

HEALTH SCIENCES CHARTER SCHOOL



ATHLETIC CODE
2011-2012

Foreword

Dear Parents / Guardians of Student Athletes:

This brochure is presented to you because your son or daughter has designated an interest in participating in the Health Sciences Charter School Athletic Program. At HSCS we are of the belief that participation in Athletics provides diverse opportunities for active physical involvement, developing lifelong skills that will assist in ensuring student-athletes lead a happy and prosperous life, while learning the skills of not only the game, but teamwork, dedication, commitment, and discipline.

The main goals of the Health Sciences Charter School Athletic Program are to provide students with opportunities to grow within a safe and healthy environment, to have fun, learn the game, develop leadership qualities and character traits that coincide with the vision of the school, and to develop positive relationships with teammates, coaches and competitors. When students choose to participate in one of our Athletic programs, we feel that their family plays a vital role in their success and has committed to certain responsibilities and obligations. This handbook will familiarize you with program policies, procedures, and rules that are necessary for a well-organized Athletic Program.

The Health Sciences Charter School Athletic Program is governed by the rules and regulations established by the Commissioner of Education's Educational Framework for Interscholastic Athletic Programs. In addition, district, league, school, and section procedures have been established to protect and guide student-athletes. The Health Sciences Charter School is a member of The New York State Public High School Athletic Association, competing as an Independent school in Section VI.

If I can in any way assist in facilitating a more enriching athletic experience for your child, please feel free to contact me at (716) 488-4080.

Sincerely,

Dr. Hank Stopinski
Principal

Principles of the Interscholastic Program

As the premise of our athletic philosophy, HSCS believes that active participation in the Interscholastic Athletic program plays a crucial role in the overall development of our students. The Health Sciences Charter School's focal point is to provide students with multiple opportunities to fulfill his or her potential through involvement in a highly competitive and structurally sound program. In achieving this, the HSCS Department of Athletics has embraced these guiding principles:

- To promote leadership qualities, sportsmanship, character development, and academic excellence in our student athletes.
- To employ coaches and staff members who exude a high level of moral integrity and ethical behavior, including good sportsmanship and a desire to assist student athletes learn and grow.
- To contribute to the enhancement of institutional morale among students, faculty, and staff- while providing parents / guardians, community partners, and friends with a means by which they can identify with the school during athletic events, contests, or activities.
- To function responsibly in all our initiatives, programs, and operations, which includes providing equal treatment and opportunity for student athletes, athletic coaches, and all staff, in employment and in all athletic department programs and activities as required by state law and Section VI policy.
- To maintain fiscal and operational integrity by balancing budgets and carrying out sound management practices.
- To enhance our program with the assistance of our community partners to create more profound learning experiences for students.
- To comply carefully with institutional, conference, and section regulations.
- To ensure and value ethnic and gender diversity among its coaches, staff, and student athletes, consistent with the school's beliefs.

It is important to note, however, that interscholastic athletics are not mandatory and that those who elect to participate will be obligated to follow training rules and regulations enumerated in this pamphlet.

To use fully the potential of athletics for educational enrichment, the interscholastic program:

A. Is regarded an integral part of the total educational program and conducted so that it is worthy of such regard.

B. Supplements rather than serves as a substitute for basic physical education programs and intramural athletic programs.

C. Is subject to the same administrative control as the total educational program.

D. Is conducted by persons with adequate training either in physical education or through coaching certification programs.

E. Is conducted so that the physical welfare and safety of participants is protected and fostered.

F. Is conducted in accordance with the letter and spirit of the rules and regulations of the league, state, and national athletic associations.

Before your son/daughter can be considered eligible for placement on an interscholastic team they must fulfill the following:

1). Section VI Athletics and New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) requires that a participating student must be a bona fide student at the school he/she intends to compete for and reside within New York State boundaries

2. Must have an athletic physical. This can be accomplished in one of two ways:

a). Physical conducted by school medical personnel

b). Physical conducted by your family physician using the district's physical form, and returned to the school nurse prior to practice.

Physicals are valid for a 12 consecutive month period

3. Health History for Sports Participation

4. Code of Conduct form – must be completed, signed by athlete and parent, and on file before the athlete can participate in any athletic team.

