

Haleyville City Schools

Student Athlete & Parent Handbook



Softball State Champions

1987, 2012

Baseball State Champions

2009

Volleyball State Champions

1987, 1991, 1992, 2000

Cross Country State Champions

1974, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986

Girl's Basketball State Champions

1982

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Athletic Statement

This handbook is designed to inform student athletes and parents of the rules, regulations and information needed to participate in any Haleyville City School sport.

Participating in athletics is a privilege not a right. Since participating in athletics is a privilege and not a right, those who choose to participate shall be expected to follow the rules established by the athletic department and other specific coaches' rules for their sport. It is a student athletes' responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner that presents their team, family, and community in a positive way.

Philosophy

The philosophy of the Haleyville City Schools Athletic Program is to provide the highest quality athletic program possible while giving the student athletes the opportunity to excel in the areas of teamwork, sportsmanship, self discipline, and character. Student Athletes should be able to leave the Haleyville City Schools with athletic experiences that will help them throughout life.

Sportsmanship

The following policy statement from the National Federation of State high School Associations expresses the concept of sportsmanship as follows:

“The ideals for good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity permeate our culture. The values of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all activity disciplines. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Further, awareness is expected of the impact of an individual's influence on the behavior of others. Good sportsmanship is viewed as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity.”

Good sportsmanship will be expected from all of our student athletes at all times. This sportsmanship should be shown to teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, spectators, and any other person involved in an athletic event of any kind.

AHSAA Eligibility

ENROLLMENT RULE

In order to be eligible, a student must be enrolled within the first 20 days of the semester as a regular student in the school system where the student will participate. The 20-day requirement may be waived under extenuating circumstances

Note: A student that has already been enrolled in a school is not affected by this rule.

Note: A regular student is one who is enrolled at the school and is taking six new units of work. A student must be enrolled at a school in order to participate in practice or interscholastic contests.

AGE RULE

A student is ineligible to participate in high school interscholastic athletics if he/she reaches his/her 19th birthday prior to August 1 of the current school year. If he/she reaches his/her 19th birthday on or after August 1, he/she shall be eligible for the entire school year as far as the Age Rule is concerned. A student is ineligible to participate in junior high interscholastic athletics if he/she reaches his/her 16th birthday prior to August 1 of the current school year, and in middle school interscholastic athletics if he/she reaches his/her 15th birthday prior to August 1 of the current school year. A student is ineligible to participate on a team, or in a game, composed only of seventh grade students if he/she reaches his/her 14th birthday prior to August 1 of the current school year.

ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Submitting eligibility information online at least five days before participation is mandatory for all students. The first time a school submits one of its students online, a copy of the student's certified birth certificate shall be filed in the principal's office and attached to the copy of the online Eligibility List on which that student's name was submitted. Also, a STAR Sportsmanship certificate must be kept on file.

Note: A certified birth certificate is one issued by the State Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state where the student was born. In Alabama, these may be obtained at each county health department.

Note: The passport of a foreign exchange student may be used in lieu of a certified birth certificate.

EIGHT SEMESTER RULE

A student may be eligible only eight semesters in attendance after entering the ninth grade. School attendance of 15 days or more of any semester is counted as a semester. A student can be eligible only four fall semesters and four spring semesters after entering the ninth grade. The last two semesters, the seventh and eighth of a four-year high school and the fifth and sixth of a three-year high school, must be consecutive.

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RULE

No student may participate in any one sport for more than six years (seasons) after entering the seventh grade or more than three years (seasons) after entering the 10th grade. A student who officially participates in one contest of a sport is credited with one year of participation in that sport.

OUTSIDE PARTICIPATION RULE

A student who is a member of any school athletic team (grades 7-12) may not participate (includes practice) on a non-school team in the same sport during the school season of that sport. A student who is a member of any high school athletic team may not participate in an outside sport activity in the same sport during the school season of that sport.

Note: Olympic Development programs are exempted from the Outside Participation Rule. One evaluation per month has been approved by the AHSAA.

Note: Private individual instruction is not considered an outside sports activity. A student who violates this rule becomes ineligible to compete on that school team or in that school sports activity for the remainder of that school season. Any student who participates on an outside team after the school sport season begins is ineligible to join that school team for the remainder of that season. A team's season begins the day of that team's first contest and ends when that team's season has been completed. An ineligible student cannot participate with an outside team after the school team's season starts and then join the school team upon becoming eligible.

INDEPENDENT RULE

A student who is a member of any school track and field, cross country or wrestling team may participate as an independent in two outside activities during the season of a sport with the permission of the school principal. The schedule of the school team, including its championship play, takes precedent over any outside participation of an individual. (Members of tennis, golf and swimming teams are not limited to the number of outside events.)

