

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

## HILLSBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC CONTRACT

### Part 1 Student-Athlete Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the rules and regulations for athletic participation as outlined in the Athletic Contract that is approved by the Hillsborough Board of Education. I further agree to abide by these regulations or any other regulations required by the coach of my particular athletic team. I understand that I am an athlete at Hillsborough High School and am aware of the consequences involved with non-compliance to these rules and regulations associated with being an athlete.

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*(Student Name: Please Print)*

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*(Signature of student-athlete)*

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*(Date)*

### Part 2 Parent / Guardian Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the rules and regulations for athletic participation outlined in the Athletic Contract that is approved by the Hillsborough Board of Education. I further acknowledge that I understand the consequences for my child of non-compliance to these rules and regulations and any additional rules and regulations required and communicated by the coach.

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*(Signature of parent/guardian)*

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*(Date)*

**PLEASE SIGN AND SEND THIS PAGE ONLY. KEEP ATHLETIC CONTRACT FOR YOUR RECORDS. THANK YOU.**

**HILLSBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL**  
**ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**  
**Athletic Contract**  
Revised 11-10-05

I realize that it is a privilege to participate in all athletic activities at Hillsborough High School. Accordingly, I hereby agree to obey the following regulations and training rules as established by the Hillsborough Board of Education, Administration, Athletic Department, the Skyland Conference and the N.J.S.I.A.A.

**I. General Rules**

**A. Academic Requirements**

1. All students who wish to participate in interscholastic athletics must meet the minimum credit requirement of thirty (30) credits each year as outlined in the "Program of Studies" in the Hillsborough High School Student/Parent Handbook and Board Policy 2431.
2. The NJSIAA requirements state that students must meet all academic requirements as follows:
  - a. To be eligible for athletic competition during the first semester of grade 10, 11 or 12, a pupil must pass 27.5 credits during the preceding academic year.
  - b. To be eligible for athletic competition during the second semester of 9, 10, 11, or 12, a pupil must pass 13.75 credits during the first semester. Full year courses are equated as one-half the total credit value of the course for the year.
3. The Hillsborough Board of Education requires a stricter grade policy as follows:
  - a. To be eligible for athletic competition during the first semester of grade 10, 11 or 12, a pupil must pass 30 credits during the preceding academic year.
  - b. To be eligible for athletic competition during the second semester of 9, 10, 11, or 12, a pupil must pass 15 credits during the first semester. Full year courses are equated as one-half the total credit value of the course for the year.
4. Students must earn at least a 65 average in every subject each semester. Students failing to achieve a final average of 65 or better in two or more subjects will be declared ineligible for the next semester. Students who fail to achieve a final average of 65 or better in one subject shall be placed on probation for the next semester.
5. Probationary student grades will be monitored during the semester. A probationary student who becomes ineligible for failing to maintain a semester average of 65 or better shall be required to maintain an average of 65 or better in all subjects for one marking period before returning to the interscholastic program.
6. Students will make an effort to maintain a grade average of 70 in every course. If a grade in any subject is lower than 70, a progress report will be requested of the teacher. If improvement is not reported after a three-week time period, possible suspension from the team will occur after consultation with the coach, guidance counselor and involved teacher.
7. Students will not drop classes from their schedule without first obtaining permission and a signature from the Head Coach and Athletic Director.

**Academic eligibility appeals** will be handled as detailed in the Student-Parent Handbook.

**B. Code of Conduct**

1. Athletes at all times will conduct themselves in such a manner to reflect credit upon their families, school, team and coaches. This includes the student-athlete's conduct in school and in the community. Code of Conduct violations may result in suspension and/or dismissal from an athletic team by the Head Coach with the approval of the Principal and Athletic Director.

**As a member of a Hillsborough High School Interscholastic team, I agree to the following conditions for participation:**

1. I understand that my academic commitments have the highest priority and that I will not be permitted to participate in interscholastic athletics if I do not comply with the credit requirements established by the NJSIAA and the Hillsborough Board of Education.
2. At all times, regardless of the amount, I shall not possess, use, distribute, be in the vicinity of, or sell alcoholic beverages, tobacco, controlled dangerous substances or performance enhancing substances on or off school grounds. Any abuse of the above on school property, or during a school event, will be subject to the school disciplinary code.
3. I will follow the training rules and practice schedules that have been established by the coach.
4. I have read and will adhere to the sportsmanship policies as established by the Hillsborough High School Athletic Department, Skyland Conference, and the NJSIAA.
5. I will safeguard and properly care for all equipment issued to me. I understand that I will be financially responsible for any loss or damage to equipment as determined by the Head Coach and Athletic Director. All equipment obligations must be fulfilled before participation in a subsequent sport or activity will be permitted.
6. I will not act in any way which may cause harm or insult, including hazing, to teammates and/or fellow students in any way throughout the school year.