5. New York State Selection Classification Test (Middle School only) Middle school athletes who choose to try out for junior varsity or varsity level team are permitted to participate provided they pass the Selection Classification Test

A. Is regarded an integral part of the total educational program and conducted so that it is worthy of such regard.

Code of Ethics

It is the duty of all concerned with school athletics:

- . To emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
- . To eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
- . To stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
- . To show courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
- . To respect the integrity and judgment of sports officials.
- . To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
- . To encourage leadership, use of initiative, and good judgment by the players on the team.
- . To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, social, and emotional well being of the individual players.
- . To remember that an athletic contest is only a game not a matter of life and death for player, coach, school, official, fan, or community.

Athletic Rules and Expectations

1. All student-athletes will meet academic eligibility requirements.

2. Training Rules:

- a. Each student-athlete will conform to the specific training rules of his/her sport.
- b. The use of alcohol and tobacco, as well as the use of illegal or non-prescription drugs by team members is prohibited - on or off campus.
- c. All team members must attend all scheduled practices of the team and must be present at all games. If a player finds it necessary to be late or absent from practice or a game, they must report this fact prior to the practice or game to the coach in charge. The coach will determine the validity of the excuse and whether it can be accepted or not.
- d. Each student-athlete will practice rules of good citizenship at all times.

e. The student-athlete will be courteous and respect the rights of others and will exhibit a high degree of self-discipline.

f. The student-athlete will not berate coaches, teammates, or fans.

g. The student-athlete will attend classes and will be on time for them and also to school.

h. The student-athlete will not engage in disruptive behavior, including angry outbursts and fighting.

3. Appropriate Behavior On or Off the Field/Court

a. Once in uniform, the player shall remain with the team at all times. No mingling with the fans will be allowed.

b. Students are expected to wear a clean, pre-assigned uniform to all games.

c. The use of obscenities is inappropriate for players on the bench or field/court.

d. Should a player disagree with the decision of a referee or official, they will their feelings known to their coach only. Do not argue with the officials.

e. Instigating a fight with players, coaches, fans, or officials will be classified as a most serious infraction.

f. Verbal harassment between teams, team members, officials, or fans before, during or after a game is inappropriate.

g. Disagreements with the coach will not be conducted in public or in front of teammates.

h. Student-athlete's dress for away contests must meet the requirements of the Athletic Department.

i. Student-athletes are representing the Health Sciences Charter School and therefore must set a good example by using appropriate behavior on all away trips.

j. Athletes should not attend social functions where alcohol and/or tobacco are being used by minors or where controlled substances are being used unlawfully by anyone. The athlete must leave the site immediately upon the knowledge of alcohol and/or tobacco used by persons under the age of 21 or unlawful use of controlled substances by anyone.

Consequences for Infractions

INFRACTION

Late for practice/game

Absent from practice/game

Use of profanity

Use of tobacco

Use of alcohol-on/off campus

Possession, use or sale of illegal or non-prescription drugs - on/off campus

Fighting or Assault

In-School Suspension

Out of School Suspension

PENALTY

Coach's discretion

Coach's discretion

Coach's discretion

Suspension Suspension Suspension Suspension Ineligible to participate in practice/games during suspension and possible additional disciplinary

action.

Ineligible to participate in practice/games during suspension and possible additional disciplinary action.

SUSPENSION: Athletes who are found to have violated rules d, e, f, and g shall be subject to immediate suspension. They will be required to meet with the coach, their parent/guardian, and the Director of Interscholastic Athletics. The Director of Interscholastic Athletics following the High School's Code of Conduct will determine the appropriate length of the suspension. Every effort will be made to ensure that penalties imposed are fair and uniform and in the best interest of the student and his/her fellow athletes.

Health Sciences Charter School Academic Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities Policy

The Health Sciences Charter School believes that extracurricular activities are a valuable part of the entire education of each student. Participation in these programs, however, is considered a privilege and therefore students must adhere to the district's policy regarding academic co-curricular eligibility, attendance, and good citizenship in and out of the classroom. Participation in extracurricular activities should be maintained and supported by academic standards. Each student should maintain high academic standards while pursuing extracurricular activities that contribute to a well-rounded education. Therefore, co-curricular eligibility requirements have been established to monitor and encourage student academic progress. The school must also hold itself accountable as educators, coaches and club advisors to provide the students with opportunities to reach and maintain these appropriate standards and academic progress.

