

## **Hopewell Athletic Program Handbook**

*Hornet Pride: A Tradition*

Dear Parents/Guardians and Athletes,

Your son or daughter has chosen to participate in the Hopewell Middle School Athletic Program. The following information is for you and your son/daughter to read so you can better understand our program and align yourself with our policies and expectations.

### **Hopewell Athletic Goals**

The Hopewell Athletic Program offers the opportunity of participation to every student who has the ability and desire to do so. However, no student is obligated or required to participate in athletics. It is the goal of the Hopewell Coaching Staff that each athlete in our program will:

- Develop the necessary fundamental skills to be successful in his/her sport
- Learn and practice good sportsmanship and teamwork
- Learn the art of Hard Work and Determination
- Become confident in self to overcome obstacles
- Maintain high academic achievement while becoming the best athlete they can

### **Philosophy**

Our focus is on building well rounded, competitive driven athletes who put the team first and themselves second.

### **Hopewell Athletic Programs**

Round Rock ISD offers four sports for both 7th & 8th grade boys and girls:

- Football/Volleyball
- Basketball
- Track & Field
- Soccer

Football, Volleyball and Basketball will each have two teams at both grade levels: Green (A) and White (B). Athletes may be moved between A and B teams during the season.

There are tryouts in all sports other than football. Any student who wishes to play football will make either the Green or White team. Approximately 23 students make each grade level team in volleyball and basketball. 22 students, from both 7th and 8th grades, make the boys and girls soccer teams. A maximum of 6 athletes per event will make the track team. Athletes are eligible to participate in multiple events.

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Any boy who would like to participate in athletics without playing football, or any girl who is only interested in playing soccer can join off-season athletics (alternate athletics). This class operates the same as athletics does outside of in season sports. This class will involve intense workouts that focus on agility and strength training as well as fundamental skills for the remaining sports.

**\*\*You must have an RRISD Sports Physical, online RankOne forms, and medical history on file in order to participate in athletics.\*\***

### Responsibilities/Expectations

#### During Competition:

- Good sportsmanship is expected during all workouts, practices and games.
- Master the art of being humble in victory and brave in defeat.
- Have self-control....disrespect for coaches or officials, displays of temper, use of profanity or other disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action.
- Competition attire must comply with UIL rules and guidelines.
- Girls – Hair must be pulled back with an elastic band, no jewelry, shirts must be tucked in and shorts may not be rolled more than once.

#### In the Classroom:

- An athlete must realize that he/she is a student first and an athlete second.
- UIL “No Pass, No Play” rules apply. Upon failure of any subject, an athlete may not compete in any contests until they are passing ALL subjects at the time of the three week or the next six week grading period. Please refer to the UIL Eligibility Calendar on the athletic website or contact a coach with any questions
- All athletes are given time to study and complete homework on the day of their game, and therefore may not use an athletic event as an excuse for missing work
- An athlete must maintain a satisfactory behavior record with all teachers. Unsatisfactory marks on grade checks or notifications from teachers may result in disciplinary actions and/or suspensions

#### On Campus:

- All athletes are expected to follow the RRISD Student Code of Conduct, which includes dress code.
- All school rules are to be followed.

- An athlete suspended from school will not be permitted to travel or participate with the team in contests. His/her eligibility for subsequent contests will be left to the discretion of the coach and/or administration.
- Boys will NOT be permitted to wear earrings on campus throughout the entirety of the school day

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#### During Athletics and/or practice:

- Athletes are expected to attend all practices and games. Consequences, including loss of playing time, may result from unexcused absences.
- An athlete will notify a coach if he/she needs to miss a game or practice session that is scheduled after school hours.
- An athlete will be prompt for roll call. Athletes are expected to dress in athletic uniform for class/practice every day.
- Athletes will give their best every day.
- If he/she cannot participate a note, email or phone call is required from parent/guardian. They will still be expected to dress out and observe or complete an alternate activity.
- Please call AND provide a doctor's note for lengthy illnesses (3 days) and/or injuries to let us know about your sons/daughters limitations and restrictions.
- Girls – Hair must be pulled back with an elastic band. Shirts must be tucked in and all jewelry taken off.

