



HIGH TECH HIGH

ATHLETICS HANDBOOK 2019-20

Campus	Campus Athletics Director	Mascot & Colors	Address
HTH Chula Vista (“HTHCV”)	Shameka Thompson shtompson@hightechhigh.org (619) 438-5212	Bruins: Navy, Columbia Blue & Gold	1945 Discovery Falls Dr Chula Vista, CA 91915
HTH Mesa (“HTHM”)	Michal-Lynn O’Kelley mokelly@hightechhigh.org (858) 337-9452	Thunder: Blue & Gold	5331 Mt Alifan Dr San Diego, CA 92111
HTH North County (“HTHNC”)	Bret Faber bfaber@hightechhigh.org (760) 759-2729	Raptors: Dark Blue & White	1420 W. San Marcos Blvd San Marcos, CA 92078
HTH San Diego (“HTHSD”)	Michal-Lynn O’Kelley mokelly@hightechhigh.org (858) 337-9452	Storm: Blue & Gold	2861 Womble Rd San Diego, CA 92106

The Head Athletics Director for all HTH schools is Michal-Lynn O’Kelley.

The HTHSD schools participate in the San Diego City Conference of the California Interscholastic Federation (“CIF”). The HTHCV, HTHM, and HTHNC schools participate in the Frontier Conference of CIF.

For more information, please visit our website at www.hightechhigh.org.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HTH Sports Offered	3
1. Introduction	4
2. Mission Statement	4
3. Hazing Prohibited	4
4. Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco Prohibited	5
5. Academic Eligibility	5
7. School Attendance	5
8. Athletic Clearance	6
9. Expectations for Students	6
10. Expectations for Volunteer Coaches	8
11. Expectations for Parents	8
12. Transportation	9
13. Resolution Procedures	10
14. Nondiscrimination Statement	10

HTH Sports Offered

	Female Teams	Male Teams
HTHCV	Basketball Cross Country Soccer Softball Swimming Tennis Track & Field Volleyball Wrestling	Baseball Basketball Cross Country Soccer Swimming Tennis Track & Field Volleyball Wrestling
HTHM	Basketball Cross Country Soccer Swimming Track & Field Volleyball	Baseball Basketball Cross Country Soccer Swimming Track & Field
HTHNC	Basketball Cross Country Soccer Softball Swimming Tennis Track & Field Volleyball	Baseball Basketball Cross Country Golf Soccer Swimming Track & Field Volleyball
HTHSD	Basketball Cross Country Soccer Softball Swimming Tennis Track & Field Volleyball Water Polo	Baseball Basketball Cross Country Golf Soccer Swimming Tennis Track & Field Volleyball Water Polo

1. Introduction

High Tech High (“HTH”) is pleased to present this Athletics Program Handbook (“**Handbook**”) to provide a general overview of HTH’s policies as they pertain to the HTH Athletics Program (“**Athletics Program**”), and of the role of the volunteer in the Athletics Program. This Handbook does not supersede broader HTH policies as delineated in the Employee Handbook, Student & Parent Handbook, HTH’s Charters, and elsewhere. However, this Handbook does supersede previously issued manuals and handbooks as they pertain to athletics at HTH. Additionally, HTH high schools participate in the California Interscholastic Federation (“**CIF**”), and therefore adhere to all CIF rules, regulations, and requirements.

Please note that the policies articulated in the Handbook do not anticipate every situation that might arise at HTH. Moreover, changing circumstances may, from time to time, require modifications to the policies outlined in the Handbook. Accordingly, HTH reserves the right to amend, modify, delete, add to, rescind, and/or delete any portion(s) of the Handbook from time to time as it deems necessary or appropriate at its sole discretion. As policies are revised, students, parents/legal guardians (collectively, “parents”), staff, and volunteers will be provided with notice of the modifications to the policies.

The Athletics Program operates as one component of HTH. Each HTH campus (Chula Vista, Mesa, North County, and San Diego) has its own Athletics Director who reports to HTH administration, and who is responsible for the operation of the Athletics Program for his/her respective campus. HTH asks that all athletics department staff members, parents, students, and volunteer coaches read and use the Handbook as a reference guide. Please speak with the campus Athletics Director if there are any questions regarding any of the policies contained in the Handbook.

2. Mission Statement

The Athletics Program is dedicated to developing leaders who practice integrity, respect, and courage. Our students collaborate and rely on each other for encouragement, support, and mental and physical strength. This Athletics Program exists to build character; sports is secondary.

We look forward to making the Athletics Program meaningful and positive for students, parents, staff, and volunteers alike!