Note: An outside event is one that is not sanctioned by the AHSAA

ACADEMIC RULE.

(a) Students entering the 10th and 11th and 12th grades must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least six new Carnegie units with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those six units.

(1) Four core curriculum courses must be included in those units passed and averaged. (English, mathematics, science and social studies are core curriculum courses. Any combination of these courses is accepted.)

(2) Any student that accumulates more than four units of core courses per year may earn less than the required four core courses during the next school year and be eligible as long as the student remains on track for graduation with his/her class.

(b) Students entering the 8th and 9th grades must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least five new subjects with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those five subjects and must have been promoted to the next grade.

Note: A new unit is one that has not been previously passed. A semester is half of a school year as defined by the local school system.

(c) Students entering the 7th grade for the first time are eligible.

(d) Students in high school must complete a STAR Sportsmanship online interactive course one time during their high school careers. Middle/junior high school students must take the Advanced Middle/Junior High STAR component. Students taking The Advanced Middle/Junior High component will not have to take another component in high school. A certificate of completion must be kept on file in the school principal's office along with other eligibility items. Cheerleaders must also complete the course one time during their high school years.

Guidelines

1. Eligibility may be determined before the start of each new school year or at the beginning of the second semester. A student that is academically eligible at the beginning of the school year remains eligible for the remainder of that school year so far as grades are concerned. A student that regains eligibility at the beginning of the second semester remains eligible for the remainder of the second semester so far as grades are concerned.

2. Students declared ineligible at the beginning of a school year may regain their eligibility at the end of the first semester (or trimester) by meeting the academic requirements listed above during their last two semesters (three trimesters or 2 trimesters and one semester) in attendance and summer school, if applicable. The regained eligibility of any student may be determined any time after the end of the first semester (or trimester), but all course requirements used to determine the eligibility must be completed no later than the fifth day of the second semester (or second trimester). A student that regains eligibility at the end of the first trimester may not participate in interscholastic athletics until 88 days of the school year have been completed.

3. Only one unit (or subject) of physical education per year may be counted.

4. A maximum of two units (or subjects) earned in an approved summer school may be counted. If a unit (or subject) is repeated in summer school, the higher numerical grade for that unit (or subject) may be used to compute the composite grade average.

5. An accredited correspondence course may be accepted by a school system but must be completed before Sept. 1 and may be one of the maximum two summer units counted for eligibility purposes.

6. Units earned through Credit Recovery may also be among the maximum two summer units counted and must be completed before Sept. 1. If Credit Recovery is used to make up Carnegie units, those units can only be accepted if they are earned through a State Department of Education approved program.

7. For eligibility purposes, special recitation, extra work, make-up work, tests, review, etc., may not be given for the purpose of making a student eligible.

8. To be eligible, all students (including repeaters and hold-backs) must be enrolled in a specified number of new units at the school they represent.

(a) 9th, 10th and 11th graders must be carrying at least six new units (three per semester on a 4x4 block schedule).

(b) 12th graders that are on track for graduation with more than the required number of units earned must be carrying at least four new units for the school year (two units per semester on a 4x4 block schedule).

(c) 7th and 8th graders must be carrying at least five new subjects.

9. The eligibility of a student that has attended another school during the preceding year must be established by a transcript from that school before the student is permitted to participate at the new school.

PHYSICAL EXAMS

In order for a student to be eligible for interscholastic athletics, there must be on file in the superintendent's or principal's office a current physician's statement certifying that the student has passed a physical exam, and that in the opinion of the examining physician (M.D. or D.O.) the student is fully able to participate in interscholastic athletics (grades 7-12). The AHSAA Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form (Form 5) must be used.

Note: A physical exam will satisfy the requirement for one calendar year from the date of the exam.

CONDUCT RULE/EJECTION PENALTIES

Penalties for coaches and players ejected from one or more contests are as follows:

First Ejection: A \$300 fine (An athlete's fine can be reduced to \$100 if the athlete being ejected takes the online STAR Behavioral Mode within two weeks of the date of the ejection.)

Second Ejection: A one-game suspension and a \$500 fine.

Third Ejection: Minimum penalty of a suspension for the remainder of the season plus a \$750 fine.

Note: If any of the ejections occur during the last contest of the season, a monetary fine will be placed on the school.

Leaving The Bench Ejection

If players come off the bench onto the court or field and are ejected under National Federation rules, they will also be suspended for 20 percent of the team's total number of regular season contests. A tournament would count as one contest except in championship play where the suspension would be in effect contest by contest.

Online Sportsmanship Requirement

Students in high school must complete a STAR Sportsmanship online interactive course one time during their high school careers. Middle/junior high school students must take the Advanced Middle/Junior High STAR component, which will satisfy once during-high-school requirement. A certificate of completion must be kept on file in the school principal's office along with other eligibility items. Cheerleaders must also complete the course one time during their high school years.

