

# The pages below are taken directly from the 2017-2018 Homestead High School Handbook.

TO SEE THE COMPLETE HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK, [PLEASE CLICK HERE.](#)

## EXTRACURRICULAR/CO-CURRICULAR INFORMATION

Homestead High School offers a variety of extracurricular and co-curricular activities, including athletics, speech, drama, publications, choral, and instrumental music, as well as several others. Descriptions of many of these activities are included in the Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities sections of this handbook.

The staff of Homestead High School subscribes to the philosophy that most students will benefit from participation in at least one school activity. Co-curricular activities are ones which are related to classes, such as working on the newspaper or yearbook staff, or participating in band or choir, while other activities are not related to classes, such as athletics, speech or drama. Information about participation in these activities is available from the coach, teacher, sponsor (listed in this handbook) or from the counselors. Activities provide many learning experiences, which are enjoyable and help students become a part of Homestead.

FOR A LIST OF COACHES PLEASE GO TO: [www.sacs.k12.in.us](http://www.sacs.k12.in.us) Athletics -Sports

Homestead High School offers a variety of athletic activities to students interested in sports participation. For the students' convenience, a chart of interscholastic sports open to both boys and girls is listed below by season.

	<u>BOYS' ATHLETICS</u>	<u>GIRLS' ATHLETICS</u>
FALL	Cross Country (V and JV) Football (V, JV and F) Tennis (V and JV) Soccer (V and JV) Cheerleading (V, JV and F)	Cross Country (V and JV) Golf (V and JV) Soccer (V and JV) Volleyball (V, JV, and F)
WINTER	Basketball (V, JV and F) Wrestling (V and JV) Swim & Dive (V, JV) Cheerleading (V, JV and F)	Basketball (V, JV, and F) Gymnastics (V and JV) Swim & Dive (V and JV)
SPRING	Baseball (V, JV, and F) Golf (V and JV) Track & Field (V and JV)	Tennis (V and JV) Track & Field (V and JV) Softball (V and JV)

## GENERAL POLICIES AND INFORMATION FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The principal of Homestead High School is the authorized representative of the I.H.S.A.A. and is responsible to the I.H.S.A.A. for the conduct of the athletic program.

The Athletic Director shall act as the manager of the teams representing the school.

Coaches and assistant coaches shall be appointed for all sports in accordance with the policies established by Southwest Allen County Schools, and all coaches shall be accountable for the conduct of their athletes while they are official representatives of Homestead High School.

The Homestead High School Athletic Council shall assist in the formulation and enforcement of athletic policy, in the approval and in the removal of awards.

1. The Athletic Council shall consist of the principal, the athletic director, the head coaches in each of the sports sponsored by Homestead High School and two other faculty members (appointed by the principal), and a parent representative from the Athletic Boosters.

### **ATHLETIC AWARDS**

The purpose and objectives of Homestead's athletic program are directed to help prepare boys and girls for later life by stressing good sportsmanship, clean living, the will to win, fair play, and all things conducive to developing strong character.

#### **• GENERAL POLICIES**

1. At the beginning of each sport season (fall, winter, spring) there will be a mandatory meeting for all athletes and their parents/guardians. General school policies and the extracurricular discipline policy will be discussed along with specific rules and expectations of all coaches.
2. The criteria listed for each sport are guidelines to help the coach decide which award is appropriate for each athlete. If all the criteria have or have not been met, the coach may use his/her discretion in recommending an athletic award.
3. The Athletic Council reserves the right to remove students from the award eligibility list for reasons of unsportsmanlike conduct, poor citizenship, discipline reasons, failure to remain eligible scholastically, or failure to cooperate with other parts of the athletic program or other school policies.
4. All awards given must meet the rules and regulations set forth by the Indiana High School Athletic Association.
5. Awards are to be worn only by those who earned them.
6. If players quit a team, the players forfeit all rights to an award.
7. If students do not return all school owned equipment, the students forfeit all rights to an award.
8. Students who are dropped from the squad forfeit all rights to an award in this sport.
9. Students who become ineligible because of failing grades forfeit their rights to an award.
10. When athletes are injured during sport, the athletes will be given an award based on their status at the time of the injury or on the recommendation of the coach.
11. Athletes participating for four years in one sport may earn a varsity letter in that sport upon the recommendation of their coach.
12. If students transfer into SACS from a different school corporation, the students will be given credit for athletic awards earned at another high school, if offered at Homestead High School.

#### **• FRESHMEN NUMERALS**

All freshmen that complete a full season on our athletic teams will be awarded a chenille numeral, gold on a gold background, (with their anticipated graduation date). Freshmen may win a varsity award or a junior varsity award if they have reached a high degree of excellence and meet the requirements to qualify.

