HORIZON HONORS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2026-2027
Grades 5-6
Athletic Handbook

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Philosophy, Goals & Objectives……..... 3

Athletic Opportunities…….…… 4

2025-2026 Important Dates 4

Athletic Eligibility 5

Participation Forms 7

Try-Outs 9

Practices 9

Games/Competitions 10

Transportation 11

Supporting Coaches 11

Volunteers 12

Media & Team Publicity 12

Use of Horizon Honors Logo 12

End of Season Awards 12

PHILOSOPHY, GOALS, & OBJECTIVES

The athletics program at Horizon Honors is an integral part of the total educational experience for students. The individual sport programs, policies, procedures, and coaches provide the framework for an environment in which students are expected to work hard and develop both character and athletic skills.

Our Horizon Honors Athletics philosophy is that we are first committed to having our students exhibit good citizenship and character traits that follow the Horizon Honor's values. Next, we require that our students are academically eligible at all times. Finally, we believe that commitment and hard work will result in being prepared to compete in athletic events.
The goals and objectives of the athletics program are to develop:

- A sense of responsibility and accountability to fulfill the requirements of a given sport, team, and coaches.
- A sense of loyalty, team play, cooperation, and sportsmanship.
- Respect for the efforts, abilities, and rights of all team members, opponents, and coaches.
- The awareness of leadership responsibilities in school and the community, as well as on the athletic field or court.
- Active participation by all members of a team in the effort to improve the team.
- An awareness of progressive skill requirements is needed to continue to improve in a specific sport or activity.
- Awareness that hard work and commitment are always the starting point for improvement.

Horizon Honors standards and procedures are oriented toward our athletics philosophy, goals, and objectives. When unique situations occur that are not specifically covered in the Athletics Handbook, the Athletics Department reserves final judgment. We do not accept that, just because something is not "written down," there is an excuse to behave in an irresponsible manner. We require that Horizon Honors Students be responsible and accountable for knowing what is expected of them. The Athletics Department also reserves the final interpretation of all information in this handbook.

ATHLETICS OPPORTUNITIES

Fall:	**Winter:**	**Spring:**
Girls Volleyball	Boys Baseball	Girls Basketball
	Girl's Softball	Boys Basketball
	Co-ed Soccer	
	Co-ed Cross Country	

2026-2027 IMPORTANT DATES

Fall Sports: Paperwork Due August 12th, 2026. Tryouts begin August 17th, 2026.

Winter Sports: Paperwork Due November 4th, 2026. Tryouts begin November 9th, 2026.

Spring Sports: Paperwork Due February 10th, 2027. Tryouts begin February 16th, 2027.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

At Horizon Honors, evaluation for eligibility is an ongoing process that takes place before, during, and after every sports season. A student must obtain and maintain eligibility that considers conduct, academics, wellness, and sportsmanship. All of these factors are considered when evaluating eligibility status, and that evaluation process lasts the entire year.

- **Appropriate Conduct** must be maintained in order to acquire and maintain athletic eligibility, and any student who exhibits chronic or serious behavior problems will be declared ineligible for the Horizon Honors Athletics programs. Horizon Honors Administration reserves the right to final actions in disciplinary situations, including suspension from all athletics.
    - Hazing and pranks are not part of the Horizon Honors culture and are strictly prohibited.
    - If a student is suspended or removed from the team for a serious problem, the parents/guardians will be notified of the action. The Athletic Director, only if appropriate, can approve reinstatement.
    - All Horizon Honors students are representatives of Horizon Honors during the season and in the off-season. Compliance with the Horizon Honors Dress Code and Code of Conduct is **required at all times** when representing Horizon Honors.
    - If a student is suspended for in-school disciplinary reasons, he/she will not be eligible to participate in any manner until the suspension is served.
    - Refunds of the Athletics Participation Fee will not be given for removal from the team due to inappropriate conduct.
- **Academic Eligibility requires students to have a 60% or better in every class with an average of 70% for all of their classes; a student is ineligible if any of their classes are at 59% or lower.**
    - Initial eligibility and then eligibility throughout the season are completed using PowerSchool. Grade checks are done biweekly and at the end of each quarter.
    - The first time a student is academically ineligible, they are placed on probation until the academic eligibility requirements are met.
    - The second time a student is academically ineligible, they are placed on suspension by removal from the team for a period of two weeks. At the end of the two-week suspension period, if the student is still academically ineligible, they will be removed from the team.

- Students who are ineligible at the end of a quarter will remain ineligible until the first grade check of the next quarter. This grade check will occur on the second Friday of the next quarter.
- Students must attend at least half a day (of their individual schedule) of school to be eligible to participate in practice or a competition that day.
- Refunds of the Athletics Participation Fee will not be given due to removal from the team for academic ineligibility.

