

CODE OF CONDUCT AND ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

- I.
 - A. Participation in the Holland Patent Central School District's athletic program is a privilege. Student athletes who choose to participate have a responsibility to abide by a code of ethics which will earn them the honor and support that participation and competition in the interscholastic program affords. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the athlete, the team or the school will not be tolerated.
 - B. A firm and fair policy and enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the Athletic Department.
- II. The following is a list of rules and regulations governing the interscholastic sports program.
 - A. Eligibility

Any student enrolled in grades 7 – 12 in the Holland Patent Central School District who meets the guidelines of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, has the permission of their parent or guardian, and has passed the health examination administered by the school/family physicians, may try out for participation on an inter-scholastic team.
 - B. School Policies

All school policies regarding attendance, academic eligibility, and code of conduct will be followed. Any suspensions, either in-school or out-of-school, will result in the athlete being ineligible for practice or contests for at least the same period of time. In order to be eligible to practice or play in a scheduled contest on any particular day, the student/athlete must be in school before 10:00 a.m. with a legal excuse turned in to the school nurse. Legal excuses for example, doctor and dentist appointments are acceptable, however will be checked for validity with parents.
 - C. Sportsmanship

Any athlete disqualified from an athletic contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall not be permitted to participate in the next contest. In the event of a blatant act of unsportsmanlike behavior, the incident will be reviewed by the Athletic Board who may determine that the penalty could be increased up to 20% of regularly scheduled contests. All repeat offenders will automatically be referred to the Athletic Board.

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The student athlete assumes responsibility for all equipment that is issued to the athlete. He/she will be responsible to return all such equipment in working order barring normal wear and tear or be responsible for payment for any equipment that has been lost, damaged or destroyed. Until such equipment is returned or paid for, further athletic participation will not be allowed.

E. Individual Coaches Rules

Coaches may establish additional rules and regulations with the approval of the Athletic Director for their respective sports. 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 violation of team rules will also be in writing and shall be administered by the coach. Copies of all additional team rules by coaches are on file in the athletic office. Repeat violations of these rules may be referred to the Athletic Board.

F. Quitting Teams

There will be a “cut period” for each athletic activity that is to be established by the individual coach (this “cut period” can go up to and include the first game) during which a player may voluntarily withdraw from a team by conferring with the coach, stating his/her reason and turning in all issued equipment. No student athlete may quit a team without a meeting between the student athlete, parent, and coach in consultation with building administration and athletic director.

III. Prohibited Behavior:

The following prohibitions and penalties deal with students involved in athletics and pertain to the entire sports season; provided, however, that a student athlete may be disciplined for out-of-season, out of District conduct that (1) is a criminal offense, or (2) causes such adverse notoriety and is of such a nature that it has, in the judgment of the District, the potential to negatively impact the educational program and, unless addressed, to create the impression among other students that it is condoned by the District. In either of these events, the administration in consultation with the superintendent may impose such penalty as it deems appropriate under the circumstances.

A. Prohibited behaviors1. Training Rules

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- a. Consuming an alcoholic beverage at any time on or off campus except in a religious context. Alcoholic beverages shall mean and include but not be limited to alcohol, spirits, liquor, wine, beer and cider having alcoholic content.
- b. The use, possession, sale, or gift of any controlled substance including marijuana, or any instruments for the use of such substances such as a pipe, syringe or other paraphernalia at any time. Exempted is any drug taken in accordance with the school's policy on medication.
- c. Smoking a cigarette, cigar or pipe, or using chewing or smokeless tobacco at any time (use or possession).
- d. Supplying alcohol or drugs to an individual, hosting a party at which drugs are present or alcohol is used by individuals under the age of 21, and/or attending a party where illegal drugs are present and being used or alcohol is present and being used by individuals under the age of 21 in which no reasonable efforts were made to leave said party. The onus is on the student to prove reasonable attempts were made to leave or not attend believing that alcohol or drugs were being served.

2. Citizenship Rules

- a. Any act of fighting or violence
- b. Any act of vandalism.
- c. Any act of criminal or illegal behavior.
- d. Any act of hazing

3. Sportsmanship Rules

Failure to adhere to the Universal Sportsmanship Standards, which include, but are not limited to:

- a. Showing respect for the opponent at all times. Accept the responsibility and privilege of representing your school and community as a student athlete.
- b. Showing respect for the officials at all times. Sportsmanship implies the willingness to accept and abide by the decisions of the officials.

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- c. Showing respect for the coaches at all times. Sportsmanship implies the willingness to comply with the reasonable directions of the coach.
 - d. Knowing, understanding and appreciating the rules of the contest. Sportsmanship suggests the importance of conforming to the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
 - e. Maintaining self-control at all times. Play fair; accept defeat without complaint and victory without boasting.
4. Removal From Team: No student athlete may be removed from a team without a meeting between a student athlete, parent, and coach and in consultation with building administration and athletic director.

