



HURON ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



Welcome to Huron High School Athletics

Participation on an athletic team can be a rewarding and meaningful educational experience that can enhance your child's secondary education. It is important that parents realize the time demands, responsibility, dedication and sacrifices required when your child makes this kind of commitment. The following information defines the interscholastic policies and procedures for all students participating in our High School athletic programs. The Athletic Department hopes this document provides parents with a better understanding of our philosophy, goals, and policies. Please refer to the following information when a question about your child's athletic experience arises. Please make sure your child has registered online at Planeths.com. Once all forms are complete and signed electronically they will be allowed to participate in the 2020-2021 seasons.

The Huron School District is a member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), whose purpose is to organize, regulate and promote interscholastic athletics for secondary schools in Michigan. As an MHSAA school, Huron abides by the minimum standards set forth by this organization. Please note that these are minimum standards and member schools may enforce stricter standards, which Huron does in many instances. Huron is also a member of the Huron League which consists of eight area schools. Those schools are Carleton Airport, Flat Rock, Grosse Ile, Milan, Monroe Jefferson, Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central and Riverview Community. We also compete with schools from other leagues, and these are referred to as "non-league" opponents.

Philosophy of Athletics for the Huron School District

At Huron High School and Renton Junior High, we consider athletics an integral part of the educational experience. Athletics provides opportunities that will help students develop physically, mentally, and emotionally. We view the competition of athletics as a healthy educational and physiological activity because it challenges each student to excel, discover his or her physical limitations, and to work cooperatively with team members. While winning is a natural goal in the pursuit of excellence, the principles of good sportsmanship and enjoyment of competition take precedence at all times and enhance the educational value of contests.

As your student athlete becomes involved on an athletic team, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. Likewise, it is important to realize that there will be times when things do not go the way your student wishes. This is the time when your child should set up an appointment to talk to his or her coach. This type of communication will provide the coach and the student a better understanding of each other's ideas and goals. This is also an important segment of a young person's maturity process into adulthood.

Mission Statement:

The primary purpose of the Athletic Department at Huron High School is to help teach the important life lessons through athletics. Our student athletes will learn that teamwork, dedication, discipline, respect, integrity, commitment, and hard work are an integral part of their everyday lives. It is the athletic department's goal and objective to work with coaches, administration, faculty and staff of Huron High School to make athletics an extension of the learning environment. Athletics at Huron High School will strive to be a challenging but positive and rewarding experience for the student athletes who participate and will help develop and mold them into outstanding young adults.

Code of Conduct:

The Athletic Department at Huron High School is governed by the Board of Education. We are a member school of the M.H.S.A.A. (Michigan High School Athletic Association), and adhere to their rules and regulations. Our conference affiliation is the Huron League.

Our athletic Code of Conduct follows all of the rules and regulations adopted by the Huron School Districts policies and procedures. All athletes and coaches are expected to adhere to the rules set forth by the Board of Education, MHSAA, Huron League and Athletic Department.

Conflicts of Interest

It is expected that once an athlete commits to a sport and team, he/she will not shirk this responsibility for other interests. This includes family vacations during school breaks, and school trips and functions (such as the day of Prom). We attempt to minimize as many of these types of conflicts as we can, but circumstances do not always allow us to eliminate team responsibilities during such times. All athletes will still be held accountable for absences due to these types of conflicts of interest. The only exception in the case of a conflict of interest would be if one of the classes in our curriculum REQUIRES attendance at a different event at the same time; in other words, if the student athlete's grade for that class will suffer because of lack of attendance at the required class event.

Quitting a Team

Once a student athlete has made a commitment to a team and then decides to quit that team or is removed from the team, the student athlete will not be able to participate in any off-season workouts for another sport. That student athlete will not receive any award from the school in that sport (i.e., letters, numbers, etc)

Sports in the same Season:

In rare cases a student-athlete may be interested in participating in two sports during the same season. To participate in two sports during the same season, there are a few steps that the student athlete must take. First, the student-athlete must pick a primary sport. Second, the student-athlete must receive permission from both head coaches of the sports. The primary sport receives the complete attention of the student-athlete. The student athlete is expected to be 100% committed to his/her primary sport, attending all practices and competitions. Practice for the primary sport may be missed if the student-athlete is participating in a game for the secondary sport.

Parent/Coach Relationships

Both parenting and coaching are extremely challenging vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other for the benefit of the student-athlete. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have the right to understand the expectations that are placed on your child.

