



## HANCOCK CENTRAL HIGH STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

### **ATHLETICS**

The Hancock Public School District encourages participation in interscholastic athletics by both boys and girls. The various levels of competition include varsity, junior varsity, freshman, and middle school.

Sports offered at Hancock Central High are: football (boys only), basketball, hockey (boys only), cross-country, swimming (co-op program), alpine skiing (co-op program), golf, track, volleyball (girls only), softball (girls only), and baseball (boys only). Sports offered in the Hancock Middle School include football (boys only), basketball, cross country and volleyball (girls only). Girls may participate on boys-only teams where that sport is not offered for both genders.

### **MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Hancock Central High School is a member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, and as such, abides by the rules and regulations as set forth by that organization, some of which are outlined below.

**ELIGIBILITY:** To be eligible to compete in athletics, a student must be enrolled in school no later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day or the fourth Friday of February.

1. A student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contest must be under nineteen years of age, except that a student whose nineteenth birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year. Any student born before September 1 is ineligible.
2. No student shall be eligible for whom there is not on file a statement signed by a medical professional (MD, DO, PA, NP) for the current school year certifying that (1) the student has passed a physical examination and is physically able to compete in athletic tryouts, practices, and contests and (2) effective August 1, 2008, there has been consent for disclosure to the MHSAA of information otherwise protected by FERPA and HIPAA for the purpose of determining eligibility. (3) A student must also have a concussion form on file (included on the physical form). If you need more information on concussions go online to:  
<https://www.mhsaa.com/schools/parents>  
or contact the Athletic Director at 906-370-1935.
3. A student shall not compete in athletics who has been enrolled in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, for more than eight semesters. The seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive.
4. A student, once enrolled in grade nine, shall be allowed to compete in only four first semesters and four second semesters. (Four consecutive years of eligibility without a "redshirt" year.)

A complete set of MHSAA Rules and Regulations is available in the Athletic Director's Office and online.



## **POLICY FOR TRANSFERS FOLLOWING VIOLATIONS OF A SCHOOL'S STUDENT ATHLETIC CODE:**

Hancock Central High School will enforce upon a transfer student any period of ineligibility to which that student would have been subject to as a result of a student or athletic code violation(s) at that student's most recent previously attended school.

### **Athletic Code of Conduct**

#### **STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY (Coaches must read this statement to their teams)**

*Participation in athletics is an integral part of a student's overall high school experience. Participation is a privilege and should elicit great pride in both the student and his or her family. While our number one goal as a school district is to provide a sound academic experience for all our students, athletics provide unique opportunities for students to promote their mental, physical, social and emotional development. By providing a strong athletic program, Hancock Central High extends the privilege of enriching the mind and body to any student meeting district and Michigan High School Athletic Association requirements. Like anything of value, it comes with responsibility. That responsibility is a commitment from you to follow established rules. Athletes who comply with this code of conduct demonstrate a desire to dedicate themselves to self-improvement as well as to enhance the best interests of fellow teammates, coaches and school. If accepted, this privilege carries certain responsibilities as presented in this code.*

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

These Rules of Eligibility are established by the Hancock Public School District in conjunction with the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA).

**This athletic code is in effect 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and is IN ADDITION to the Discipline Rubric in the Student Handbook.** Should a report be received by the school district of an alleged student violation of this code, an investigation will be initiated within ten school days of the receipt of the report. (For example, if a student violates the code in July, but a report of such a violation is not received by the school authorities until November, action will not be taken until after the school investigation is completed, which would be after the November reporting.)

1. In order to participate in HCH athletics, a student must be enrolled as a full-time student.
2. A current year copy of the Athletic Code of Conduct Contract signed by the athlete and his/her parent/guardian must be on file in the Athletic Office.



