HUNTINGTON ATHLETICS

MISSION STATEMENT

The ultimate goal of this program is to provide all possible avenues for the student athlete to achieve a well-rounded athletic and academic experience. We will also strive to provide wholesome activities and opportunities for students to develop favorable habits and attitudes that will help them to succeed in life.

The program should, at all times, conform to the rules and guidelines set forth by the administration of the Huntington Independent School District and the University Interscholastic League (UIL). At no time should the athletic program be given more emphasis than the total education curriculum. The program should function as a part of the whole curriculum and should strive for the development of well-rounded individuals capable of taking his/her place in society.

The purpose of the athletic program is:

To provide opportunities for the student athlete to cope with problems and be placed in situations similar to that he/she may face upon graduation from high school. The program should provide opportunities for:

A) Physical, mental, and emotional growth

B) Development of life-long skills

C) Development of the "TEAM" concept, with emphasis on loyalty, fair play, and cooperation

D) Directed leadership and supervision that stresses self-discipline, self-motivation, and competing with "class", which includes winning and losing with dignity

E) Attaining knowledge of skills that will provide the basis for life-long leisure activities

F) Participation by highly skilled athlete, which could provide outlets for future athletic endeavors (i.e. college/professional)

Athletics in our society provides one of the finest ways for young people to develop into responsible, caring, and competitive men and women. The program should, however, assume rightful place in the whole educational experience. This can continue to be accomplished with an enthusiastic, aggressive, and caring coaching staff.

STUDENT ATHLETE POLICIES

ACADEMICS Athletes are expected to work to their greatest potential in the classroom. Athletes failing classes may be required to attend mandatory tutorials, may be assigned additional physical training, and may be suspended from participation. Athletes that continue to fail over several grading periods may be removed from the program.

APPEARANCE To attain a good TEAM appearance, look sharp. Give an appearance of class. No extremes in hairstyles or dress. No jewelry may be worn during any athletic competition or practice. Head coaches will assign dress and travel policies for their sports.

ATTENDANCE Promptness and attendance are expected at all times for all athletic competitions, practices, and athletic periods. All absences must be approved by the Head Coach prior to the absence. If you are going to be absent, call and get the absence excused. Excused absences will still require make-up work. Unexcused absences will be handled as a disciplinary action and may include suspensions and/or removal from athletes.

CONDUCT Composure during the course of a competition is critical. We expect you to conduct yourself with class at all times. This means you are to follow all rules of our school and community. You are expected to act properly in class, giving all adults full courtesy and respect. Failure to adhere to our expectations will result in a conference and additional physical training and/or possible dismissal from the program.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

Use of illegal drugs by students will not be permitted. If the school is notified of any such charges upon a student involved in the athletic program, the student will receive the usual student punishment as stated in the Huntington High School Code of Conduct, and, upon return to the regular classroom setting, begin the following additional physical training described below:

AEP PLACEMENT (school offense/non-school offense):

Student is placed in AEP for a time to be determined by the Administration, according to the Huntington Student Code of Conduct. Upon return to the regular school setting, the athletic program consequences will begin, in accordance with the following plan.

In cases in which school officials have been notified by proper authorities of a ticketed offense outside the school setting by an athlete, the Athletic program consequences will begin immediately

following a meeting between the athlete, parent(s), athletic director, and head coach.

1st Offense:

15 miles of school supervised running, which must be completed over a (maximum) 5 school day period (3 miles per day). The athlete will receive a suspension from inter-school competition until this conditioning has been completed and the athletic director has given approval of full return to normal activities. This conditioning assignment is to take place before or after the normal team practice, not during.

2nd Offense:

Appropriate drug/alcohol counseling must be initiated before athlete begins conditioning assignment. 30 miles of school supervised running, which must be completed over a (maximum) 10 school day period (3 miles per day). The athlete will receive a suspension from inter-school competition until this conditioning has been completed and the athletic director has given approval of full return to normal activities. This conditioning assignment is to take place before or after the normal team practice, not during.

3rd Offense:

Removal from all athletic participation.

*The Athletic Council (Athletic Directors, Principal, and Head Coaches) reserves the right to rule on each situation on a case by case basis. Severe infractions may lead to immediate dismissal.

