

# **HOLTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK**

**2024-25**



***ON HOLTON!***

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**Athletics Website**

**<https://holtonreddevils.com/>**

## **THE PRIVILEGE**

It is a great honor and privilege to be a Holton Red Devil and being an athlete at Holton Public Schools carries with it a tremendous amount of responsibility. It must be understood that students who do not follow the rules set forth by the Holton Public Schools, the Holton Athletic Department, and the Michigan High School Athletic Association may be denied the privilege of participation in athletics. Strive to represent your school, coach, faculty and community with pride and dignity. Your conduct at school, practice and games matter and reflect what it truly means to be a Red Devil.

Success in athletics can only be achieved if you believe that hard work and dedication are important and meaningful. You have accepted the challenge of participation in athletics. Set your goals and make a personal commitment to make your athletic career something of which you and the Holton community can be proud of.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP EXPECTATIONS**

The Six Fundamentals of Good Sportsmanship:

1. Show respect for opponents. They are our guests.
2. Show respect for the officials. They are educators who do their job to the best of their ability.
3. Know, understand, and appreciate the rules of the contest. Conform to the spirit as well as to the letter of the rules.
4. Maintain self-control at all times. The desire to win must not overcome rational behavior.
5. Recognize and appreciate an opponent's good performance. Applauding a quality performance by an opponent is good sportsmanship and good will.
6. Encourage others to be good sports. If you see someone displaying unsportsmanlike behavior, spend a few moments to remind that person of the role of educational athletics and how sportsmanship is a part of the

process.

## **ATHLETIC CODE**

**All students who elect to participate in interscholastic athletics are required to follow the code of conduct and training rules as outlined in this athletic code.**

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

1. No athlete shall possess, cause to possess, consume, or cause to consume alcoholic beverages.
2. No athlete shall possess or use tobacco in any form. Chewing tobacco is included under this rule along with e-cigarettes.
3. No athlete shall possess or use any form of illegal drugs. This rule also prohibits the improper or unauthorized use of a legal drug.
4. Conduct unbecoming an athlete shall be cause for disciplinary action. Serious misconduct by an athlete of school rules and policies, or state and federal laws, will result in an immediate hearing before the Athletic Council to determine the athlete's future status as an athlete. This procedure applies only to those situations not specified in the athletic code.
5. Coaches may establish individual training rules for athletes that exceed or add to the standards set forth in the athletic code.

### **CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

Successful programs have student athletes, parents/guardians, and coaches working toward common goals. As a teammate, son or daughter, and student, the athlete is a critical part of this triangular partnership. The athlete in practice and performance is the visible result of practice, training, commitment, and development. In this important capacity, these standards should be practiced:

1. Know and adhere to the Athletic Code of the school.
2. Exceed all attendance and academic requirements as practical evidence of loyalty to

- school and team as a proper philosophy of school-sponsored athletics.
3. Observe completely all policies regarding conduct, doing so as a duty to school, team and self.
  4. Counsel with the Athletic Director over questions of eligibility.
  5. Practice and play fairly, giving complete effort in all circumstances and credit in victory to teammates and to opponents in defeat.
  6. Accept favorable and unfavorable decisions, as well as victory and defeat, with equal grace.
  7. Demonstrate respect for teammates, opponents, coaches, and officials before, during, and after contests.
  8. Represent self and school with dignity in dress and action.
  9. Properly care for all equipment and uniforms.
  10. Have a positive attitude, dedication and commitment to perform to the best of ability as a condition to team membership.
  11. Communicate with the coach in a positive and appropriate manner.
  12. Recognize that the use of drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, has no place in athletic involvement.

## **I. COVERAGE**

1. **ATHLETE DEFINED:** Any student who participates in a practice or contest on an interscholastic team sponsored by Holton Public Schools.
2. **DURATION:** The athlete is subject to this code from their first date of participation in a school and state sanctioned practice until they withdraw or graduate from Holton Public Schools.

