

## **HOWARDS GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC EXPECTATIONS & PROCEDURES**

Extra-curricular activities such as interscholastic athletics are an important component of the overall educational program afforded students. Through athletic programs a student is provided opportunities to develop physically and emotionally, gain specific sport skills, learn sportsmanship, develop a wholesome competitive spirit, and acquire the ability to work cooperatively on a team.

While there are numerous advantages to becoming involved in athletic programs, a students' **first** responsibility is to his/her classroom studies. Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege offered to students that have successfully met basic responsibilities in the classroom. In order to assist the partnership between the classroom and the athletic team in being complimentary to one another, the following guidelines regarding participation in middle school athletics in Howards Grove have been developed.

### **Objectives**

1. To meet the urge to compete, which is a basic American tradition.
2. To provide a "whole school" interest in activities.
3. To teach new skills and provide opportunities to improve those we have.
4. To provide an opportunity to exemplify and observe good sportsmanship, which leads to good citizenship.
5. To provide the opportunity for lasting friendships, both with teammates and opponents.
6. To teach that a penalty follows the violation of a rule.

**The responsibility for raising an "F" grade and securing all the appropriate information rests with the student.** As soon as this has been completed, the student may return to practice and game competition. It is very important to note, that the teacher or teachers will need a reasonable amount of time to correct the schoolwork and determine if the student's grade has been raised above an "F" level. It is quite possible that the schoolwork the teacher(s) needs to correct will take more than a single day. Ineligible students need to keep this point in mind and plan accordingly.

"Incompletes" on a midterm report or quarter report shall mean the student is ineligible to participate in practice or a game until all work has been satisfactorily completed and a passing grade is obtained in the class from which the work was missing. The student will use the same procedure as previously described to regain eligibility to participate in practice or a game. Should incomplete work again become an issue for a student at any time during the grading quarter, the procedure to gain eligibility to participate in practice or a game will apply. Ineligibility will not carry over into a 9 through 12 grade eligibility period.

## REMEDIATION

Ineligibility to participate in practice or a game is not intended to be a punishment, but to act as an opportunity for a student to improve his/her schoolwork in a given class or classes. Each student who has become academically ineligible is expected to work closely with the staff in order to raise his/her grade and regain eligibility to participate.

Any student, regardless of his/her grades, may be expected to come in after school for additional help and guidance from a classroom teacher. Students who are late to practice as a result should carry a note from the teacher informing the coach of the excused absence. Students with such notes should not be punished, but may be expected to warm-up appropriately for practice, i. e. running laps, calisthenics.

Teachers need to use discretion in requesting that students come in for assistance on game nights. A student that is academically eligible should be able to participate in that event.

## DETENTION

Serving a detention has priority over attending practice or playing in a game. If a student earns a detention that is to be served on a night when there is a practice or a game, the student must first serve the detention for the specified amount of time. The student may then attend the practice or game. It is important to note, should a student become involved in a situation such as this, it may mean the student might miss the bus to an away game and need to be driven to the game by his/her parents after the detention has been served.

## SUSPENSION

In school suspension or suspension from school carries with it automatic suspension from any practices or games during the suspension period.

## ATTENDANCE

A student must be in attendance at school during the **entire day** in order to attend practice or play in a game after school. Absences during the day due to medical appointments or family emergencies are excused and do not affect practice or game participation.

## TRANSPORTATION

Players must travel to and from games/matches in transportation provided by the Howards Grove School District. Any other arrangements of transportation for a player must have a written statement with respective names written by and signed by parent driver and given to the coach.

TRAINING RULES

The following list of training rules will be in effect:

1. No smoking or other use of tobacco products.
2. No drinking or other use of alcoholic beverages
3. No unauthorized use of drugs or other controlled substances
4. General conduct in and out of school shall be such so as to bring no discredit to the athlete, school, or team.

Should it be determined that a student is in violation of one or more of the stated training rules, the following consequences will take place:

First Violation: Ineligibility for one quarter of the scheduled contests or the remainder of the season if less than one quarter of the contests remain. A student will be requested to practice with the team during this time period, but will not be allowed to participate in any contest.

Second Violation: Removal from the team.

All students must have current WIAA physical card or alternate card on file (green or yellow card), athletic code, emergency card (pink/red), and participation fee (\$25.00) before the first practice. Students will not be allowed to participate in an activity until the details associated with all three areas have been completed. Should a student experience difficulty with anyone of the listed areas, he/she should notify the principal or athletic director to discuss the situation as soon as possible.

These expectations and procedures shall apply to all school sponsored athletic teams and shall be in effect from the first day of practice until the end of the season.

-----Please Return-----

I have read the "Athletic Expectations and Procedures" for Howards Grove Middle School. I understand and agree to abide by them.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ (student)

I have read the "Athletic Expectations and Procedures" for Howards Grove Middle School students and have discussed them with my son/daughter. I understand and agree to support them.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(parent/guardian)