SAC PLACEMENT (school offense):

Student is placed in SAC for a time to be determined by the Administration, according to the Huntington Student Code of Conduct. Upon return to the regular school setting, the athletic program consequences will begin, in accordance with the following plan:

1st Offense:

The athlete will receive physical training for the number of days of the SAC assignments. (i.e. 3 day SAC assignment results in 3 days of physical training) The athlete will receive a suspension from inter-school competition until this conditioning has been completed and the athletic director

has given approval of full return to normal activities. This conditioning assignment is to take place before or after the normal team practice, not during.

2nd Offense:

The athlete will receive physical training for double the number of days of the SAC assignments. (i.e. 3 day SAC assignment results in 6 days of physical training). The athlete will receive a suspension from inter-school competition until this conditioning has been completed and the athletic director has given approval of full return to normal activities. This conditioning assignment is to take place before or after the normal team practice, not during.

3rd Offense:

Possible suspension and/or removal from all athletic participation, based on a meeting by the Athletic Counsel.

PROFANITY

Use of profanity is not allowed. All offenses will result in disciplinary action.

STEALING

Taking things that do not or are not assigned to you will not be tolerated. An athlete caught stealing may be dismissed from the team.

TOBACCO USE

No tobacco use of any form will be permitted. Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION In the event an athlete violates athletic policies, the disciplinary action will include one or more of the following: extra physical training, suspension, and/or dismissal from the team.

DRESS Should be very professional in or out of uniform. Everyone will wear the uniform and equipment in the same manner. We ARE A TEAM! Take care of your gear or equipment. Do not wear jewelry in practice or during competition. Your appearance away from the athletic setting, especially at school, should reflect the same class and pride that you show in our program. Head coaches will each have a dress policy for their assigned sports.

EQUIPMENT/FACILITIES You are to keep your equipment within your locker as directed by your coach. Your locker should be kept locked at all times. The coaching staff will not be responsible for items lost or stolen. You

are to clean your equipment as needed and directed. Gear or school issued equipment is to be used for school purposes **only**, not to be worn or used outside of the school setting. All equipment or gear must be turned in and checked off before the athlete is released to the next sport. Lost or misplaced items assigned to you by the athletic department must be paid for before an athlete is released to the next sport.

INJURY/ILLNESS If you are injured or ill, we expect for the athlete to dress out and accompany your teammates in practice. All injuries need to be reported and coordinated through our athletic trainer. All athletes that are held out due to an injury or illness by a trainer or doctor, must have doctor release to re-enter participation.

NOT FINISHING A SPORT Any athlete that quits or is removed from a sport, may not be permitted to work out or compete with another sport until the immediate season has completed. Athletes that are cut from a sport may be allowed to move to the next sport. In the event that an athlete wants to try a new sport and decides early in the season that they don't like it, the athlete may be granted permission to be released to the next sport only if both head coaches and the athletic director are all in agreement.

RESPECT FOR ADULTS Adults should receive "Yes Sir"/"Yes Ma'am" and "No sir"/"No Ma'am" responses from athletes. Whenever an adult is speaking to you, either individually, or as a group, you will give them your undivided attention and always establish eye contact.

ATHLETIC PERIOD Boys (5th period):
All athletes that play football, basketball or baseball are required to enroll in the athletic period. Cross country, golf, tennis, track and powerlifting only athletes will **not** be enrolled in the athletic period and will practice after-school. Case by case situations may be reviewed by the Athletic Council.

Girls (8th period):
All athletes that play volleyball, basketball or softball are required to enroll in the athletic period. Cross country, golf, tennis, track and powerlifting only athletes will **not** be enrolled in the athletic period and will practice after-school. Female track athletes may be enrolled in the athletic period during Semester 2 if approved by the Athletic Council. Case by case situations may be reviewed by the Athletic Council.

LETTERING POLICIES Each athlete is allowed one jacket during his/her high school career.

Lettering Requirements:

Good standing may include, but not limited to: academic eligibility, good attendance rate, good attitude, discipline record, etc.

FOOTBALL

A. Complete the season as a squad member in good standing; and
B. Be a member of the varsity squad and play in at least 6 games.
C. Injured players may be awarded a varsity letter if it is apparent to the coach that they would have earned it not for the injury.
D. Seniors that have not previously lettered may earn a letter by completing at least two years.

BASKETBALL (BOYS & GIRLS)

A. Complete the season as squad member in good standing; and
B. Be a member of the varsity squad and play in at least 50% of the games.
C. Injured players may be awarded a varsity letter if it is apparent to the coach that they would have earned it not for the injury.
D. Seniors that have not previously lettered may earn a letter by completing at least two years.

