

HICKSVILLE JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

ATHLETIC CODE

2023-2024

PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

Competitive sports are an inherent part of the total education program for students in secondary schools. When properly organized and conducted, inter-school athletics provide numerous opportunities for students to participate in activities that promote growth and development, teach social and recreational skills, and develop leadership qualities. These values are more readily attained when the program is based upon accepted standards and practices developed by professional leaders in education, the community, and the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

HICKSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL is a member of the Green Meadows Conference (GMC) and the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and will adhere to the principles, policies, and regulations prescribed by these organizations governing amateur athletics.

The success of our sports program is primarily dependent on the dedication and commitment of the young men and women who wear the Aces' uniform. These athletes not only represent our school and our community throughout the state of Ohio, but they are also role models for all the younger boys and girls who look up to them. Since participation in athletics is a privilege and not a right, athletes are required to uphold a high standard of behavior, academics, and attendance.

The rules and regulations of the Hicksville High School Athletic Code apply to each athlete and are in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year from the first day of organized practice (OHSAA coaching start date) of an athlete's first sports season, until the team awards have been presented for the last sports season in which they participate in their high school career. Failure to follow the rules and regulations as stated in this policy is cause for, and could result in, a denial of participation for a number of contests or for the remainder of the school year.

Each student shall meet all requirements in the Ohio High School Athletic Association Bylaws and the Hicksville Board of Education rules affecting athletics in order to be eligible to participate in interscholastic competition.

Academic Eligibility:

The Hicksville Exempted Village School Board sets forth minimum academic requirements that students must meet in order to be eligible to participate in sports. The Hicksville High School Athletic Council and the Board of Education have adopted the following policy concerning athletic eligibility.

- A. A student in grades 7-12 **MAY NOT** fail more than one course. If a student fails more than one course, he or she will be declared ineligible for the following nine-week grading period.

- B. A student in grades 7-12 must have a grade point average of 1.2 or higher each grading period. If a student fails to maintain at least a 1.2 grade point average, he or she will be declared ineligible for the following nine-week grading period. Students with disabilities are not exempt from the grade point average requirement.
- C. A student in grades 9-12 must have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses, or the equivalent in the immediately preceding grading period.
- D. A student in grades 7-8 must have received passing grades in a minimum of four subjects during the preceding grading period. A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement.

Athletic eligibility is based on the nine weeks before the sport begins. For example, in order to be eligible for next fall's sports, a student must meet grade requirements during the fourth nine weeks of the previous year. Second quarter's eligibility is determined during the first nine weeks, etc. Only first quarter seventh grade students are exempt from this regulation; by OHSAA rules, all new seventh graders are automatically eligible as they begin junior high school. Semester and yearly grades have no effect on eligibility.

Weekly eligibility checks will be conducted by the athletic director every Friday (or last school day of the week) beginning the fifth week of the grading period for the following week's contests. Any student failing two or more classes at the time of this grade check will be ineligible to compete in contests beginning the next Monday through Saturday. Eligibility will be restored after the next eligibility check if the student is no longer failing two or more classes. For classes that are graded S/U, a U is considered an F (failing).

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

1. To fulfill the attendance requirements for athletic eligibility, students must be in attendance for the last six full periods of the day including homebase (no homebase on delay days). Athletes who do not meet this condition are not eligible to participate in practice or in a competition that day. Coaches of each sport are responsible for checking athletes' daily attendance.
 - a. Attendance requirements for students on an approved work-study program will be determined by the principal and athletic director in accordance with state regulations.
 - b. Attendance requirements for students may be waived by the principal or athletic director with prior approval.
2. An athlete who becomes a member of a school sponsored sports team and then quits is ineligible to compete on another school-sponsored sports team during the same season. An athlete becomes a member of a team once he or she participates in a scrimmage or game.

3. An athlete who has tried out for a sport and has not been chosen for the team may participate in another sport during that season.

