

*HARPER CREEK
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS*



ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2021 - 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section I	1
Introduction	1-2
Interstate 8 Athletic Conference	3
Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA)	4
 Section II	 5
Athletic Philosophy	5
Athletic Mission	6-7
 Section III	 8
Superintendent’s Expectations	8
Principal’s Expectations	9
Athletic Director’s Expectations	10
Coaches’ Expectations	11
 Section IV	 12
General Administrative Procedures	12-13
Team Membership	13
Suspension From School	13
Equipment, Transportation and Facilities	13-14
Attendance	14
Chain of Command	15
Weight Room	15
Potential Dangers in Athletic Participation	15-16
Academic Eligibility	16
MHSAA – Athletic Eligibility	17-18
Inclement Weather.....	19
Cyber Image Guidelines.....	20
Post Season Awards.....	20
 Section V	 21
Athletic Policies.....	21
Training Rules/Code of Conduct/Disciplinary Action	22-24
Reporting Violations/Appeal Process	25-26
Exceptions to the Above	26
 Section IV	 27
Team Information	27

Middle School Sports.	27
Section VII	28
Harper Creek High School Miscellaneous Information.	28
Athletic Ticket Prices	28
School Fight Song	29
Concussion Consent Form.	30
Athletic Responsibility	31

SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Harper Creek Athletics and the many fun filled and rewarding experiences that await you.

This brochure is designed for students and parents to help define the role of athletics in the Harper Creek Schools. This reference should assist anyone seeking information about the function and governance of athletics in this school district. Further, it should serve as an additional instrument for coaches to communicate with parents and students. If you have any questions after reviewing this document, please feel free to contact the athletic office at 441-8461.

Participation on an interscholastic team means athletes must realize that they are making a significant time commitment. Athletes are expected to practice each day after school unless they have a game or meet. Attendance is required unless there is an emergency or illness. Dedicated athletes will have to say “NO” to the many activities that friends may do, but such are the responsibilities of a conscientious athlete. In the classroom, athletes are expected to be good students and fulfill all academic and behavioral responsibilities. On the field, mat, court, or in the pool, athletes are expected to conduct themselves with dignity. Athletes do not use profanity or illegal tactics. Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

It has been known, in prevention theory and practice, that zero tolerance policies are neither effective nor fruitful with teens. It is therefore the obligation of the Harper Creek School District, as an educational institution, to offer options so that student-athletes, at an age when they can be influenced in a positive manner, might learn from a mistake they have made so that they do not repeat that mistake later. The primary goal of these consequences is first to put ownership of the violations(s) with the student-athlete, secondly to offer a process for change, thirdly to involve the student-athlete’s parent(s) in the process of education, correction, and restoration, and lastly to give the student-athlete every possible opportunity to rectify such behaviors.

It is important for all student-athletes to understand that involvement in the Harper Creek School District athletic program is a privilege. With the responsibility of being a student-athlete comes a commitment to the conditions of this code of conduct. In the event that a student-athlete comes under investigation for a possible violation(s) of the expectations outlined in this code, it is expected that the student-athlete:

- Be truthful
- Be forthcoming with information
- Not be deceptive
- Be cooperative

The Harper Creek athletic program is built on pride and tradition. We look forward to you, as a student-athlete, to build on the foundation that has been established by our alumni. Team – Team – Team – Harper.

Interstate 8

Harper Creek High School is a voluntary member of the Interstate 8 (I-8) Athletic Conference. The conference was established for the primary purpose of promoting selected interscholastic activities among member schools, and the assurance of such advantages as may be gained by a union of effort.

The conference was established to encourage member schools to improve their extra curricular programs in the area of athletics. The value of conference membership is the aid derived from arranging of schedules, equalizing competition, conducting league meets and generally upgrading their athletic programs by adhering to conference standards and goals. Membership implies abiding by conference schedules, rules and regulations.

Member schools are:

Coldwater Cardinals (Red & White)
Harper Creek Beavers (Royal Blue & White)
Hastings Saxons (Navy Blue & Gold)
Jackson Lumen Christi Titans (Green & Gold)
Jackson Northwest Mounties (Red & Black)
Marshall Redhawks (Red & Black)
Parma Western Panthers (Maroon & White)
Pennfield Panthers (Green & White)

MHSAA

The Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc. is a private, voluntary association of public, private and parochial secondary schools. The primary function of the association is to sponsor tournaments and ensure that member schools have rules and guidelines to follow to promote equitable competition.

