

HARLEM ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

Board approved 7/21/21

The Harlem Athletic Department seeks to provide a broad opportunity of interscholastic activities for all who support the Harlem Athletic philosophy, which is to accentuate the development of the whole student and to achieve a personal level of excellence in the areas of fitness, team commitment, and sportsmanship. Athletics is key to the process of character development, and helps encourage students to lead by example. This includes but is not limited to personal traits, including honor, compassion, sportsmanship, discipline, leadership, and team cooperation are emphasized.

I. INTRODUCTION

Interscholastic athletics and activities are privileged activities available to every student in the Harlem School District. The student is a representative of the Harlem School District on the playing field, in practice, and in the community, and no property rights are included. The acceptance of participation in athletics and activities involves a commitment by the student to the following activities/athletic training code. It is the responsibility of the coach, the advisor, and the Athletic Director to inform the parents or guardians and the students of the Activity/Athletic Code and to enforce the Activity/Athletic Code in an equitable manner. It is the students' responsibility to be aware of the Activity/Athletic Code and to adjust their behavior so that it becomes unnecessary for a coach, advisor, and the Athletic Director to have to enforce the Activity/Athletic Code.

II. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

- A. To balance athletics and other extracurricular activities with all other student academic responsibilities and considerations.
- B. To encourage, build, and promote both the individual's moral character and physical development.
- C. To develop in each participant a feeling of pride, a sense of accomplishment, and a desire to excel within the ethics of the sport.
- D. To develop excellent athletic programs of which the participants, school, and community can be proud.
- E. To promote a high regard for hard work and good sportsmanship, and help promote good sportsmanship for both students and spectators in the Harlem School District. In accordance with IHSA "Sport A Winning Attitude" Campaign.
- F. To promote drug/alcohol/tobacco free activities at all times for all student athletes through the Harlem School District TARGET PROGRAM.

III. ATHLETIC REQUIREMENTS

Each student athlete must have the following COMPLETED BEFORE he/she can participate in any Harlem School District Athletics:

1. CURRENT PHYSICAL EXAM

- Each student athlete must have a current physical exam form or statement from their doctor indicating they are physically fit to participate in sports.
- A copy of this exam or statement must be on file in the Athletic Office (High School) / Athletic Office (Middle School) BEFORE the student may practice or compete in their sport.
- All physical exams are valid for one calendar year from the date they were completed.

2. COMPLETE ONLINE REGISTRATION ON 8TO18 WEBSITE

- ATHLETIC INFORMATION SHEET
- ATHLETIC CONSENT TO TREAT
- IHSA SPORTS MEDICINE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CONSENT FORM
- PERMISSION FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT CARD
- ATHLETIC PLEDGE SHEET

3. ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FEES

- Each student athlete must pay an athletic fee before he/she may practice or play in competition.
- Harlem High School Fees: First sport - \$125.00; Second Sport - \$75.00; Third Sport - FREE. If you are eligible for the fee waiver program, fees will be waived. If eligible for reduced fees, the payments will be First Sport - \$87.50; Second Sport - \$52.50; Third Sport – Free. Payment plans are available (contact HHS main office).
- Harlem Middle School Fees: First sport - \$80.00; Second Sport - \$70.00; Third Sport - FREE. If you are eligible for the fee waiver program, fees will be waived. If eligible for reduced fees, the payments will be First Sport - \$56.00; Second Sport - \$49.00; Third Sport – Free. Payment plans are available (contact HHS main office).
- These fees must be paid at the High School in the Main Office or online in E-Funds.

4. INSURANCE

- Each student athlete who participates in athletics must have school accident insurance unless the parents/guardians state in writing that the student athlete is covered under a family health insurance plan.

IV. COVERAGE

A. This Activity/Athletic Handbook covers:

1. Grades 6-12 (all extracurricular activities)
2. 12 CALENDAR MONTHS / 365 DAYS A YEAR

B. If a violation occurs in the eighth-grade year (Middle School violation) and results in a suspension that carries over into the ninth grade (High School violation), that suspension will be completed in the ninth grade, but will not count as a violation of the High School Activity Code.

