

## **Harrison Athletics Handbook**

This material is presented to you because you have indicated a desire to participate in cheerleading/interscholastic athletics. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunity and experience which will assist you in personal growth. We are concerned with the educational development of boys and girls through athletics and feel that a properly controlled, well-organized sports program meets the students' needs for self-expression, mental alertness and physical growth. It is our hope to maintain a program sound in purpose and to further each student's educational maturity. A student who elects to participate in athletics is voluntarily making a commitment to be loyal to the program and the concept of putting the team before themselves.

We as school officials have committed ourselves to provide: 1) equipment and facilities; 2) trained coaches; 3) trained officials; 4) transportation; and 5) secondary insurance.

We are pleased to share this educational experience with you. It is our goal that every student will develop the skills necessary to become an independent problem solving adult.

### **Athletic Mission Statement**

The program will develop a culture of trust and integrity. We will strive to develop all of our student/athletes academically, athletically and socially. The athletic program will be based on principles such as commitment, work ethic, team work and perseverance. The Harrison Athletic Department will serve as a positive, powerful and productive medium for excellence in which will be a source of pride for the school's alumni, administration, staff, student/athletes and community.

### **Philosophy of the Harrison Athletic Department**

The philosophy of the Harrison Athletic Department is to maintain a broad based program that will afford all students with athletic interests an opportunity for safe participation in cheerleading and interscholastic athletics.

### **Objectives**

- A) Develop characteristics that must be a part of each individual for success in athletics and life:
- 1) Respect
  - 2) Sportsmanship
  - 3) Unselfishness
  - 4) Accountability
  - 5) Discipline
  - 6) Trustworthy
  - 7) Commitment
  - 8) Loyalty
  - 9) Perseverance
  - 10) Competitor

- B) Develop in athletes an appreciation for optimum health and physical fitness. The importance of proper rest, nutrition, hydration, and personal hygiene will be stressed at every opportunity.
- C) Encourage athletes physically, mentally and socially as they develop an appreciation for sports. They should become aware that this will take strength and courage.
- D) Base all teaching and learning situations on a sound progressive educational approach.
- E) Constant evaluation and improvement of coaching techniques.
- F) Develop all programs in such a manner that the end result will be one of unity, harmony and success. Mass participation is to be emphasized and encouraged at the Middle School level when possible.
- G) Motivate athletes academically. Coaches should display approval for school life and classroom achievement.
- H) Create a culture of enthusiasm and pride.
- I) Represent our school and community in a manner that will make school administrators, teachers, parents and our community proud of them.
- J) Help the athletes, at all levels of competition, to realize that athletic competition is a privilege that carries definite responsibilities. Some of the responsibilities are training, loyalty, eligibility and improvement.
- K) Bring positive recognition to our program.

The competitive world, among children and adults, is neither gentle nor overly kind. In such a world, however, the young men and women begin to grow toward social maturity by learning to: 1) embrace adversity, 2) control emotions, 3) face our fears, 4) be humble, 5) understand and accept delayed gratification and 6) reject being catered to.

### **Physical and Handbook Information**

All athletes must pass a physical examination and have signed and returned the permission forms in the front of this handbook before being allowed to participate in the athletics programs of the Harrison Public Schools.

### **Behavior and Citizenship**

The conduct of an athlete is closely observed by many and it is important that an athlete's behavior is an example for all to follow. Appearance, expression and actions always influence people's opinions of the athletes as well as the sport. Once you have volunteered to be a member of a squad, you have made the choice to uphold certain standards expected of all athletes, for it is a privilege, not a right, to participate.

The way an athlete acts and looks is of great importance; thus proper dress, appearance, grooming and hygiene are expected. Athletes should be leaders that are well respected by their fellow students.

### **Complaints**

The following procedures should be followed in reporting a complaint:

- A) Contact the coach who had direct supervision of the athlete at the time. If satisfactory resolution of the complaint is not made, then

- B) Contact the head coach of the sport in which the athlete was participating. If satisfactory resolution of the complaint is not made, then
- C) Contact the athletic director of the Harrison School District. If satisfactory resolution of the complaint is not made, then
- D) Contact the Superintendent of the Harrison School District.

