

Horizon Science Academy Athletic Department

Statement of Philosophy

The Horizon Science Academy School's educational mission is to ensure each student reaches his/her full potential.

The Horizon Science Academy recognizes its basic purpose is to perpetuate and improve the culture and enrich the quality of life for each student. The Board believes that an extensive program of student activities is vital to the educational development of our students.

Participation in these programs is a **privilege** extended to students who qualify based on specific standards of academics and student conduct.

This handbook contains the academic standards and code of conduct which apply to all students who participate in athletics. The guidelines, rules and regulations require that students who represent the Horizon Science Academy as participants in activities outside the classroom demonstrate high standards for scholarship and citizenship at all times. Many of the requirements of these guidelines are in effect 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. Students who do not live up to the expectations outlined in this handbook will have the opportunity of participation reduced or removed entirely.

Efforts will be made to assist students in making appropriate choices to comply with handbook rules. Students who do not attain required academic or behavioral standards will no longer be allowed to participate in school sponsored athletic programs.

Continued eligibility to participate in the sports sponsored by the Horizon Science Academy is based upon the policies and procedures in this handbook. Students and their parents are encouraged to read it and be familiar with the contents. Any questions you have regarding the handbook can be directed to the sport supervisor, athletic director or school administrator.

List of Sports

FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Cross Country (Middle School)	Boys Basketball (Middle and High)	Track and Field (Middle)
Volleyball (Middle and High)	Girls Basketball (Middle and High)	

Eligibility

Students must currently be enrolled and have received passing grades in 75 percent of subjects in which enrolled from the previous quarterly marking period. Beginning 2012 middle school students must pass 75% of the courses to be eligible from the preceding marking period.

All incoming students are immediately eligible for fall athletic activities.

Sportsmanship

Everyone associated with athletics in the Horizon Science Academy School: administrators, coaches, student-athletes and fans are all representatives of Horizon Science Academy Athletics and should conduct themselves in such a manner that shows respect for all that are involved in that activity.

Sportsmanship is the way participants, coaches, and fans represent themselves their team and school. Besides showing respect we expect all to display civility, courtesy, humility, fairness and pride.

To demonstrate good sportsmanship, an athlete must be:

- Responsible for their actions and words
- A team player
- Accepting of direction
- Respectful of other competitors and teams
- Willing to accept victory and/or defeat
- Aware of their academic responsibility
- Respectful of Officials, their authority and decisions
- Observe the spirit and letter of the rules

To demonstrate good sportsmanship, a coach must be:

- Responsible for personal actions
- Respectful of all participants and fans
- Supportive of all participants in victory and defeat
- Aware of an athlete's academic responsibility
- Respectful of Officials, their authority and decisions
- Observe the spirit and letter of the rules

If an athlete or staff member is ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or a flagrant foul he/she will:

- Be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day.
- Be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until two regular season contests are played at the same level as the ejection.
- If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the athlete shall be ineligible for the same period of time stated above in the next sport in which the student participates.

A student who is ejected a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport

Practice

Athletes are expected to participate in all practices. If the athlete is sick and not in school, then the athlete is excused from practice and may not attend practice. If the athlete cannot make practice for some reason, he/she must see the coach and discuss that with the coach. There could be penalties for unexcused missed practices.

Playing Time

There is no guarantee of playing time for our students as they we move through each level of the program. The coaches determine who plays and how long, based on ability, practice, rules, attitude and desire. When there is a question about playing time, the athlete should first talk to the coach. It is important to reinforce with your child that his/her contribution to the team is just as important regardless of the amount of playing time.

Talking to the Coach

The Athletic Director and Coaches of the Horizon Science Academy want an open line of communication between parents. Parents have the right to understand the expectations placed on their child in the program in which they are participating. This should begin with clear communication from the coach.

The Coach should:

1. Explain his/her reasons for actions.
2. Set expectations.
3. Announce times and locations of practices and contests.
4. Explain team requirements.
5. Explain discipline that results in denial of participation.

