

You are receiving this handbook because you have indicated a desire to participate in the extra-curricular program(s) offered at Huntington High School. We are very pleased that you have made the decision and we hope that your experience will be positive as well as educational. Participation in extracurricular activities is both a privilege and an honor. It gives all students the opportunity to learn leadership skills, to gain self-confidence, self-discipline, organization skills, decision-making skills and encourages them to set goals. Again, it is a privilege not a right to be part of our programs. These skills are learned everyday and in every practice by all those who are willing to work toward them. This is why we encourage every student to participate in every activity possible.

If you have any questions about what is contained in this handbook or about any of our programs, please feel free to contact one of our head coaches, advisors, athletic director or principal.

*This handbook applies to all extra-curricular activities, athletics and clubs offered at Huntington Middle School and High School.

Extra-Curricular Activities (Clubs):

M.A.D.E, Student Council, Art Club, Science Club, Spanish Club, Prom Committee, Student Class Officer, Yearbook Staff, Choir/Band, Drama Club, Quiz Team

Huntington Athletic Programs Offered:

Fall

Football, Volleyball, Cross Country, Cheerleading, Golf

Winter

Basketball, Wrestling, Bowling (club), Archery (club)

Spring

Track and Field, Baseball, Softball

School Information

Huntington High School/Middle School
188 Huntsman Road
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

Main Office Phone: (740)663-2230 Athletic Director Justin Kellough (HS)
Fax (740)663-5042 Molly Montgomery (MS)

Principal Craig Kerns (High School)
Matt Murphy (Middle School)

Huntington High School Extra-Curricular Activities Philosophy (Mission)

We believe that a comprehensive program of student activities, including extracurricular athletics, is vital to the educational development of our students. Within this context, it is the purpose of the Huntington High School athletic department to foster and promote:

The idea of competition, teamwork and sportsmanship while achieving the team goals of success and participation.

The development of self-confidence, self-discipline, organization skills, decision making skills and goal orientation.

The concept of an integral relationship between a sound mind and a sound body leading to a lifetime appreciation of physical fitness and good health habits.

A positive feeling of school loyalty and pride which can be shared with other participants, students, parents and community.

The development of self-esteem and self-concept. Regardless of the role students play on a team, they should complete their experience in athletics feeling good about themselves.

The programs at Huntington offer opportunities for possessing sportsmanlike qualities for visiting students, exercising the characteristics of courtesy and developing positive school wide morals. The programs are educational in purpose and should be considered an integral part of the extracurricular program.

The athletic program shall be conducted in accordance with existing Board of Education policies, rules and regulations. These programs also operate under the guidelines and bylaws of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA).

Administration

The extra-curricular programs are administered by the Principal and Athletic Director while the overall policy is determined by the Superintendent and Board of Education. Huntington High School is a member of the Scioto Valley Conference (SVC) and will operate under the league constitution.

The Principal, Athletic Director and Coach can dismiss a student at anytime for a serious violation such as but not limited to: 1) theft or accomplice in theft; 2) use or possession of alcohol or drugs; 3) rioting; 4) assault; 5) any felony; or 6) anything that brings negativity to the school, team or community.

Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct

Because participants are respected and many times admired, they exert a great deal of influence over the actions and behavior of the spectators. Their display of respect is to be expected, encouraged and rewarded. Each participant should accept the responsibility and privilege of representing their school and community.

Conduct resulting in dishonor to participants reflects not only upon themselves, but also upon their team, coaches, family and school. The Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct is enforced year round. All participants are required to adhere to the rules and regulations of the Code of Conduct at all times, 12 months of the year, in and out of sport season and through the summer months.

