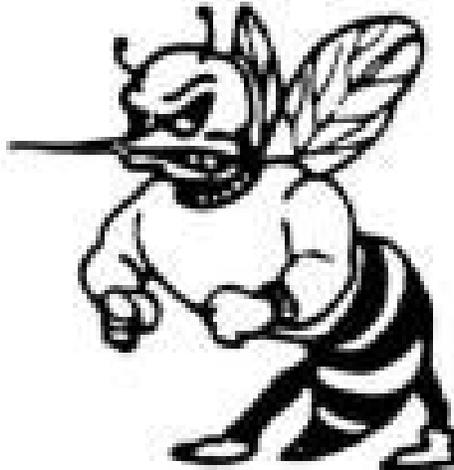


Harrison Community Schools



Athletic Handbook

“Harrison Fight Song”

**Cheer!Cheer! for old Harrison High
See her bright colors high in the sky,
Cheer her team to bring her fame,
sing out the praises of her name.
Cheer though the score be great or small.
Cheer Harrison to win over all.
As we cheer, our team is fighting onward to victory!
RAH!RAH!RAH!**

Ten Commandments for Parents with Athletic Children

- 1) Make sure your children know that win or lose, scared or heroic, you love them, appreciate their efforts, and are not disappointed in them. This will allow them to do their best without a fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.
- 2) Try your best to be completely honest about your child's athletic capability, their competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level.
- 3) Be helpful but don't coach them on the way to the playing field or on the way back. It's tough not to, but it is a lot tougher for the child to be inundated with advice, pep talks, and often critical instruction.
- 4) Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be "out there trying", to be working to improve their skills and attitudes. Help them to develop the feel for competing, for trying hard, and having fun.
- 5) Try not to relive your athletic life through your children in a way that creates pressure; you fumbled, too, you lost as well as won. You were frightened, you backed off at times, and you were not always heroic. Don't pressure them because of your lost pride.
- 6) Don't compete with the coach. If the coach becomes an authority figure, it will run from enchantment to disenchantment, etc., with your athlete.
- 7) Don't compare the skill, courage, or attitudes of your children with other members of the team, at least within his/her hearing.
- 8) Get to know the coach so that you can be assured that the philosophy, attitudes, ethics, and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your child under his/her leadership.
- 9) Always remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting.
- 10) Make a point of understanding courage, and the fact that it is relative. Some of us can climb mountains, and are afraid to fight. Some of us will fight, but turn to jelly if a bee approaches. Everyone is frightened in certain areas. Explain that courage is not the absence of fear, but a means of doing something in spite of fear or discomfort. The job of the parent of an athletic child is a tough one, and it takes a lot of effort to do it well. It is worth all the effort when you hear your youngster say, "My parents really helped, I was lucky, in this."

Coaching Standards & Expectations

The heads of extra-curricular programs in the Harrison School District recognize the need to maintain a standard of excellence for our students. As such, we support the adoption of these standards to be used by the Athletic Director as the basis for the evaluation of coaches and programs.

A coach has a role as leader and mentor to student athletes, and is an official representative of the school at interscholastic athletic activities. In such important capacities, these standard behaviors should be practiced (including those clubs and athletic programs not sponsored by MHSAA):

- 1) Develop an understanding of the role of interscholastic athletics and communicate it to players, parents, and the public.
- 2) Develop an up-to-date knowledge of the rules, strategies, safety, precautions and skills of the sport and communicate them to players and parents.
- 3) Develop, communicate and model policies for athletes' conduct and language in the locker room, at practice, during travel, during competition, and at other appropriate times.
- 4) Develop fair, unprejudiced relationships with all squad members. Show respect for players, parents, other coaches and staff
- 5) Allow athletes to prove themselves anew each season and do not base team selections on previous seasons or out of season activities.
- 6) Allow athletes time to develop skills and interests in other athletic and non-athletic provided by the school and community groups.
- 7) Give the highest degree of attention to athletes' physical well being.
- 8) Teach players strict adherence to game rules and contest regulations
- 9) Teach players, by precept and example, respect for school authorities and contest officials, providing support for them in cases of adverse decisions and refraining from critical comments in public or to the media.
- 10) Present privately, through proper school authorities, evidence of rule violations by opponents; and counteract rumors and unfounded allegations of questionable practices by opponents.
- 11) Attend required meetings, keep abreast of MHSAA policies regarding the sports, and be familiar with MHSAA eligibility and contest regulations.
- 12) Present a clean professional image in terms of personal appearance, and provide a positive role model in terms of personal habits, language, and conduct. Use of tobacco within sight of players and spectators and use of alcohol any time before a contest on the day of the contest is not acceptable.

I have read and will adhere to the policies of the Harrison Community School District handbook and to this Code of Ethical Conduct and understand that failure to do so may result in suspension and/or dismissal from the position.