## **II. ELIGIBILITY**

### **1. PRESEASON**

*NO ATHLETE SHALL BE ALLOWED TO PRACTICE OR TRY OUT FOR ANY SPORT UNTIL THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN MET.*

- A. A student must not be 19 years of age on or before September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- B. A physical examination completed, passed, and the card turned in to the athletic department. The physical exam must not be dated earlier than April 15 of the previous school year.
- C. The Athletic Permission Form filed with your coach.

- D. Must have passed at least 66% classes of the previous semester.
- E. Once enrolled in grade nine, a student will be allowed to compete in athletics in only four first semesters and four second semesters. A student may not compete in athletics if she/he has been enrolled in grades 9-12 for more than 8 semesters.

## **2. DURING SEASON**

*THE FOLLOWING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS HAVE TO BE MET  
WEEK TO WEEK.*

- A. A student athlete must not be failing more than one class. Reported grades are the current average for each quarter. Athletes will receive a (W) warning when their overall grade in a given class drops below a C-, and a (F) Failing when the overall grade drops below a D-.
- B. Grades will be pulled on Mondays beginning with the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in the marking period. Once notified of the grade, students may and should meet with the Athletic Director and discuss the grade(s). They then have until the following day to raise any grade(s) that are failing. If the grade is still below a D- after the following day, they will be ineligible for the remainder of the week. If the grade has been raised, teachers or students can then notify the athletic director of that change of grade.
- C. When dealing with missing assignments, teachers are in no way obligated to grade the missing work right away. They will have the right to grade missing assignments based on their own discretion.
- D. End of marking period grades will be used until the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the following marking period.
- E. Students must pass 66% of their classes each semester or will be ineligible for 60 school days or until the credit lost is made up and on the student's transcript.
- F. Academic eligibility will be effective from Monday to Sunday. Students failing to meet grade requirements will be ineligible

the succeeding week.

- G. If a grade given on the eligibility report is in dispute, the student athlete must inform the athletic director by Tuesday at noon. The athletic director will then contact that teacher involved with the grade in question to confirm the grade.

*An athlete who is ineligible may practice with the team at the coach's discretion.*

*While ineligible, an athlete WILL NOT PLAY in any contest.*

### **3. TRANSFER STUDENTS**

- A. A transfer student must practice a minimum of five days before they may play in their first athletic contest. Scrimmages are considered practices.
- B. Transfer students must consult with the athletic department to review eligibility and conditions of transfer.

### **III. TRAINING CODE**

The code will cover inclusively, but not exclusively the following violations:

1. The use or possession of tobacco, vaping devices, drugs or alcoholic beverages.
2. The presence in any vehicle in which the athlete knows or has reason to know contains alcoholic beverages, unless the alcoholic beverages are in possession and control of an individual over the age of 21.
3. The presence of the athlete at any gathering of individuals the athlete knows or has reason to know that minors at the gathering are consuming alcoholic beverages, unless the athlete's attendance at such a gathering is in the company of the athlete's legal guardian.
4. The use or possession of any drug or controlled substance.
5. The presence in any vehicle or at any gathering in which the athlete knows or has reason to know that any drug or controlled substance is being used unless that drug or controlled substance has been issued pursuant to a doctor's prescription.

6. Being charged with and convicted of breaking a criminal law.
7. The theft or possession of property not belonging to the athlete.
8. Having possession of **any weapons** on school grounds including, a gun, knife, bow etc. will result in a 10 day suspension and possible expulsion.
9. **Disciplinary problems at school** or at **extracurricular events** (home or away) may be reason for the coach, athletic director, or administration to **drop or suspend an athlete from a sport**.
10. **Any act** of bullying, hazing or harassment of **any kind to any student(s)** at **any school related function** will result in disciplinary action, according to the school's disciplinary rubric, per the principal's office. This includes physical abuse and misconduct, emotional abuse and misconduct, threats, cyber bullying, racist slurs, sexual abuse or harassment etc.

