

Hilton Cadets

Sportsmanship... Be A Cadet Fan!



Athletic Handbook 2016-2017

For Coaches, Student Athletes and Parents

Mike Giruzzi
Athletic Director



Hilton Cadets

Sportsmanship... Be A Cadet Fan!

Dear Cadet Coaches, Student-Athletes and Parents,

Welcome to another fantastic year of Interscholastic Sports... Cadet Style!

The Hilton Central School Districts Athletic Department in cooperation with the Monroe County Athletic Association and Section V believes that good sportsmanship is a major part of athletic competition. It is our goal to create a healthy, safe, and exciting atmosphere where good sportsmanship is encouraged. Please extend your respect to the officials, coaches, players, and other spectators.

High school athletics is an important part of the overall educational program. It affords students the opportunity to challenge themselves both physically and mentally. We believe athletic participation plays an integral role in our districts mission of "Maximizing the Potential of the Individual Learner". Athletes develop skills that they will use throughout their lifetime. Dedication, commitment, sacrifice, determination, perseverance, and teamwork will be important elements in successful seasons and also serve them well in whatever career path they choose.

Parents, Thank you! Your contributions to Interscholastic Sports over the years have not gone unnoticed. We invite you to stay involved and invite others to join you in supporting our student-athletes.

Most importantly, come out and enjoy a game! You will be seeing athletics at it's finest... Cadet Style.

Yours in sports,

Mike Giruzzi

*Mike Giruzzi
Athletic Director*

Interscholastic Athletic Department Information

How May We Help You...?

Director of Athletics:	Michael P. Giruzzi
Athletic Coordinator:	Kendrick Krause
Office Professional:	Marcey Garno

Contact the Athletic Office:

Telephone: (585) 392-1000 ext. 2136

Fax: 392-1071

Email: mgiruzzi@hilton.k12.ny.us

Board of Education

Nancy Pickering, President

Tom Abbott, Vice President

Michelle Ames Aggie Seneway Mark Hilburger Tim Gagnon Russell Byer

Superintendent of Schools

Casey Kosiorek

Director of Business Operations

Adam Geist

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Scott Massie

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Dr. Barbara Surash

Table of contents

Subject	Page (s)
<i>Mission Statement, Decision-Making Model, Purpose, Vision</i>	1
<i>Sport Offerings</i>	2
<i>Interscholastic Athletic Program Philosophy</i>	3-4
<i>Physicals</i>	4
<i>Cut Policy</i>	4
<i>Preseason Meetings</i>	4
<i>Practice Sessions</i>	4
<i>Changing Sports</i>	5
<i>Questions or Concerns</i>	5
<i>Sports and the Athletic Program</i>	5
<i>Student Athletic Injuries</i>	5
<i>Safety</i>	6
<i>Supervision</i>	6
<i>Selection Classification</i>	6
<i>Transfer Rule</i>	6
<i>Athletic Eligibility</i>	6-8
<i>Interscholastic Sport's Rules</i>	8-11
<i>Student Responsibilities</i>	12
<i>Athletic Trainer</i>	12-13

Our Philosophy

Interscholastic athletics is an important part of the overall educational program. It affords students the opportunity to challenge themselves both physically and mentally. We believe athletes develop skills that they will use throughout their lifetime, dedication, commitment, sacrifice, determination, perseverance, skill development/refinement and teamwork. Those skills are important elements in successful seasons and serve individuals well throughout their lives.

Hilton's aim is to develop a competitive athletic program, but not lose sight of educational values such as sportsmanship, health and scholastic attainment. It is the nature of athletic competition to strive for victory. However, the number of victories is only one criterion when determining the success of a season. Guiding the team and individuals to reach and exceed their potential is the ultimate goal.

Our Decision Making Filter

The filter that will be used to make all decisions in this World Class Interscholastic Athletic Program will be:

“What is the best for the student-athlete?”

Purpose

The purpose of this Athletic Handbook is to provide our coaches, student-athletes and parents with uniform information regarding the policies and procedures of our Interscholastic Athletic Program.

