

HILLSBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Athletic Contract

Revised 3/1/23

I realize that it is a privilege to participate in all athletic activities at Hillsborough High School. Accordingly, I hereby agree to obey the following regulations and training rules as established by the Hillsborough Board of Education, Administration, Athletic Department, the Skyland Conference, the SCIAA, and the NJSIAA.

I. General Rules

A. Academic Requirements

1. All students who wish to participate in interscholastic athletics must meet the minimum credit requirement of thirty (30) credits each year as outlined in the "Program of Studies" in the Hillsborough High School Student/Parent Handbook and Board Policy 2431.
2. The NJSIAA/Hillsborough Board of Education requirements state that students must meet all academic requirements as follows:
 - a. To be eligible for athletic competition during the first semester of grade 10, 11 or 12, a pupil must pass 30 credits during the preceding academic year.
 - b. To be eligible for athletic competition during the second semester of grade 9, 10, 11, or 12, a pupil must pass 15 credits during the first semester. Full year courses are equated as one-half the total credit value of the course for the year.
 - c. It is recognized that students may accelerate their academic programs during their first three years of secondary schooling. Consequently, such students may be eligible in the second semester of their senior year even when they carry less than 12.5 % of the State minimum (15 credits) during the first semester provided they are meeting their school district's graduation requirements and are passing all courses in which they are enrolled at the start of the first semester. Seniors who withdraw from courses with a passing grade (WP) will be eligible provided they are carrying sufficient credits for graduation purposes.
3. Students who fail to achieve a final average of 65 or better in one subject shall be placed on probation for the next semester.
4. Probationary students' grades will be monitored during the semester. A probationary student who becomes ineligible for failing to maintain a semester average of 65 or better shall be required to maintain an average of 65 or better in all subjects for one marking period before returning to the interscholastic program.
5. Students will strive to maintain a minimum grade average of 70 in every course. If a grade in any subject is lower than 70, a progress report will be requested of the teacher. If improvement is not reported after a three-week time period, possible suspension from the team will occur after consultation with the coach, guidance counselor, and involved teacher.
6. Students will not drop classes from their schedule without first obtaining permission and a signature from the Head Coach and Athletic Director.

*****Academic eligibility appeals** will be handled as detailed in the Student-Parent Handbook.

B. Code of Conduct

Athletes at all times will conduct themselves in such a manner to reflect credit upon their families, school, team, and coaches. This includes the student-athlete's conduct in school and in the community. Code of Conduct violations may result in suspension and/or dismissal from an athletic team by the Head Coach with the approval of the Principal and Athletic Director. Any discipline for off campus conduct will comply with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6.

*****As a member of a Hillsborough High School Interscholastic team, I agree to the following conditions for participation:**

1. I understand that my academic commitments have the highest priority and that I will not be permitted to participate in interscholastic athletics if I do not comply with the credit requirements established by the NJSIAA and the Hillsborough Board of Education.
2. At all times, regardless of the amount, I shall not possess, use, distribute, be in the vicinity of, or sell electronic cigarettes, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, controlled dangerous substances or performance enhancing substances on or off school grounds. Any abuse of the above on school property, or during a

school event, will be subject to the school disciplinary code, athletic consequences, and appropriate legal ramifications.

3. I will follow the training rules and practice schedules that have been established by the coach.
4. I have read and will adhere to the sportsmanship policies as established by the Hillsborough High School Athletic Department, Skyland Conference, SCIAA, and the NJSIAA.
5. I will safeguard and properly care for all equipment issued to me. I understand that I will be financially responsible for any loss or damage to equipment as determined by the Head Coach and Athletic Director. All equipment obligations must be fulfilled before participation in a subsequent sport or activity will be permitted.
6. I will not act in any way which may cause harm or insult to teammates and/or fellow students, including but not limited to hazing.
7. I am required to ride to and from practice and games on school transportation and will act appropriately at all times.
8. I am required to fully complete the season. If an absence occurs at the end of the season, such as during an NJSIAA or SCIAA tournament, I understand that this may affect any post-season awards for which I may be eligible.
9. I will be in communication with my parents and remind them that, although I am a high school athlete, I am still considered a minor and must be picked up within 30 minutes of the end of all games, practices, or meetings of the athletic team. I do understand that coaches are required to wait until all athletes have been picked up, and repeated violations will result in a meeting with the parent and coach and, in some cases, the Athletic Director to rectify the situation.