Extracurricular activities are defined as all activities EXCEPT those in which student participation is necessary to receive a grade in a course in which the student is currently enrolled (i.e., school student government offices, class offices, school clubs, and Interscholastic athletics). The Extra-Curricular Policy will affect participation in all extra-curricular programs and activities, including, but not limited to, the following:

All school clubs, proms, dances, athletics, drill team, cheerleading, class officers, Student Ambassadors, school store, National Honor Society, Student Council, Yearbook, etc.

Eligibility

1. Students who are failing two or more courses, or Physical Education at each 5-week marking period will automatically be ineligible to participate or practice in any interscholastic athletics or intramurals during the next 5-week period.
2. Students who are failing two or more courses at each 5-week marking period will automatically be ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activities during the next 5-

Ineligible to participate in practice/games during suspension and possible additional disciplinary action.

week period.

3. Incomplete grades that are not changed to a passing grade within ten school days after the report cards and/or progress reports are issued will be considered failing grades for eligibility purposes.
4. On the day that the report is issued, each activity sponsor, athletic director, or coach will verify student eligibility for extracurricular participation.
5. The following grading period shall be used to determine eligibility and shall be in force by the last issuing date of report cards on the school calendar:
 - Five week mark
 - Ten week marking period
 - Fifteen week mark
 - Twenty week marking period
 - Twenty-five week mark
 - Thirty week marking period
 - Thirty-five week mark
 - Forty week marking period plus final exams (NOTE: The final course grade will determine eligibility for all fall activities in the following school year. Students may become eligible for all fall activities by successfully completing summer school).
 - Following submission of summer school grades.
 - Students transferring into the district at any time shall have a clean slate for eligibility purposes.

At each of the above times, every teacher in the building will submit a list of failing students to the main office. A list of students failing two or more subjects will be compiled. Two school days before the list is distributed to faculty, coaches, and club advisors, a letter will be mailed to parents of students whose name appears on the list.

After each five-week marking period, students may become eligible if they are no longer failing two or more subjects, and in the case of interscholastic athletics, Physical Education. A revised ineligibility list will be sent to teachers, advisors, and coaches. Two or more unsatisfactory responses will result in the student remaining ineligible for FIVE more weeks.

Furthermore, the Principal and / or Dean of Students may exclude a student from participation for a period of time if he/she deems necessary based on the severity and/or chronic nature of academic, behavioral or attendance difficulties.

INELIGIBLE STUDENT: An ineligible student will not be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities. Participation includes practicing and traveling to games and scrimmages, or participating in games and scrimmages, dances, musicals, field trips, and all extracurricular activities. An exception might include a field trip that is deemed a necessary part of a course's curriculum.

APPEALS: There will be an appeals process in place for students and parents to contest the District's Eligibility Policy. A Parent/Guardian may request an appeal by submitting written notification to the high school principal no more than five school days after receiving notification from the district. The Appeals Committee will consist of the two building administrators, guidance counselor, and two teachers. The appeals committee will consider appeals, and report their decision to the student no more than five days after the appeal has been issued. This committee will have the authority to remove students from the ineligibility list if it is determined by a majority vote of the members present at the meeting, that there is adequate cause for such action, due to either a student's ability or recent extenuating circumstances. The committee will also follow up with the appropriate building staff (teachers, guidance counselor, psychologist and social worker), in order to assist the student with their problems. Students can only appeal once per academic year.

Transportation

- 1). Student-athletes will be issued an activity or extracurricular bus pass during the season
- 2). A chartered bus will be provided to and from all away contests, once returning to the school, students are responsible for previously arranging for transportation.
- 3). The Director of Interscholastic Athletics, head coach, assistant coach, or any other member of the school staff will not drive a student/athlete home.

Student-athletes must ride the team bus both to and from regularly scheduled away games and scrimmages, unless a previous arrangement with the Director of Interscholastic Athletics or head coach has been made. Student-athletes and their coaches are responsible for their conduct, safety and well-being from the time they are picked up at our school until they are safely returned back to school. Student-athletes will only be released to their parent or designated legal guardian.