**II. Athletic Attendance**

Athletes are expected to attend and participate in all school related athletic activities and must communicate to the coach via a written note if an athlete is unable to attend. Daily attendance rules are stated in the Co-Curricular Participation in the Hillsborough High School Student-Parent Handbook. Exceptions for important matters will be reviewed by the Head Coach and Athletic Director. Absences will be classified as follows:

**A. Excused Absence:**

1. School Sponsored Trips (curriculum related and senior class trip)
  - a. No penalty.
2. Family Trips (immediate family only)
  - a. No penalty for the first two practices and/or competitions missed.
  - b. One game suspension for each additional practice and/or competition missed.
3. Illness and/or Religious Observance
  - a. No penalty.
4. Official College visits
  - a. No penalty.

**B. Unexcused Absence:** an absence that does not qualify in “A” above (excused absences). An unexcused absence will result in the following (after being reviewed by the Head Coach and Athletic Director):

1. Suspension from the next contest following the first violation. Attendance with the team at the event from which the student is suspended is required. Absence from this event will be considered as an unexcused absence from an event.
2. Expulsion from the team for the second unexcused absence.

**C. Detention (after school/Saturday)**

1. First offense – Will be reviewed by the Head Coach and Athletic Director.
2. Second offense - Could result in game suspension as reviewed by the Head Coach and Athletic Director.

**D. Suspension from school**

1. First offense - Will result in a game/event suspension equal to the number of days suspended from school up to four days in addition to games/events missed during suspension. For sports that play one time per week, one game suspension per each week suspended.
2. Second offense - Will result in expulsion from the team.

### **III. Disciplinary Action**

**A. Violations of Code of Conduct**

1. The Athletic Director will review all violations of the Code of Conduct and will discuss all issues with the coaches and athletes involved. No action will be taken until the investigative process is complete.
2. **First Violation –Athletic Probation-** after confirmation of the first violation, the student may lose eligibility for the next two consecutive interscholastic athletic events (regular schedule) or two weeks of a season in which the student is participating. Upon the first violation, the student and a parent will be required to meet with the Head Coach and Athletic Director and sign an agreement stating that they understand the initial violation and they both agree that the athlete will serve his/her suspension. Both also understand that any further violations of the athletic contract will result in dismissal from the athletic team for the remainder of the season. For illegal substances including steroids, the student will be required to confer with the school student assistance counselor and follow the instructions they deem appropriate.
3. If an athlete turns himself/herself in voluntarily, before offense has been reported by officials, for the first time in regards to illegal substances, the following will apply:
  - a. Remain on the team.
  - b. Circumstances will be kept confidential.
  - c. Professional help will be offered and must be accepted. If not accepted, student-athlete will be subject to disciplinary procedures.
4. **Second Violation** – after confirmation of the second violation, the student shall be dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season. Removal from an athletic team must be approved by the Principal.

**I also understand that if a violation of the athletic contract is so extreme (even if it is the first violation) the Athletic Director and Head Coach may move to immediately dismiss the athlete from the current athletic team for that season and potentially from all athletic teams for the entire athletic school year. Removal from an athletic team must be approved by the Principal.**

### **IV. Appeal of Disciplinary Action**

- A. For any suspension from an athletic team, the student and/or parent can ask for a meeting with the Athletic Director and Head Coach provided that the request for such review is made within two school days of notice of suspension. After meeting with Athletic Director and Head Coach, the student and/or parent may appeal the Athletic Director’s decision to the Principal.
- B. For any dismissal from an athletic team, the student and/or parent can ask for a meeting with the Principal and Athletic Director provided that the request for such review is made within two school days of notice of dismissal. After meeting with the Principal and Athletic Director, the student and/or parent may appeal the Principal’s decision to the Superintendent.
- C. The reasons for all suspensions from school under II-D- above will be discussed by the Athletic Director, Assistant Principal in charge of the disciplinary matter and the Head Coach. The findings of this discussion/investigation will determine if suspension from games/events will be imposed.
- D. Any other disciplinary action will be reviewed by the Athletic Director at the request of the student and/or parent provided the Head Coach is advised of the request for said review and the request for review is made within two school days of notice of action.