*Any athlete who is found to have violated the above code will be subject to the procedures and penalties outlined in Section IV and V.*

#### **IV. TRAINING CODE VIOLATIONS**

Reports of alleged training code violations shall be reported to the coach, athletic director, or principal. Normally, only violations occurring within five school days will be investigated. Upon receipt of a report the Athletic Director will conduct an investigation to determine if there is any validity to the charge. In the event an investigation is conducted, the Athletic Director will inform the parents of the allegations. In the event that an investigation reveals there to be a reasonable basis to believe that a violation has occurred, the athletic director will notify the parents and the athlete of the penalty to be imposed on the athlete. All training code violations will be assessed and established based on school policy. All penalties and consequences will be enforced according to the discretion of the athletic director and school administration.

#### **V. PENALTIES**

**1a. FIRST OFFENSE:**

An athlete shall be suspended for 25% of scheduled contests. Suspension shall begin on the next scheduled contest date after the conditions outlined in section IV have been satisfied and shall run consecutively from that point. If the suspension runs beyond the sport's season, the suspension will take place the next time the athlete participates in any interscholastic sport. Throughout the suspension, the athlete must practice with the team, be in attendance at all contests (not in uniform), and abide by all team requirements. Failure to do so will nullify any suspension time served.

**1b. FIRST OFFENSE Alternative**

*(This option is only for students who violate rules 1-5 of the training code.)*

When applicable, the athlete has the option of attending approved alcohol or drug awareness classes. An athlete is suspended from competition until first class is attended. The athlete is automatically suspended for 33% of the schedule games if the athlete fails to attend any of the classes. Proof of attendance must be turned into the athletic office during the next school day after each class attended. Holton public schools is not financially responsible for the classes.

**2. SECOND OFFENSE:**

Athlete shall be suspended for one full calendar year from athletic participation.

**3. THIRD OFFENSE:**

Athlete shall be suspended from participating in all athletic programs for the remainder of their high school eligibility as determined by the MHSAA.

*Under extenuating circumstances, the athletic director may extend or reduce a penalty.*

**VI. REINSTATEMENT**

A conference with the athlete and the athletic director must be held before eligibility is restored. Restoration of eligibility or reinstatement to



a team is not automatic.

## **VII. ABSENCES FROM PRACTICE**

We expect our athletes to attend all required practices in their sport.

However, realizing that there can be conflicts in time and scheduling over which the athlete may have little if any control an excused and unexcused approach will be used by all coaches of high school sports.

1. **Pre-excused:** An athlete knowing that a conflict exists and having an acceptable reason for missing a practice will not be penalized. Acceptability of the reason is at the discretion of the coach. An athlete who missed a practice or practices with a pre-excuse, while not being subject to any punitive action, may not be able to perform in a game due to lack of preparation.
2. **Excused:** Absences due to illness, death in the family, and other emergency situations brought to the attention of the coach.
3. **Unexcused:** Any athlete who misses a practice without a pre-excused or excused absence will face the following disciplinary action:
  - a. First offense - one game suspension.
  - b. Second offense - two game suspension
  - c. Third offense - suspension for rest of season.

Any suspension resulting from an unexcused absence will take place on the first playing date following the unexcused absence. Playing dates which involve multiple competitions, such as tournaments, double headers, or double duals shall be counted as two dates in computing the number of contest suspensions.

*Coaches may have attendance rules as part of a particular program. Those rules may be approved by the athletic director and substituted for the above attendance rules.*

## **VIII. ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL**

1. Athletes must attend **all** classes to participate in practice or contests unless they have been excused or pre-excused by the principal or athletic director.
2. A student suspended out of school is forbidden from being present at any school-sponsored event scheduled for that day, either home or away. A suspension will be considered an unexcused absence.