Communication You Can Expect From Your Coach

- Coaching Philosophy
- Expectations the coach has of your student as well as the team
- Locations and times of practices and games
- Team requirements (fundraising, equipment, off season expectations, dress code)
- Procedures to follow should your child be injured during participation
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation
- The availability of the coach to speak with you about your child

Communication Coaches Can Expect From Parent

- Concerns expressed at appropriate times
- Notification of any schedule conflicts which may involve an absence from practices or a contest well in advance
- Your support for the program and positive encouragement for all involved.

Expectations of Parents

- Support Your Student Athlete
- Encourage participation. Allow the student to select the sport based on his/her perceived ability and interest. Provide a pressure free environment regarding scholarship expectations.
- Be supportive of you athlete. See that his/her needs are met. See that he/she has the right equipment. Attend as many of your child's contests as possible.
- Stress the importance of the complete athlete, both mental and physical preparation
- Do not emphasize quitting as a best way to solve a problem, but rather perseverance
- Keeping Athletics In Perspective
- Emphasize that academics must always come first
- Assist the student to structure time wisely so that athletics do not interfere with academics
- Use athletics as a way to teach our children how to interact with other people during emotional situations. Help your child understand that athletic ability varies with body maturity and that effort is just as important, if not more important, as natural ability.

Support the Program

- Be supportive of the coaching staff. Go to all the meeting requested by the coaches. Being on a successful team is important to your athlete. Support the coach's preparation plan. Talk to your athlete frequently about how things are going with his/her sport. Make arrangements to talk to coaches privately and early about perceived problems.
- During the season, take into consideration practice and games when planning family events.
- Understand the needs of a particular sport. Some take more equipment, while some take more time.
- Model positive behavior

Commitments (Athletic Program, Parent, Fans)

Successful athletic programs require commitments from all its stakeholders. The Huron Athletic Program is committed:

1. To provide adequate equipment and facilities
2. To provide as well-trained coaches as possible
3. To provide full schedules with qualified officials as directed by the MHSAA

Parent Commitment

Know when to be a “parent” and when to be a “fan”. There are times when parents must stop parenting! When your son or daughter changes into a uniform and becomes an athlete, you have to change also, from parent to fan. Your job, not on the sidelines but in the home bleachers, is not to be a parent, but to be your child’s greatest fan. There is no trick to learn. You already know how to do this. Remember how you applauded the “downs” as well as the “ups”. You never said things like “What’s taking you so long? Or “how come the kid down the street is walking better than you? Or “why do you keep making the same mistakes over and over?” No, you were the world’s most appreciative audience and most positive supporter.

Why should it be any different now that your child is an athlete? Your job is not to be the coach or certified expert even if you are retired from a professional sports team. You are there so that you can share in “the thrill of victory or the agony of defeat” —together. Your child needs your support more in defeat than in victory. Did you ever notice that strangers feel free to come out of the stands and congratulate the winner? But, in defeat, sometimes the athletes own teammates and coaches ignore him/her and the fans don’t come out of the stands to console or congratulate him/her on a good game or match. As a parent you have to be there to cushion the setbacks with a positive “We’ll get them next time.”

Be There! You can never be the world’s greatest fan unless you show up. Regardless of the skill level of your child or the success of the team – go to the games. Be supportive. Don’t be a fickle, fair-weather fan or absent, too busy parent. The opportunity to enjoy these times goes by quickly.

Be Positive! On the sidelines or in the stands, if you can’t say something positive, don’t say anything at all. Nothing good comes from negative statements and nothing negative comes from positive ones. If you can’t say something positive and supportive during the contest at least be silent. Respect the officials and the job they are doing. If interested in becoming an official contact the MHSAA.

Be Seated! Even though it’s good to be positive, it’s not good to overdo it. Don’t stick out. Be an admirer – not a cheerleader. Players should not confuse your voice from the home stands with that of the public address announcers.

Be Great Guests! When we have to travel to away events remember to be a role model. We ask our coaches and athletes to maintain the highest level of sportsmanship during very difficult situations. When we put on that Huron uniform, or drum and feather we are representing the Huron Community.

Join the Huron Athletic Booster Club and be a part of the fundraising that has allowed us to have great facilities and new equipment for our athletes. Volunteer to help your child’s teams with team dinners or running events like senior night or parent night.