The Harper Creek Community Schools are a voluntary member of the **Michigan High School Athletic Association**. The MHSAA rules listed in this brochure are only a summary of some of the regulations affecting student eligibility. Most rules are found in the **MHSAA Handbook** which can be located in the school athletic office. Review these rules and ask questions of your principal, athletic director or coaches. **Your role in following the rules will assure eligibility to participate in interscholastic sports or prevent your participation as an ineligible athlete which would result in forfeiture of contests.**

SECTION II

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

An athletic philosophy is based upon a belief in Excellence in Athletics, Academics, the School and the Community.

The athletic program is an integral part of the total school educational program, more appropriately called Educational Athletics. The important point is for the student-athletes, the coaches, administrators and community to realize the student-athletes are to be students first and athletes second.

The Educational Athletic Program must NOT be judged on wins and losses. Athletics is a privilege requiring an understanding of obligations and responsibilities to that end. All Harper Creek students, regardless of race, sex, abilities, etc., are invited to become involved in the Harper Creek Athletic Program, and will receive the opportunity to participate in school sponsored programs. Each student/athlete will have the opportunity to improve through proper training-physically, psychologically and socially.

The Educational Athletic Program helps the student body to develop a meaning of school morale, leadership, good sportsmanship, improvement of the quality of fair play, courtesy and citizenship. All of these are important, especially sportsmanship. If we practice good sportsmanship, win or lose, and respect others, the quality of the game improves and we improve as human beings.

The community receives through an Educational Athletic Program, the opportunity to be involved, and view the need to have athletics as an integral part of the school. To attain this philosophy, all administrators, coaches, student-athletes, family members and spectators must be positive role models in their attitudes, conduct, and enthusiasm for the program and their sport, making the athletic experience an enjoyable and rewarding one for all involved. All members of the athletic program should always be striving to involve ALL of the student-athletes in every way possible in the Harper Creek Educational Athletic Program.

ATHLETIC MISSION

The mission of the Harper Creek athletic program is to nurture student-athletes through their middle and high school years to:

- Develop a positive mental attitude, a strong sense of self.
- Establish and enhance life skills necessary to be successful in the adult world.
- Promote a healthy, physically fit individual.
- Encourage participation, fair play and teamwork.

The positive traits the athletic program is attempting to develop in student-athletes are:

Pride	Sacrifice
Loyalty	Dignity
Respect for Self and Others	Courage
Desire	Humility
Confidence	Dedication
Perseverance	Commitment
Unselfishness	Persistence
Risk Taking	Responsibility
Enthusiasm	

The elements of character that the athletic program is attempting to develop are:

Self-esteem
Sense of Self (limitations and talents)
Acceptance of Self
Self-Control
Self-Discipline
Mental Toughness
Extra Effort
Poise
Leadership
Ability to prioritize value

The life skills that the athletic program is attempting to establish are:

Work Ethic

Positive Attitude

Cooperation (Ability to work with others)

Dedication to Ideals

Unity of Purpose

Follow Directions and Orders

Goal Setting

Decision Making

Critical Thinking

Sportsmanship

Fair Play

Promote the Good of the Team Above One's Personal
Desires

SECTION III

All stakeholders play an important role in our athletic program and should adhere to the following expectations:

SUPERINTENDENT'S EXPECTATIONS

1. Use all means possible to bring to the community a full realization of the value of athletics as an educational tool in training citizens.
2. Develop district-wide policies that foster good sportsmanship, protect civil rights of all constituents, and promote maximum opportunities for participation by students.
3. Create a definite understanding with principals and the athletic director concerning the school athletic policy and expect and give mutual support in carrying out that policy.
4. Evaluate those in charge of the athletic program by the conduct and attitude of contestants and spectators rather than on the number of games won or lost.
5. Advise the Board of Education of the privileges and obligations of schools' membership in the Michigan High School Athletic Association, keep the board informed of proposed and adopted changes in MHSAA regulations, and hold the board accountable for the support and enforcement of regulations it adopted when it accepted membership for its school(s) in the MHSAA.