Date: _____ Coach: _____

Date: _____ Athletic Director: _____

Parental Standards & Expectations

When the coaching staff, the athletes, and the parents are working together for the good of the team, a season is successful. Please help us provide the best possible environment for our athletes to have a quality experience. Everyone must play his/her role. The coaches need to coach, the players need to work hard, and sacrifice for the good of the team, and parents need to support their children with attendance, and encouragement. As models to our student athletes, the following behaviors should be practiced by parents:

- 1) Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game.
- 2) Place the emotional and physical well being of the participants ahead of any personal desires to win.
- 3) Provide support for coaches and officials working with the participants to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all.
- 4) Promote tobacco, alcohol, drug, and violence free sports environment for the participants and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all events.
- 5) Refrain from comments and actions that are intended to intimidate, bait, anger, or embarrass others.
- 6) Maintain a position as a spectator and refrain from “coaching from the stands”.
- 7) Support the participants in the appropriately designated areas for spectators.
- 8) Remember that the game is for the students and not for adults.
- 9) Make youth sports fun for the participants.
- 10) Expect that your child treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.
- 11) Keep all comments from the stands positive, including those directed towards individuals other than your own child.
- 12) Promise to help your child enjoy the extra-curricular experience within your personal constraints by being a respectful fan, providing transportation or whatever you are capable of doing.

Extra-Curricular Roles and Responsibilities

Actions by coaches, student athletes, administrators, parents, and the board of education are subject to the same standards and expectations as stated in board policy and the contractual agreement between the board and the teacher's association. The same expectations of teachers, as stated in these documents, is expected of coaches.

Extra-Curricular participants will:

- Come prepared to work at every practice where he/she is physically able.
- Accept the team rules as established by the coach and the athletic department.
- Attempt to communicate all questions and concerns with the coach in a timely fashion.
- Display a respectful attitude towards his/her teammates, coaches, officials, spectators, and opponents at all times.

Coaches will:

- Abide by MHSAA coaching standards as stated in the MHSAA Handbook.
- Come prepared to practice daily.
- Make a strong effort to run a safe practice and competition area.
- Communicate important information (such as team expectations and important dates) to parents and administration.

Administrators will:

- Communicate to parents the "conflict resolution process."
- Enforce the chain of command as outlined in the "conflict resolution process."
- Review with coaches the expectations as stated in the team's guidelines.
- The Athletic Director will conduct a meeting in the off season with the coaches to discuss standards and procedures.

Parents will:

- Be supportive of not only their children, but of all competitors.
- Support team guidelines and goals.
- Abide by the code of conduct for parents as found in the HHS Athletic Handbook.
- Communicate concerns directly to the coach while respecting the 24 hour "cooling off period."

The Board of Education Will:

- Recognize athletes and programs for academic and athletic success
- Serve as an arbitrator in disputes that have exhausted the full grievance process.
- Remain neutral by refusing all requests to become involved in a dispute before the superintendent has been notified and all steps in the "conflict resolution process" have been exhausted.

Extra-Curricular Conflict Resolution Process

- All complaints MUST be heard at the lowest possible level BEFORE intervention by a higher authority can occur.
- A 24 hour “cooling off” period must be granted before any complaints are initiated.
- Complaints must be made within 10 days of the incident. For the sake of all parties, the entire process must be concluded within 30 days of the incident.

Steps

- 1) Start with the Source:
 - a) The player will speak directly to the coach. A cooling off period will be granted for all parties before resolution is sought. This meeting should be done in private, away from practice sites and game arenas, and should be conducted face to face. Students who do not feel comfortable speaking solely to the coach may request a parent to be present; however, the meeting should be conducted by the athlete.
- 2) Move to program head:
 - a) This step is necessary only if the issue is in regards a subordinate or assistant (i.e. an assistant, JV coach, etc.). If going to the source does not resolve the problem, then the head of the program should be notified and he/she should attempt to facilitate a solution. If the “source” is the head of the program, move to step three.
- 3) Contact Athletic Director:
 - a) If an agreeable solution is not reached, then the athletic director will conduct a meeting between the parties in an attempt to find resolution.
- 4) Contact Principal:
 - a) If an agreeable solution is still not reached, then the principal will conduct a meeting between the parties in an attempt to find resolution.
- 5) Notify the Superintendent:
 - a) At this point in the process, individuals who still believe their disputes have not been resolved adequately can submit a written narrative of their complaint to the School Superintendent. A copy of this will be given to all concerned parties, who will be afforded the option of written rebuttal. After the superintendent has reviewed the documents he/she can conduct a meeting in a final attempt to resolve the dispute.
- 6) Request nonpartisan School Board mediation:
 - a) This final step is appropriate only in extreme circumstances and shall follow the same process laid down for the superintendent.