It is strongly recommended that students use the late bus home. The practice of a student riding home with friends after practice is unwise and presents a real safety hazard. The school cannot assume any responsibility for students who do not use the school bus for transportation home after practice.

No transportation from school to home is provided after games or for special practices on days when school is not in session. This is to include all vacation time and Saturdays. Parents are asked to assume this responsibility.

Conduct on Trips

The conduct of athletic participants on trips to various schools, while on the bus, at hotels and/or places to eat, is the responsibility of the coach involved as well as the student-athlete. While in transit, unnecessary yelling and shouting out of the bus windows as well as the use of obscene and profane language is not acceptable. The bus company does not permit the wearing of any type of spike on the bus. Damage to the buses such as broken windows, torn or the person(s) responsible must pay for broken seats, or general damage.

Health Examination

A student who will engage in interscholastic competition shall receive an adequate health exam and may not practice or participate without the approval of the school nurse. The approval shall indicate the activities permitted and shall be valid for one year.

Any athlete who is seen by a doctor must be released (signed statement) by the physician who treated the child or the school physician in order to resume participation with their team. The release must be filed with our school nurse. It is the athlete's responsibility to get the release to the school nurse. **Do not leave this responsibility to some other person (coach, teacher, friend, etc.).**

Physical Education Requirements

Athletics is an extension of the Physical Education Program. Those students demonstrating outstanding attitude and effort are those encouraged to participate in athletics. The wide range of activities in physical education gives the students an excellent background in physical fitness, lifetime sports, and team sports. Because of the importance of physical education, all athletes will be required to participate in physical education throughout the year.

Athletes who are illegally absent or do not participate in physical education classes will not be permitted to attend practices or games on the day of the absence/offense.

Athletes who have been medically excused from physical education may not participate in a contest on the day they are excused.

Attendance in School

Regular attendance in school is mandatory. If a student-athlete is absent or tardy from school the day of a contest it will be the student's responsibility to justify their tardiness or absence to the Director of Athletics in order to participate in any game or practice on that particular day or evening. It will be the discretion of the Director of Athletics as to whether or not the student involved will participate.

Duration of Competition

A pupil shall be eligible for high school competition in a sport during each of four consecutive seasons of such sport commencing with the pupil's entry in to the ninth grade and prior to graduation. A pupil reaching the age of 19 before July 1 may not participate during that school year, or thereafter.

Attendance: Student athletes must be in attendance in their regular classes for at least half of the school day in order to participate in a contest that day.

Practices: All student-athletes are expected to participate for a complete sport season. They must make all practices and athletic contests. There may be practices and contests on Saturdays, holidays, and over school vacations.

Insurance

The school does not carry Student Accident Insurance. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to cover expenses of any accidents or injuries that may occur, please see the "Held Harmless" form for further clarification.

Risk Factors in Sports

Participation by a student in athletic activities involves a certain degree of risk of physical injury. Such physical injury can occur in any type of activity, be it a "contact" or "non-contact" sport. Further, many injuries are truly accidental in nature and by volunteering to participate in a school-sponsored athletic activity, a student and his/her parents/ guardians assume the risks for injuries to occur.

Injuries

It is extremely important to report any injury an athlete suffers immediately to his/her coach.

Care of Equipment and Uniforms

Each team member shall assume full responsibility for the uniform and equipment issued to them. The student is financially responsible for any damaged or lost items. Any damage or loss of equipment or uniforms shall be reported to the Director of Athletics.

End of Season

The season officially ends for each student upon the return of the coach all equipment issued to them for that particular sport. Until the above requirement is met, the student is subject to all eligibility rules and regulations of that sport. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the denial of all athletic awards. It will also prevent a student from participating in the next sport season.

NYSPHSAA Transfer Rule

This rule was established by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) to control athletic recruitment and athletic shopping.

A. A student who transfers, with a corresponding change in residence of his/her parents (or other persons with whom the student has resided for at least six months) shall become eligible after starting regular attendance in the second school. A residence change must involve a move from one public school district to another. Furthermore, when a student moves from one public school district to another public school district, for athletic eligibility the student must enroll in the public school district of his/hers parents' residency.