### **Training Rules (tobacco, alcohol and drugs)**

Athletes should never use tobacco, alcohol or drugs. It has been proven that athletes that refrain from the use of these substances have a better performance level. Research clearly states that the use of tobacco, alcohol or any mood altering substance produces harmful effects on the person's body and mind. Goblin Athletes do it the right way. Since it is a privilege to participate, the coach has the authority to revoke that privilege, when rules are broken.

Offenders and Punishment:

- A) Drugs
  - 1) 1<sup>st</sup> offense-Suspension from 20% of all athletic contests
  - 2) 2<sup>nd</sup> offense-Discretion of the Athletic Administrators
- B) Alcohol
  - 1) 1<sup>st</sup> offense- Suspension from 10% of all athletic contests
  - 2) 2<sup>nd</sup> offense-Suspension from 20% of all athletic contests
  - 3) 3<sup>rd</sup> offense-Discretion of the Athletic Administrators
- C) Tobacco
  - 1) 1<sup>st</sup> offense-Verbal warning and additional conditioning
  - 2) 2<sup>nd</sup> offense-Suspension from 10% of all athletic contests
  - 3) 3<sup>rd</sup> offense-Discretion of the Athletic Administrators

Note: Suspensions can/will carry over from season to season or into the next academic year. However, student/athletes will start off with a clean slate every academic year. Additional conditioning during suspensions will be left to the coach's discretion. All athletic contests refer to all sports participated in by the suspended athlete.

### **Hazing and Bullying**

Hazing and bullying will not be tolerated in our athletic program. Anyone involved in either forms of behavior will be dealt with firmly. Punishment up to and including being removed from the athletic program will be enforced.

### **Athlete Responsibility**

Being a member of a Harrison athletic team is the fulfillment of an early ambition of many students. The attainment of that goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. Our tradition has been to win with honor, pride and dedication.

When an athlete wears the blue and gold of our school, we assume that he/she not only understands our traditions but also is willing to assume the responsibilities that go with being a Goblin.

- A) Academics

- B) Commitment to do our best on the athletic fields and courts
- C) Accountability to teammates, coaches and programs (be on time, don't miss practice or games)
- D) Communication

#### **Care of Equipment**

- 1) Equipment should be returned within one week following the end of the season.
- 2) An athlete is financially responsible for all equipment issued to him/her. The cost of destroyed/lost equipment will be replacement costs.
- 3) An athlete must treat school equipment as though it were his/her personal property. It should never be abused.
- 4) If an athlete is involved in the theft of school equipment, he/she could be dismissed from the team.

#### **Athletic Injuries**

- 1) Any injury, large or small, should be reported to the head coach and athletic trainer.
- 2) Any injuries requiring a doctor's care should be noted and a doctor's release will be required before the athlete is allowed to play or practice.

#### **Team Travel**

All athletes must travel to and from athletic contests in transportation provided by the athletic department. There can be special arrangements made for travel if approved by the coach of that sport. Written permission as always is expected. Coaches will keep accurate roll sheets and when applicable seating charts for trips to and home while traveling with their team. Hard or electronic copies of the roll sheets will be provided to the building principal, athletic director and transportation supervisor prior to the bus departing for its destination each direction.

#### **Participation in Multiple Sports and Try-outs**

- 1) The athletic department's philosophy is that each sport complements the other, both physically and competitively.
- 2) Students will be encouraged by the coaching staff to participate in all sports of interest to them.
- 3) The head coach in each sport has absolute total discretion as to who plays, how long they play and under what circumstances they play or do not play.
- 4) Try-outs:
  - A) The department's philosophy is that it is not advisable to reduce squad numbers. If an athlete is in good academic standing, good behavioral position and does all that is asked of them, they should be allowed to be a member of the team
  - B) Teams will not make cuts, but may have try-outs to place students according to ability. When possible, multiple teams may be formed for certain grade levels.

#### **Athletes Playing Up**

It is possible for younger players to play up on older teams. Permission for such a move must be requested and received in writing from the Athletic Administration. Student/athletes who play up will not be allowed to move back down to their grade level team unless granted permission from the

Athletic Director. 7<sup>th</sup> graders will not be allowed to play up unless special circumstances call for such a move. 7<sup>th</sup> graders will not have their athletic period changed if they are moved up.

### **Summer Training**

All athletes are expected to maintain their physical conditioning throughout the summer. Coaches should inform athletes of any special workout program to be followed. Weight rooms and gyms will be open as scheduled through the summer months.

