student who feels he/she has been subjected to hazing is encouraged to immediately notify the athletic director or the principal. All complaints will be investigated promptly and confidentially.

A student found to be in violation of this policy may be subject to discipline from the school, athletic department and law enforcement.

Personal Health Practices:

Due to the harmful effect upon the health of the individual, all athletes will refrain in or out of season from the use of: tobacco (in any form), all alcoholic beverages, steroids, illegal drugs or mood altering substances found in legal over the counter products. Verification of the above behaviors will result in immediate disciplinary action detailed below:

A. Tobacco Violations:

1st offense: If in season, forfeiture of the next contest. If out of season, the athlete will be placed on probation for 365 days and encouraged to seek assistance in dealing with the tobacco habit.

2nd offense: In or out of season, forfeiture of one calendar year of participation in all interscholastic activities.

3rd offense: In or out of season, exclusion from all interscholastic activities for the remainder of their high school career.

B. Drugs/Alcohol Violations:

1st offense: If in season, forfeiture of playing in 20% of the scheduled contests or 10% of the contests if the student voluntarily participates in an Adolescent Services Program. If out of season, 8 hours of school service and completion of an Adolescent Services Program.

2nd offense: In or out of season, exclusion from all interscholastic activities for the remainder of their high school career.

- C. DUI Conviction: 1st offense – forfeiture of one calendar year of participation in all interscholastic activities. Future offenses would result in removal from athletics for the remainder of their high school career.
- D. If less than 20% (or 10% if participating in Adolescent Services Program) of the contests remain, there will be a carryover into the next activity including the following year, if necessary, so that the total exclusion is served.
- E. During the exclusion period, the student will not participate in team activities unless approved by the coach or athletic director.

In-School and Out-of-School Suspension:

Students that are placed in ISS for a full day or more due to inappropriate conduct may not be allowed to participate in athletic contest(s) during the suspension period depending upon the severity of the infraction. The student's right to participate in contests will be determined by the principal and athletic director.

Students that have been assigned OSS are not allowed to participate in any team practice or contest during the suspension period. Absences during the time that an athlete is in OSS will be considered unexcused. Excessive unexcused absences from practice, games or meetings may be cause for removal from athletics.

Team Travel:

Athletes are expected to travel to and from away contests on the team bus unless it is an emergency situation. If it is necessary for an athlete not to ride the bus, he/she must complete an athletic travel release form and have it signed by a parent, the head coach and the athletic director in advance of the trip.

Reporting of Injury:

All injuries that occur while participating in athletics should be reported to the coach immediately. If the injury requires medical attention by a doctor or treatment center, it will be necessary to have an injury report form completed.

Sportsmanship:

Athletes are expected to show good sportsmanship, honesty, respect and integrity toward fellow players, coaches, teachers, administrators, staff, opponents and officials. Profanity and abusive language or behavior will not be tolerated. Athletes who violate this standard of behavior are subject to disciplinary action by the South Carolina High School League, the school, the athletic department and the team. Student-athletes are ambassadors of the school and should be positive role models for the younger athletes in our community.

ATHLETE – PARENT VERIFICATION FORM

This form should be completed and signed by the athlete and parents or guardians and returned to the appropriate head coach.

Athlete's Name (please print)

Year

As a High Point Academy student-athlete participating voluntarily in interscholastic athletics, I understand that:

I will abide by the High Point Academy's student code of conduct, the school's athletic policy, the coaches team rules and the rules of the South Carolina High School League.

Student's signature

Date

Parent's/Guardian's signature

Date