#### Locker Room Expectations:

- Athletes are expected to dress out immediately and report to designated area. Horseplay of any kind will not be tolerated in the locker room
- Phones or any electronic devices are prohibited from being used or visible in the locker room. They must be concealed in a backpack, locker or bag. If an athlete is seen using their phone or electronic device in the locker room, it will be taken to the front office and a parent/guardian will need to pick it up.
- Students must bring their own combination lock and keep their locker locked at all times. If the lock breaks they are expected to bring a new one the following day.
- Students should not share their combination with anyone other than with their coaches.
- Students should only have athletic gear and equipment in their athletic locker. School materials should be kept in a school locker or backpack.
- Students are expected to keep their area clean, and are responsible for personal their belongings.

#### During Travel:

- Athletes will ride the bus to and from games on an RRISD bus. If there is a situation where a parent must take an athlete from a contest site, please plan ahead and make coaches aware of it ahead of time.

Per District Policy: Athletes may only be released to their parent/guardian. Under no circumstances may athletes ride home with anyone other than their guardian. After athletes return to school, it is the responsibility of the parent to arrange for transportation home. Athletes should be picked up within 15 minutes after arrival. Athletes that are repeatedly picked up later than 15 minutes after arrival may lose their privilege of participating in future events.

- All times are estimated to the best of our ability – competition level and officials may affect our return home. An athlete will conduct themselves properly on the school bus or in any school vehicle at all times.

#### Game Day Uniforms and Attire:

- All student athletes are expected to dress business casual for game days.
- A uniform will be issued to athletes participating in a specific sport.
- Athletes must provide their own socks and shoes.
- Athletes must reimburse the cost of lost or damaged uniforms.
- All game uniforms must be returned immediately after contests.

#### Practice/Athletic Uniform:

- All athletes must purchase an athletic uniform. If the uniform is lost, worn out, or if more than one uniform is desired, your son/daughter may make purchases online during the allotted time.
- It is required that all athletes purchase an athletic sweatshirt and sweatpants.
- Athletes are strongly encouraged to keep an extra pair of tennis shoes and clean socks in their athletic locker throughout the year.
- Please encourage your son/daughter to leave valuables at home and to take extra care in locking up all belongings. All personal belongings should be marked with first initial and full last name of the students.
- A gym bag or plastic/cloth bag is recommended to transport clothes to and from school.

Maintaining personal hygiene is non-negotiable. Student athletes are expected to maintain their hygiene and personal appearance conducive to a school or classroom setting. Both boys and girls have locker rooms with showers. Showering is optional, but highly encouraged. Athletic periods typically allot 5-10 minutes for athletes to handle their business.

#### Game Schedules:

Schedules of contests, opponents and sites will be provided at the beginning of each season. The green and white football, volleyball and basketball games begin at 5:30pm, with white playing first followed immediately by the Green team. Track meets begin at 4:30. You will be notified if there is a scrimmage when dates and times are set.

#### Bullying:

Bullying of any kind will not be tolerated. If bullying of any kind is observed or reported, it will be immediately turned over to administration. Bullying will result in consequences including

possible removal from the athletic program. Please report bullying concerns immediately to coaches and/or administration.

Tobacco, Alcohol, drugs and weapons:

Any athlete disciplined and/or suspended from school for the possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs or weapons will result in removal from the Hornet Athletic Program. Please refer to the Round Rock ISD code of conduct concerning use of illegal or controlled substances. Any violation of the rules that occur during the school year will be documented and handled in an unbiased manner. Any violation that becomes habitual will be cause for suspension or dismissal from the team. All suspensions will be met with a mandatory behavior contract and possible parent meeting. All dismissals are contingent upon the direction of our coaching staff and Hopewell Administration.

Ticket Prices:

Ticket prices for all middle school contests in Round Rock this year are \$4 for adults and \$2 for students.

Paperwork: In order to participate in the athletic program we must have the following completed paperwork:

- Current and complete physical signed by a Doctor. If the physical expires during the season, athletes must get a new physical in order to participate.
- RankOne forms (All 7)
- Medical History form
- Handbook Acknowledgement Form

Athletes will not be allowed to participate until all forms are completed and turned in. Forms must be submitted prior to the beginning of the school year. All try-out information can be found on the athletic websites as that season approaches.

Parents are strongly encouraged to contact the athlete's coach when questions and concerns arise regarding athletics.

Marcus Saunders - Campus Athletic Coordinator/Boys' Athletic Coordinator 512-464-5318  
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