Communication between coach and parents

The purpose of this athletic program at Harrison Schools is to provide an arena in which students can learn and grow in meaningful ways that are not always possible in a classroom setting. Our ultimate success in achieving a positive athletic experience will be measured by our ability to establish lines of communication. Through good communication, people feel valued and understood, even if complete agreement is not always reached. We are concerned about the *education* of our students. Part of the process of growing up is learning how to handle your own difficult situations. If a conflict or misunderstanding between an athlete and a coach occurs, learning to resolve it is an important educational experience for the athlete. Parents should react slowly. Children tend to exaggerate at times, leave out part of the story, or present a skewed version of an incident. Taking responsibility for your part in a conflict is a learned skill. It requires maturity and honest self-reflection. Athletes vent frustration at the dinner table expecting mom and dad to take their side of the issue. Parents, however, realize that they are not present at practice to see how their child behaved, related to the coach, or to evaluate his or her skill and effort. Parents should always seek more information before drawing conclusions. The most productive long-term help a parent can give a child in awkward situations with a coach is to teach and model the skills of a conflict resolution. Help your child resolve his or her own differences. When a student successfully deals with a difficult interpersonal conflicts, he or she learns and grows. Parents are encouraged to help their athlete learn the valuable lessons that athletics can teach, even the “tough lessons” that may be difficult for everyone involved. Of course, a parent always retains the right to intervene on behalf of a child.

Communication all parents can expect from their child’s coach or athletic director

Team Itinerary: Parents need to know the location at times of all tryouts, practices, games, bus trips, meetings, banquets, team camps, conditioning sessions, et cetera, as well as directions to away contests.

Team Rules: Parents appreciate knowing not only the philosophy of the coach but also any team policies, including consequences that the coach established to supplement the code conduct, rules and regulations.

Criteria for Team Selection: Coaches should develop and distribute written criteria for team selection, including objective criteria such as those measured against the stopwatch or skills completed, as well as subjective evaluations, such as attitude, effort, coach ability, grades or potential.

Criteria for Earning an Award: Coaches should determine and distribute written criteria to parents and athletes as soon as the squad has been selected if the criteria is something more than simply completing the season as a member of the team.

Injury: Parents can expect to be immediately informed by the coach when an injury occurs that requires medical attention.

Problem Behavior: Coaches should call parents whenever an athlete exhibits atypical behavior that persists longer than 48 hours.

Discipline: The coach will inform parents within 24 hours of all discipline that results in the loss of contest participation or removal from the team. This contact will be done before the parent is to attend the contest whenever possible.

Communication Coaches Appreciate from Parents:

Schedule Conflicts: If you cannot reach the coach directly, it is then appropriate to notify the main office to get a message to the coach. Please check with the coach before trying out regarding previously scheduled absences.

Emotional Stressors: Coaches appreciate knowing about any unusual event in the life of an athlete that is causing the young person additional stress.

Volunteers: Coaches need help with so many aspects of managing the program (fundraisers, work projects, team dinners, awards banquet, etc.) that they are always glad to hear from parents who have ideas and are willing to work for the team.

Forthrightness: Every coach wants to try to resolve a conflict before it is taken to the athletic director, principal or other higher authority or before it is discussed “in the stands.”

Appropriate Concerns for Parents to Discuss with Coaches:

1. The treatment of your child.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concern about your child’s physical health and welfare, academic progress, or violation of the code of conduct. **(Matters regarding other athletes are to be left to their respective parents)

Areas of Control that Belong to the coach, Alone:

1. Tryout procedures, team placement, team size and selection criteria.
2. Position(s) played, lineups and playing time.
3. Offensive and defensive strategies play calling and style of play.
4. Practice plans, drills and scrimmages.
5. Coaching staff (upon approval of the Athletic Director).

How to Discuss an Appropriate concern with Coach

Communicating is the most vital aspect of heading off potential problems. Any concern a student or parents has must always be addressed by following the “Extra-Curricular Conflict Resolution Process.” The first step of this is to contact the source. Whenever possible the student should initiate, but whether the parent or the student begins the process there are some suggestions on how to handle this conversation.

Student Contacting the Source: The student should talk directly with the coach, in private, face-to-face, away from the practice site or game arena.

Parent Contacting the Source: Contact the coach to talk directly, in private, face-to-face, away from the practice site or game area. Please do NOT attempt to confront a coach before or after practice or a contest. Our coaches are NOT expected to endure yelling, verbal, or physical abuse from parents.