The Parent should:

1. Express concerns directly to the coach.
2. Notify the coach of foreseeable problems well in advance.
3. Speak with the coach about any specific concern of that sport.

It is appropriate to discuss with the coach:

1. How your child feels about the experience.
2. How your child could improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior and academic progress.

The following list is the coach's area of responsibility and those decisions reside with the coach.

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other Athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are encouraged. It is important that all parties involved have a clear understanding of the others position. If a conference is necessary, talk to the coach to schedule a time to meet. It is best to schedule a time away from practice or games. The conference will be limited to discussion of your child and the philosophy/teaching of the coach as it pertains to the sport. There will be no discussion of other athletes during the meeting.

Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution. A 24-hour rule before talking to a coach is always recommended with a game or match. Parents and Guardians will not be permitted to attend any practices, these are for coaches and players only.

Removal from Participation

A superintendent or designee may bar a student from extracurricular activities if the presence of the student poses a continuing danger to persons or property or if the student poses an ongoing threat of disruption. No notice or hearing needs to be provided under this circumstance. Under such circumstances a student may be prohibited from participating in any or all extracurricular activities. Personnel employed by the district to direct, supervise, or coach a pupil activity program may prohibit

a student's participation in an extracurricular activity. A director, supervisor, or coach may prohibit participation by a student in any activity for which he/she has direct supervisor responsibility.

Removal from Extracurricular Activities

A student may be removed from any extracurricular activity by a director, supervisor or coach for a violation of school and or team rules. Removal from an extracurricular activity may be imposed for any amount of time. The director, supervisor or coach need only send a written notice for the violation and reason for removal.

Athletic Drug Policy

All athletes must have on file before participating in an athletic contest a training rules contract and/or an athletic drug and alcohol contract. This document must be signed by the athlete and one of his/her parents or guardians indicating that they understand their obligation to the contract.

Students are volunteering to participate on an athletic team and are expected to accept the responsibilities granted them by this privilege by maintaining admirable conduct throughout the school year. Student athletes must decide if they want to make the commitment to be an athlete. To represent the Horizon Science Academy School as an athlete, athletes are expected to be good citizens. It is the Athletes responsibility to meet this commitment.

Students shall not have or be under the influence of drugs or alcohol; nor shall students be in possession of counterfeit controlled substances, or substances the sale of which is prohibited to minors. This shall include but not be limited to counterfeit controlled drugs and medicines and counterfeit alcoholic substances, or substances in containers which imitate or appear to be the containers normally used in a commercial sale of alcoholic substances.

Any student suspected of having or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be sent to the office for further investigation and disposition, including disciplinary action and/or referral as may be deemed appropriate.

Anabolic Steroids/Drugs/Alcohol

Anabolic steroids, counterfeit alcoholic substances, or substances in containers which imitate or appear to be the containers normally used in a commercial sale of alcoholic substances are prohibited. Any student suspected of having or being under the influence of anabolic steroids, drugs or alcohol will be sent to the office for further investigation and disposition, including disciplinary action and/or referral as may be deemed appropriate.

Transportation

Only student participants, coach/advisor and other authorized personnel, as designated by the head coach/advisor shall be permitted to ride buses to any game/activity. No spectators shall be permitted on the buses. Student participants are expected to ride on school transportation both to and from all away events. Away events are considered any practice or game sites that fall outside of our school. Exceptions to this rule will only be made on an individual basis with the prior written request of the parent/guardian and approval of the athletic director.

- Students may not transport themselves to any away contest/event.
- Students may not be transported by other students to an away contest/event.
- Students must be transported by their own parent/guardian unless the athletic director and or head coach has written, signed permission for their child to be transported by another student's parent/guardian.
- The coach must have visual contact with the parent/guardian prior to the student leaving the event.
- On some occasions, it may be necessary for students to arrive late or leave early from a contest due to a scheduling conflict. In these cases, prior written parent permission indicating knowledge of means of transportation must be given to the coach or athletic director.

Tobacco

Students are not permitted to use or be in possession of any form of tobacco or tobacco products on school property, or in any area under the control of the school district, or any activity supervised by any school within the district.