Conflict Resolution

Athletic Involvement can be highly emotional and issues about playing time, team selection, honors and awards can arise. It is very important that these issues be addressed as soon as possible, and as directly as possible, so they can be resolved promptly. The following procedures should be used when a conflict or problem arises.

Step 1-Personal Contact between Athlete and Coach- As a general rule, the issue should be presented as soon as possible to the coach by the individual athlete. Its best if the athlete sets an appointment to meet with the coach so it can be done privately. If the athlete feels this meeting was unsuccessful the athlete's parents should then contact the coach at an appropriate time. Times to be avoided are:

1. Either prior to or immediately after a competition
2. During a practice session
3. During a time when other students may be present or when it may be readily apparent to others that a discussion is taking place
4. At a time when it is apparent that there would not be sufficient time to provide for a complete discussion

Usually the best solution is to ask the coach either over the phone, via email or in person if an appointment can be made to discuss the issue. A parent or athlete could also contact the coach via the athletic office. **It is strongly recommended that the student athlete join their parent(s) at any meeting to ensure that all sides of the issue can be thoroughly discussed.**

Step 2-Personal Contact Between Coach, Athlete, and Athletic Director

If a satisfactory resolution is not reached through direct contact with the coach, the athlete and/or parent should contact the Athletic Director. As a courtesy, the coach should be informed that this contact is being made. If this discussion does not result in a satisfactory conclusion, then a meeting will be scheduled involving all concerning parties in an attempt to reach a satisfactory resolution. It is very important for all athletes and parents to know that any comments, concerns, or issues raised to the athletic director will be addressed with the coach.

Seniors and Sub-varsity Teams

Seniors are not permitted to participate on junior varsity or freshman teams. There may be circumstances that this will be allowed. Those instances will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Training Rules and Athletic Eligibility

Academic Requirements

Incoming freshman are eligible for fall sports regardless of 8th grade third trimester grades. The first grade check for them will be 1st trimester progress report grades.

All returning upperclassmen and transfer students must have maintained a 2.0 GPA during their last trimester grades. They must be passing 4 out of 5 classes. Grade checks will be done 5 times throughout the year.

1st Trimester progress reports

1st Trimester grades

2nd Trimester progress reports

2nd Trimester grades

3rd Trimester progress reports

Athletes will either be deemed ineligible or conditionally eligible based on their grades.

If an athlete has a GPA less than 1.5 they are ineligible to compete in any contests. If an athlete is failing more than one class they are considered ineligible and cannot compete in any contests. If at progress report dates, these requirements aren't met, the athlete will be put on a weekly progress report. When grades have met eligibility standards the athlete will be allowed to compete.

If an athlete has a GPA less than 2.0 but greater than 1.5 they are considered conditionally eligible. The condition being they must attend a set number of study table sessions over a specific period of time (ten sessions over a three-week period). As long as the athlete is actively pursuing these conditions they will remain eligible for practices and contests home and away.

Study table sessions are held M, W, TH, and Friday from 3-4 pm in designated classrooms. Teachers and tutors are available to help struggling students. Athletes can utilize these sessions anytime they feel they need help to keep grades in good standing.

Athletes who are considered ineligible will be contacted by the athletic department and a plan of work will be developed.

Facilities and Equipment

Facilities:

A student athlete using ANY FACILITY (including but not limited to the weight room, gym, wrestling room) of Huron High School must be under the DIRECT SUPERVISION of a coach at all times.

Trainer's Room and Coaches' Offices:

The trainer's room and coaches' offices are off-limits to all student athletes unless they are under the supervision of the trainer or coach.

Equipment:

All student athletes are financially responsible for equipment issued to them during their season. Equipment issued to a student athlete is to be worn only for practice or competitions, unless given express permission by the coach of the sport.

Athletes will not be permitted to participate in another sport until their equipment from the previous sport is turned in. If damaged or not returned the student athlete is charged the price of replacement for all missing pieces of uniform and damaged equipment. If the student athlete is a senior their transcripts and diploma may be held up until equipment and uniform is turned in or replaced.

Attendance Policy

All athletes are expected to be at school every day, all day. If they are not present for the entire day they are considered ineligible for practices or games for that day. We understand that there may be times when athletes need to miss a portion of the day for various appointments. If your child will be out of school for any appointments or unforeseen circumstances, a doctor's note needs to be delivered to the athletic office on that day. Athletes that miss an entire day are considered ineligible for that day and cannot practice or play in games. If you have questions, please contact the athletic office to clarify any special situations that might arise. The athletic department will consider these on case by case basis.