A. Rules and Definitions

1. The student participant shall comply with the Student Code of Conduct in effect at the Student's school.
2. The student participant shall comply with the rules and regulations developed by the Coach/Advisor of the Sport or Activity in which the Student is participating.
3. A student participant shall exhibit respect and good sportsmanship toward oneself, coaches, teammates, competitors, referees and spectators.
4. The student participant engaging in interscholastic competition are required to comply with the requirements of the Ohio High School Athletic Association.
5. No student participant may practice or compete in interscholastic athletics until the student submits a form signed by his/her parent or guardian, or by a person having care or charge of the student, affirming that each has received a concussion and head injury information sheet as prepared by the Ohio Department of Health.
6. No student participant shall possess, use, apply, be under the influence of, purchase, sell, attempt to purchase and/or sell alcohol, tobacco/vaping substances and devices, drugs, or counterfeit drugs.
 - a. "Under the influence" is defined as manifesting signs of chemical misuse such as staggering, reddened eyes, odor of chemicals, nervousness, restlessness, falling asleep in class, memory loss, abusive language, or any other behavior not normal for the particular Student Participant.
 - b. "Tobacco/vaping substances and devices" means cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, smokeless tobacco, any other form of

tobacco or tobacco substitutes, nicotine in the form of liquid, drops or other form, papers used to roll tobacco, pipes, electronic nicotine delivery devices (commonly referred to as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, or e-hookahs), electronic smoking devices(juuls), and any other mechanism used for burning tobacco or delivery of tobacco, nicotine.

- c. “Drugs” means narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, tranquilizer, prescription drug, intoxicant or mood altering chemical of any kind, including counterfeits. Use of a drug authorized by a medical prescription from a licensed physician to the Student Participant shall not be considered a violation of this rule as long as a parent's statement, signed physician's statement, and/or prescription label is presented to the principal's office. Such medication shall be kept in the security of school personnel.
- 7. A student participant shall not post any form of communication on a social networking website which disrupts the educational or athletic environment or which advocates the violation of any Board Policy, Student Code of Conduct, or team rule or regulation.
- 8. A student participant shall not post online any pictures, information or other content that might cause embarrassment to themselves, fellow Student Participant, teams, coaches, the Athletics Department or the campus (examples include, but are not limited to, obscene images or language, nudity, pictures at parties with alcohol, references to drugs, sex, or illegal activities).
- 9. A student participant shall not post any content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual, teammate, coach, faculty member, or entity (examples include, but are not limited to, derogatory comments regarding another school; taunting comments aimed at a student-athlete, coach or team at another school).
- 10. A Student Participant shall not post any content that depicts or encourages unacceptable or illegal activities (examples include, but are not limited to, hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, and illegal drug use).
- 11. A student participant shall not post any content online that would constitute a violation of the Huntington Local Schools Acceptable Use Policy.
- 12. A Student Participant shall not commit a serious conduct violation such as, but not limited to: a.) theft or compliance in theft b.) rioting, c.) assault, d.) a felony may cause the student-athlete to be dismissed permanently from the athletic program. Each violation will be dealt with by the Athletic Director and Building Principal on an issue by issue basis. When applicable, the Athletic Director and

Building Principal will attempt to contact the Head Coach or Advisor regarding the violation. The student is always entitled to the appeal process as outlined previously, and the Board of Education shall make the final decision in any individual case.

B. Consequence of Violations

1. Removal from Practice or Competition: Any student may be removed from an extra-curricular event, practice and/or competition at the discretion of the coach, advisor, Athletic Director, Principal, Superintendent, or other administrator for an infraction of school rules and regulations or for any unacceptable conduct in or out of school.
2. Removal from Leadership Positions: Upon violating any provision of the Student Participant code of Conduct, the Student Participant may be removed from any leadership position such as, but not limited to, team captain, and will not hold any leadership position in Student Activities for the remainder of the school year.
3. Denial of Participation: A student may be denied participation from Extra-Curricular Activities by the Principal or Superintendent. The period of suspension shall not exceed the remainder of the school year, except for conduct occurring during the spring sports season, for which the period of suspension or removal shall not extend beyond the end of the following fall sports season. Days of suspension are calculated as Monday through Saturday - six days/week.