B. Penalties of Violation of the Training Rules

1. The Athletic Director has the authority to discipline the athlete, or in the case of a serious situation, refer the matter to the Athletic Board. Prior to the imposition of any disciplinary action, every effort will be made by the Athletic Director to give the athlete, and/or the person in parental relation to the athlete, notice of the alleged violation, and must provide the student and person in parental relation with an opportunity to admit or deny the allegations, and to explain any circumstances surrounding the alleged violation. The athletic board shall make a decision regarding whether a violation has been committed by the student athlete. When a violation occurs, the following penalty shall be imposed:
 - a. First Offense – (Suspension from participation for a minimum of 20% of the regularly scheduled contests.) Suspension will include post-season contests, if the terms of the suspension are not met during the regularly scheduled season. In addition, the athlete must attend all team practices, team meetings, and contests while on suspension. The athlete must sit on the bench in street clothes for all interscholastic contests during athletic suspension. Athletes under suspension are still considered team members. Failure to meet the requirements will result in dismissal for the remainder of the sports season.
 - b. Second Offense - Suspension from participation for a minimum of 50% of the regularly scheduled contests. Suspension will include post season contests, if the terms of the suspension are not met during the regularly scheduled season. The athlete will have a

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hearing before the Athletic Board. The student athlete may be dismissed from the team to which he/she is presently a member. The student athlete will forfeit all awards, honors, and post-season recognition. If an athlete violates the regulations at the end of the season, the remaining percentage of the suspension will carry over to the next sport season in which he/she may participate. Any athlete that has a second violation and carryover penalty into the next season can try out and be required to practice with the team. However, the athlete will not be able to play until the penalty is served.

- c. Additional Offenses – Three or more time offenders will be referred to the Athletic Board for a hearing, and will be subject to dismissal from all athletic programs for the next three sports seasons if found guilty.

(The Code of Conduct will cover all other offenses not outlined by this policy.) Any report of incidents of possible violations of the athletic code will result in an investigation by the athletic director in consultation with the administration.

C. Violation Procedure

Violations of training regulations must be reported to the Athletic Director by professional staff, including coaches, and other representatives of the Holland Patent Central School District for investigation. Parents of an athlete, any athlete, a member of a law enforcement agency or community members may also report violations for investigation.

D. The Athletic Board

The Athletic Board will be composed of the Principal and/or Assistant Principal, Athletic Director, a coach, and a non-coaching teacher appointed by the Principal.

The Athletic Board will be responsible for conducting hearings regarding any alleged violation of training regulations which is at least a second offense. First offense situations may be brought to the Athletic Board for a hearing if judged to be of a serious nature by the Athletic Director and in consultation with the administration. The coach of the sport will be afforded an opportunity to meet with the hearing board.

E. Hearing Procedures

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1. Prior to the hearing, the athlete and person in parental relation to that athlete will be notified in writing of the allegation and potential disciplinary action.
2. The athlete and parent will have the opportunity to be present at the hearing, and be given the opportunity to discuss the facts and evidence underlying the proposed action with the Athletic Board. The athlete will be given the opportunity to admit or deny the accusation, and explain any circumstances surrounding the alleged conduct pertinent to his/her defense.

F. Athletic Board Decision

1. The Athletic Board will base its decision on more than suspicion that the alleged act was committed. The decision will be based on evidence presented at the hearing.
2. The decision of the Athletic Board will be made in writing, specifying the evidence upon which the decision was made, and specifying the extent of the disciplinary measures to be imposed.

G. Appeals

1. Decisions of the Athletic Director may be appealed by the athlete or parent to the Athletic Board within ten (10) days. The appeal must be made in writing, and must request an Athletic Board hearing. The Athletic Board will then provide a hearing. The Athletic Board has the authority to uphold, rescind, or modify the penalty imposed by the Athletic Director.

The appeal decision will be based on a majority rule of the Athletic Board, and will be made in writing, specifying the reasons and circumstances upon which the decision was based.

2. Decisions of the Athletic Board may be appealed by the athlete or parent to the Superintendent of Holland Patent Central School. The appeal must be in writing and submitted within five (5) days of the decision. The Superintendent of Schools shall have the authority to uphold, rescind, or modify the penalty imposed by the Athletic Board. The Superintendent of Schools' decision will be made in writing specifying the basis for the decision. Decisions may be appealed to the Board of Education.
3. Appeals shall not delay imposition of penalties.

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1. The student must report any injury to the coach immediately. The student must also report to the nurse as soon as possible to fill out a report if medical treatment is necessary. If this report is not made out, no claims may be filed with the insurance company. The insurance company must receive this report within thirty (30) days of injury.
2. The school insurance policy pays after the family's insurance is exhausted (including major medical). It will not necessarily take care of all remaining bills as there is a set schedule of maximum payments for each type of injury.
3. FAMILIES WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE MAY INCUR SUBSTANTIAL DEBT FOR MEDICAL CARE DUE TO INJURIES SUSTAINED WHILE PARTICIPATING IN ATHLETICS. The school insurance program provides minimal reimbursement for medical expenses in these situations. The balance between school insurance reimbursement and the actual bill becomes the responsibility of the family.

I. Warning

1. Participation by a student in athletic activities involves some degree of risk or injury. Such injury could occur in non-contact as well as contact sports. By volunteering to participate in an athletic activity, students and their parents assume the risk that injury could occur.
2. Athletes must adhere to the rules and regulations of their sport, follow their coaches instructions, and wear appropriately fitted equipment for the activities engaged in at all times.

Holland Patent Central School District

Adopted: 07/24/91, 03/14/12

Revised: 04/08/97, 12/15/04, 02/07/07, 06/06/07