Conducting a Meeting:

1. Introduce yourself and vice versa. There is to be no yelling, verbal, or physical abuse by either side.
2. When each person is speaking there is to be no interruption. Let each person complete his or her version of the situation before the other person speaks. When stating your concern be prepared with the facts in so far as you understand, or can ascertain them. Be clear about what you hope will happen as a result of your meeting.
3. As you talk with the coach, or other authority, repeat back what you hear him or her say to be sure that you understand the important points. Stay calm and friendly as you talk and listen, Take notes.
4. Assist in generating options to resolve the conflict. Make sure there is fairness to the proposed solutions.
5. Before the session ends, have a plan that is clearly understood by all parties. A written document restating the final outcome, what happens if the situation reoccurs, and signatures indicating understanding is appropriate. This written plan will check for mutual understanding. Make a plan to touch base following the initial meeting. Remember that each party has a stake in making the plan work. We always assume that all parties have the best interest of the student-athlete in mind when concerns are discussed. Therefore, we make every effort to assure that the student is not penalized or placed in an awkward position as a result of voicing a complaint. Parents, rightly so, tend to have single focus and advocate for their own child. Coaches, on the other hand, tend to have a multifocus and must safeguard the needs of every player as well as the team as a whole. Parents and coaches, in order to communicate effectively, must respect the legitimate perspective of the other.

Foreword

A sound student activities program is not accidental, it is conscientiously planned and directed by individuals who recognize it's importance to the educational environment. The purpose of this student activities handbook is to explain the philosophies, objectives, regulations, and procedures of the Harrison Schools student activities program. In establishing these guidelines, the following factors are considered:

1. Safeguarding the health of participants in the activities program
2. Providing opportunities for student participation
3. Establishing standards that cultivate healthy interpersonal relationships among participants.
4. Maintaining the highest quality of student activity.
5. Promoting a healthy school/community relationship.
6. Promoting congenial relationships with other schools.

Philosophy

In accordance with the goals of education, the Harrison Schools athletic philosophy is to help young people develop mentally, physically, emotionally, and intellectually to the fullest potential. The athletic program contributes to this goal by providing intermediate and high school students with opportunities to participate as team members in sports competition with other schools. The development of physical skills, sportsmanship, teamwork, self-discipline, loyalty, tolerance, and perseverance are desired individual outcomes.

Activities Sanctioned By Harrison Schools

The following activities are sanctioned by the Harrison Community Schools Board of Education and are subject to all considerations presented in this handbook:

Fall

Cross Country (Boys & Girls)
Football (Boys)
Sideline Cheer
Volleyball (Girls)

Winter

Basketball (Boys & Girls)
Competitive Cheerleading
Ski (Boys & Girls)
Bowling (Boys & Girls)

Spring

Baseball (Boys)
Softball (Girls)
Track & Field (Boys & Girls)

Activities/Clubs/Educational

National Honor Society
Science Olympiad
Student Council
Spanish Club

Objective of the Activities Program

A meaningful activities program should have defined objectives that apply to all levels. These objectives should be consistent with the philosophical and educational objectives designed to promote personal development and community spirit. The Harrison Schools activities program is dedicated to the following objectives:

1. Provide students with quality teaching/coaching personnel.
2. Provide student with facilities that will enhance their skills.
3. Provide opportunity for students to participate.
4. Build a positive image of school activities of which community, parents, and students can be proud and supportive.

Conflicts in Extra-Curricular Activities

Students are frequently involved in multiple school activities. The student should notify the coach and the director of the other activity as soon as a conflict in the calendar occurs which requires the student to be in two places at the same time. The student is not in jeopardy during the resolution of the conflict.

The commitment of students in extracurricular activities should increase at higher levels of competition. At times, personal interests may need to be sacrificed for the good of the individual and his/her team members.

During the season, anytime a participant fails to attend practice/event, the student's return to the line-up will be determined by the amount of time necessary to recover lost skills and conditioning. Disciplinary measure by the coach may be enforced when an absence is not connected with the immediate family and the coach of the activity missed did not receive prior notification.

Goals of an Activities Participation

The goal of extracurricular participation in Harrison Public Schools should be an educational experience developing individual skills and formulating team concepts that can be used for a lifetime.

1. Teamwork: Develop self-discipline, respect authority, work hard and place team objectives above personal desires.
2. Success: Perform at one's best regardless of the final outcome
3. Good Sportsmanship: Learn to accept winning and losing gracefully. Treat others with respect. Maintain emotional control, honesty, cooperation and dependability.
4. Develop Good Health Habits: Develop good nutritional habits and get proper exercise.

Code of Conduct

A student who elects to participate in the activities program is voluntarily making a choice of self discipline and self denial. Being a member of these groups is a privilege and must be treated as such. An individual's conduct should reflect positively upon himself/herself, his/her family, school, and community.