## **X. ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION**

1. Each coach, with the approval of the athletic director, will determine the number of athletes kept on a team. The judgment of the number kept will be based on the number that can reasonably be handled within our facilities and budget and to the relative ability of the group.
2. In keeping with our philosophy of providing opportunity for the greatest participation possible a coach will consider the following guidelines:
  - A. A coach will not be expected to play athletes who have discipline, attitude, or attendance problems.
  - B. Making the team in no way guarantees an athlete playing time.
  - C. A coach will play as many as possible, with the coach's judgment or as regulated by the rules.
  - F. Athletes in middle school teams can generally be expected to participate in each contest.
  - G. If an athlete leaves the team after the end of the first three weeks of scheduled practice, he or she may not participate in another sport for the duration of the sport season, unless approved by the athletic director.
3. A student-athlete that would like to participate in two sports during the same season will need to complete a dual sport form and have coaches, parents, and the athletic director approval prior to the first competition of each sport.
4. If a student decides to quit a team after 14 days from the start of the season, they must have a meeting with the coach, athletic director, and/or principal to discuss the reasoning behind the decision to quit. The following procedure will be used:
  - Quitting is defined as leaving the team under his/her own circumstances; grades, injury, discontent etc.

- Students are responsible to have a meeting of agreement and signatures from the following individuals; coach, athletic director, parent, student, principal must be documented, if they are to be reinstated.
- Students who do not meet the task above may not participate in another sport during that current school year.
- Students who decide to quit after the 14 day starting period will sit 25% of the next sport they choose to participate in.

## **IX. PARENT / COACH PROTOCOL**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. These are to be encouraged and it is important both parties understand each other's position.

When a concern arises, a parent should first approach the coach to set up a meeting to discuss this concern. If the concern is not addressed, than the parent should schedule a meeting with the athletic director and coach.

### **Communication you should expect from your son/daughter's coach:**

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has of each team member.
3. Locations and times of all practices and games.
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, etc.
5. Discipline resulting in the denial of your child's participation.

### **Communication coaches expect from parents:**

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Concerns about your child's behavior.
3. All athletes must travel to and return from all contests with the team.  
Exception to this rule will be made only at the discretion of the coach.  
No exception will be made without written permission from the legal guardian.

4. Notification of schedule changes in advance.
5. Specific concerns regarding coaches' philosophy and or expectations.

### **Inappropriate issues to discuss with coaches**

1. Playing Time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other team members

### **Coaches' treatment of athletes**

1. The coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
2. The coach will develop fair, unprejudiced relationships with all team members.
3. Give the highest degree of attention to the athletes' physical well being.
4. The coach will listen to the concerns of team members.

## **X. ADMINISTRATIVE SUMMARY**

The school administration reserves the right to establish fair and reasonable rules and regulations for things requiring actions that are not expressly covered in this handbook.

### **ATHLETIC PERMISSION FORM**

Your son/daughter has indicated an interest in interscholastic athletes. In order for them to compete, please read the Student Athletic Handbook and fill out the following information. Please keep in mind that this document once signed, is applicable to your child as long as they are an athlete as defined in section I of the Athletic Handbook.

#### **I. ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

I have read the Athletic Handbook and I agree to abide by the regulations stated herein. I have also discussed this with my parents (or legal guardian) and they attest to this by their co-signature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athlete's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/legal Guardian Signature

II. INJURY CONSENT WAIVER

In case of medical treatment, a representative from the Holton Athletic Department will contact you for permission and direction. **If we are unable to contact you, we will seek the necessary care.**

**I have read the above statement and agree to the procedure involved.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/legal Guardian Signature

I agree to the above procedure and will accept full responsibility in case medical treatment is necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/legal Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Family Doctor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hospital

III. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Each athlete is responsible for their athletic equipment issued to them by the coaching staff. If this is lost or stolen they will be held responsible for the cost.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athlete's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/legal Guardian Signature

**Athletes are to return this form to their coach as soon as possible**