#### **• RESERVE AWARDS**

A certificate will be given to players who participated on the Junior Varsity of Reserve teams.

#### **• VARSITY AWARDS/JACKET**

All Homestead athletes, after earning their first varsity award, will be awarded a 6" "H" which entitles them to purchase an honor jacket. After the first Varsity award a chevron will be given to indicate additional Varsity awards.

- **SPARTAN AWARD**

This is the ultimate athletic award that Homestead athletes can achieve. A blanket will be awarded to any senior athletes who have earned eight varsity awards.

Awards are given to student athletes who complete the season in good standing.

## **ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY**

HOMESTEAD FOLLOWS THE **IHSAA** BY-LAWS THAT REFER TO ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION. See [ihsaa.org](http://ihsaa.org) for details.

## **ATHLETIC EVENT TICKET PRICES**

Athletic tickets may be purchased:

Athletic Punch Card (10 Punches) \$40.00

Adult All Sports Pass \$75.00

Student All Sports Pass \$40.00

Family Pass \$180.00

The All Sports Ticket is good at all home varsity, reserve, and freshmen athletic contests.

I.H.S.A.A. and other tournaments - Homestead passes not valid.

## **ATTENDANCE**

1. Class attendance and attendance for practice should be excellent. Frequent absences could result in ineligibility and loss of position on a team.
2. It is the responsibility of the athletes to personally inform the coach in advance of an anticipated absence or tardiness.
3. Student athletes must attend a minimum of one-half of their scheduled day to be eligible for participation in an athletic contest or practice, on the day of the absence. (Exceptions must be approved by the principal and/or athletic director.) It is expected that students who leave school early due to illness, will remain home and not participate in practice or competition.

## **CONCUSSION**

Student athletes and parents of student athletes must sign and return to the athletic office acknowledgment that they have received information concerning the nature and risk of concussion and head injury. This must be done prior to any type of participation in the sport or activity. Students that participate in intramural sports must also fill out and return the concussion form to the discipline office. This form can be found on the Homestead Athletic website.

## **COLLEGE BOUND ATHLETES**

Bylaws of various athletic organizations affect all high school athletes' eligible for scholarships or those who plan to participate in activities. These bylaws vary from one level to another. Valuable information can be accessed through the following organizations and their web sites: National Collegiate Athletic Association [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org), National Association of Intercollegiate Athletes [www.naia.org](http://www.naia.org), National Christian College Athletic Association [www.thenccaa.org](http://www.thenccaa.org) National Junior College Athletic Association [www.njcaa.org](http://www.njcaa.org)

## **GRADE ELIGIBILITY**

All athletes must be passing with at least five academic credits each grading period in order to remain eligible for IHSAA-sanctioned contests (three of these courses must be taken on the HHS campus).

- Eligibility is established at the end of a grading period for the next marking period. Students who do not pass five credits at the end of the second semester are not eligible for fall sports unless they successfully complete and pass summer school (only if offered). These students should contact the Athletic Director and their counselor immediately.

- Grades are checked at the end of each grading period. If an athlete is not passing 5 credits at that time, he/she is ineligible until the next grading period.
- **Academic eligibility (and remaining academically eligible is the responsibility of the athlete/guardian**  
In order to remain academically eligible to compete in IHSAA athletics students must be passing 5 credits. By IHSAA rule an "I" (incomplete) is considered a failing grade when determining eligibility. The IHSAA requires all schools to determine a "certification" date within 10 schools days of the school's "end of grading period". Grade checks are made after 9 weeks and at the semester (listed on the SACS master calendar). Any student athlete, who has not passed 5 credits on this "certification" date, will be declared ineligible for one academic semester.

## **HAZING**

Student hazing means: any act directed toward a student, or any coercion or intimidation of a student, to act or to participate in, or submit to, any act, when:

- such an act is likely, or would be perceived by a reasonable person as likely, to cause physical or psychological injury to any person; and
- such an act is a condition of initiation into, or admission into, a team.

Any student-athlete found to be involved in hazing could be removed permanently from the team.

Hazing shall include, but not be limited to, the following examples:

- Physical hazing – that which is physically harmful to the individual
- Psychological hazing-that which: 1) compromises the personal dignity of an individual causing personal embarrassment or humiliation or shame; 2) causing the individual to be the object of malicious amusement or ridicule; 3) causing an individual psychological harm or emotional strain.

## **IHSAA**

For the most up-to-date information related to Indiana high school athletics visit the Indiana High School Athletic Association web site at [www.ihsaa.org](http://www.ihsaa.org)

## **NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE...visit [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) for more information**

If you are a high school student athlete, or the parent, coach or guardian of one that has college aspirations at either the NCAA Division I or II level, you have no choice but to register with the NCAA Clearinghouse. If you don't, you can't play at either of those levels.