## GOALS

Athletics are an integral part of your school experience. They provide learning experiences that are difficult to duplicate in other school activities. Especially at the varsity level, the goal of a team entering a competition is to win the competition. Therefore, although coaches shall make a sincere effort to allow each team member an opportunity to play in competition, there is no guarantee that every athlete will compete in every game. We subscribe to the following goals:

1. To develop leadership skills and responsibility.
2. To show team spirit, encourage others and contribute to good morale.
3. To be fair and treat others with kindness.
4. To keep commitments to the team.
5. To experience a variety of activities and to offer an outlet for a wide variety of students' abilities and interests.
6. To treat all persons respectfully regardless of individual differences; to show respect for legitimate authority (e.g. Coaches, Officials, Captains).
7. To accept responsibility to set a good example for teammates, peers, younger students, fans and the school community.
8. To understand the necessity of abstaining from the use of alcohol, tobacco/nicotine, and other illicit drugs in order to achieve the positive benefits of interscholastic athletics.
9. To realize that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege with accompanying responsibilities.
10. To generate a sense of Bulldog pride and unity for students, staff and community.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

Participating in athletics is a privilege and not a right. You are expected to assume the following responsibilities:

**Responsibility to Yourself:** The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to derive the greatest benefit from your high school experiences, to live a healthy lifestyle and to respect your health both physically and mentally at all times.

**Responsibility to your Academic Studies:** Your academic studies and your participation in other co-curricular activities prepare you for life as an adult. In all cases, your academic performance must meet eligibility standards prior to participation in any co-curricular activity.

**Responsibility to Your School:** Hancock cannot maintain its position as having outstanding schools unless you do your best in the activity in which you are engaged and are a good role model. Other students and faculty are watching you. They know who you are and what you do. Make them proud. Be an example. Do not do anything to let them down.



**Responsibility to your Community:** The community, through school tax monies – as well as robust community support of athletic fundraising efforts – make your athletic experiences possible. For that reason, you must remember that you hold a clear and paramount responsibility to your community. You assume a leadership role when you are involved in athletics. The student body and citizens of the community know you. You are very visible with the spotlight on you. The student body, the community and other communities judge our schools by your conduct and attitude, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute significantly to school spirit and community pride. Our desire is that our students are a class act, known as young people of character and excellence. Make Hancock proud of you and your community proud of your school by your consistent demonstration of these ideals.

**Responsibility to Your Family:** Never give your parents anything to be ashamed of or embarrassed by. When you know in your heart that you have lived up to all of the training rules, that you have practiced to the best of your ability every day and that you have participated in the activity, you can keep your self-respect, and your family can be justly proud of you, win or lose.

**Responsibility to Younger Students:** The younger students in Hancock are watching you. They know who you are and what you do. Make them proud. Be an example. They will copy you in many ways. You are their mentors so set good examples for them.

#### **CODE OF CONDUCT RULES, MISDEMEANORS AND VIOLATIONS**

This code of conduct program is not designed to be a punishment, but a deterrent to your becoming involved in risky and dangerous behaviors. It is also to insure that you have the best possibilities to succeed in your activity and to learn the valuable lessons that athletics can teach. Because your mental and physical well-being are essential to your success, we want you to reach your full potential. Therefore, we are expecting you to become an active part of the solution, not to become part of the problem.

#### **CODE OF CONDUCT RULES**

The following rules will apply to each athlete and will be in effect at all times. **Each coach also has the prerogative to establish and implement additional rules specific to his/her particular program. Coaches are expected to share these in writing with their participants and their parents/guardians on or before the first day of practice. A copy of these additional guidelines and expectations will be on file in the Athletic Office.**



## **Academic:**

### *Semester/Trimester Eligibility*

A student who fails to pass four subjects with a "D-" or better at the end of any semester/trimester will be ineligible for the first 61 days of the following semester, or for the entire duration of the next trimester. A student must be passing at least 66.6% of his/her classes (five of seven offered class periods). Students must be enrolled in six of seven class periods to be eligible for competition. This rule applies even in the case of graduating seniors and to all students unless they qualify for a reduced schedule (five of seven periods) through the high school counseling office.