Haleyville City School Requirements

Students must display qualities of good citizenship if they wish to participate in extracurricular activities. Failure to be a good citizen at all times may result in probation and/or suspension from all extracurricular activities.

The AHSAA states:

Any pupil who is under temporary suspension or whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit up on the school is not eligible. A student's attendance, attitude and classroom effort must be acceptable to the school in which the student is enrolled. Rule I, Section 15, AHSAA By-Law.

Student Attendance

- Daily attendance at school and practice is expected. In order for an athlete to be eligible to participate in any after school activity the athlete must be present at school at least one-half of the school day on the day of the activity. If the activity occurs on a Saturday, then the student must be in attendance in school on the preceding Friday.
- The athletic director and principal may determine if circumstances warrant an exception.

Conduct

- Consequences for off campus violations of the Code of Conduct will not be based on hearsay or rumor. Discipline will occur when the act is witnessed by a faculty member, law enforcement agency, or when there is admission of guilt by the athlete. Parent or student athlete seeking first time assistance in alcohol or drug situations will not suffer punitive consequences.
- Penalties for violations take effect immediately upon determination of any violation and will include games in succession, season schedule, tournaments, and state series, in order of competition.
- If a violation of the Rules and Regulations occurs in the last one-third of the sport season, the student athlete will not be considered in good standing and therefore will forfeit all letters and awards for that sport season.
- If a violation of the Rules and Regulations occurs in the last part of a sport and the violator cannot fulfill the terms of his/her consequences in that sport, the suspension does carry over until the suspension is fulfilled. This includes his/her next sport or the same sport next year, if the suspension is for two football games with only one remaining; the student athlete must also miss his first basketball game or baseball game until the suspension has been paid. If a typically one sport student athlete elects to participate in a new sport in order to serve a suspension, he/she will be required to complete that season in good standing.
- When serving a school suspension (including Alternative School) the student athlete will be ineligible for all contests during the suspension period. Attendance at athletic events, whether a participant or spectator, and at practice is prohibited during the suspension period.
- Any suspension period, whether athletic and/or school, includes and prohibits any "tryouts" that might occur.

Awards

- An athletic award is a symbol of athletic accomplishment, good sportsmanship and observance of athletic policies. Student athletes, managers, and cheerleaders are eligible to earn awards. No student athlete may receive an award in a sport for which he/she is academically ineligible at the completion of the season or if under suspension for an athletic violation. Candidates must complete the season's play; however, this requirement may be waived in cases of physical injury.
- No awards will be issued to an athlete until all equipment for his/her sport is turned in to the coach.

Injuries

- It is the student athletes' responsibility to report any injury during practice or play time to the athletic trainer or coach before they leave campus.
- Parents should contact the coach or trainer if their child experiences abnormal pains or injuries directly after an athletic event when symptoms arise at home.

Physical Therapy

1. Physical therapy appointment times for student athletes should be coordinated with the athletes' Head Coach and physical therapist. Head Coaches should communicate with Strength and Conditioning coaches and PE coaches on appointment times.
 - a. In-season student athletes- If at all possible, all appointments for in-season athletes should be scheduled during PE or Weightlifting classes unless conflict occurs with the physical therapy department.
 - b. Out of season athletes- If at all possible, all appointments for out of season athletes should be after school hours unless there is a conflict with availability with the physical therapy department's schedule.
2. All excuses from the physical therapy department will require an arrival and dismissal time that should be turned in to the front office.

Doctor Visits

- Medical expenses are the responsibility of the athlete and family.
- Written verification from the doctor is required when a physician removes an athlete from practices or games.
- Written verification from the doctor is required to return to athletic competition.

Quitting a Team

- If a student quits a team, that student may not start another sport until the season of the team that was quit is over.
- If a student plays two sports that have overlapping seasons, the student must finish the season of the sport that started first before starting another sport. The only

exception is if it is cleared by both head coaches of both sports and the athletic director.

Dress Code

- Students are to follow all dress codes put in place by each Head Coach of the sport they are participating.
- Dress should always reflect our athletic program, school, and community in a positive manner.

Equipment

- School equipment issued by a coach is the responsibility of the student athlete. All equipment is to be kept clean and in a secure location at all times.
- No athlete will receive awards until all school issued equipment is returned to the

Insurance

- All student athletes are required to have medical insurance to participate in any sport.
- An annual insurance waiver must be completed and kept on file in the office.
- If a student athlete does not have medical insurance they may obtain an insurance policy for an affordable rate through National Security Group. Information can be obtained from the Head Coach or the Athletic Director.