The Clearinghouse controls all information related to initial academic eligibility of student athletes for NCAA Division I and II programs. They act as the central "clearinghouse" of information for all colleges to verify if the student athlete meets the minimum set academic standards of participation.

The NCAA Clearinghouse keeps track of which classes at each high school qualify as one of the core GPA classes (classes that count towards your GPA related to college athletic participation). They also record your SAT and ACT scores. College coaches have access to this data to verify your eligibility as a student athlete and your eligibility to take an official campus visit.

## **PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP**

We are pleased that your child has chosen to participate in the SACS athletic program. We will do all we can to provide a positive experience for your student athlete. To achieve this outcome, it is important that lines of communication are developed between the coach, parent, and athlete to allow for two-way communication and resolution of issues before they become conflicts. As a parent, you have the right to know what expectations are placed on your child. This is intended to clearly delineate all levels of communication so that parents, coaches, and athletes are aware of the steps they have available to aid in resolving issues.

### **Communication you should expect from your student-athlete's coach**

- Philosophy of the coach

- Expectations of the coach for your student athlete
- Locations and times of practices and contests
- Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, etc.
- Procedures should your student athlete be injured during competition
- Participant code of conduct and discipline that results in the denial of your student's participation
- Letter requirements
- Insurance information
- Disposition of lost/outstanding/damaged equipment

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

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach FIRST
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

As your student athlete becomes involved in the various SACS programs, he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of his/her life. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your student athlete wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach may be desirable to clear up the issue and avoid any misunderstanding.

#### **Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches**

- The mental or physical treatment of your student athlete
- Ways to help your student athlete improve
- Concerns about your student athlete's behavior

It may be difficult to accept that your student athlete is not playing as much as you would like. We expect our coaches to conduct themselves in a professional manner and make judgments based upon what they believe is in the best interest of all students involved.

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

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Matters concerning other student athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These meetings are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other person's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

To discuss an issue with a coach

- Request a meeting with the coach.

**\*\*NOTE:** This meeting should not be conducted immediately before or after a practice or contest, as these can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolutions and can even exacerbate the issue.

- If the request is not honored within a reasonable amount of time, call the SACS athletic director and he will set the appointment.

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

- Call and set up a meeting with the athletic director to discuss the situation.
- Utilize the meeting to determine an appropriate next step.
- If your problem is still unresolved, an appeal can be made to the high school principal (see the chain of command below).

Southwest Allen County Schools follow the chain of command listed below. We ask that you observe the following if you elect to pursue any concern you may have regarding the athletic program. This chain of command is consistent with the grievance procedure established in SACS Board Policy.

- Team/Assistant Coach (JV, C, 8, 7)(if applicable)
- Head Coach
- Athletic Director
- Building Principal
- Superintendent
- School Board

### **PARTICIPATION OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL ATHLETICS**

Students should have the opportunity to voluntarily engage in non-school sponsored sport activities provided such activities do not interfere with the student's educational development and the activities do not conflict with our programs. A reasonable request is that the student athlete not participate in "other" sports during his/her school season.

### **PERFORMANCE ENHANCING SUBSTANCES**

The use of performance enhancing drugs among all athletes at all levels has greatly increased in the past several years. The use of creatine and androstenedione has seen the greatest recent growth in usage. Both drugs claim to increase lean body tissue (muscle) and enhance recovery from exercise. There are a variety of companies producing these products in over-the-counter form. Studies on the potential long-term problems and health risks following use of these performance enhancers are very limited.

*The SACS athletic staff does not support or condone the use of any performance enhancing drugs.*

### **PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS**

Homestead High School's Athletic Program is designed to facilitate athletes' emotional social and physical development as an important part of the educational experience. Homestead's Athletic Department is committed to encouraging all athletes to strive to reach their potential in all aspects of their sport.

In areas measurable, and in those which defy objective analysis, the coaches will attempt to give the athlete the specific knowledge and skills necessary for "success."

**"Success is the peace of mind which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming."**

**- John R. Wooden**

Because all athletes at Homestead are representing the school and the community, the Athletic Department expects students to exhibit the very best in all areas of behavior, attitude, and self-discipline. In order for the program to be successful, there must be interaction of the school with the home and other institutions in the community. Athletes must represent themselves, their school, and their community in a positive fashion. Athletes must also be prepared physically to participate at their maximum physical potential. Therefore, training rules are essential. Athletes are to be good citizens and follow good training guidelines related to the use and/or possession of tobacco and illegal substances throughout the entire calendar year.