1. In the arena of competition, behavior should reflect good sportsmanship.
2. In the classroom, good citizenship, the highest individual academic effort and social responsibility should exemplify the conduct of a good athlete.
3. The student is responsible for equipment and facilities used in the performing of the activity.
4. Dropping out of an extracurricular activity is a serious matter. As a courtesy, the student and parents should discuss this decision with the Coach or Athletic Director before making a final decision.
5. High school students should use good judgment in emulating only those college and professional performers who display positive qualities of sportsmanship.
6. A student should respect and adhere to the expectation of the individual coach/supervisor as outlined in the activities written guidelines.

All rules of this section as well as other sections of the Student Activities Handbook are in effect from the beginning with their first day of participation in an extracurricular activity and continuing through to the date of graduation or the last date of participation, whichever is later. All infractions will be penalized and be applicable at any time during the calendar year and will carry over from year to year.

The students are at all times representatives of the activities program of the School District and must not engage in conduct which is disreputable or unbecoming a student of the School District. Conduct which would constitute a violation of any law or ordinance and which involves an act of dishonesty or criminal intent will be subject to penalties and disciplinary measures of the Athletic Code.

Violations of the Code of Conduct are punishable by the disciplinary measures and penalties as follows:

- A. Suspension-restricted from participation in the scheduled events and/or games of the athletic activity for a specified duration. The athlete must attend practices.
- B. Removal-removal from participation in any and all athletic activities including practices for a specified period or permanently.

The Principal shall determine the degree of the penalty or disciplinary measure imposed on a case-by-case basis according to the seriousness and severity of the violation. The Athletic Director may be consulted and/or present during the disciplinary process.

The above training rules are the minimal standards, which are to be adhered to by students. Any coach may implement her/his own training rules and regulations which go above and beyond the minimum standards previously stated with approval of the Athletic Director or Principal.

Athletic Code and Policies

Harrison Schools adhere to MHSAA standards of competition with all athletic programs in agreement with the Philosophy of Education of the Harrison Board of Education. It is an honor and a privilege to represent your school and community. If you wish to participate in athletics, you must be worthy of the honor and deserving of the privilege. Obedience to the training rules is no guarantee that you will participate.

1. Training Rules:
 - a. Absolutely no use of possession of tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs or their look-a-likes during the calendar year.
2. The School Demands:
 - a. Out of school and out-of-town conduct and appearance of the highest type.
 - i. Enforcement
 1. Appear before the Board listed below:
 - a. High School or Middle School Principal
 - b. Athletic Director
 - c. Head Coach in that sport or activity
 - d. Coach of Athletes Team
 - ii. First Offense:
 1. Miss 25% of current season or next season in which the athlete participates in.
 - iii. Second Offense:
 1. The student will be dismissed from all athletics for 90 school days
 - iv. Third Offense:
 1. The athlete will be dropped from all athletics for 180 school days
 - v. Select members of the board listed above (principal & athletic director) have the option of waiving the first offense
3. General Points of Emphasis:
 - a. All coaches will send home a letter to the parents explaining the above details at the beginning of each season. They will also add their own individual rules and regulations. This should be signed by the parents and returned to the coach.
 - b. Sources of information for any violations of the rules will be confined to the Law, Administration, and the coaching staff.
4. Attendance Day of Athletic Event All athletes must be in school by 8:30 a.m. the day of the event. Absences the day of athletic events, unless previously arranged with the Principal, or Athletic Director, will result in not being able to participate in the event that day.

Athletic Council

The Athletic Council is comprised of the Athletic Director, Principal, and the Varsity Head Coaches:

The Athletic Council shall, at the request of the head coach, have the power (subject to the Student/Parent Handbook) to bar from participating in athletics any individual whose actions are detrimental to the reputation of the school. This option shall be based upon the individual's sportsmanship, citizenship, and cooperativeness. Any individual thus barred must make a personal appearance before the Athletic Council before the student may again participate in athletics.

Sportsmanship

Activities in our schools have earned an outstanding reputation in the area of school and community sportsmanship. Our students, fans, and participants have always conducted themselves in a commendable manner. Everyone is very proud of this reputation and works hard at upholding it. Please review the following suggestions for future consideration:

1. A student spectator represents his/her school the same as the athlete.
2. The good name of the school is more valuable than any game won by unfair play.
3. Accept decisions of officials without dispute.
4. Recognize and show appreciation of fine play and good sportsmanship on the part of the opponent.
5. Advocate that any spectator or athlete who continually demonstrates poor sportsmanship may be excused from the athletic program.

Adult Fan Behavior Guidelines

If a fan is acting in an unsportsmanlike manner, he/she will be approached and be advised of the inappropriate behavior by a staff member or the game management, with a follow up letter sent by the Athletic Director. A second offense will result in a suspension of home contests and any other athletic event during the suspension time period. A third offense will result in suspension from all athletic contests for the remainder of the school year. This process may be accelerated if the administration deems it necessary.