Athletes are not allowed to use school facilities or to have contact with their coach for training purposes during the “dead weeks”. Athletes are never allowed to use school facilities for training without a coach present.

### **Team Camps**

Coaches may enroll their teams in organized camps during the summer. Athletes are encouraged to attend camp, however, attendance is not mandatory. Cheerleading camp is mandatory. Team camp fees are the responsibility of the student-athlete.

### **Pre-Season**

Fall sports (football, volleyball, cross country golf and tennis) begin their pre-season during the summer as per Arkansas Activities Association guidelines. Athletes should keep an eye on the media as well as the district website for important information pertaining to the starting dates for these sports. Athletes should contact their coaches directly if there are any conflicts with pre-season practices.

### **Eligibility Guidelines**

The athletic department encourages the academic excellence of all athletes. The eligibility requirements are those set forth by the Arkansas Activities Association, State Department of Education and the Harrison School District.

### **Athletic Fees**

An athletic fee of \$20.00 will be assessed for the first child of each family participating in athletics or cheerleading from 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Each additional child in the family will be assessed \$5.00. Each fee paying athlete will in return receive a pass that allows them to access most all sporting events for free. Passes can not be used for tournaments, blue/gold games or benefit games. **Passes are for the student-athletes only and may not be used by other family members.**

### **Parent and Fan Sportsmanship Policy**

The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity should permeate all interscholastic athletics in our community. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as through qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for

others. Our athletic fields/courts should be the laboratory to produce good citizens reflecting fair play in every area of life.

Behavior including but not limited to the following will not be tolerated.

- 1) Profane language
- 2) Displays of anger that draw attention away from the contest
- 3) Blaming losses on officials, coaches or student/athletes
- 4) Making derogatory remarks towards student/athletes, officials, coaches or fans participating in an athletic contest
- 5) Harassing or intimidating the officials, event management or scorer's table personnel
- 6) Coaching from the bleachers during practice or games
- 7) Publicly criticizing your child's coach or teammates in any form including social media
- 8) Use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs at any school event

**Behavior including the following is encouraged.**

- 1) Generate goodwill by being polite and respectful to those around you at the event**
- 2) Encourage your child to speak directly with his/her coach when a coaching decision is made that may be confusing or unclear**
- 3) Acknowledge effort and good performance, remembering that all of the players in interscholastic athletics are amateurs.**
- 4) Make only positive and encouraging comments to players, fans and coaches from both teams.**
- 5) Will demand that your child treat other players, coaches, officials and fans with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.**

Offenders of this sportsmanship policy shall be subject to removal from the athletic facility of said contest. Offenders could be banned from attending Harrison Athletics events at home and on the road.

#### **Understanding of Rules and Regulations**

We expect that the parents and athletes understand the rules and regulations covered in this handbook. If a rule or regulation is broken and dismissal from a team is necessary, then the parent will be notified why the dismissal took place.

## **Nondiscrimination Policy**

It is the policy of this educational institute to provide equal opportunity without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, qualified disability or veteran status in its educational programs and activities. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, educational services, financial aid and employment.

This educational institution will disseminate nondiscriminatory policies to students, parents, employees and the general public prior to the beginning of each school year.

Committees will be selected in a fair and equitable manner and will reflect the diversity of the District in terms of sex, race, socio-economic level, disability, national origin and other populations.

EQUITY COORDINATOR – Susan Gilley  
110 S. Cherry Street • Harrison, AR 72601  
Telephone: 741-7600

Inquiries regarding SPECIAL EDUCATION issues should be directed to:

Brigid Bright  
Office of the Special Education Coordinator  
110 S. Cherry Street • Harrison, AR 72601  
Telephone: 741-7600

Inquiries regarding SECTION 504 issues should be directed to:

Aaron Hosman  
110 S. Cherry Street • Harrison, AR 72601  
Telephone: 741-3344

Inquiries regarding ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE issues should be directed to: Susan Gilley

110 S. Cherry Street • Harrison, AR 72601  
Telephone: 741-7600

Inquiries regarding TITLE VI issues should be directed to:

Susan Gilley  
110 S. Cherry Street • Harrison, AR 72601  
Telephone: 741-7600

Inquiries regarding TITLE IX issues should be directed to:

Coach Chris Pratt  
925 Goblin Drive • Harrison, AR 72601  
Telephone: 741-8223