Our Vision

“Maximizing the Potential of the Individual Learner”

Hilton Cadet Sport Offerings

Fall

Boy's

Cross Country
Football
Soccer
Volleyball

Girl's

Cheerleading
Cross Country
Field Hockey
Gymnastics
Soccer
Swimming
Tennis
Volleyball

Winter

Boy's

Basketball
Bowling
Ice Hockey
Indoor Track
Swimming
Wrestling

Girl's

Basketball
Bowling
Cheerleading
Indoor Track
Swimming (coed modified)

Spring

Boy's

Baseball
Golf
Lacrosse
Tennis
Track

Girl's

Field Hockey (modified)
Softball
Track
Lacrosse

All schedules and updates can be found by following the link below.

www.mcpsac-ny.org

Interscholastic Athletic Program Philosophy by level

Varsity

The varsity level of athletic competition is the culmination of each sport's program. Obviously the goal at the varsity level is to prepare to win and to strive for victory in each contest. However, it is also important to know there is focus on team play and sportsmanship.

A sound attitude and an advanced level of skill are prerequisites for a position on the varsity team. The number of participants on any given team is based on the needs to conduct appropriate practices and to play the contests. Further, the number of roster positions is relative to the student-athlete's acceptance of their individual roles in pursuit of the team's goals. It is to be understood that the dedication and commitment needed to participate on a varsity team needs to be taken seriously. Practices and contests require a six-days-a-week commitment, with an understanding that this commitment is often extended into vacation periods throughout the school year. A specified amount of playing time at the varsity level is never guaranteed.

Junior Varsity/Freshman

At the Junior Varsity and freshman level, emphasis continues to be placed upon team play, sportsmanship, physical conditioning, and refinement of basic skills. These two programs prepare student-athletes for the varsity level of competition by working towards an achievement of balance between team and player development and striving for victory. At this level, the outcome of the contest becomes a consideration. Adequate playing time for all team members is strongly encouraged, however a specified amount of playing time is never guaranteed.

Modified A

The Modified A level is primarily designed and made available to student-athletes in Grades 7, 8 and 9. This program prepares student-athletes for the junior varsity level of competition by placing emphasis on sportsmanship, learning athletic skills and game rules, fundamentals of team play, socio-emotional growth, physical conditioning, and healthy competition.

Our goal is to maximize participation and playing time for student-athletes. However, if the number of students trying out for the team creates a situation that is difficult to manage, poses a safety problem, or is problematic because of facility considerations, reducing team size by "cutting" may be necessary. Ultimately, the number of teams and size of the team rosters in any sport will be determined by the availability of league schedules, financial resources, qualified coaches, and suitable facilities.

Modified B – Grades 7 and 8

The Modified B level is primarily designed and made available to student-athletes in Grades 7 and 8. This program prepares student-athletes for the next level of competition by placing emphasis on sportsmanship, learning athletic skills and game rules, fundamentals of team play, socio-emotional growth, physical conditioning, and healthy competition. Our goal is to maximize participation and playing time for student-athletes. However, if the number of students trying out for the team creates a situation that is difficult to manage, poses a safety problem, or is problematic because of facility considerations, reducing team size by "cutting" may be necessary. Ultimately, the number of teams and size of the team rosters in any sport will be determined by the availability of league schedules, financial resources, qualified coaches, and suitable facilities.

Physicals

The first requirement that needs to be completed prior to trying out for or playing on an Interscholastic Sport's Team is to have a physical examination. These sport's physicals are given annually on three different dates at the end of the summer, prior to the beginning of tryouts and practices.

Remember, student-athletes may not tryout or participate if they have not had a physical. Also, a Health History Update is required if the physical is not within thirty (30) days before the start of a sport's season. These forms may be obtained in the Nurse's Office in the High School, in the Nurse's Office in Merton Williams, or in the Athletic Office, located at the High School.

Cuts

Unfortunately there are times a student-athlete may face a situation where he/she does not make the team. When this happens, coaches will meet with each of the students individually to explain to them why they did not make the squad. It is understood that this is a very difficult time for coaches, players, and families. We feel these meetings are vital so that there is a good understanding of why this decision was made.

Preseason Meetings – “Congratulations – Your son/daughter made the team!”