EXPECTATIONS OF ATHLETES

1. The student athlete will follow the rules and regulations as written in the Hicksville Junior / Senior High School Student Handbook and this athletic code.
2. Detentions assigned for misconduct in the classroom or for violation of the student handbook will take precedence over athletic practices and contests. Therefore, if an athlete has a detention to serve at the same time of a practice or contest, he / she must serve the detention.
3. Good attendance is expected of all athletes; a pattern of absences or tardiness before or after competitions will not be tolerated.
4. Athletes will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner while riding the school bus to and from games, scrimmages, previews, etc. Bus drivers deserve the same respect as teachers, coaches, etc.
5. Athletes will play the game and leave the judgment for the athletic contest to the officials.
6. Athletes are expected to take pride in their dress and grooming. Personal appearance shall be neat and reasonable, as established by school and team standards. If a uniform is not worn to and from a contest, the school dress code will apply.
7. The coach has the right to call and know the whereabouts of an athlete at any time during the season.

TRANSPORTATION

All athletes must travel to and from away contests in transportation provided by the athletic department. Alternative transportation may be allowed under the following conditions:

- 1) Written approval by parent or guardian.
- 2) Coach's approval.
- 3) Approval from the principal, assistant principal, athletic director, or assistant athletic director.
- 4) Alternate transportation must be with a parent or guardian.
- 5) In case of emergencies (or extenuating circumstances), alternate arrangements may be made with the approval of the principal or athletic director.

MAJOR VIOLATIONS

1. An athlete shall not possess, use, transmit, offer to sell, conceal, or be under the influence of illegal drugs, look alike drugs, those drugs prescribed for someone else, alcohol, vaping, e-cigarettes, tobacco, or tobacco products.
2. An athlete shall not refuse a drug test.
3. An athlete shall not attend a party or gathering of their peers in which illegal drugs, look alike drugs, or alcohol is being consumed.
4. An athlete shall not commit the following: theft, vandalism, assault, or insubordination. This clause also deals with assault and/or fighting with schoolmates, team members, managers, cheerleaders, officials, fans, and school personnel from either team or school.
5. An athlete shall not commit behavior or acts that bring embarrassment to the team, the coach, the schools involved, or our community.
6. An athlete convicted/adjudicated of a misdemeanor crime by a court of any jurisdiction is also subject to disciplinary action under this category.
7. If an athlete is convicted of a felony, this will count as two major violations.
8. The athletic director and/or principal will determine whether a violation of the athletic code is a major or a minor violation. In the case of a minor violation, the athletic director and/or principal will determine the appropriate disciplinary action.

MAJOR VIOLATION CONSEQUENCES

Note: Penalties will accumulate throughout an athlete's junior high career. They will accumulate again throughout an athlete's high school career. Penalties will not carry over from junior high to high school. Penalties will carry over into the next season in which they participate.

1. First Offense: (Examples include, but are not limited to, vaping, e-cigarettes, tobacco, or tobacco products.) The athlete will be denied participation from interscholastic competition for 20% of scheduled games. The number of games will be rounded to the nearest game when it is not a whole number. Denial of participation will extend into postseason play. During this denial of participation, the athlete must attend practice with the team and be present with the team at all interscholastic contests. The athlete may participate in pre-season contests prior to the denial of participation period being served.

If the offense involves the use of alcohol, the athlete is required to have an

alcohol assessment completed through an accepted professional program. The parents / guardians are responsible for the costs of such a program. Written verification must be provided for completion of the assessment. If the assessment is not completed in a timely fashion, the athlete will be denied participation from all athletics for the remainder of the school year. If the assessment is not completed, the athlete will be denied participation from all interscholastic athletics for the remainder of his/her school career at Hicksville Junior/Senior High School.

If the first offense involves the use of drugs and/or illegal drugs, the drug policy will be utilized. The athlete is required to have a drug assessment completed and the athlete must follow-up with any counseling and/or treatment deemed necessary by the assessing agency. The parents/guardians are responsible for completion of the assessment and any follow-up counseling and/or treatment. Written verification must be provided for completion of the assessment and any recommended counseling and/or treatment. If the assessment and the recommended counseling and/or treatment are not completed in a timely fashion, the athlete will be denied participation from all athletics for the remainder of the school year. If the assessment and the recommended counseling and/or treatment are not completed, the athlete will be denied participation from all interscholastic athletics for the remainder of his/her school career at Hicksville Junior/Senior High School.

2. If the first offense occurs prior to the first game, the denial of participation will begin with the first game. The athlete may participate in pre-season contests prior to the denial of participation period being served.

If the denial of participation served is less than 20% of the scheduled games, the denial of participation will continue into the athlete's next sports season, including the following year.

If the denial of participation served is less than 20% of the scheduled games, the athlete may not attend the awards assembly and may not receive his/her awards. The head coach, athletic director, and principal will make this determination.