Harrison Community School Requirements

What follows is a condensation of the Michigan High School Athletic Association's standards. Questions as to the details included in these standards should be taken to the High School Athletic Director.

Academic Eligibility standards have been increased and approved by Harrison Community Schools Board of Education.

Michigan High School Athletic Association Eligibility Standards:

A. Enrollment:

- a. Students must be enrolled not later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day for the first semester or not later than the fourth Friday of February for the second semester to be eligible for interscholastic athletics.

B. Age:

- a. A student must be under nineteen (19) years of age at the time of the contest unless the student's birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year. Should the student's birthday occur on or after September 1, the student is eligible for the balance of that school year.

C. Maximum Competition:

- a. A student, once enrolled in grade 9, shall be allowed to compete in only four first or second, Semesters.

D. Semesters/Trimesters of enrollment:

- a. A student shall not compete in athletics who has been enrolled in grades nine through twelve, inclusive, for more than eight semesters, or 12 trimesters. The seventh and eighth semesters or the 10th, 11th, and 12th Semesters must be consecutive. Students are allowed four first semesters and four second semesters on four first, four second, and four third Semesters of enrollment. Enrollment in a school after the fourth Friday counts as a Semester/Trimester. Participation in one or more interscholastic athletic contests also constitutes a semester/trimester of enrollment.

E. Undergraduate Standing:

- a. The student must not be a high school graduate.

F. Previous Semester Record:

- a. The student must have passed 100% of the credit load for work taken during the last regular Semester of enrollment, and have passed all semester courses. A student who fails to pass 100% of the credit at the end of any Semester period shall be ineligible for the next 90 school days unless the deficiencies are made up. Eligibility may be reinstated during the next Semester when the school accepts the credit.

G. Current Semester Record:

- a. The student must be passing at least 100% of the credit hours of work during the current Semester, passing all classes during the season of athletic participation.

A. Transfers:

- a. the student must be accompanied by the persons with whom the student had lived when moving out of former school district or service area and into a new school district. The student is ineligible to participate in an athletic contest or scrimmage for one full semester unless the student qualifies for a least one of the 15 exceptions as stated in the MHSAA Handbook, Section 9, pages 37-44.
- B. Awards:
 - a. A student may not accept an award for athletic performance that exceeds a value of \$25.00. An award may not include cash, merchandise certification, or negotiated certificate for any value.
- C. Amateur Practices:
 - a. The student must not accept money or any other type of valuable consideration (merchandise, etc.) for participating in any type of athletics, sports, or games.
- D. Reinstatement of eligibility:
 - a. A change in status for an athlete who has been ineligible occurs on the first full day of the new semester/trimester on which regularly scheduled classes are held, and not on the last day of the previous semester/trimester.
- E. Competition Disqualification:
 - a. Note: This is the wording of the MHSAA -Reg. V, Sec. 3, Pg. 92:

The following policies for disqualifications shall apply in all sports:

1. When a student is disqualified during a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, that student shall be withheld by his/her school for the remainder of that day of competition and for at least the next contest/day of competition for that team.
2. When a coach is disqualified during a contest/day of competition for unsportsmanlike conduct, that coach shall be prohibited by his/her school from coaching for the remainder of that day of competition and from coaching at or attending at least the next contest/day of competition for that team.
3. Failure of the school for any reason to enforce this regulation will prohibit the school from entry in the next MHSAA tournament for that sport, or for the remainder of the current tournament if the disqualification occurs during an MHSAA tournament or during the last regular season contest/day of competition.
4. Disqualifications from one season carry over to the next season in that sport for undergraduates and coaches, or the next season in any sport for seniors.
5. Any coach who is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct two or more times during a season, any player who is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct three or more times during a season, and any coach or player who is ejected for spitting at, hitting, slapping, kicking, pushing or intentionally, and aggressively physically contacting an official at any time during that season, is not eligible to participate in the MHSAA tournament for that sport and may be subject to stricter penalties decided by Athletic Council.

Potential dangers in Athletic Participation

- A. Informed Consent: By its nature, participation in interscholastic athletics includes risk of injury which may range in severity. Although serious injuries are not common in supervised school athletic programs, it is impossible to eliminate the risk. Participants have the responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury. Players must obey all safety rules, report all physical problems to their coaches, follow a proper conditioning program, and inspect their own equipment daily.
- B. Also due to the nature of athletics, the possibility of the exchange of body fluids is present in sports. Regardless of how remote the possibility of transmission of diseases such as HIV/HBV is, all athletes should be aware of the inherent risks associated with athletic competition.
- C. Risk Taking: Participation in athletics is a voluntary extra-curricular activity in which the student participates at the risk of injury. Athletic activities can be hazardous and participation in such activities is a calculated risk on the part of the student and parents.