- **Wellness** is primarily the responsibility of each student.
  - Students must use good judgment concerning nutrition, hydration, and fitness.
  - The accountability for communicating physical condition starts with each student. If there is any condition, injury, or wellness issue that is of concern to any student, the student has a responsibility to inform their parents and the coach.
  - Students who use prescription inhalants must take responsibility for having a current prescription in their possession at all times. It is not acceptable to use an alternative inhalant at any time. The **Authorization for Student to Self-Administer Inhaler** form, provided by the school Health Office, must be completed and in their possession.
  - When a student is required to visit a doctor or urgent care, a physician's clearance to return is required. The clearance must clearly state that the student is fit to resume participation in their sport.
  - Students sent home from the Health Office during a school day are ineligible for practices or competitions that day.
  - Refunds of the Athletics Participation Fee will be considered if the student has received a season-ending injury. If a refund is granted, the fee will be prorated based on the time from tryouts to the last regular season competition.
- **Good Sportsmanship** is required of all Horizon Honors students at all times. Each coach will determine and be held responsible for appropriate field and court behavior. All students are expected to honor these requirements and conduct themselves accordingly.
  - Students are expected to have complete self-control.
  - Fits of anger, clowning, belittling others, cursing, throwing equipment, etc., are not acceptable at any time.
  - Losing as well as winning is part of the game. Students should be gracious in defeat and gracious in victory.

- Officials are to be treated with respect at all times. Arguing and negative comments are not allowed.
- Opposing players, cheerleaders, coaches, and fans are to be treated with respect and courtesy. Negative comments and gestures are not allowed.
- Poor sportsmanship is grounds for immediate and permanent suspension from a team.
- Any student ejected from any contest will be ineligible for the next athletic competition.
- Refunds of the Athletics Participation Fee will not be given due to removal from the team for poor sportsmanship.

PARTICIPATION FORMS

Clearance to participate in athletics tryouts at Horizon Honors involves several steps, including obtaining a physical, completing the required documents, and ensuring academic eligibility. All documents are to be submitted to Horizon Honors Athletic Department via RegisterMyAthlete.com. Do not submit forms or fees to coaches or the Elementary Office. Only the Athletic Department may clear a student to participate in tryouts. The robotics team does not require a physical examination form.

After these items are completed, a student may try out to make the team.

Required forms to try out:

- **AIA Physical Forms** This form must be completed once every year on the appropriate AIA document and meet the following AIA requirements…
  "Students must be examined by a licensed physician annually and be determined to be physically fit. **The physical examination for the following school year shall be given on or after March 1st, 2026.** A student shall not be allowed to practice or compete in interscholastic athletics until there is a record on file of a physical examination performed by a doctor of medicine (M.D.), osteopathic physician (D.O.) or certified registered nurse practitioner (N.P.) licensed to practice, or a certified physician's assistant (PA-C) registered by the Joint Board of Medical Examiners and the Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery. Health care providers should be trained and experienced in the ability to assess prospective athletes on a systematic basis. Examiners shall be qualified to perform a complete physical examination, including comprehensive evaluation of the following organ systems: circulatory; respiratory; genitourinary; neurological and muscular-skeletal. All healthcare providers must be licensed in the

United States to prescribe all classes of medications in order to fully understand the impact various pharmaceuticals may have on a prospective athlete. (AIA Rule: Article 15 Student Eligibility Rules, Section 15.7 Physical examination rule, Paragraph 15.7.1)"

- **AIA Annual Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form** This form annually validates fitness and consent by parents/guardians. This form is filed once each year and is sufficient for multiple sports. **In the event there is a change in the health, fitness, or information on the card, it is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to submit a corrected form.** The form contains the following information:
    - Health history, to be completed by the parent for each year a student participates.
    - Emergency information, giving important information, and consent for emergency medical treatment. It is also very important to keep the coach and the office updated on work, home, and other emergency phone numbers.

- **Athletic Insurance Information and Waiver Form** This form contains:
    - Medical Authorization.
    - Insurance Information and Waiver
    - Waiver, Release and Indemnity Agreement.
    - Medical insurance that covers athletic activities and conditioning is required.

- **AIA MTBI / Concussion Statement Acknowledgement Form** This form must be completed to show acknowledgment of the information.
- **Transportation Release Form**
  This form must be completed to declare family expectations for transportation.
- **Horizon Honors Athletics Policy & Procedure & Fees Contract** This form contains and explains:
    - Eligibility requirements and qualification procedures to maintain eligibility.
    - The Athletic Fee of $150 is required for each sport in which the student participates.
    - To pay your 5-6 Competitive Athletic Fee, please login to your PowerSchool account. Payment of fees is due approximately 1 week after tryouts, an email will be sent once the team roster is set.
    - Athletic Fees are applied toward referees and other costs associated with athletics. The fee does not cover the cost of "extras". The coach, players, or parents may elect to purchase t-shirts, shoes, bags, etc. (These types of purchases and all gear must be approved by the Athletic Director.)

- Acceptance of responsibility and accountability for equipment and uniforms. The student must replace damaged equipment or any uniform not returned by the first Monday following the end of the season.