V. SPORTS OFFERED AT HARLEM MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL

FALL

HIGH SCHOOL	MIDDLE SCHOOL
Boys Cross Country	Cross Country
Boys Golf	Cheer–Sideline
Boys Soccer	Dance–Sideline
Cheer–Sideline	Football (7th & 8th Grade)
Dance–Sideline	Soccer
Football	
Girls Cross Country	
Girls Golf	
Girls Flag Football	
Girls Swimming	
Girls Tennis	
Girls Volleyball	

WINTER

HIGH SCHOOL	MIDDLE SCHOOL
Boys Basketball	Boys Basketball
Boys Bowling	Cheer–Competition
Boys Swimming	Dance–Competition
Cheer–Competition	Girls Basketball
Dance–Competition	Swimming
Girls Basketball	Wrestling
Girls Bowling	Bowling
Wrestling	

SPRING

HIGH SCHOOL	MIDDLE SCHOOL
Baseball	Golf
Boys Tennis	Boys VB
Boys Track	Track & Field
Boys Volleyball	Tennis
Girls Soccer	

Girls Track	
Softball	

VI. ACTIVITIES (CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS)

HIGH SCHOOL

Academic Teams	Fall Play	Spring Musical	WYSE (World Youth in Science & Engineering)
African American Student Union		Student Council	Students for Action
Book Club	Key Club	T.E.A.C.H.	National Honor Society

Creative Writing Club	Link Crew	Thespians (Theater Honor Society)	Athletic Training
Debate Team	Math Team	TRI-M (Music Honor society)	
International Club	Science Olympiad	Class Officers	

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Environmental Club	Spring Musical
Fall Play	Student Council

Note: Any club, organization, or activity may be added with consent from the administration. All class and activity officers must meet the eligibility requirements. Seniors that are graduating early or students not taking three academic classes will be ineligible.

Co-curricular activities: BPA (Business Professionals of America), DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America), FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America), "Field of Honor" Veterans Ceremony, Holiday and Spring Concert, Homecoming Choraleers Concert, I.M.E.A. District & State Festival, Jazz Band, Kaleidoscope Concert, Marching Band, Pep Band, "Share the Music" Concert, Solo/Ensemble Juried Recital, Voices of Harlem, Yearbook

VII. ACTIVITY FEES

All students have the opportunity to purchase an Activity Pass for a \$35.00 fee to participate in activities. Individuals may join as many activities as requested for the \$35.00 fee. (ACTIVITY PASS WILL ALLOW ENTRANCE INTO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES WHERE ADMISSION IS CHARGED. Ex: Plays, Musicals, Home Sporting Events) The activity pass does not include I.H.S.A. sponsored events.

VIII. ELIGIBILITY

Each student must meet the scholastic requirements set by the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) to participate in any extracurricular activity in the Harlem School District. Eligibility will be checked weekly for all students. Any student who is ineligible for a total of three weeks for the duration of the activity may be removed from the activity for the remainder of that activity and lose possible awards.

B. Weekly Requirements

A student of The Harlem School District must be passing at least five (5) classes of high school or middle school work per week. A student, unless entering high school for the

first time, shall have credit on the school records for passing five (5) classes of high school work for the previous semester. Such work shall have been completed in the semester for which credit is granted or in a recognized summer school or alternative credit program, which has been approved by the Board of Education and for which graduation credit is received.

Failure to meet this standard causes the student to forfeit all eligibility the following week for all extracurricular activities. Eligibility will be done electronically by the faculty each Wednesday by 3:00 pm. Advisors will be notified by Friday of any student who is ineligible for the following week. Ineligible students will be referred to tutoring services for extra help with classes they are failing. The week of ineligibility runs from Wednesday through Tuesday. The grade in each class must be a cumulative grade from the first day of the semester to the last day of the semester.

C. Semester Requirements

1. High School

- The student must have passed five academic classes (includes P.E.) in the previous term to be eligible for the next semester. If a student does not pass the necessary classes, he/she will be ineligible for the next semester.

Summer school grades may be used for eligibility purposes. The period of ineligibility is for the entire semester.

2. Middle School

- The student must have passed five academic classes in the previous term to be eligible for the next semester. If a student does not pass the necessary classes, he/she will be ineligible for the next semester. Summer school grades may be used for eligibility purposes. The period of ineligibility is for the entire semester.