One of the most important ingredients for a successful sport season is effective, open and appropriate communication between the coach, parents and student-athletes. In order to ensure that communication takes place, preseason meetings are scheduled by the Athletic Department at the beginning of each sport's season. Topics of these meetings include athletic department policies, individual team expectations and rules, the health and safety of the student-athlete and a variety of other subjects. Attendance at these meetings is required for coaches and student-athletes. Likewise, the parents are invited and strongly urged to attend.

Practice Sessions

Student-Athletes are expected to attend all scheduled practice sessions and games unless excused by the coach in conjunction with the parent. The importance of practice is clearly stated in the philosophy statements. It is also important to note that fall practices for Junior Varsity and Varsity teams usually begin in the second or third week of August. Please plan accordingly.

Questions or Concerns

From time to time during the course of an athletic career in our school, parents may have questions or concerns that need to be discussed. To appropriately address these questions or concerns we have established a protocol, or if you will, a chain of command to be followed to make sure we have everyone included in the communication loop as follows:

- Your Child
- Coach
- Athletic Director
- Superintendent of Schools
- Board of Education

Thank you in advance for adhering to this protocol.

Sportsmanship

Student-Athletes, Coaches, Parents, and Fans must recognize the importance of being a “Good Sport” when participating in or attending athletic contests. Remember to treat our visiting team members, students, and adult spectators as guests and we will expect the same when we visit other schools. Officials are the proper authorities to make decisions regarding rules. Their interpretations and decisions are to be accepted. Remember that an athletic contest is only a game and should be treated as such for the well being of players, coaches, school, official, fan or community. Please be a ...”Cadet Fan.”

Sports and the Athletic Program

Athletics are an integral part of a well-balanced education program. Therefore, the Board supports within its resources a broad sports program with equal access for both males and females, with emphasis on maximum participation, through interscholastic and intramural activity.

The interscholastic athletic program shall conform to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education as well as the established rules of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association and the State Education Department.

Eligibility for interscholastic athletic competition requires that students:

- Provide written parental/guardian consent;
- Pass satisfactorily the medical examination administered by the school physician; and
- Meet the requirements for interscholastic competition as set forth by the Commissioner’s Regulations and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

Student Athletic Injuries

No student-athlete should be allowed to practice or play in an athletic contest if he/she is suffering from an injury. The diagnosis of and prescription of treatment for injuries is strictly a medical matter and should under no circumstances be considered within the province of the coach. A coach’s responsibility is to see that injured players are given prompt and competent medical attention, and that all details of the athletic trainer’s or physician’s instructions concerning the student’s functioning as a team member are carried out.

No student-athlete will be allowed to practice or compete if there is a question whether he/she is in adequate physical condition.

A physician’s certificate may be required before a student-athlete is permitted to return to practice or competition.

Safety

The District will take reasonable steps to see that physical risks to student-athletes participating in interscholastic athletic programs shall be kept at a minimum by:

- Requiring medical examinations of participants.
- Obtaining appropriately certified and/or licensed officials to coach all varsity, junior varsity, and modified games.
- Ensuring that equipment is both safe and operative within approved guidelines.

Supervision

Student-athletes must be supervised by the coach in charge of the sport. Coaches are responsible for:

- Supervision of the locker room.
- Supervision of student-athletes at the end of practice. This may entail bus duty, or making sure student-athletes have transportation home.

Athletic Placement Process

The Athletic Placement Process is a process for screening student-athletes to determine their readiness to compete at a higher level in interscholastic athletic competition than their current grade level. **The intent of this program is to permit the truly accelerated student-athletes the opportunity to participate safely at an appropriate level of competition based upon readiness rather than age and grade.** This program has been designed to assess a student-athlete's physical maturation, physical fitness, and skill, so the student-athlete may be placed at a level of competition which should result in increased opportunity, a fairer competitive environment, and greater personal satisfaction. Also taken into consideration is the socio-emotional maturity of each student-athlete.

The Varsity Coach of each sport recommends to the Athletic Director those student-athletes who should be considered for this process.

Requests directly from parents or student-athletes will not be honored.