### **PICTURES**

A photographic studio is contracted to take team pictures. Times for these picture sessions will be arranged in cooperation with the head coach, athletic director, and the studio representative.

### **PRACTICES/GAMES/MEETS, ETC.**

All team members are expected to attend all practices. Practice schedules during school vacations are set by the coach and only the coach can excuse an athlete from practice. Practice during a school closing that is weather or mechanical related (snow, etc.) is often held and attendance at these practices are to be considered voluntary. Commitment to a team means that each participant will attend games and practices unless there is illness or family emergency.

## **PRIOR TO THE FIRST PRACTICE**

All athletes must have a signed IHSAA Pre-participation Physical Evaluation and Head Concussion Acknowledgement form on file in the athletic office to be eligible to participate in a practice.

## **QUITTING A TEAM OR CHANGING A SPORT**

Any athlete that quits a team during the season will not be permitted to go out for any other team of that sport season or any team preparing for an upcoming season (pre-season). If an athlete is cut from a team, he/she may join another team or program in that sport season. Any questions or extenuating circumstances will be handled by all coaches involved and the athletic office.

## **RELEASE FROM CLASS**

There are few times or reasons why a student-athlete should ever miss a class. State series practices, all-county/state dinners and rainouts are examples of excusable releases. Excused release from a class is handled through the athletic office.

## **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS**

Student-athletes, managers, and support group members must be residents of the Southwest Allen County School District. This means that the student must reside within the legally defined attendance areas of the school district and must conform with the existing legal settlement statutes as defined in Indiana Code 20-8, 1-6, 1-1.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Southwest Allen County Schools continue to address issues pertaining to sportsmanship as they relate to athletes, coaches and parents. A true athlete shows a positive combination of values and attitudes. Sportsmanship is an honorable quality. Good sportsmanship is an attitude which is courteous, fair, and respectful. It is a blending of cheers for the "home team" and applause for the "visitors," observing the letter and spirit of the rules, and showing consideration for opponents. It is playing by the code of conduct, "treat other participants and spectators as you would want to be treated."

Fundamentals of Sportsmanship:

- (1) Show respect for the opponent at all times.
- (2) Show respect for the officials.
- (3) Know, understand, and appreciate the rules of the contest.
- (4) Maintain self-control.
- (5) Recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of affiliation.

The lessons of good sportsmanship--playing the game hard but fair, winning humbly, losing gracefully, developing respect for discipline and authority, playing and living by the spirit as well as the words of the rules--are not confined to those who play the game. EVERYONE should see the full impact and potential of athletics as an educational experience. This is a goal that we must pursue.

## **SUPPORT GROUP MEMBERS**

All managers, cheerleaders, mat maids, or other supporting group members of an athletic team are subject to the same rules of conduct and scholastic eligibility as the team.

## **SUSPENSIONS**

Suspension (in-school or out-of-school), as a minimum, makes a student-athlete ineligible for competition and practice for the duration of the due process proceedings.

Homestead students who are placed on "formal" probation, and/or are placed on an electronic monitoring device/equipment through the judicial system, will be ineligible for extracurricular activities through the duration of his/her assigned probation period.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Athletic Trips: All student athletes will conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen.

- Athletes will keep their voices down and all radios turned down to a low volume.

- All students should remain in their seats at all times.
- Our transportation policy allows no eating on the bus.
- Athletes are expected to ride the bus to and from away contests. A written note is required from the parent to take only their child.
- All transportation fees must be paid prior to the first competition date.
- Littering the street is a \$500 fine. Do not throw anything from the windows.

### **\$30.00 Transportation Fee**

Due to the cost of transportation to the school district and the reduced funding by our state governing body...

Each team member of competing or performing groups (including but not limited to athletic teams, clubs, the arts, instrumental and vocal music, dance teams, etc.) may be assessed a fee of \$30, which will assist in covering the cost of travel. This fee will not cover the total cost of transportation, but will help defer the cost of transporting students to and from events, competitions, and performances.

Once each coach, director, or instructor has established his/her group roster, a collection of this fee will occur. The \$30.00 fee will be due before a member of the team/club/group may participate. Accommodations will be made for those receiving assistance for free or reduced lunch and book fees.

### **UNIFORMS**

The athlete is responsible for care and return of equipment. Uniforms should be washed after each competition. Always use cold water when washing any school uniform and be extremely careful with the heat of the dryers. If necessary, hang dry the uniforms. At the end of the season, make sure your uniforms are clean before turning them into your coach. Uniforms that are not returned will cause awards to be held. The athlete will be responsible for the replacement cost of lost uniform.