Participation In Two Sports In One Season

- Student athletes may participate in more than one sport during one season with the approval of both coaches.
- If contests conflict, coaches will decide in which contest the student athlete is to compete.
- The student athlete must realize that extra time for practice is necessary to compete in two sports in one season.
- Requirements must be met in both sports as approved by the head coaches to participate in two sports in one season.

Transportation

- All students must ride the bus home from all events unless the head coach gives permission otherwise.
- If permission is given to ride home with a parent or guardian ONLY, then a note must be obtained and filed assuming responsibility of their child.

Sportsmanship Codes of Conduct

- Follow the rules of contest at all times.
- Accept the decisions of contest officials.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Public criticism of officials is not allowed at all.
- Practice good sportsmanship and acknowledge teammates that display it.
- Serve as a positive role model for our student body and community.
- Demonstrate respect to all faculty and staff members and fellow students.

Drug Screening for Extracurricular Students

- By participating in the athletics program, student athletes are subject to the Haleyville City Schools Board of Education's drug and alcohol testing policy. (see HCS Board Policy Manual)

Guidelines for Choosing Student Athletes for Athletic Teams

Haleyville High School offers 11 sports and 23 teams in grades 9-12. In the sports of Football, Cross Country, and Track, students are not eliminated based on specific numbers of participants or ability. This means that all who tryout out can join those teams provided they meet the following qualifications.

- Have no health or safety issues preventing them from participating.
- Meet all AHSAA eligibility and conduct standards.
- Meet all HHS eligibility and conduct standards.

NOTE:

This does not mean that student athletes have a right to be on a team. Membership on all teams is a privilege and all student athletes must follow general training rules and specific rules for that sport and those particular coaches.

In all other sports students may be eliminated or denied the privilege of participation due to practical size of the team, specific number of participants for games and practices. The number of participants of each sport is determined by the head varsity coach and the Athletic Director and is based on many criteria that may include:

- Talent and work ethic of those trying out.
- Number of individuals trying out.
- Optimum number determined by the coach to conduct productive practices and insure adequate substitutions.
- Academic eligibility of AHSAA.
- Overall student conduct within the school.

Try outs should last at least 2 full practice sessions and the students should be informed of the length of that try out period in advance.

Before The First Practice

1. Up to date Participation Physical Evaluation Form on file.
2. Completed concussion form on file.
3. Insurance and permission form on file.
4. Athletic Handbook form on file.

Before The First Game

1. Complete STAR Sportsmanship program online.
2. Eligibility information entered 5 days before first contest.

Parent/Staff Communication Policy

Positive involvement in sports requires commitment from students, parents, coaches, and advisors. To be successful, all involved must work to ensure effective communication. The following guidelines are intended to aid parents and staff in their interactions.

Communication parents can expect from coaches:

1. Location and time of practices and contests.
2. Description of coach's philosophy.
3. Coaches expectations of players on their team.
4. Team requirements (fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning).
5. Notification when a student athlete is injured during participation.
6. Notification in serious disciplinary action taken against a student athlete.
7. Request for support towards commitment of the program.

What are appropriate concerns for parent to discuss with coaches?

1. The treatment of their child, both mentally and physically.
2. Skill improvement and development.
3. Concerns about their child's behavior, attitude, or commitment.
4. Child's interaction with other team members and coaches.

What things are not appropriate to discuss with coaches?

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategies.
3. Play calling.
4. Other student athletes.

Communication coaches should expect from parents:

1. Individual concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Advance notification of any schedule conflicts.
3. Support towards the commitment of the program.

If a parent has a concern to discuss with a coach, what procedures should be followed?

1. Make an appointment with the coach.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, contact the athletic director to set up a meeting.
3. Never confront a coach before, during, or after a practice or contest. These are emotional times for all involved and this does not promote an atmosphere of patience and understanding.

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide satisfactory resolution?

1. Set up an appointment with the athletic director to discuss the situation further.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.
3. We are continually attempting to improve communication with student athletes and parents. For our program to be truly successful, it is necessary that everyone involved understand the

direction the program is headed and to avoid unnecessary miscommunications. Positive and effective communication can only strengthen our program.

Acknowledgement of Athletic Handbook

I hereby acknowledge that I have received, read, and fully understood the Haleyville City Schools Student Athlete and Parent Handbook (hard copy or electronic copy). I agree to participate and conduct myself in accordance with the rules and regulations contained within this handbook, as well as any other specific rules of my coaches. I understand that I am subject to disciplinary measures should I violate these rules, to include dismissal from the Haleyville City School's athletic program.

NOTE: Failure to return or sign this acknowledgement will not relieve the student athlete, or their parent(s)/guardian(s), from the responsibility of abiding by the contents of this handbook.

Signature of Student Athlete

Date

Signature of Parent

Date