Transfer Rule

As part of Section V, it needs to be very clear we intend to strictly follow the NYSPHSAA's Transfer Rule and the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, 135.4 as it pertains to all transfer requests.

Athletic Eligibility Policy For Extra-Curricular Activities

Purpose

The faculty, staff, administrators, and the Board of Education of the Hilton Central School District believe that extracurricular involvement is an integral part of a student's total educational program, as it forms a connection between the student and the school community and nurtures each student's special interests and abilities. However, the commitment required for participation in many activities could, in some cases, prove detrimental to the academic goals and achievements of some students. Therefore, an academic eligibility policy has been developed to ensure students' academic success in order to participate in extracurricular activities.

Activities Involved

Extracurricular Participation is defined as involvement in any non-credit bearing, school sponsored organization or activity that occurs over a period of time. This policy does not include one-time activities such as dances, proms, balls, and banquets. These activities will be addressed in the student handbook. A student may try-out for an activity at any-time however, he/she must follow the policy as it applies after the try-out period.

Initial Eligibility

Any student who has failed one or more classes at the latest interim or marking period (progress report or report card), whichever occurred immediately prior to the activity is on probation or ineligible to participate. **For the purposes of determining eligibility for fall, the final grades from the previous year will be used. Any passing grades obtained in summer school will supersede final grades from June.** Student athletes who have been declared academically ineligible shall have the right to appeal for extenuating circumstances to the Director of Athletics. An appeal will be heard as quickly as possible upon the written request being initiated from the student. Students will be allowed only one (1) appeal during their school career, grades 7-12.

Definition of a **Probation** Student

1. If a student has failed **one** class during any five-week grading period he/she will be placed on **Probation**:
 - A student placed on **Probation** may continue to participate in all activities and will be monitored over a five-week period by means of an eligibility update form.
 - The student must follow the remediation plan to be eligible to participate in practices, meetings, performances or games.
2. A student will maintain eligibility if the five-week update indicates that he/she is no longer failing **one** class.
3. If the student is still failing **one** class at the end of **Probation** (five week period), he/she will become ineligible (remaining two weeks). The following will apply:
 - A student declared **Ineligible** may still practice or attend meetings, but is **not** permitted to participate in games or performances. The student must follow the remediation plan to participate in the practices or meetings.
 - Students will remain **Ineligible** until the next marking period or interim progress report period.

Definition of an **Ineligible** Student

1. *If a student has failed **two** classes during any five-week grading period he/she will become **Ineligible**:*
 - A student declared **Ineligible** may still practice and attend meetings with his/her team but is **not** permitted to participate in games or performances during the next three weeks of the eligibility calendar.
 - The student must follow the remediation plan to be eligible to participate in practices, meetings, performances or games.
 - A student will regain his/her eligibility if the three-week update indicates that he/she is no longer failing **one** class.
 - If the student is still failing **one** class at the end of his/her **ineligibility** (three week period), he/she will be placed on **Probation**, (following the guidelines stated above) for the remaining two weeks.

Definition of an **Ineligible** Student

1. If a student has failed **three** classes during any five-week grading period he/she will become **Ineligible**:

- A student declared **Ineligible with three failures** may **not** practice and/or attend meetings with his/her team and is **not** permitted to participate in games or performances during the next three weeks of the eligibility calendar.
- The student must follow the remediation plan to help regain his/her eligibility.
- A student will regain his/her eligibility if the three-week update indicates that he/she is no longer failing **one** class.
- If the student is still failing **one** class at the end of his/her **ineligibility** (three week period), they will then be placed on **Probation**, (following the guidelines stated above) for the remaining two weeks.

Interscholastic Sport's Rules

Participation in Interscholastic Sports is a privilege and carries with it responsibilities to our school, teams, student body and community. The Interscholastic Sport's Rules covers two very specific areas: Training Rules and Citizenship/Sportsmanship Rules.

The Student Athlete's conduct both in and out of season can result in either positive or negative consequences. The consequences for violation of either the Training Rules or Citizenship/Sportsmanship Rules will apply on a career basis beginning in the seventh grade.

Training Rules

The use of tobacco (smoking and chewing), alcohol and illegal drugs are detrimental to one's health and physical condition. The Board of Education and Hilton Central Schools do not condone the use of these substances and upholds the Interscholastic Sports Training Rules.