VOLLEYBALL

A. Complete the season as squad member in good standing; and
B. Be a member of the varsity squad and play in at least 50% of the games.
C. Injured players may be awarded a varsity letter if it is apparent to the coach that they would have earned it not for the injury.
D. Seniors that have not previously lettered may earn a letter by completing at least two years.

CROSS COUNTRY (BOYS & GIRLS)

A. Complete the season as squad member in good standing; and
B. Place in the top 15 at the district meet or qualify for the regional meet, or
C. Place in the top 25 in half of the regular season meets
D. Injured players may be awarded a varsity letter if it is apparent to the coach that they would have earned it not for the injury.
E. Seniors that have not previously lettered may earn a letter by completing at least two years.

TRACK (BOYS & GIRLS)

A. Complete the season as squad member in good standing; and
B. Earn a total of 8 points in meets during the season – 1 point will be given for each varsity meet the athlete competed in, whether he/she scores a point or not, or
C. Score a point in the district meet.

D. Injured players may be awarded a varsity letter if it is apparent to the coach that they would have earned it not for the injury.
E. Seniors that have not previously lettered may earn a letter by completing at least two years.

TENNIS (BOYS & GIRLS)

A. Complete the season as squad member in good standing; and
B. Win a match in the District tournament.
C. Injured players may be awarded a varsity letter if it is apparent to the coach that they would have earned it not for the injury.
D. Seniors that have not previously lettered may earn a letter by completing at least two years.

GOLF (BOYS & GIRLS)

A. Complete the season as squad member in good standing; and
B. Earn as many points as there are varsity tournaments – 1 point for playing in tournament and 1 point for earning an individual or team medal; or
C. Qualify for regional tournament.
D. Injured players may be awarded a varsity letter if it is apparent to the coach that they would have earned it not for the injury.
E. Seniors that have not previously lettered may earn a letter by completing at least two years.

BASEBALL

A. Complete the season as squad member in good standing; and
B. Be a member of the varsity squad and play in at least 50% of the games.
C. Injured players may be awarded a varsity letter if it is apparent to the coach that they would have earned it not for the injury.
D. Seniors that have not previously lettered may earn a letter by completing at least two years.

SOFTBALL

A. Complete the season as squad member in good standing; and
B. Be a member of the varsity squad and play in at least 50% of the games.
C. Injured players may be awarded a varsity letter if it is apparent to the coach that they would have earned it not for the injury.
D. Seniors that have not previously lettered may earn a letter by completing at least two years.

POWERLIFTING

A. Complete the season as squad member in good standing; and
B. Earn as many points as there are varsity meets – 1 point for competing in meet and 1 point for earning an individual or team medal; or
C. Qualify for regional tournament.

D. Injured players may be awarded a varsity letter if it is apparent to the coach that they would have earned it not for the injury.
E. Seniors that have not previously lettered may earn a letter by completing at least two years.

STUDENT TRAINER OR MANAGER

A. Complete the season as squad member in good standing; and
B. Work varsity sports for 2 consecutive years.

STRENGTH & CONDITIONING Conditioning is the period of time during the school calendar year when athletes from any sport are not competing against other schools in a UIL sanctioned event in their chosen sport. It is the philosophy of the Huntington Athletic Department that all athletes will participate in strength and conditioning activities at least three days a week. An athlete who participates in only one sport will be required to participate in that sport's conditioning program. Players who participate in two or more sports will participate in their non-spring sport conditioning program during the athletic period. All sports will be required to lift weights at least three days in the off-season and two days during in-season sports. Head coaches should work under the direction and approval of the athletic director in regards to shared off-season athletes, so that the athlete fulfills the strength and conditioning requirements and gets skill improvement from both sports. ***Conditioning activities will be in compliance with UIL guidelines in regards to game day activities, thus no athlete at any level will be required to lift weights on a competition day.***

HUNTINGTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HUNTINGTON ATHLETICS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ATHLETIC HANDBOOK POLICIES

I have read and clearly understand the requirements and guidelines of this athletic handbook. I understand that athletics is a privilege and not a required part of the curriculum, and that by signing this acknowledgement and joining the athletic program, I will be held to a higher standard. I understand that any breach of this handbook or policy, may result in disciplinary actions and/or permanent removal from athletics.

Student/Athlete Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____