Transportation Policy

The Huron School District provides transportation to all away events for our athletes. The District does not provide transportation on weekends. Members of the athletic staff feel it is in the best interest of team unity that everyone travel together and share the game experience. The trip to and from games allows for an assortment of coachable moments for the staff and players. Athletes are expected to conduct themselves appropriately while on the bus. If there are any extenuating circumstances when as a parent you need to take your child from a game, the athletic department and coach require 24-hour notice with a written request.

Drug Testing Policy

The Huron School District believes athletes perform at their best when they adhere to good training habits. In order to insure our athletes, follow proper training rules we conduct random drug testing of athletes 3 times per year. Test dates are unannounced and completely random. Tests are performed once during each season. Any athlete found to be using any illegal drugs becomes immediately ineligible for one week and in order to remain eligible must seek drug counseling for a length of time determined by the athletic department. If you would like a copy of our complete drug testing policy please contact the athletic department.

Social Networking Policy

Some Simple Rules to discuss with your athlete about social networking sites.

Avoid Posting Illegal Activities

Avoid Bullying or Threats of Violence

Avoid Lying, Cheating, & Plagiarizing

Potential for Discipline by School Administrators: There are many categories of online conduct that, if they relate to school activity or attendance, and if they violate the educational code of the Huron

School District rule governing student conduct, may subject the student athlete to discipline by district authorities. Every allegation of student misconduct is evaluated based on the totality of the circumstances involved, including online activities.

Sportsmanship Policy

The Huron School District and Athletic Department expects all parties at a contest to display the highest possible level of sportsmanship. Players, coaches, and spectators should treat opponents, game officials, and visiting spectators with respect at all times. The Huron School District and Athletic Department reserves the right to warn, censure, place on probation or suspend (for up to one calendar year) any player, team, coach, or school official determined to be acting in a manner contrary to the standards of good sportsmanship. Spectators who do not adhere to standards of good sportsmanship may be asked to leave the contest and/or be prohibited from future contests. If you are not sure what details good sportsmanship, please follow this simple rule: Cheer for your own team, but do not belittle opposing teams and officials.

Behavior

The behavior of Huron student athletes will be held to the highest of standards. Athletes must understand that they represent their family, community and the school. Proper behavior in school, at practices, at athletic contests, and during bus rides should be exhibited at all times.

Poor sportsmanship/disrespect:

Coaches will deal with poor sportsmanship, vulgarity, and other forms of poor behavior and disrespect. Any action by student athletes that violates behavior standards will result in appropriate discipline (based on the severity of the offense) ranging from corrective action prescribed by the coach, to suspension from competition(s), or expulsion from the team.

Hazing:

Hazing is defined as harassment, abuse, or humiliation by way of initiation. This definition can include both physical and mental forms of hazing. Hazing is associated with, but not limited to being initiated into, or pledging, a team. Student athletes participating in hazing activities will be subject to discipline appropriate to the offense. Depending on the severity of the violation, penalties may range from suspension to expulsion from the team.

Discipline from school:

All violations of rules and regulations outlined in the Huron Student Handbook that result in a student athlete being assigned any form of discipline by school administration (such as detention or suspension from school) could result in suspension from the next competition. Recurring violations may result in further suspension or expulsion from the team.

VIOLATIONS

Violations that are grounds for immediate dismissal:

- Individual commits a felony.
- Distribution of any illegal substance or alcoholic beverages on or off campus.

The definition of a season begins the first day of practice or ends upon the evening of the athletic banquet. The athletic program is defined as an entire school year.

The following training rules violations will fall under the penalties set below:

- When an athlete has been reported to have taken property, which belongs to others.
- Destruction of property that does not belong to them.
- Any actions that violate the student handbook.

Subject to the approval of the athletic director, individual coaches may impose additional sanctions in accordance with their team policies.

A student athlete who is in violation of the training rules will be subject to sanctions. The sanctions will begin when the athlete returns to school following any out of school suspension. The following penalties shall be enforced.

First Violation: Athlete will be suspended for twenty percent of the competitive season.

Second Violation: Athlete will be suspended for forty percent of the competitive season.

Third Violation: Athlete will be permanently suspended from participation in any sport for one calendar year.