Physicals

- A. A physical form must be properly completed and signed by the parent/guardian and examining physician. This form shall be kept on file in the student Activities office of the high school before a student may participate in athletic activities.
 - a. A physical examination given after April 15, is good for the following school year.
 - b. Physical examinations will be given through the school at a reduced price on a date to be determined each year.

Injury Policy

- A. Injury Reporting: Students absent from practice due to extended illness or any athlete who sustains an injury while participating for HHS or on his/her time needs to report the injury to the Coach/Athletic Director.
- B. Release to practice/compete following an injury: Any athlete who has sustained an injury must be released to return to competition or practice by the head trainer, team physician, and or M.D or D.O. Release by M.D. or D.O. must be delivered in writing to the Coach/Athletic Director.
- C. Athlete's Role: It is the responsibility of the athlete to follow the instructions of his/her physician, as well as the head trainers in regards to injury. It is his/her own responsibility to follow up with treatment.

Dual Participation Policy

There exist circumstances in which it may be in the best interest of both a particular team and an individual athlete to allow participation on more than one athletic team during a particular season. This would allow individual athletes an opportunity to excel in activities that will help both them and others grow and develop physically, socially, and emotionally while, at the same time, helping the overall growth, development, and success of the entire team.

A parent guardian of a student who wishes to participate in two sports should request a meeting with the student, the coaches of both sports, and the Athletic Director to discuss these wishes and review the following guidelines:

1. A written contract will be established wherein all the above named parties may agree upon training and performance requirements concerning the games and practices.
2. The athlete must choose his/her primary sport and would be expected to attend all practices and contests of the primary sport.
3. The athlete will only be able to participate in the secondary sport when there is not a conflict with the primary sport activities. Potential conflicts will be resolved by the parties involved and included in the contract.
4. The athlete would be expected to abide by all team rule for both sports, unless mutually agreed upon.
5. If the athlete fails to comply with any of the agreed upon criteria, the athlete will no longer be eligible to participate in the secondary sport.

Harrison Community Schools

General Policies

Previous Semester

No student shall compete in any contest during any semester, who has not passed at least 100% of the credit load, for the last semester during which he/she have been enrolled in grade nine to twelve, inclusive for a period of three weeks or more, or during which the athlete shall have taken part in any interscholastic athletic contest. A student who fails to pass 100% of the credit load at the end of the semester period shall be ineligible for the next 90 school days unless the deficiencies are made up. Eligibility may be reinstated during the next trimester/semester when the school accepts the credit.

A student entering the 9th grade for the first time will have their 8th grade final semester referenced to determine if he/she is eligible. In determining the number of hours of credit received during a semester the student who has not passed 80% or 5 out of 6 of the credit load at the end of the semester period shall be ineligible for the next 90 school days unless the deficiencies are made up. However, reviews and extra-curricular work, and work for which credit previously has been received, shall not be counted. Deficiencies, including incomplete, conditions, and failures from a previous semester may be made up during a subsequent semester, summer session, night school, or by tutoring. Eligibility may be reinstated ruling the next semester when the school accepts the credit.

Semester Record

- A. No student shall compete in an athletic contest who does not have a passing grade from the beginning of the semester to the date at which eligibility is checked seven days prior to the contest, in studies totaling 100% of the credit load. The student must be enrolled in at least 66% of total classes offered during the semester.
- B. In determining the number of hours of credit work per week under this rule, reviews and extra-curricular work, and work for which credit previously has been received, shall not be counted.
- C. Any student participating in Harrison school athletics must be passing 100% of the credit load to be eligible to participate in a scheduled interscholastic event.

Eligibility Evaluation Process

Students participating in interscholastic athletics will be evaluated every Monday of the week. Students who are not passing at least 100% will be deemed ineligible for competition for the following week (Monday-Sunday). All students will be evaluated weekly to determine eligibility statuses. To help Student participating remain eligible a pre-progress report will be printed on Wednesday to allow for coaches to monitor grades.

Transportation

Students are required to travel to and from athletic event by the transportation provided by Harrison School District. This requirement may be waived by the parents of the students submitting, in writing, a request to the coach and athletic director.

Foot Coverings

State Health Department regulations require feet to be covered at all times in public buildings. The only exception should be in locker rooms. “Spikes” and cleats of any kind are prohibited in the hallways or locker rooms. Athletes are to put on and take off this type of shoe outside of building.

Parking

1. All participants are to park in the main student parking lot. No one is to park in the school employee parking area until after 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
2. No one is to park along the sidewalk by the parking lot.
3. Sidewalk next to building is off limits to parking.