TRY-OUTS

- Attendance at try-outs is mandatory. Try-outs are scheduled by the coach according to the availability of the coaches and facilities. Each family, with a student trying out for a team, should take the try-out process seriously. Being a team member requires a large time commitment, and sometimes this may not fit a busy family schedule. Other extracurricular activities that may conflict with tryouts, practices, or competitions will need to be suspended until the end of the season. Often, there are other students who did not make the team, and it is not acceptable to take that student's place on the team and not be committed to every practice and every contest. Please consider the commitment prior to trying out and understand that any student who resigns from a team after a team has been selected is not eligible to participate in any other sport for a period of one year from the date the student resigns from a team.
- Tryouts are closed to the public.
- Tryouts generally last one to two hours over the course of one to two days.
- Any scheduling conflicts need to be reported to the coach or Athletic Director immediately.

PRACTICES

- Practices and games are mandatory and are scheduled by the coach according to the availability of the coaches and facilities.
- Practices may be held before school, after school, in the evening, or on a Saturday, depending on the circumstances of each sport. All students must be available for mandatory practices and games during the last week of Fall, Winter, and Spring Breaks.
- A practice schedule for the season will be established; however, the schedule is subject to change, as circumstances require. Many circumstances are outside the school or the coaches control.
- Practices generally last one to two hours, up to two days per week.
- Practices will end at a specifically scheduled time, determined by each coach. Students are expected to be picked up at the scheduled time.

- Students are required to work hard and be committed at every practice. Practice is the time each student uses to gain experience and playing time. Playing time is the exclusive decision of the coaching staff and cannot be negotiated. Missing practice can result in loss of playing time and/or suspension from the team.
- **Absences:**
    - Each student is allowed two absences as excused by the coach or Athletic Director. Excused absences must be requested in advance and approved prior to the absence.
    - Absences due to illness are not included as part of the two allowed excused absences.
    - Unexcused absences are unacceptable and can result in removal from the team.
    - Extraordinary circumstances or additional excused absences can be appealed to the Elementary Principal.
    - Students who are absent for more than half of their school day may not attend practice or play in a game on that day unless arrangements have been made in advance with the Athletic Director.
- Any student who resigns from a team after a team has been selected is not eligible to participate in any other sport for a period of one year from the date the student resigns from a team.
- Most sports have a Team Captain(s) who are chosen by the coach based on leadership, dedication, a positive attitude, and skill.
- Coaches often provide athletes with their cell phone numbers. This method of communication between Coach and athlete should only be used in rare, special circumstances and must be kept brief.
- Any scheduling conflicts need to be reported to the coach or Athletic Director immediately.

GAMES/COMPETITIONS

Athletic events at Horizon Honors are times of pride and celebration. The coaches and students have practiced and prepared and are doing their best to represent the Horizon Honors Athletics philosophy of academics, character, and hard work.

Game Schedules will be distributed to team members at the beginning of the season. Every effort will be made to distribute corrections as soon as changes are known through communication with team members and coaches. Schedules, addresses, and directions are also available on the Horizon Honors Athletics website at www.horizonhonorsathletics.org.

Spectators & Supporters are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship, just like Horizon Honors students.

- We expect and require that students and parents adhere to the highest standards of behavior.
- Hazing and pranks are not part of the Horizon Honors culture and are strictly prohibited.
- Fan support for Horizon Honors Athletics should always be positive and respectful. The quickest way to have a negative impact on any contest is to criticize the officials. Yelling at officials never results in a change of rulings and often results in future intolerance. We do not anticipate any spectator behavior problems; however, it is a Horizon Honors practice to ask disruptive spectators to leave.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation for team members to away games will be provided by Horizon Honors. In the event that Horizon Honors cannot provide transportation, a communication will be sent, and players will provide their own transportation. Transportation will also be provided back to Horizon Honors; however, students who decide to either drive themselves or carpool with another family will need to have the Athletic Transportation Release Form signed to designate these arrangements. Students must sign out with the coach if they are not being transported back to school from a game.

Coaches will require advance notification prior to any change in student transportation to an away game that is different from what is provided by the school. This must be done in writing by the parent or guardian a minimum one day prior to departure.

SUPPORTING COACHES

At Horizon Honors, our coaches are open to hearing from you and are more than happy to answer any of your questions. The best way to touch base with any of our coaches is via their Horizon Honors email. If an individual meeting is required, our coaches will work with you to schedule a meeting when both of you are available. Please remember that there are appropriate times to meet with a coach; we ask that you respect the coach and do not speak to them either during practice/games or immediately after practice/games.

VOLUNTEERS

We appreciate that volunteers contribute greatly to our programs. All Volunteer Coaches must be approved by the Athletic Director. In addition, all Volunteer coaches must have a valid fingerprint clearance card on file with the Athletic Director and also complete the Volunteer Coaching Application.

MEDIA & TEAM PUBLICITY

Team rosters and photos, including student names, cities of residence, positions, team numbers, and class years, may be distributed to local media, including newspapers, magazines, radio, and television, as well as included on the Horizon Honors Athletics website and Horizon Honors social media sites. Any student who wishes not to be included in publicity should have their parents/guardians notify the Athletic Director in writing as soon as possible. Only designated school employees may contact members of the media with story ideas, etc.

USE OF HORIZON HONORS LOGO

The use of Horizon Honors logos is prohibited.

END OF THE SEASON AWARDS

Horizon Honors will provide each student with a certificate at the end of the season.