Specific Penalties and Consequences

(If an infraction occurs out of season, the suspension will start the first official start date of the season according to the OHSAA)

1. Use or Possession of alcohol, drugs, counterfeit drugs

First Violation

The Student Participant will be suspended from participation in contests/competitions for thirty (30) days.

The Student Participant will continue to practice with the team but will not dress for contests/competitions, but must travel and sit on the bench with the team. This applies to student Participant ho are statisticians, mascots, managers or other assistants.

If the violation involves drugs, the Student Participant must submit to and pass a drug test at the parent's expense, before he/she can return to participation. Any sign of a "masking agent" in the urine test will mean

that the test will be considered positive. "Pass" means no illegal or prescription drugs not prescribed to the Student Athlete are detected

It is strongly recommended that the student seek a professional evaluation and treatment program from a trained chemical dependency counselor or a licensed physician trained in chemical dependency. If the student agrees to the evaluation, the suspension will be limited to 15 days, pending proof of evaluation and treatment. The student/family will bear the cost of the evaluation and treatment.

The suspension from participation shall not exceed the remainder of the school year, except for conduct occurring during the spring sports season, for which the period of suspension or removal shall not extend beyond end of the following fall sports season.

Second Violation

The Student Participant will be suspended from participation in contests/competitions for 60 days which could extend into the next sports season. If the violation occurs during the spring sports season, for which the period of suspension or removal shall not extend beyond the end of the following fall sports season.

The Student Participant will continue to practice with the team but will not dress for contests/competitions, but must travel and sit on the bench with the team. This applies to student athletes who are statisticians, mascots, managers or other assistants.

If the violation involves drugs, the Student Participant must submit to and pass a drug test at the parent's expense, before he/she can return to participation. Any sign of a "masking agent" in the urine test will mean that the test will be considered positive. "Pass" means no illegal or prescription drugs not prescribed to the Student Participant are detected.

During the suspension, the Student Participant must continually attend and eventually complete a substance abuse program at the parent's expense. Failure to continually attend and/or complete this program will result in immediate suspension from participation.

The suspension from participation shall not exceed the remainder of the school year, except for conduct occurring during the spring sports season, for which the period of suspension or removal shall not extend beyond the end of the following fall sports season.

2. Sale or Distribution of Alcohol, Drugs, Counterfeit Drugs

The Student Participant will be suspended from participation in contests/competitions for the remainder of the school year, except for conduct occurring during the spring sports season, for which the period of suspension or removal shall not extend beyond the end of the following fall sports season. A referral will be made to law enforcement.

3. Tobacco/Vaping Violations

First Violation

The Student Participant will be suspended from competitions/contests for ten (10) days or a minimum of two (2) competitions/contests suspension, whichever is longer.

The Student Participant will continue to practice with the team but will not dress for any competition/contest, but must travel and sit with the team. This applies to student athletes who are statisticians, mascots, managers or other assistants.

Any unexpired suspension will carry over to the next sport season in which the student participates.

Second Violation

The Student Participant will be suspended from competitions/contests for twenty (20) days. The Student Participant will continue to practice with the team but will not dress for any competition/contest, but must travel and sit with the team. This applies to student athletes who are statisticians, mascots, managers or other assistants. Any unexpired suspension will carry over to the next sport season in which the Student Athlete participates.

Third Violation

The Student Participant will be suspended from the Sports Activity, in its entirety, for the remainder of the school year, except for a violation occurring during the spring sports season, for which the suspension shall extend until the end of the fall sports season.

4. Vandalism of School Property - Home or Away

First Violation

The Student Participant will be suspended the shorter of the following: until restitution is made to the proper authority or the rest of the school year, except for a violation occurring during the spring sports season, for which the suspension may extend until the end of the fall sports season.

A referral may be made to law enforcement.

Second Violation

The Student Participant will be suspended the shorter of the following: thirty (30) days or the remainder of season. However, the Student Participant will remain suspended until Restitution is made to the proper authority through the end of the school year, except for a violation occurring during the spring sports season, for which the suspension may extend until the end of the fall sports season.