Equipment

1. Each football player must purchase a protective mouthpiece.
2. Any individual who has failed to return, in good condition, any equipment issued shall be ineligible for any award and from participation in any other sport until such equipment is satisfactorily returned or the Athletic Department is reimbursed.
3. The theft of school equipment is larceny and Michigan law regards larceny as a felony.

Snow Day Procedures

- A. All clubs' and organizations' meetings will be canceled until school is called back into session.
- B. If school is called off during the school day:
 - a. No team practices. (Unless authorized by Administration)
 - b. If a varsity team contest is scheduled for the next day;
 - i. Varsity teams only may practice after safety and team arrangements have been considered by administration;
 - ii. No junior varsity practices are to be held. (Unless authorized by Administration)
- C. If school is called off before the start of the day (First Day):
 - a. No team practices; (Unless authorized by Administration)
 - b. If your varsity team contest is scheduled for the next night:
 - i. Varsity team may practice;
 - ii. No junior varsity practices. (Unless authorized by Administration)
- D. If school is called off before the start of the school day: (second day or more) - all teams may practice following the gymnasium snow day schedule, unless otherwise notified by the administration.

NCAA Eligibility Center

Students interested in competing in division one or two collegiate athletics must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. Students should contact either the Athletic Director or the Counseling Office, or view the NCAA website.

Award Policies

- A. All awards must conform to the regulations of the State High School Athletic Association. A season is not completed until after the conclusion of the Awards Banquet.
- B. Award Hardware Policy:
 - a. Junior Varsity Team - certificate and numerals
 - b. Varsity Team
 - i. First year - Letter with sport identification
 - ii. Second year - A bar to be placed under the sport identification
 - iii. Third year - A bar to be placed under sport identification
 - iv. Captain - A star will be awarded and is to be placed over the sport identification
 - v. If a Freshman is awarded a letter, he/she will receive the numerals along with the letter.

C. Trophies and Plaques:

- a. Trophies or plaques may be given out by coaches provided they have the approval of the Athletic Director
 - i. Most Valuable Player Plaques:
 1. Coaches will inform the Athletic Director of the name of the individual to be placed on the appropriate plaque.
 - ii. Two plaques will be used for the “Outstanding Athlete of the Year”.
 1. The “Outstanding Boy and Girl Athlete of the Year, will be selected by all varsity head coaches.
 2. A senior boy and girl who have made unselfish and superior contributions to the athletic program will be selected.
 - a. Will be awarded plaques at graduation.

D. Letter Requirements for all Sports

All Participants Must:

1. Boys’/Girls Basketball
 - a. Complete the season in good standing.
 - b. Attend practice sessions as required by team rules.
 - c. Be a member of the varsity team for at least 40% of a season
 - d. Return all equipment and uniforms issued to you
2. Boys’ Football
 - a. Complete the season in good standing.
 - b. Attend practice sessions as required by team rules.
 - c. Be a member of the varsity team for at least 44% of a season
 - d. Return all equipment and uniforms issued to you
3. Baseball/Softball
 - a. Complete the season in good standing.
 - b. Attend practice sessions as required by team rules.
 - c. Be a member of the varsity team for at least 40% of a season
 - d. Return all equipment and uniforms issued to you
4. Boy’s and Girl’s Track - Must receive as many varsity points as there are dual meets.
Method of winning varsity points
 - a. Placing in varsity competition.
 - b. Recording a time or distance better (or equal to) than the second best finish for the opposition in a varsity dual meet.
 - c. Point may be earned by a performance that is equal to or better than a goal of excellence.
5. Boy’s and Girl’s Cross Country - An individual earns a varsity letter in cross country if they have met any of the following conditions:
 - a. A letter will be earned by any runner who is one of the team’s top seven, be designation or time, for more than half of the scheduled meets in the season.

- b. A letter will be earned by any runner who has completed three seasons of cross country in good standing.
 - c. A letter will be earned by any runner who has previously earned a letter in cross country and finishes the season in good standing.
6. Cheerleading
- a. A cheerleader who starts and finishes a complete season in good standing will be able to earn a letter, with the approval of the head coach.
 - b. Cheerleader must abide by all rules and requests set forth by the coach and the Athletic Director.
7. Volleyball
- a. Complete the season in good standing.
 - b. Attend practice sessions as required by team rules.
 - c. Be a member of the varsity team for at least 40% of a season
 - d. Return all equipment and uniforms issued to you

Conduct code for participants in extracurricular activities

Participation shall at all times abide by the safety rules of their activity or sport. Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated.

Participants' conduct, in and out of school, shall not reflect negatively on their school or create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral, or educational environment in the school.

Participants who violate this Conduct Code are subject to being removed from the activity at the discretion of the Coach, Building Principal, or Athletic Director, in addition to any other applicable punishment.