



HAMILTON HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Parent Guidelines and Chain of Command

Hamilton Heights' philosophy of educating the whole child applies to athletics and sports as well as to academic life. When students participate in club sports, intramurals, fitness activities or varsity teams, they do so as a part of their total educational experience—building skills of commitment, sportsmanship, leadership and teamwork.

Interscholastic athletics at Hamilton Heights offer proof that athletic and academic success can thrive together in a supportive environment. As your children become involved in the athletic programs at Hamilton Heights, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. However, athletic achievement at Hamilton Heights requires sincere commitment from all athletes, parents, coaches, and administrators. For all of us to be successful, effective communication must occur. Therefore, it is necessary that everyone understand the focus and direction of the program.

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

Both parenting and coaching are challenging vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefits to the student-athletes. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our program, you have a right to understand the expectations that are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's team.

Communication You Should Expect from Your Child's Coach

1. When and where practices and contests are held.
2. His/her coaching philosophy.
3. Expectations he/she has for all athletes on the squad as well as your individual child.
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning and specific team rules.
5. Procedures should your child be injured during practice or a contest.
6. Discipline procedures that may result in the denial of your child's participation.

Communication Coaches Expect from Parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
4. Specific medical problems that could adversely impact your child's performance or safety.

It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss With Coaches

1. The treatment of your child mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.
4. Family concerns that may have an emotional impact upon your child and his or her athletic participation.

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all the student-athletes involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as the following items, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches

Playing time, team strategy, play calling, lineups, substitutions, and other student-athletes on the team.

Unacceptable Contact with Your Child's Coach

1. Prior to and during practice.
2. Prior to, during, or after a contest.

These are typically very busy times or, in the case of a contest, emotional times for all parties involved. Things can and will be said that are not meant. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, we ask that you make your contact with the coach first. Though we understand your desire to talk with the Athletic Director or Administration first, those phone calls first will be referred to the appropriate coach.

The Following Procedures Should be Followed to Help Promote a Resolution

1. Take 24 hours to reassess the issue. Possibly discuss the situation with a spouse or co-worker to determine an objective analysis of the situation.
2. Call the school to set up an appointment with the coach.
3. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Department (317-984-3551, Ext. 1060) to help facilitate scheduling the meeting.

What Can a Parent Do if the Meeting with the Coach Did Not Provide a Satisfactory Resolution?

1. Call and set up a meeting to discuss the situation with the Athletic Director (317-984-3551, Ext. 1061).
2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.

Hamilton Heights Athletic Program Parent or Guardian Code of Conduct

The purpose of the Parent / Guardian Code of Conduct is to develop parental support and positive role models for our athletic program. In the tradition of excellence, one purpose of Hamilton Height's athletic program is to promote the physical, moral, mental, social, and emotional well-being of each student and all of our student-athletes. Parents and guardians are an integral part of this process.

Parent / Guardian Code of Conduct

1. Pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement to my student-athlete and his or her team, coaches and school.
2. Pledge to provide positive support and encouragement to the visiting team, their coaches and school.
3. Maintain positive behavior and attitude at all athletic contests.
4. Respect the position and professionalism of the game official.
5. Refrain from the use of foul language.
6. Refrain from yelling criticism at my student-athlete and his or her coach or team.
7. Refrain from making derogatory comments to players, others parents, game officials or school administrators.
8. Refrain from interfering with the coach.
9. Willing to let the coach be responsible for my son or daughter during practice, games and team related activities.
10. Will assist in providing for student safety and welfare.
11. Will sign and submit, with accurate information, all required student-athlete handbook forms to the Athletic Department.
12. Will not attempt to circumvent any rules or guidelines of Hamilton Heights High School or the Indiana High School Athletic Association.

PARENT / GUARDIAN AGREEMENT

The Parent / Guardian agrees to:

1. Abide by the Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct at all athletic events involving Hamilton Heights.
2. Know and understand the information covered in the Student Athletic Handbook and encourage my son or daughter to abide by the Student Athletic Handbook.
3. Encourage good sportsmanship by personally demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and game officials.
4. Treat all players, coaches, fans and officials with respect, regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.

I/We the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the student-athlete, acknowledge that I/we have read the terms of this Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct. I/We agree to conduct myself/ourselves according to the terms of this document. I/We also understand and agree that any violation of this Code of Conduct will be cause for suspension, dismissal, or permanent expulsion from future athletic contests. I have read, understand and agree to the parent/guardian Code of Conduct.

Parent/Guardian Name (printed)

Parent Guardian Name (printed)

Signature

Signature

Name of Student-athlete

Current Sport

Date

Please return this form to the Hamilton Heights High School Athletic Department.