B. A Student who transfers without a corresponding change in residence of his/her parents (or other persons with whom the student has resided for at least six months) is ineligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic contest in a particular sport for a period of one year if the student participated in that JV or Varsity level during the one year period immediately preceding his/her transfer.

Exemptions to B:

1. The student reaches the age of majority and establishes residency in a district.
2. If a private or parochial school ceases to operate a student may transfer to another private or parochial school of his/her choice. Otherwise, a student must enroll in the public school district of his/her parents' residency.
3. A student who is a ward of the court or state and is placed in a district by court order.
Guardianship does not fulfill this requirement.
4. A student from divorced or separated parents who move into a new school district with one of the aforementioned parents. Such a transfer is allowed once every six weeks.

NOTE: It is provided, however, that each school shall have the opportunity to petition the section involved to approve transfer without penalty based on an undue hardship for the student.

Transfer Rule appeals that the state will consider:

Academic Advantage: A successful appeal must show that a student can take a three-unit sequence in School B that is not available in School A. This usually involves Advanced Placement, business or technology courses. Note: Any three Advanced Placement courses are considered a sequence. Remediation courses and courses with extended seat time (e.g. Math A taken over two years instead of 1 or 1 1/2 years) are not considered as part of a sequence. A student who is classified by School B as a student with disabilities meets the academic advantage requirement.

Financial Hardship requires either a documented loss of significant income or significant increase in expenses (e.g. termination of employment or a son/daughter begins college). Obviously, this type of appeal involves a transfer from a private/parochial school to a public school.

On August 5, 2004, the Central Committee of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) passed the following resolution:

Students who return from a non-public school to the public school district of their residence shall be exempt from the Transfer Rule. That such a transfer without penalty will only be permitted once in a high school career.

Section VI - NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Philosophy and Code of Conduct

Philosophy

1. We believe that interscholastic athletics is an important part of education and support the ideals and values embodied in good sportsmanship.
2. We believe that sportsmanlike behavior is essential if interscholastic competition is to contribute usefully and constructively to the broad goals of education and to the quality of life of those involved.
3. We pledge ourselves individually and collectively to encourage and support the development and maintenance of a sportsmanlike atmosphere for athletic competition.

Code of Conduct

1. A genuine interest in and enjoyment of interscholastic competition requires conduct that reflect the understanding that contests as a part of an overall school program are intended to be enjoyed. Behavior that reflects a winning at all cost attitude violates this standard.
2. Interscholastic competition provides valuable lessons and learning experiences that are not possible in the regular classroom setting. All involved must support the need to develop the ability compete with enthusiasm and to accept winning with grace and losing with dignity.

3. Coaches, players, and fans should know that participation is an honor and privilege which requires them to conduct themselves in a manner that brings honor and pride to their school and community.

4. Respect for the cultural and ethnic diversity of one's opponents, their school, and community is a fundamental tenet of wholesome athletic competition. This standard suggests that planned activity is needed to demonstrate a warm and friendly welcome, mutual respect, and a genuine readiness to participate in a sportsmanlike manner.

5. Players should demonstrate both knowledge of the rules and respect for game officials and their decisions. Coaches and school officials have the responsibility to teach and encourage these attributes.

***** Sportsmanship Statement Reminder *****

The following statement will be read over the public address system just prior to the pledge to the flag. If there is no public address system, the statement will be read to both teams by the site chairperson or his representative:

“Welcome to Section VI Basketball: Athletic competition can provide everyone with a sense of accomplishment and pride, if all of us - players, coaches and spectators - above by the rules of good conduct. We ask that you enjoy the performance of our outstanding athletes in a spirit of sportsmanship and appreciation of competition.”

General Conduct

Athletes, parents, team boosters, and others should be advised that spectator behavior can cause penalties to be called against a team by the referee. If the referee so chooses to call a penalty against the crowd, it may be a factor in the outcome of a game.

The behaviors of players and spectators should always be of a quality that reflects the best example of sportsmanship. This can only bring about pride in our school and good relationships with all other schools involved.

Appendix Forms

Form 1: Parent / Guardian Permission to Participate

Form 2: Athletic Physical Release

Form 3: Held Harmless Waiver

Form 4: Emergency Contact