Citizenship/Sportsmanship

Student-athletes are expected to live by the laws of our country, state, county, and town. Rules and policies of our school district and the athletic department are also expected to be followed at all times. Further, our student-athletes are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship during all contests and practices.

Application of Rule Violations

Violations have been broken down into three categories: first category is *Training Rules and Citizenship/Sportsmanship Rule Violations*; the second is *Alcohol & Tobacco Use/Abuse Action* and the third is *Other Major Violations*. For each of these categories is description of the levels of consequences. These levels are determined by the seriousness of the violation and by the number of offenses for a particular student-athlete.

Category 1 - Training Rules and Citizenship/Sportsmanship Rule Violations

This category includes but is not limited to the following violations:

- **Cheating**
- **Fighting**
- **Forgery**
- **Harassing/Bullying**
- **Excessive Truancy**
- **Unsportsmanlike Behavior**
- **Vandalism**
- **Hazing**
- **Theft**
- **Inappropriate use of technology/media**
- **Indecent exposure**

Category 2 – Alcohol & Tobacco Use/Abuse Action

This category includes but is not limited to the following violations:

- **Use/possession of Alcohol**
- **Use/possession of Anabolic Steroids**
- **Use/possession of Tobacco (smoking or chewing)**
- **Use/possession of Illegal Drugs**

The Athletic Director reserves the right to evaluate the severity and consequences of any issue involving a member of an activity, club, organization, or team at any time.

Consequences: The following are the consequences for a Category 1 or 2 violation:

1st offense: A minimum of 10% of next contests, not to exceed 20% of contests. Student may practice with the team, but may not dress for suspended contests.

2nd offense: A minimum of 20% of next contests, not to exceed 40% of contests. Student may not practice with the team for 5 days and may not dress for or participate in contests.

3rd offense: Student-Athlete may be suspended from participation in Interscholastic Sports for a period of time from **60** days up to 1 calendar year. However, student may not practice with the team, or dress for or participate in contests.

Category 3 - Other Major Violations

This category includes but is not limited to the following violations:

- **Sexual assault**
- **Assault**
- **Endangering**
- **Being convicted of a misdemeanor and/or felony**
- **Organizing or hosting gatherings where drinking or the use of illegal drugs takes place**
- **Possession of a dangerous or concealed weapon**
- **Selling, distributing or providing alcohol or illegal drug**

The Athletic Director reserves the right to evaluate the severity and consequences of any issue involving a member of an activity, club, organization, or team at any time.

Consequences: The following are the consequences for a Category 3 violation:

1st offense: Student-Athlete will be suspended from participation in interscholastic sports for a period no less than 30 days and up to 1 calendar year and a minimum of 40% of next contests. Student may not practice with the team, or dress for or participate in contests.

2nd offense: Student-Athlete will be suspended from participation in interscholastic sports for 1 calendar year. Student may not practice with the team, or dress for or participate in contests.

3rd offense: Student-Athlete will be suspended from participation from interscholastic sports for the remainder of High School career.

Procedures

Upon receiving a report of an Interscholastic Sports Rule violation, the following procedures will be followed:

- Validation of Report
- Discussion with student-athlete
- Determination of Consequences
- Notification of Parents

Definitions/Interpretations (Consequence Timelines)

In-Season

If a student athlete is In-Season, the consequence timeline begins immediately. If the duration of the consequence goes beyond the end of the current season, it will carry over into the next season that they participate. The beginning date for calculating this carry-over would be the official practice start date of that particular season.

Out-of-Season

If a student athlete is Out-of-Season, the consequence timeline begins in the next season **in which the student-athlete participated**. The beginning date for calculating this carry-over would be the official practice start date of that particular season. There can be an alternative consequence for incidences that occur outside of the student's participation within the sport or activity. Students may have an option of the consequences stated or be given alternative hours based on the educational options below. There will be a certain amount of mandated hours that need to be completed before the next season the student athlete participates.