PRINCIPAL'S EXPECTATIONS

1. Develop a complete understanding of the athletic policy of the school system and of the individual responsibility of all concerned.
2. Certify eligibility of contestants and base that certification on complete information concerning the student's athletic and scholastic status. Questionable cases will be referred to the Michigan High School Athletic Association before the privilege of competition is given.
3. Support coaches in their efforts to carry out MHSAA and local athletic policies.
4. Instruct the student body of its responsibilities in making the athletic program a valuable one and require desirable types of conduct at "home" and "away" games.
5. Endeavor to foresee possible differences and misunderstanding with other schools and, as far as possible, settle them or provide means of settlement before they materialize.
6. Insist that any misunderstandings that may arise be settled privately between official representatives of the schools concerned.
7. Have a definite understanding with the athletic director about officials, schedules, finances, care of fields and gymnasiums, handling of spectators, supervision of coaches, etc., and give that person every assistance in carrying out such duties.
8. Present promptly and privately to the school involved any information received about possible rule violations by that school, and if the internal investigation and action by that school is not satisfactory, report that potential violation to the MHSAA.
9. Attend as many of the athletic contests of the school as responsibilities will allow.
10. Commend opposing schools for outstanding examples of fine citizenship and sportsmanship.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S EXPECTATIONS

1. Place the athletic policy of the school district in writing and communicate it often to coaches, athletes, parents, spectators, and support groups.
2. Cooperatively lead the school and community in creating and maintaining an atmosphere which is conducive to an educationally sound athletic program.
3. Develop schedules which are educationally and physically sound for the athlete.
4. Originate contracts with schools and officials which are complete and specific.
5. Hire officials who have the confidence and agreement of both teams, and arrange for their comfort and security.
6. Support officials in case of adverse rulings, and rate officials.
7. Provide every athlete on each level in all sports proper equipment and uniforms for practice and competition.
8. Prepare and maintain the contest site in the best possible condition.
9. Maintain sidelines for exclusive use of players, coaches and officials, and handle crowds so there is no encroachment of playing space.
10. Refuse admission to athletic contests to persons who have shown a lack of sportsmanship.
11. Provide printed programs which accurately report names of players and help spectators understand the purpose and rules of the sport and encourage good sportsmanship.
12. Provide working accommodations for media covering the contest.
13. Attend as many of the athletic contests of the school as responsibilities will allow.

COACHES' EXPECTATIONS

A. Rapport

A coach must be able to develop a good rapport with any number of individuals and groups, team personnel, the student body, the faculty, administration, fellow coaches in the conference, media and parents of his/her players. A pre-season parent meeting is expected of all our coaches.

B. Cooperation

Coaches must work hand-in-hand with the athletic director, principal, and other members of their staff.

C. Discipline

Every facet of discipline is the coach's responsibility. Individually, the coach becomes a model of all that the program represents – observations of school codes, training rules, rules of the game, ideals of good sportsmanship, behavior of participants throughout the season – at home and away. Desire to do well, to win well, and to lose well, should be emphasized.

D. Leadership

Diligence, enthusiasm, honesty and a love for the game are all part of a professional pride that should be exhibited by any coach. Personal appearance, dress, physical condition – all should be exemplary. Dressing appropriately for practice, following practice schedules and building positive attitudes are very important.

E. Improvement

A coach must constantly take advantage of opportunities presented for self-improvement. Attendance at district meetings, rules clinics, special workshops and clinics in specific fields and similar in-service training programs is a must. Keeping abreast of current literature in professional journals, newspapers and magazines, and utilizing enrichment material available in other media forms is expected.

SECTION IV

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

All regulations governing interscholastic athletics in the Harper Creek Community Schools shall be determined by the administration. **The administration realizes that this handbook is not all inclusive and that certain situations may not be identified here. Additionally, the administration reserves the right to weigh in extenuating circumstances as necessary when dealing with students and situations.**

The administration shall adopt regulations which are in harmony with policies of the Harper Creek Board of Education, the Michigan High School Athletic Association and the Interstate 8 (I-8).

The Athletic Director shall administer the regulations which govern the athletic program.

The administration, Athletic Director and the coaching staff shall continually evaluate the interscholastic athletic program and recommend appropriate revision of regulations.