A referral may be made to law enforcement.

Third Violation

The Student Participant will be suspended from the Sports Activity, in its entirety, for the remainder of the school year, except for a violation occurring during the spring sports season, for which the suspension shall extend until the end of the fall sports season.

Restitution must be made to the proper authority.

A referral may be made to law enforcement.

C. Self-Referral

Self-referral occurs when the Student Participant realizes and admits he or she has a problem and needs help with a drug/alcohol problem and seeks help before he/she is observed violating the Code of Conduct.

Student Participant have the opportunity for a self-referral procedure to seek information, guidance, counseling and/or assessment in regard to use or possession of tobacco, alcohol, drugs and other controlled substances.

Self-referral cannot be used to avoid consequences of violation of the Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct.

Self-referral will not receive first violation consequences but it will be counted as a violation.

To avoid suspension, the Student Participant must complete an assessment and rehabilitation program. Failure to complete the rehabilitation program will result in suspension being invoked.

Self-referral is always encouraged; however, the self-referral procedure may only occur once. Self-referral by a Student Participant should be made to the Head Coach, Athletic Director, or Principal.

Relationship with Teachers

Participants are expected to be examples of good behavior in all aspects of their school life. If a faculty member reports an incident of unacceptable behavior or negative classroom attitude, the act will be discussed with the player and disciplinary actions, if necessary will be determined by the principal and coach.

It is a privilege to be a member of a team/club or program at Huntington, a privilege that can only be earned when one abides by the rules of the school and the team. As a Huntington Huntsman, you must agree to place the team and team goals above your own goals, to place the needs of the team above your own needs. You should be willing to work diligently every day in practice for the betterment of the team regardless of your role on that team.

Attendance

Students involved in extracurricular activities must be in attendance to participate in the activity after school. Students must be in attendance by 11:15 on the day of the activity.

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate a student must meet all requirements set forth by the Ohio High School Athletic Association and Huntington Local Schools. Those requirements are listed below:

*Have clearly established their legal residence in the district or have been enrolled as an open enrollment student.

*Have passed the equivalent of 5 credits the previous grading period. In Middle School the student/athlete must pass 5 classes.

*Must not turn 19 before August 1 for high school and 15 for middle school.

*Follow all attendance policies.

*Have a current physical, insurance coverage/waiver, concussion forms and emergency medical forms on file.

*Meet the coach's requirements to make the team.

*Turned in their uniform from the previous sport they participated.

Eligibility is established according to grades earned during the previous nine-week grading period. Semester, Summer School and yearly grades have NO effect on eligibility. All seventh graders are eligible the first nine-weeks of their seventh grade year.

Physical Examination: Each student must have a physical examination prior to trying out for a sport. Physical forms can be downloaded from the school website. The athletic trainer will keep all completed forms on file. The athlete must have all paperwork on file before the first official practice.

NCAA Clearinghouse/Athletic Scholarships

The clearinghouse is an arm of the NCAA. It was established to certify student athletes for Division I and Division II institutions. In order to be eligible to compete for athletic scholarships at these levels the student/athlete must be registered and must send either an ACT or SAT score to the clearinghouse. Information concerning this can be obtained in the high school guidance office. There is a cost to register and it cannot be done until the summer between your junior and senior year. The best thing underclassmen can do to become eligible for an athletic scholarship is to maintain a high grade point average in the core courses during their first three years of high school.

Failure to Complete a Season

It is the athletic department's policy that if a student athlete decides not to finish the season in a sport that he/she has participated in (practice or games) he/she will be ineligible to participate in any organized fitness or conditioning program that another sport may be conducting until the first sports' season is over or the second season has officially started. A meeting before the Athletic Council will be conducted in the presence of the athlete with a majority vote necessary for further participation in future athletic programs. The meeting with the Athletic Council will take place within 14 days of the student/athlete's decision to quit. It is recommended before a student/athlete quits a team, they have a meeting with the coach and athletic director to discuss their intent and reasons for the decision. If a student/athlete does wish to not finish a season they have until the first official game to do so, without penalty.