A student with any grade of "Incomplete" at the end of any semester/trimester will be ineligible until the school accepts the credit. A student entering 9th grade for the first time may participate without reference to their 8th grade records.

### *Weekly Eligibility*

Any student who is seriously deficient (D- or E) in two or more classes will be ineligible. A student must be passing at least 66.6% of his/her classes (five of seven offered class periods).

Eligibility is determined each week, from the beginning of the semester/trimester. Eligibility checks are done every Thursday, no later than 3:00 p.m. Students who are determined to be ineligible will remain so from 8:00 a.m. Monday until 8:00 a.m. the following Monday.

If you are academically ineligible, you will be allowed to practice with your team or group, but you will not be dismissed from class or travel with your team nor have the privilege of 'suing up'. You will be a spectator only. Ineligible student-athletes may contribute to their team's operations as managers, etc at the coach's discretion.

An ineligible student can become eligible again on the first Monday following a satisfactory Thursday eligibility check.

## **Dual Sport Participation (Two Sports in the Same Season):**

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:

- A written contract will be established wherein all the above named parties may agree upon training and performance requirements concerning the games and practices.
- The athlete must choose his/her primary sport and would be expected to attend most practices and all contests of the primary sport. Dual-sport athletes should be afforded some grace for missing practices from the primary sport coach for secondary sport competitions.



- The athlete will only be able to participate in the secondary sport when there is not a conflict with primary sport competitions, unless prior agreements are made. Potential conflicts will be resolved by the parties involved and included in the contract.
- The athlete would be expected to abide by all team rules for both sports, unless mutually agreed upon.
- 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.

If you are interested in participating in two sports during the same season review the expectations on the 'Dual Sport Authorization Form' and return the page with the required signatures to the athletic director. Additional conditions stated on that form must be adhered to.

**Attendance:** Students are expected to be in class as part of the learning experience. **It is the student's responsibility to ask in advance for assignments and make up all work if class is missed because of a sanctioned practice or extracurricular contest/function. Students are responsible for making up missed work on their own time, not during class time.**

**Away Events:** During away events, students MAY be given a sanctioned absence the next morning if the group arrives home exceptionally late. This is at the discretion of the individual coach/advisor, but will not exceed the times below:

After 1:00 AM -first hour

After 2:00 AM -first and second hours

After 3:00 AM -first, second and third hours, etc...

Absences will not be sanctioned if students are absent for more than the allowed class time.

**Excused Absences:** Students **MUST be in attendance for a minimum of a half-day at school to practice, play or participate in athletic contests that day.** If students are absent from school and it is determined that they practiced, played or participated that day, they will be suspended from the next competition. The Principal or Athletic Director must approve any exceptions to this rule.

**Unexcused Absences:** Hancock Public Schools has a ZERO tolerance policy on unexcused absences. If a student skips even one class including study hall during the school day, they will be suspended from their next competition. Suspension from school is considered an unexcused absence.

**Dress:** Every athlete is expected to maintain appropriate standards of dress and grooming while representing his/her school or team.



**\*\*\*Cell Phone/Electronic Device Privacy/Prohibition of Use:** It is the practice of Hancock Public Schools to ensure the privacy of all individuals during the time they occupy locker room facilities at school and during school sponsored events. The use of cell phones without prior approval from the head coach is prohibited in any school locker room. Cell phones found in locker rooms may be confiscated.

**Transportation:** Students must ride the school bus or other school transportation to and from all events unless a request is made by a parent and the student is given special permission by the principal, athletic director, or coach to use some other means of transportation. The official transportation waiver must be signed by a parent or guardian when students are given permission.

**Injury:** There are dangers and risks of playing or practicing in any athletic event or contests. Participation may result in serious injury or physical disabilities that may affect normal life-time activities, general health and the well-being of participants. Every participant in athletics is required to report any injury to the head coach and certified ATC at the time it occurs. The coach or certified ATC will fill out an accident report form.