A. TEAM MEMBERSHIP

It is recommended that students be members of only one interscholastic team at any time. If a student desires to participate on more than one team at a given time, permission must be received from each coach involved, and a definite understanding of all parties as to what will happen if both teams have a competition on the same day. In most cases, a contract will be done with clear expectations for all parties.

Students are strongly discouraged from quitting a team once they have become a member. Students who quit one team will not be allowed to join another during that same season, unless coaches involved have come to an agreement, and the Athletic Director is aware of the circumstances.

A student will not be allowed to go out for a sport if he/she has not turned in all of their school issued equipment/uniform from their previous sport.

Also, to be a member of a team, the student must pay a \$75 fee, per sport, that goes towards insurance, the athletic trainer, and medical supplies. If an athlete is involved in 3 sports during an academic year, the fee will be cut in half (\$37.50) for the third sport. If, within the first two weeks of the season, a student changes their mind and decides not to play, the fee will be refunded. **Students will not be allowed to play in games and/or participate in another sport until this fee is paid.** If you are unable to pay this fee, please contact your coach or the Athletic Director so arrangements can be made.

B. SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL

In-School Suspension: (ISS) – Out-Of-School Suspension: (OSS) If a student-athlete is issued ISS/OSS he/she may not practice and/or play in athletic contests during the time of suspension. The student-athlete is required to attend practice if issued an ISS, but is not allowed on school property if he/she is issued an OSS.

C. EQUIPMENT, TRANSPORTATION AND FACILITIES

Equipment is issued for the use of team members ONLY. It remains the property of the school district, and is to be maintained and cared for. Equipment that is damaged beyond normal wear and tear or is lost or stolen will be charged to the student at its replacement cost. Uniforms are to be cleaned or washed before being turned in. School issued equipment is to be worn for practices and contests only, or as permitted by the coach.

In general, athletic teams will use school transportation to and from all contests, and all team members are expected to ride with the team unless otherwise authorized. (On a limited basis, in some sports, a coach will give the athlete permission to provide his/her own transportation to games and/or practice). A signed note from the parent(s) must be turned in to the coach before players may ride separately from the team.

In some sports, transportation will not be provided by the school district (especially on weekends). In these instances parent/adult drivers will be arraigned by the coach.

Parents also have the option of not having their child transported by non-school personnel. Coaches have the right to deny a student's request to travel separate from the team if it is not deemed appropriate or does not meet current board policy. Exceptions to the above need to be approved by the athletic director.

All school facilities (ours and the schools we visit), are to be treated with the utmost respect. Coaches, bus drivers, parents, spectators and athletes all have a responsibility in caring and maintaining all facilities. When leaving any facility, our goal should be to leave it in as good of shape as when we arrived, or even better. Always police (clean up) any facility that has been used.

D. ATTENDANCE

Attendance in school is crucial. **A student must be in attendance all day in order to participate in practice or athletic competition.** Exceptions to this policy are: doctor or dentist appointment, funerals, court appearance, school related activities (such as field trips or college visitations). In the event of other extenuating circumstances, the principal and/or athletic director will make the final decision regarding eligibility for that practice or contest.

If a student is not in attendance for the full day of school, it is their responsibility to contact the athletic office (441-8462) and/or tell their coach at practice that they missed some or all of the school day. If they have been excused, they are allowed to practice/play. If it has not been excused, they need to be at the practice or game, but will not be allowed to participate.

It is also important for athletes to be at all practices. If an athlete is to miss a practice for any reason, the student-athlete should notify his or her coach in advance. An unexcused absence from practice may result in the loss of playing time during contests. Repeated unexcused absences will result in suspension from the team for the remainder of the season.

Act of God days (i.e. – snow days) practices called by the coach and approved by the administration will always be held on an optional basis for the student-athlete.

E. CHAIN OF COMMAND

If the student-athlete or the parent perceives a “problem” with a coach or a situation on the team they are involved in, the proper “chain of command” to rectify the “problem” is as follows:

1. The coach of the team in which they are participating.
2. The head coach of the program.
3. The athletic director.
4. The principal.
5. The superintendent.
6. The board of education.