3. Second Offense: The athlete will be denied participation in interscholastic competition for a minimum of 40% of scheduled games. The number of games will be rounded to the nearest game when it is not a whole number. Denial of participation may extend into postseason play. During this denial of participation, the athlete must attend practice with the team and be present with the team at all interscholastic contests. The athlete may not participate in any pre-season contests until the denial of participation period has been served.

If the second offense involves the use of alcohol and/or drugs, (Examples include, but not limited to, vaping, e-cigarettes, tobacco, or tobacco products.) professional intervention at the expense of the parent or guardian is required. The athlete must participate in an approved substance abuse counseling program. During the denied participation period, the athlete must attend practice with the team and be present at all interscholastic contests.

At the end of the denial period, the athlete may be reinstated to the team/squad with written verification of the counseling and/or treatment

program. If the counseling and/or treatment program is not initiated and followed in a timely fashion, the athlete will be denied participation from all athletics for the remainder of the school year. If the counseling and/or treatment program is not completed, the athlete will be denied participation from all interscholastic athletics for the remainder of his/her school career at Hicksville Junior/Senior High School.

4. If the second offense occurs prior to the first game, the denial of participation will begin with the first game. The athlete may participate in pre-season contests prior to the denial of participation period being served.
If the denial of participation served is less than 40% of the scheduled games, the denial of participation will continue into the athlete's next sports season, including the following year.
If the denial of participation served is less than 40% of the scheduled games the athlete may not attend the awards assembly and may not receive his/her awards. The head coach, athletic director, and principal will make this determination.
5. Third Offense: The athlete will be denied participation in interscholastic athletics for one calendar year. This shall apply only to sport seasons as approved by the Ohio High Athletic Association.

Dual Sports Policy

A student will be permitted to participate in two sports in one season provided that:

- Athlete must obtain an application from the Athletic Director.
- The participant declares to the coaches of the involved sports his/her intention to participate in two sports and must declare which sport is to be their major sport.
- The application must be signed by the parents, athlete, and both coaches
- The Athletic Director will schedule a meeting with parents, athlete, and coaches to discuss the athlete applying, practice, and contest schedules.
- The participant must coordinate daily practices with coaches.
- In situations where conflicts arise between competitions and practice sessions, the competition will take precedence over practice regardless of major/minor sport.
- The athlete must participate in 4 **MINOR** contests to be eligible to participate in any GMC and OHSAA tournaments in their minor sport. This may be adjusted by the athletic director/principal.
- **DUAL SPORTS IS FOR ATHLETES IN GRADES 9-12.**

ATHLETIC CODE DUE PROCESS

A report of a major violation of the athletic code is a serious situation. After being apprised of a possible violation, the coach, with the aid of the athletic director, shall investigate the allegations. The coach has an obligation to follow this procedure on any reported rule violation. The building principal will be informed of the problem. After careful consideration if the coach believes a major violation has occurred, the coach and/or athletic director will:

1. Institute due process by providing an opportunity for the student and parent or guardian to be heard by the coach and/or athletic director.
2. Provide the student with a written explanation, detailing the reasons for the denial of privileges and notification of the intent to deny privileges.
3. Contact parents and provide them with the same written materials.
(Per ORC 3313.66.4)
4. The decision may be appealed to the principal, and the principal's decision will be final. The denial of participation remains in effect during the appeal process.

RULES FOR INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

Each coach must use this athletic code as a basis for his/her sport(s). However, if a coach feels that additional rules should be added for his/her individual sport, each coach has that option.

NOTICE TO ATHLETE

Please fill out the section below, detach and return it to your coach by the date he/she specifies. This must be returned on or before the first day of organized practice.

I _____, parent, guardian, or legal custodian of _____ have read the Hicksville Athletic Code and agree that my son, daughter, or ward will abide by the philosophy, objectives, and training rules as specified in the Hicksville Athletic Code and any additional rules supplied by the coach.

(Signature of Parent or Guardian)

(Date)

I _____, the student athlete, have read the Hicksville Athletic Code and any additional rules supplied by the coach and agree that I will abide by the philosophy, objectives, and training rules as specified by the Hicksville Athletic Code and any additional rules supplied by the coach while participating in any sport during the 2023-2024 school year.

(Signature of Athlete)

(Date)