D. Students Excused from Physical Education

1. Excused by a Doctor

- If a student is excused from PE, by a doctor, he/she will not be eligible to participate in any athletic activity until a doctor allows the student to return to PE.

2. Excused by a Parent or Guardian

- If a student is excused from PE by a parent or guardian, he/she will not be eligible to participate in any athletic activity until he/she returns to PE.

IX. ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY POLICY

A. This policy covers all students who participate in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities (excluding graded activities).

B. Definitions:

1. Interscholastic Athletics:

- Interscholastic athletics is any athletic program, provided by Harlem School District, where an individual competes against other teams or individuals from other school districts.

2. Extracurricular Activities:

- Extracurricular activities are any activity sponsored or approved by the Harlem School District, provided for students in addition to the regular curriculum.

3. Activity Policy:

- The Athletic/Activity policy will be in effect for 365 days from the date the student or student-athlete becomes involved in an activity or athletics. All school rules are in effect while students are involved in activities and/or athletics.

C. Training Rules and Regulations

Training rules are designed to help each student become a better citizen and achieve optimum performance while participating in interscholastic athletics or extracurricular activities. Students must follow these rules and regulations to remain eligible for participation.

D. Rules of Conduct

1. No Use of Tobacco

- Students are not permitted to use tobacco in any form, including e-cigarettes and vaporizers, during the season. This rule is in effect on and off school grounds.

2. No Use of Alcohol

- Students are not permitted to use alcohol during the season. This rule is in effect on and off school grounds.

3. No Use of Drugs

- Students are not permitted to use illegal drugs or abuse prescription drugs during the season. This rule is in effect on and off school grounds.

4. No Misconduct

- Students must conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the school and community. Misconduct includes but is not limited to:

- Insubordination
- Disrespect to school personnel

- Disrespect to students
- Disrespect to community members
- Violations of school rules and policies
- Violations of team or activity rules

E. Consequences for Violations

1. First Offense

- The student will be suspended from participating in 1/3 of the scheduled contests or activities. The student must continue to practice and may attend events, but may not participate.

2. Second Offense

- The student will be suspended from participating in 1/2 of the scheduled contests or activities. The student must continue to practice and may attend events, but may not participate.

3. Third Offense

- The student will be suspended from participating in all contests or activities for one calendar year from the date of the violation. The student must continue to practice and may attend events, but may not participate.

4. Subsequent Offenses

- The student will be permanently banned from participating in any interscholastic athletics or extracurricular activities in the Harlem School District.

Note: The above consequences are minimum penalties. Depending on the severity of the violation, more severe consequences may be imposed.

F. Appeal Process

If a student or parent/guardian believes a violation of the training rules and regulations has been unjustly applied, they may appeal the decision. The appeal process is as follows:

1. Step 1: Appeal to the Coach/Advisor

- The student and parent/guardian must first appeal the decision to the coach/advisor of the activity or sport.

2. Step 2: Appeal to the Athletic Director

- If the issue is not resolved at Step 1, the student and parent/guardian may appeal to the Athletic Director.

3. Step 3: Appeal to the Principal

- If the issue is not resolved at Step 2, the student and parent/guardian may appeal to the Principal.

4. Step 4: Appeal to the Superintendent

- If the issue is not resolved at Step 3, the student and parent/guardian may appeal to the Superintendent.

5. Step 5: Appeal to the Board of Education

- If the issue is not resolved at Step 4, the student and parent/guardian may appeal to the Board of Education. The Board of Education's decision is final.

X. ATHLETIC AWARDS

A. High School (9-12)

1. Varsity Letters

a. Every student athlete who becomes a member of a varsity team during the season and finishes the season *(in good standing)* will earn a varsity letter.

b. For the first varsity letter earned, the athlete will receive:

- One varsity "H" (7") plus a sports pin for that sport

c. The second and third time a student athlete earns a varsity letter, the student athlete will receive:

- One varsity letter certificate and a sports pin

d. The fourth time a student athlete earns a varsity letter in the same sport, the student athlete will receive:

- One varsity letter certificate, sports pin, and a sports plaque

e. Any varsity athlete who earns three varsity letters in their senior year will receive a special tri-sport athlete patch. (Three varsity letters can be earned in the three sports seasons (fall, winter, spring), or a student athlete could earn two varsity letters in one sports season and one more in another. An example would be a student athlete earning varsity letters in soccer and cross-country in the fall and then a third varsity letter in track in the spring.)