When a parent wants to meet with a coach they should set up an appointment after waiting at least 24 hours after an “incident” and realize that the coach will not talk about other players and playing time. (It would not be appropriate to approach a coach right after a game with a concern that could lead to high emotions).

Please follow this “chain of command” to alleviate any “problems” the athlete or parent may be seeing or experiencing.

F. WEIGHT ROOM

The weight room is basically open year round. We would prefer that our athletes participate in a sport in each season but realize that this may not be realistic. We usually have a coach or coaches that supervise the weight room either before or after school and in the summer months. If an athlete chooses not to play a particular sport, we encourage them to be active in the weight room, but only under the supervision of a coach.

G. POTENTIAL DANGERS IN ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Parents and students should fully understand and appreciate the risk of serious personal injury associated with participation in the athletic program. Participation in school athletics involves flying objects, swift movement of bodies and unavoidable collisions.

Athletic activities may be hazardous. Taking part in such activities is a calculated risk taken on the part of student-athletes and parents. It is understandable, that to many young adults, the potential benefits exceed the potential hazards.

Since injuries may be a part of athletics, it is a continuous goal of the coaching staff and administration to minimize the occurrence of injury. This is accomplished with adequate supervision of all athletic activity, teaching of proper technique, and requiring athletes to be in good physical condition.

Participants have the responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury. Players must obey all rules, report all physical problems to their coaches, follow a proper conditioning program, and inspect their own equipment daily.

H. Medical Release – Once a student-athlete is under a doctor’s care for any extended injury or illness, he or she must obtain a written release from a physician indicating “fitness to return” to practices and/or games. This release must be on file with the athletic office.

I. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY (Current and Semester)

Current

This pertains to the current semester grade of the athlete. Passing or failing a class is not based on a particular test, day, week, or marking period, but on passing the class from the first day of the semester until the day of the eligibility check.

1. Eligibility will be checked every week beginning with the 4th Wednesday of each semester. Grades will be checked at the end of the day on Wednesday and the athlete’s eligibility will take affect on the following Monday through Saturday.
2. A failing grade in any class will make the athlete ineligible for the following week.

Semester

This pertains to the grade earned from the previous semester.

1. Eligibility will be checked at the end of each semester.
2. An athlete is allowed to fail one (1) class. An athlete who fails two or more classes at the end of a semester becomes ineligible. The student becomes eligible on the 61st scheduled school day of the next semester, providing they are meeting the current semester eligibility requirement for the previous 60 days.
3. An incomplete grade is the same as an E.

J. MHSAA – ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

Enrollment: To be eligible for interscholastic athletics, a student must be enrolled in a high school not later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day or the fourth Friday of February.

Age: Senior high school students must be under 19, 8th graders under 15, and 7th graders under 14, unless their birthday occurs on or after September 1st of the current school year.

Physical Examination: Must have passed a current school year physical examination and completely filled out by the doctor's office, parent, and student. A record must be on file in the athletic office. (Current school year is any physical examination given on or after April 15 of the previous school year). A passed exam allows the student to compete in tryouts, practices, and contests.

Semesters of Enrollment: A student shall not compete in any branch of athletics who has been enrolled in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, for more than eight semesters. The seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive.

Semesters of Competition: A student, once enrolled in grade nine shall be allowed to compete in only four first semesters and four second semesters.

Undergraduate Standing: A student who is a graduate of a regular four year high school or who is a graduate of a secondary school which has the same requirements for graduation as a regular four year high school shall not be eligible for interscholastic athletics.

Previous Semester Record:

Students must pass 3 of 4 classes each semester to meet this requirement.

Current Athletic Eligibility: A student's current eligibility depends on a passing grade from the beginning of the semester to the date of the eligibility check. If an athlete is not passing all four (4) classes, that athlete becomes ineligible for competition for the next Monday through Sunday. Eligibility is reinstated after the seven day period if the student is passing all classes at the time grades are checked.

Transfers: A student who transfers from one high school to another is ineligible to participate in an interscholastic contest for 1 full semester in the school to which the student transfers. (There are several exceptions to this rule. Each transfer should be evaluated by the Athletic Director).