*The athletic council consists of Principal, Athletic Director and the head coaches in that season.

Cancellation of Contest/Practices Due to Weather

If Huntington Schools are closed due to inclement weather, a decision on the status of games or practices will be made by the superintendent, principal and athletic director as soon as possible. Once a decision has been made the head coach of each team will contact the team members

concerning the status of contests and practices. The district may also post updates on the school website, through the school app or utilize the district “one-call” system. Cancellations may also be posted on WKKJ or on the Chillicothe Gazette web-page.

Sports Banquets

Banquets will be held for each sport at the discretion of the principal, athletic director and head coach. The awards given are as defined in the athletic award policy section.

Playing Time

There is no guarantee on any amount of playing time. As athletes move through the program there could be very limited playing time given. The coaches determine who plays and how long based on ability, practice, rules and desire. When there is a question about playing time the athlete should speak with the coach. It is important to reinforce with your athlete that his/her contribution to the team is just as important regardless of the amount of his/her playing time.

*Parents/guardians should not approach a coach immediately after a contest to complain or voice concern about the team, individual players or coach. It is recommended the parent/guardian allow 24 hours before voicing concerns or complaints. At which time the parent/guardian should set up a meeting with the coach. If the concerns are not handled in a way the parent/guardian feels comfortable, they should then contact and set up a meeting with the athletic director.

Vacations

Vacations by participants during a sports season are strongly discouraged. Parents and athletes wishing to do so may want to reassess their commitment to being an athlete. In the event an absence due to vacation is unavoidable, an athlete must:

1. Be accompanied by his/her parents/guardians while on vacation.
2. Inform the head coach well in advance of the vacation.
3. Practice one day for each practice or contest missed prior to resuming competition.
4. Be willing to assume the consequences related to their status on the team.

Two-Sport Athlete

In order for a student athlete to participate in two sports during the same season, an agreement must be made between both coaches involved. If both coaches can come to an agreement, two sport participation may be permitted. The student/athlete must declare which sport is their primary sport. In a circumstance where there is a scheduling conflict it is always recommended the student/athlete attend the event of the primary sport, unless a different agreement has been made in advance.

Sunday Practices

As a general rule, there are to be no mandatory practice sessions of any kind on Sundays. Exceptions can be made under certain circumstances (Monday tournament game, cheerleading competition, etc..) with the approval of the athletic director or principal.

After School Supervision

An athlete is not permitted in the school building after school hours unless he/she is under the direct supervision of a teacher or coach at all times. This includes time period before away sporting events and after practices and games.

Equipment

All participants must have all debts and equipment cleared with the coach/athletic director before they will be allowed to participate in the next activity. A customary two-week clean time will be observed.

Social Media

Participation in activities, groups and teams is a privilege at Huntington Local Schools. The use of social media by a student considered to be “unbecoming of a Huntsman” may result in discipline including suspension or removal from the activity, group, leadership position or team.

Content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another school; taunting comments aimed at a student/athlete, coach or team at another school or someone from our school and derogatory comments against race and/or gender). No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, illegal drug use).

Athletic Awards Policies

A varsity letter “H” will be given to an individual the first time he/she qualifies for the award. After the initial “H” has been awarded, it will be the only varsity letter the athlete will receive regardless of the number of sports the athlete participates in throughout their high school career. The athlete will receive inserts, service bars, plaques and/or trophies for the remaining years of participation. It is recommended that all Varsity Only participants receive the 8’ letter. Participants splitting time should participate in the minimums listed. Awards below the varsity level will not be based on playing time.

Addressing an Issue or Problem

The first step for a parent/athlete when addressing an issue or problem should always be to meet with the Head Coach/Advisor.

What a parent can do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution

Call and set up an appointment with the athletic director to discuss the situation. At this time the appropriate next step can be determined.