Category 1 and 2 violation:

1. 1st offense- 8 - 16 hours
2. 2nd offense- 16 - 36 hours
3. 3rd offense- No alternative

Category 3 violation:

1. 1st offense- 48 hours
2. 2nd offense- No alternative
3. 3rd offense- No alternative

Educational Component

As part of an educational component of the consequence phase, Student-Athletes **MUST** enroll in a program to assist them in dealing with any of the issues that led to the violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct if applicable. This educational component may include the following:

- **Substance Abuse Program**
- **Smoking Cessation Program**
- **Anger Management**
- **Community Service**
- **In-School Service**
- **Other Intervention Services as needed**

Appeal Process

Should there be a need for an appeal, an Athletic Hearing Committee, comprised of the Athletic Director, a Varsity Coach, Building Administration, and a Counselor will be convened to hear the appeal.

Student Responsibilities

- **Class Attendance** – Every student-athlete must attend classes regularly and on time. Student-athletes will be governed by any and all policies regarding medical and academic eligibility that are in place in the district as approved by the Board of Education.
- **Team Practices and Games** – All team members are expected to attend all practices and games unless excused by the coach. To be excused, the student-athlete must be in direct contact with the coach prior to the practice or game from which the athlete wishes to be excused. Team members will not be excused from athletic contests or practices for work-related reasons. Parents and student-athletes are required not to schedule non-emergency appointments during practice and game time. Unexcused absences will result in disciplinary action by the coach.
- **Absences and suspensions** – All student-athletes must be in attendance by **9:00 a.m.** on the day of practice or contest unless otherwise legally excused. If a student is in In-School Suspension or Out-of-School Suspension, he/she will not participate in that day's practice and/or contest.
- **Squad Morale** – Any student-athlete whose attitude, in the opinion of the coach and the Athletic Director, has an adverse effect on the squad morale may be dismissed from the team.
- **Dismissal After Athletic Contests** – Each team members is expected to stay until the end of the contest. Dismissal will be made by the coach.
- **Transportation** – Buses are provided for all away contests. Student-athletes are expected to ride the buses to and from away contests unless there is an extenuating circumstance. In that case, alternate means of transportation must be requested in writing and approved by their coach.
- **Care of Equipment** – All student-athletes are responsible for equipment issued to them and will be subject to replacement costs of any equipment that has been assigned to them and lost or damaged.

Athletic Trainer

The Athletic Trainer holds a bachelor's degree and possesses a valid certificate from the national Athletic Trainer's Association. Further, the trainer is certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and standard first aid.

The Athletic Trainer may apply the principles, methods and procedures for managing athletic injuries, which shall include the preconditioning, condition and reconditioning of an individual who has suffered an athletic injury through the use of appropriate preventive and supportive devices, under the supervision of a physician. Athletic training includes instruction to coaches, athletes, parents, medical personnel and communities in the area of care and prevention of athletic injuries.

Duties and Responsibilities

Deliverer of Emergency Care

- Provides initial evaluation of athletic injuries and gives initial first aid as appropriate, contact parent or guardian and establishes necessity to refer the athlete to other medical personnel.
- In collaboration with other health services personnel, established emergency action procedures.

Manager of Health Care Pertaining to Athletic Injuries/Illness

- Athletic Trainer assists school health personnel in providing appropriate follow-up procedures for injured student-athletes who may require medical care.
- Maintains records on student-athlete participation-related injury and illness data, and cooperates with school nursing personnel in the sharing of data.
- After consultation with the training physician and in collaboration with school health personnel, assists in the development of a plan to restore an injured student to full participation status, supervises exercises necessary to attain that status, evaluates the effectiveness of the plan and reports progress to teachers, coaches and health care professionals.
- In collaboration with the school health personnel and the training physician, gather necessary medical clearance as required under school policy.
- Advises students in the proper use of braces, taping and other devices used to prevent re-injury or future injury.
- Supervises the strength and conditioning programs for injured student-athletes who have approval to resume workouts.
- Instructs the student's family on procedures that can be implemented in the home to prevent injury or prepare the student-athlete to return to full participation.
- Provides instructions in strength and conditioning programs both during the season and during the off-season to maximize the readiness of our student-athletes and to minimize the likelihood of athletic injuries.