II. Athletic Attendance

Athletes are expected to attend and participate in all school related athletic activities and must communicate to the coach via a written note if an athlete is unable to attend. Daily attendance rules are stated in the Co-Curricular Participation in the Hillsborough High School Student-Parent Handbook. A student must be present in school for at least four (4) hours in order to be considered present for the day for the purposes of participation in athletics. For events that occur over the weekend or over a vacation, the student-athlete must be present for at least four (4) hours on the last day of school prior to the closing. Exceptions for important matters will be reviewed by the Head Coach and Athletic Director. Absences will be classified as follows:

A. Excused Absence:

1. School Sponsored Trips (curriculum related and senior class trip) - No penalty.
2. Family Trips (immediate family only)
 - a. No penalty for the first two practices and/or competitions missed.
 - b. One game suspension for each additional practice and/or competition missed.
3. Illness and/or Religious Observance - No penalty.
4. Official College visits - No penalty.

B. Unexcused Absence: An absence that does not qualify in "A. Excused Absences" above. An unexcused absence will result in the following (after being reviewed by the Head Coach and Athletic Director):

1. Suspension from the next contest following the first violation. Attendance with the team at the event from which the student is suspended is required. Absence from this event will be considered as an unexcused absence from an event.
2. Removal from the team for the second unexcused absence.

C. Detention (after school/Saturday)

1. First Offense – Will be reviewed by the Head Coach and Athletic Director.
2. Second Offense - May result in game suspension as reviewed by the Head Coach and Athletic Director.

D. Suspension from school

1. First Offense - Will result in a game/event suspension equal to the number of days suspended from school up to four days in addition to games/events missed during suspension. For sports that play one time per week, one game suspension per each week suspended.
2. Second Offense - Will result in expulsion from the team.

III. Disciplinary Action for Violations of Code of Conduct

- A. The Athletic Director will review all violations of the Code of Conduct and will discuss all issues with the coaches and athletes involved. No action will be taken until the investigative process is complete.
- B. **First Violation – Athletic Probation** - After confirmation of the first violation, the student may lose eligibility for the next two consecutive interscholastic athletic events (regular schedule) or two weeks of a season in which the student is participating.
 - 1. Upon the first violation, the student and a parent will be required to meet with the Head Coach and Athletic Director and sign an agreement stating that they understand the initial violation and that they both agree that the athlete will serve his/her suspension.
 - 2. The agreement also reflects the understanding that any further violations of the athletic contract will result in dismissal from the athletic team for the remainder of the season.
 - 3. For illegal substances, including steroids, the student will be required to confer with the school student assistance counselor and follow the instructions they deem appropriate. As appropriate, school and legal consequences may also be imposed by the administration and/or police.
- C. **Second Violation – Removal from Team** - After confirmation of the second violation of the code of conduct, the student shall be dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season. Removal from an athletic team must be approved by the Principal.
- D. **Egregious Violations** - I also understand that if a violation of the athletic contract is so extreme (even if it is the first violation) the Athletic Director and Head Coach may move to immediately dismiss the athlete from the current athletic team for that season and potentially from all athletic teams for the entire athletic school year. Removal from an athletic team must be approved by the Principal.
- E. If an athlete feels that he/she has a problem with any illegal substances and comes to a coach or the Athletic Director seeking assistance, as long as this request for help is not attached to a pending code of conduct violation, the following will apply:
 - 1. Remain on the team.
 - 2. Circumstances will be kept confidential.
 - 3. Professional help will be offered as appropriate and must be accepted. If not accepted, the student-athlete will be subject to disciplinary procedures.

IV. Appeal of Disciplinary Action

- A. For any suspension from an athletic team, the student and/or parent can ask for a meeting with the Athletic Director and Head Coach provided that the request for such review is made within two school days of notice of suspension. After meeting with Athletic Director and Head Coach, the student and/or parent may appeal the Athletic Director’s decision to the Principal.
- B. For any dismissal from an athletic team, the student and/or parent can ask for a meeting with the Principal and Athletic Director provided that the request for such review is made within two school days of notice of dismissal. After meeting with the Principal and Athletic Director, the student and/or parent may appeal the Principal’s decision to the Superintendent.
- C. The reasons for all suspensions from school under “I.D.” above will be discussed by the Athletic Director, Assistant Principal in charge of the disciplinary matter, and the Head Coach. The findings of this discussion/investigation will determine the consequences to be imposed.
- D. Any other disciplinary action will be reviewed by the Athletic Director at the request of the student and/or parent provided the Head Coach is advised of the request for said review and the request for review is made within two school days of notice of action.

Student-Athlete Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date