**Equipment:** Athletes are responsible for any uniforms and/or equipment issued to them. Each athlete is financially responsible for all lost, damaged (through negligence), or unreturned items issued by school officials in that student's name. **Students will not be allowed to participate, practice, or compete in another sport until he/she has returned or paid for all uniforms and equipment that was issued to them in a previous season.**

**Honesty Clause:**

1. Athletes shall be truthful.
2. Athletes shall be forthcoming with information.

If a Hancock District Administrator has a reasonable suspicion that a specific athlete may have violated the Athletic Code of Conduct, he/she and/or a designated school official may question that student about a possible violation. In responding to any such questioning about his/her personal actions, it is expected that the student shall answer truthfully. Also during the questioning process, a student may not attempt to mislead or misrepresent himself/herself, thereby impeding the investigation. If a student's answer is subsequently found to be untrue, disciplinary action/penalty will be doubled. (Example: a half season suspension will become a full season.)



\* Further, Hancock Central High student-athletes may be held responsible for the acts of other athletes/students. Acts include, but are not limited to, the following types of circumstances:

- When a member of a Hancock athletic team is violating a state law, team or Hancock Public Schools standard, and other members fail to indicate their disapproval, or by their continued presence without objection implicitly condone the behavior.
- When a member of a Hancock athletic team places fellow athletes/students in a subordinate status or imposes any kind of hazing or harassment.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT MISDEMEANORS**

The following misdemeanors will apply to each athlete and will be in effect at all times during the season. The following misdemeanors are unacceptable and the principal and athletic director reserve the right to impose a penalty as deemed appropriate by the severity of the infractions which may include suspension from practice and/or competition.

1. An unexcused absence from any class or study hall (even if the time is made up) automatically makes a person ineligible for the next event or contest. (Note: this rule applies "in season" only. Once the first practice begins, we are "in season.")
2. Students in violation of our Cheating/Plagiarism Policy will be ineligible for the next event.
3. Violations/misdemeanors that lead to an in-school or out-of-school suspension automatically make a student ineligible for the next event or contest. (Note: this rule applies "in season" only. Once the first practice begins, we are "in season.") In addition, students serving an out-of-school suspension will also be suspended from participation, including practices, for the length of the school suspension. The out of school suspension rule applies to the days of suspension, including evenings.

### **ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS**

Athletic Code of Conduct violations will apply to each student athlete on a year-round (12 month) basis in all locations, including non-school activities. Violation of the Code will result in penalties, which are consistent with those identified within the code as determined by the school board. All Athletic Code of Conduct violations will be cumulative, beginning with a student's initial participation on a freshman, junior varsity, or varsity team.

**Criminal Behavior:** Students shall not be involved in any criminal activity including but not limited to theft, vandalism, assault, inappropriate texting, cyberbullying, arson, breaking and entering, or any felony.





**\*\*\*Hazing/Initiation:** Hancock Public Schools has a **zero tolerance policy** against any athlete or groups of athletes staging any type of “initiation ceremony” or hazing at any time on any level. This prohibition includes locker/shower pranks, etc.

**Chemical Health Violation:** A chemical health violation includes Possession, Use, Buying, Selling and/or Being under the Influence of Any Drugs and Drug Paraphernalia: (Note drugs are defined as tobacco, Vape devices, alcohol, illegal drugs, performance enhancing drugs, or medications without a prescription or use not in accordance to prescription directions.)

**Presence at party** or gathering where alcohol or drugs are being illegally consumed: If an athlete attends a party where alcohol or drugs are being illegally dispensed and/or consumed, the student must **LEAVE IMMEDIATELY AND SAFELY**. To remain in the presence of this illegal activity may constitute a violation of the code of conduct.

\* Note: Athletes should encourage as many classmates as possible to leave with them.