- a. A student who does not qualify for one of the exceptions and has transferred (changed enrollment) by the fourth Friday after Labor, becomes eligible for interscholastic scrimmages and contests the following Martin Luther King Day (Monday) regardless if classes are actually conducted on that day.
- b. A student who does not qualify for one of the exceptions and has transferred (changed enrollment) by the fourth Friday of February, becomes eligible for interscholastic scrimmages and contests the following Aug. 1.

Undue Influence: The use of undue influence for athletic purposes by any person directly or indirectly associated with the school to secure or encourage the attendance of a student in that district is prohibited.

Awards: A student may accept, for participation in athletics, a symbolic or merchandise awards which does not have a value or cost in excess of \$40. Awards for athletic participation in the form of cash, merchandise certificates, or any type of negotiable document is prohibited.

Amateur Status: A student shall not be eligible to represent his or her high school if that student: receives money or other valuable consideration from any source for participating in athletics; for officiating interscholastic athletics; or signs a professional contract.

Limited Team Membership: Students may not participate in any outside competition in a sport during the season after the athlete has represented his or her school in practice, scrimmage, or contest in that sport. During the season an individual may participate in a maximum of two individual sports meets or contests during the school year. (See the Athletic Director for exceptions to this rule).

K. INCLEMENT WEATHER

- 1) Tornado watch/warning – In the case of a **tornado watch** a decision will be made by the athletic department, preferably after consultation with the principal and/or the superintendent, as to whether a practice or contest will be cancelled. If there is a tornado warning, all practices and contests will immediately be cancelled and students will be directed to take shelter.
- 2) If school is cancelled for acts of God (i.e. snow day) a decision by the administration will take place to determine if practices and/or games will be allowed.

L. Individual Coach's Team Rules – Coaches, after review and approval by the athletic director, may establish additional rules and expectations for a particular sport. It is the expectation that, any time a coach withholds playing time from a student-athlete for violation of individual team rules, the coach informs the athletic director of the name of the student-athlete, the circumstances under which the action is being taken, and the length of time the student-athlete is being withheld from competition. It is the expectation that this notification take place prior to the student-athlete being withheld from competition, but it is understood that in certain situations this may not be possible.

M. Cyber Image Guidelines – Any identifiable image, photo, or video that implies a student-athlete has been in the possession or presence of alcohol or drugs, or that portrays actual use or out of character behavior or crime, shall be considered confirmation of a violation of the code of conduct. Since there is no way to establish a timeframe when or location where an image was taken, it shall be a responsibility that the student-athlete must assume. It should be understood that persons may attempt to implicate a student-athlete by taking or manipulating such images in order to place the student-athlete in a situation where he or she might be in violation of the code of conduct.

N. Post Season Awards – Awards may be presented to each athlete who completes the season in good standing and is recommended by the coach.

Numerals – Freshman award. First season on a freshman team will be issued numerals. If on a freshman team thereafter the student-athlete will only receive a certificate.

Patch – Junior varsity award. First season on a junior varsity team will be issued a patch. If on a junior varsity team thereafter the student-athlete will only receive a certificate.

Letter – Varsity award. First season on a varsity team will be issued a letter. If on a varsity team thereafter the student-athlete will only receive a certificate

- Every student-athlete receives a certificate for their completion of the freshman, junior varsity, and varsity teams.
- If a student does not play on a freshman and/or junior varsity team he/she may receive his/her numerals/patch by going to the athletic office and asking for it.

Section V

ATHLETIC POLICIES

Participation in athletics within the Harper Creek Community Schools is considered a privilege in which athletes in all sports must follow the rules outlined in this handbook, as well as those established by the respective coaches as they relate to their particular sport, plus those established by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. The rules are in effect for all athletes (both in and out of season) beginning with the first official practice of the first sport in which the athlete participates, and they run year round (including the summer, winter, and spring breaks). Policies will be enforced up until the last scheduled contest of the participants senior year.

An athlete is defined as any junior or senior high school student who has begun participation on any team that is under the direction of the athletic department. That student is considered an athlete (for the purpose of enforcing the Athletic Handbook) for the remainder of his/her high school career, or until he/she has gone one (1) calendar year without participation on an athletic team.

When an athlete who is not presently participating in a sport commits a violation, the penalty shall be enforced during his/her next season of participation. The athlete must complete the season in which the penalty is served or it will continue into the next season in which the athlete chooses to participate, even if that means the following school year.