2. Sophomore (JV) Letter

a. A student athlete will earn a sophomore (JV) "H" (5") plus a pin letter if they become a member of the sophomore (JV) team during the season and finish the season *(in good standing)*.

b. The second and third sophomore sports awards will earn a recognition certificate and a sports pin.

3. Freshman Letters (Numerals)

a. A student athlete will earn their numbers if they become a member of the freshman team during the season and finish the season *(in good standing)*.

b. One set of numerals can be earned while in high school.

c. The first freshman letter earned will result in numerals indicating the year the freshman graduates plus a sports pin.

d. Second and third freshman letters earned in the same year will result in a recognition certificate and a sports pin.

4. Special Three Sport Tri-Athlete Letter Award

a. The student athlete must earn (3) varsity letters in the same school year.

b. Three varsity letters can be earned in the three sports seasons (fall, winter, spring), or a student athlete could earn two varsity letters in one sports season and one more in another. An example would be a student athlete earning varsity letters in soccer and cross-country in the fall and a third varsity letter in track in the spring.

c. This award will be presented at the Spring Sports Awards Night.

5. (In Good Standing)

The coach will make the decision on the awards given to each student athlete.

IN GOOD STANDING REFERS TO:

a. The student athlete finished the season with the team.

b. All equipment and uniforms have been returned or replaced at present-day cost. A student athlete will be denied future equipment and the privilege of participation in athletics until the financial charges have been paid.

c. The student athlete has remained scholastically eligible throughout the season.

d. The student athlete has attended practice on a regular basis.

e. The coach may give the athlete their awards if injury or illness has prevented them from finishing the season with the team.

f. If a student athlete is suspended from a team during the season and returns to the team before the season ends, they will have finished the season in good standing.

6. Special Awards

a. Decided by the team and/or coach

b. Awards provided by the Harlem Fans Club

7. Additional Awards

- a. Harlem Fans Club - Ruth Evans Memorial Scholarship
- b. Oscar Huckabee Scholar-Male Student Athlete Award
- c. Female Scholar-Athlete Award
- d. Senior All-Around Athletic Award - (1 male and 1 female)
- e. United States Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award
- f. U.S. Army Reserve Scholar/Athlete Award (1 male and 1 female)

B. Middle School (6th - 8th Grade)

All middle school student athletes who start with the team and finish the sports season in good standing (as stated above) will receive a Letter "H" (4") and a pin for that sport. Any additional letters earned in middle school will result in a Certificate of Participation and a sports pin for that sport.

XI. HARLEM HIGH SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate in athletics or activities at Harlem High School, students must adhere to the following:

A. Academic Eligibility

1. Weekly Eligibility

- Students must be passing at least five (5) academic classes each week to be eligible to participate in athletics or activities.

2. Semester Eligibility

- Students must have passed five (5) academic classes in the previous semester to be eligible for the next semester. Failure to meet this standard results in ineligibility for the entire semester.

B. Attendance

1. Daily Attendance

- Students must attend at least half of their classes on the day of an event to be eligible to participate. Exceptions are made for pre-arranged absences, medical appointments, and other valid reasons as determined by the school administration.

2. Suspensions

- Students serving in-school or out-of-school suspensions are not eligible to participate in athletics or activities during the suspension period.

C. Conduct

1. Behavior

- Students must demonstrate good behavior and sportsmanship at all times. Violations of the school code of conduct may result in suspension from athletics or activities.

XII. CONCLUSION

The Harlem School District Athletic/Activity Handbook is designed to help students balance their academic responsibilities with their participation in athletics and activities. By following the rules and guidelines outlined in this handbook, students can achieve success both in the classroom and in their extracurricular pursuits. The Harlem School District is committed to providing a positive and supportive environment for all students to excel in their chosen activities.

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