\*\*The intent of the “presence at a party” rule is not to deny participation with adult family members in gatherings such as weddings, anniversaries or other family gatherings.

**Hosts of Parties Lose the Most:** If it is determined that an HCH athlete was involved in the organization, facilitation, promotion, or hosting of an event where drugs and alcohol were illegally dispensed and/or consumed, there may be a greater consequence for that particular athlete than others who may have been in attendance.

**Cyber Image Policy:** Any identifiable image, photo or video which implicates an athlete to have been in possession or presence of alcohol and/or drugs or portrays actual use of alcohol and/or drugs, or portrays an athlete participating in any illegal activity shall be confirmation of a violation of the code.

### **PENALTIES FOR CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS**

**First Violation:** The penalty for a first violation will be not less than suspension from two events if the length of the season is 12 contests or less; or, if the length of the season is 12 – 18 contests, the penalty will not be less than suspension from three activities or contests; or, if the length of the season is more than 18 contests, the penalty will not be less than suspension from four activities or contests. However, a first offense, depending on its severity could result in a longer short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or even permanent (career) loss of eligibility.



**Second Violation:** Penalty up to and including possible suspension from all athletics for one year from the date the penalty is imposed. Upon a second violation, the Director of Athletics will convene an 'Athletics Review Committee' (comprised of the AD, a Coach representative and a faculty/staff representative) to determine the severity of the requisite penalty, which could include up to permanent (career) loss of eligibility.

**Third Violation:** Penalty up to and including possible permanent loss of all eligibility remaining. Upon a third violation, the student-athlete will immediately forfeit all eligibility for 365 calendar days while the Director of Athletics convenes an 'Athletics Review Committee.' The Athletics Review Committee will administer no less than a 1-year suspension of all athletic eligibility upon a third violation, which could include up to permanent (career) loss of all remaining eligibility within the District.

#### **CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATION PROCEDURE**

When an alleged violation of the Code is reported to the administration, the administrator or his/her designee shall meet with the student.

1. In the event that the student admits to the allegation of a violation at this meeting, the administrator shall impose the appropriate penalty for the violation as specified, effective immediately, or move the violation to the Athletics Review Committee. The student and his/her guardians shall be given notice of the violation and the procedure / discipline imposed.
2. In the event that the student denies the alleged violation, the administrator shall determine whether there is sufficient evidence to warrant further action. If there is sufficient evidence that the student has committed the alleged violation or if further investigation is required, the administrator shall impose the penalty for the violation as specified, which begins immediately, or move the violation to the Athletics Review Committee. The student and his/her guardians shall be given notice of the violation and the discipline imposed.

#### **CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATION APPEAL**

Student-Athletes are provided the right to appeal any sanction imposed against them by submitting a written letter to the Director of Athletics within 48 hours of the sanctions being levied. Mitigating or additional information about the violation in question which provides support on behalf of the student-athlete must be clearly identified for an appeal to move forward. Upon review of additional/supporting information, the Athletic Review Committee will convene within 48 hours of the letter to determine the appropriate action.



### **CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATION REINSTATEMENT**

A student-athlete must seek reinstatement after any code of conduct violation to regain eligibility:

1. The student-athlete must attend all practices and meetings while under suspension and remain in 'good standing.' (Note: If a student-athlete is serving an out-of-school suspension, he/she may not attend any school events during the suspension.)
  
2. The student-athlete must review the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct with the Director of Athletics and must re-sign the Code of Conduct contract.

### **POWER OF THE BOARD**

The Hancock Public School Board of Trustees has the authority to control athletic activities, and to take action with regard to student conduct regardless of whether or not the court system imposes a penalty. The school district is not required to wait for a court to take action before imposing its own penalties for violations of this or any other code of conduct. The Hancock Public School District reserves the right to suspend or terminate the participation in athletics of any student. The Hancock Public School District Board of Education, its administrators and staff review behavior and performance of participants engaging in the school athletic program and require compliance with standards as a condition of continued participation in the program. The Hancock Public School Board recognizes the value of athletics and desires to provide equitable access to all students. This Code of Conduct is intended to help promote the care, welfare, and safety of students involved in athletics.



## HANCOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENT-ATHLETE / PARENT STATEMENT

Our tradition has been to be honorable, win or lose, to develop young people of character, and to give our community pride in their school. We desire to win, but only with the honor to our athletes, our school, and our community intact. Such a tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned.

### SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS CODES FOR ATHLETIC CODES

**Codes of Conduct** and drug testing have been upheld five times by the Supreme Court of the United States of America. The basis for that support is due to the fact that we must insure the health and safety of those who partake in high level physical activities.

#### Parent/Guardian:

By signing this document, I (print) \_\_\_\_\_ parent/guardian, indicate that I have KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT to these standards in order for my son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_ to be afforded the privilege of representing Hancock Public Schools as a student athlete. I am also aware that any violation on the part of my child of any of these standards shall result in the consequences contained within this policy.

**RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENT/GUARDIAN TO ATHLETIC PROGRAM:** Parents are required to display good sportsmanship before, during, and after contests. If you have questions or issues pertaining to your student athlete with a coach, it is required that you wait 24 hours after a contest to set up a meeting.

\* Hancock Athletics strongly encourages Parents to volunteer with the Hancock Booster Club and as game event helpers in efforts to support our athletic programs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

#### Athlete:

By signing this document, I (print) \_\_\_\_\_ indicate that I have KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT to these standards in order for me to be afforded the privilege of representing Hancock Public Schools as a student athlete. I am also aware that any violation to any of these standards shall result in the consequences contained within this policy.

Grade (Circle One): 7 8 9 10 11 12

Gender (Circle One): Male / Female

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## DUAL SPORT AUTHORIZATION FORM

High School athletes who wish to play two sports in the same season:

1. Must declare which of the sports is his/her primary sport a. Contest of the primary sport will take priority over the secondary sport. b. After conferring with the coach of the secondary sport, the coach of the primary sport will provide the athlete of the secondary sport coach with the schedule of practices and events the athlete will attend. c. Approval of a parent is needed for the athlete to participate in two sports.
2. The coaches of both sports involved must give their approval before participation begins: a. Approval is to be written and signed by the coaches, student athlete, parent(s), and athletic director.
3. An athlete who is removed from a team due to disciplinary reasons will also be removed from any other team they are participating on.
4. An athlete who quits a team will not be allowed to participate in two same season sports for the remainder of their career at HCH.
5. An athlete who becomes academically ineligible will have suspension/penalty for both sports.
6. In the event of a bussing conflict, the parent/guardian of the student/athlete is responsible for transportation to and/or from the athletic event. The official transportation waiver must be signed by a parent or guardian
7. Requirements for participation in events for dual sport athletes are to be determined by the coaches and should be consistent with requirements set for the other team members.
8. The athletic director has the final say on any conflicts, questions, or concerns.
9. Requirements for awarding letters and awards for dual sport athletes are to be determined by the coach of each sport.
10. Decisions of the athletic director are final. There are no appeals.
11. It may be necessary for a dual sport athlete who fails to fully comply with the terms of this agreement to meet with a committee composed of the athletic director, high school principal, the primary coach, and the secondary coach to explain his/her reason(s) for non-compliance. It will be the responsibility of the committee to decide if there should be any consequences for non-compliance. If the committee decides there should be consequences it is the duty of the committee determine the consequence(s).

We, the undersigned, acknowledge that we have read and understand the rules and regulations for Dual Sport, Same Season participation and agree to full compliance for the season specified below:

Season (Please circle): Fall Winter Spring

Year \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Sport: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Sport: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Varsity Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Varsity Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ A contract to further define this dual sport participation is attached.