When an athlete commits a violation during a sport season, day 1 of the suspension occurs on the next scheduled contest. If the infraction occurs when the athlete is not participating at the current time, day 1 of the suspension occurs on the date of the first scheduled contest of his/her next sport.

Training Rules/Code of Conduct/Disciplinary Action

The following behaviors constitute a violation of the Harper Creek Athletic Handbook and subject the student to the penalty outlined below:

1. Use, possess, conceal, distribute, sell or be under the influence of:

a) Vapes, Tobacco or alcohol in any form:

1st offense – Suspension from athletics for the next 10 days of the competitive season.

2nd offense – Suspension from athletics for the next 15 days of the competitive season.

c) Illegal drugs, including but not limited to those substances defined as “controlled substances” pursuant to federal and/or state statute: steroids, human growth hormones, or other performance-enhancing drugs.

1st offense – Suspension from athletics for the next 30 days of the competitive season.

2nd offense – Suspension from athletics for the next 60 days of the competitive season.

2. Students shall not engage in conduct that is **unbecoming of an athlete**. The following are some examples of the type of poor behavior that could result in suspension.
- a. Not telling the truth when asked by a person of authority (i.e.- school employee)
 - b. Acts that create an embarrassment to the team or school.
 - c. Acts that take away from being a role model.
 - d. Repeated violations of team or school rules.
 - e. Poor sportsmanship
 - f. Practice or play in a contest on a day in which you miss some or all of the school day and your absence was not excused.

1st offense– Suspension from athletics for the next 5 days of the competitive season.

2nd offense – Suspension from athletics for the next 10 days of the competitive season.

3. Students shall not engage in acts of cumulative or gross misconduct (i.e. theft, malicious destruction, hosting a party with alcohol, drugs...), including but not limited to behavior which is addressed in the Student Handbook.

1st offense – Suspension from athletics for the next 30 days of the competitive season.

2nd offense – Suspension from athletics for the next 60 days of the competitive season.

Competitive Season – Refers to the days in which scheduled contest occur. For some sports it may be Monday through Friday whereas with other sports it may be Monday through Saturday.

** If an athlete has any combination of three (3) offenses, during their high school years, no matter how much time elapses between each violation, they will be suspended from athletics for one (1) calendar year from the date of the third violation.

*** If an athlete quits a team before his/her suspension has expired, the suspension will carry over to the next season, which could be the next school year, unless the coach and Athletic Director agree that removal from the team is the best decision for all parties.

**** All other infractions/occurrences not covered in this handbook will be at the discretion of the administration.

Reporting Violations/Appeal Process

- 1) Any person who is willing to be identified may report an alleged violation to the Athletic Director. All teachers, coaches, students and administrators are obligated to report any situation which may be a violation of the athletic handbook.
- 2) A preliminary determination shall be made by the Athletic Director as to whether or not a violation of the code has occurred.
- 3) The Athletic Director or his/her designee will meet with the student to discuss the alleged incident and potential consequence.
- 4) The parents of the violator will be notified within a reasonable period of time not to exceed one week from the date of violation, or notice of violation.
- 5) If a student involved in athletics or his/her parents do not agree with the decision of the Athletic Director of the penalties to be imposed, they may appeal any disciplinary decision. Notice of appeal must be received in writing by the Athletic Director within two (2) days of notification of penalties to be imposed. The Director of Athletics and if appropriate, the coach, will meet with the parents and the athlete, to review all information relevant to the incident. This hearing shall be convened within two (2) days of receipt of the notification of appeal.
- 6) If the student-athlete is not satisfied with the Director of Athletics decision, he/she shall have the right to appeal in writing to the principal. Notice of appeal must be received in writing by the principal within two (2) days of notification of penalties to be imposed. The principal will meet with the parents and the athlete, to review all information relevant to the incident. This hearing shall be convened within two (2) days of the receipt of the notification of the appeal.

- 7) If the student-athlete is not satisfied with the principal's decision, he/she shall have the right to appeal in writing within five (5) days to the Superintendent of Schools. This hearing shall be convened within five (5) days of the receipt of the notification of the appeal.
- 8) If the student-athlete is not satisfied with the superintendent's decision, the final appeal may be made to the Board of Education.
- 9) During the appeal process, the student-athlete will not be allowed to participate in scheduled contests.

Exceptions to the Above

In exceptional circumstances, the Superintendent, Principal and Director of Athletics are authorized, subject to appeal and review by the Board of Education, to deny any student the right to participate in athletics for whatever duration of time deemed proper by said three member panel. It is recognized by the adoption of this policy that the participation in athletics is a privilege and that the participants are looked upon as representatives of the school district and are role models for other students of all ages. This provision may be invoked by the panel where the totality of a student's unacceptable behavior, either during school hours, during the school year or any time while the child is of school age, could be considered as a negative impact as a role model for other students and as a negative representative of the school district.

If this provision is instituted by the panel, the student affected has the right to immediately appeal the decision to the board of education.

In adopting this amendment to the athletic rules, the Board of Education acknowledges that it will not be instituted and used except in extreme unusual circumstances or circumstances where the present policy does not cover a situation or where justice and fairness for all concerned mandate that certain actions be taken to prevent a given student from participating in our athletic program.

SECTION VI

MHSAA SPORTS OFFERED AT HARPER CREEK

Boy's Sports

Cross Country (F)
Football (F)
Soccer (F)
Tennis (F)
Basketball (W)
Swimming & Diving (W)
Wrestling (W)
Baseball (S)
Golf (S)
Track & Field (S)
Lacrosse (S)

Girl's Sports

Cross Country (F)
Golf (F)
Swimming & Diving (F)
Volleyball (F)
Basketball (W)
Competitive Cheer (W)
Soccer (S)
Softball (S)
Tennis (S)
Track & Field (S)
Lacrosse (S) (club)

F – Fall Sports W- Winter Sports S – Spring Sports

CLUBS OFFERED AT HARPER CREEK THAT ADHERE TO THE ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Sideline Cheer
Pom Pon
Clay Target Shooting
Bowling
Girls Lacrosse

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS

Boy's Sports

Cross Country (F)
Football (F) (club)
Basketball (W)
Swim and Dive (W)
Wrestling (W)
Track (S)
Tennis (S)
Lacrosse (S) (club)

Girl's Sports

Cross Country (F)
Volleyball (F)
Basketball (W)
Swim and Dive (W)
Competitive Cheer (W) (club)
Track (S)
Tennis (S)

SECTION VII

HARPER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

Opened: 1958
First Graduating Class: 1960
Grades: 9-12
Member of: Michigan High School Athletic Association
(MHSAA); Interstate 8 (I-8)
Classification: Varies from sport to sport
Colors: Royal Blue and White
Mascot: Beaver

Athletic Office
Harper Creek High School
12677 Beadle Lake Road
Battle Creek, MI 49014
(269) 441-8462
Fax: (269) 441-2205
Twitter: @HCAthleticDept
Website: hcbeavers.org

HARPER CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

ATHLETIC TICKET PRICES – HIGH SCHOOL

General Admission (1st grade-Adult): \$5.00
Sr. Citizens (62 & older and reside in the district): Free – Golden Pass
Harper Creek Athletic Pass: \$50.00 for each person in a family
with a \$200 cap.

Harper Creek Athletic passes will admit you to middle school and high school athletic contests. These will not be honored at MHSAA, city and league sponsored championship events held at Harper Creek.

SCHOOL FIGHT SONG

Harper Creek Schools, Harper Creek Schools, we are all for you. We will lift our colors high, the white and the blue – rah, rah, rah. We are Beavers, loyal Beavers, leaders in the fight; we will always do what's right so fight – fight – fight!

HARPER CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

ATHLETIC RESPONSIBILITY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As a Harper Creek Community Schools' student participating voluntarily in interscholastic athletics, I understand that I will be held accountable on a year round basis for my actions.

I will abide by the Harper Creek Community Schools' Student Code of Conduct, the school's Athletic Handbook, the Coach's Team Rules, and the laws of the State of Michigan.

I understand that should I violate the Athletic Handbook rules, the Student Code of Conduct rules, the Coach's Team Rules, or the laws of the State of Michigan, I am subject to immediate suspension from the team.

I will abide by the athletic handbook and I know what is expected of an athlete who represents Harper Creek Community Schools' and am prepared to distinguish myself.

Printed Student Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____