3. Hazing Prohibited

Hazing is illegal under California State Law, and HTH strictly prohibits hazing in any form, including initiation practices or rituals that are degrading. No student shall conspire to engage in hazing, participate in hazing, or commit any act that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger, physical or mental harm, or personal degradation or disgrace. Students violating this policy shall be subject to discipline, loss of privileges, and may face criminal charges. Students and coaches should report suspected hazing to the Athletics Director or a school administrator, such as the Dean of Students or School Director.

4. Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco Prohibited

As outlined in the Student & Parent Handbook, drugs, alcohol, and smoking materials (including, but not limited to, all forms of e-cigarettes, vaporizer pens, vaporizers, e-hookahs, etc.) are prohibited in the school, on the campus, and at off-campus school functions. Likewise, students are prohibited from being under the influence of drugs, alcohol and from smoking while at school, on campus and at off-campus school functions. These prohibitions apply to all sporting events, including practices, tournaments, home games, and away games.

5. Academic Eligibility

Academics are the number one priority for students. If there is an unavoidable conflict involving athletics and academics, academics always has priority. In most cases, through proper planning and communication, conflicts can be resolved.

To maintain academic eligibility, students must maintain at least a 2.5 GPA and have at least a C- in each class. The Athletics Director checks grades every 2 weeks to determine eligibility. Nonetheless, students who earn less than a 2.5 GPA or a C- in any class at the close of the first semester will not be allowed to participate in a sport until they regain academic eligibility as measured at the second semester quarterly progress report. Students who earn less than a 2.5 GPA or a C- in any class for the second semester must get approval from both the Athletics Director and School Director to participate in a fall sport the subsequent school year.

Notwithstanding the above criteria, an Athletics Directors or School Director may determine, in their sole discretion, that a student is academically ineligible if they have reason to believe that further participation in a sport will impede or imperil the student's academic progress or standing.

7. School Attendance

Without exception, students may not attend or participate in practices or games unless they attend school that day.

8. Athletic Clearance

For all sports, and before the first practice, students must complete the following:

- A. **Physical Examination.** Physicals must be valid throughout a sport's entire season. Physicals must be completed by a licensed physician (M.D. or D.O. only). Physicals from a nurse practitioner, chiropractor, or other health care professional will not be accepted UNLESS they bear an M.D. or D.O. signature and stamp.
- B. **Clearance Packet.** Parents must complete an online Clearance Packet by creating an account at <https://athleticclearance.com/>. This includes completion of the CIF Ethics in Sports Policy, which must be signed by both a parent and the student.

The Athletics Director must receive the above documentation before issuing an approval to play.

At HTHCV only, the Clearance Packet confirmation email must be turned in to the CRASH office, who will issue an approval. In all cases coaches are required to check for the approval prior to adding a student to their roster or allowing them to participate in practice or competition.

PLEASE NOTE: Both the Physical Examination and Clearance Packet expire at the end of each school year (June 30th), and each must be renewed before participating in a sport the following school year.

9. Expectations for Students

Competition in the Athletics Program is a privilege afforded to all students. Being a student means taking on extra responsibility. In addition to the policies contained in this Handbook, students must follow HTH's Community Standards and Conduct Policies as outlined in the HTH Student & Parent Handbook, as well as all CIF rules and regulations. Additionally, HTH expects that all students:

- Prioritize academics and stay in good academic standing;
- Attend school to participate in practice or games on that day;
- Abide by the Community Standards and Conduct Policies outlined in the High Tech High Student and Parent Handbook. These apply at all school-related events,

including practices and games, whether home or away;

- Are on time and present at all practices and games;
- Remain at practice and games for the full duration, whether playing or not;
- Communicate responsibly with coaches, teachers, and school administration;
- Support their teammates;
- Are respectful of themselves, teammates, coaches, parents, officials, and fans at all times;
- Come prepared to do their best. This includes proper nutrition, sleep and care of injuries and illness;
- Are gracious in defeat and modest in victory. Accept loss as an opportunity for growth by setting individual goals and moving forward;
- Take care of all equipment and uniforms, and return them at the end of the season to the Athletics Director.

Early Release from Class

Students will occasionally be released early from class for travel to away games. Students are responsible for any and all work and tests missed due to an early release, and it is the student's responsibility to communicate with teachers before they depart. Students will not be permitted to leave class prior to a release time. Students may change into their uniforms at lunch, but may not be excused from class to do so.

Missing Practices

Missing practice or a game without good reason will be dealt with according to each coach's individual rules, and it could result in less playing time, or loss of other privileges. Excusable absences include, without limitation, illness or a family emergency. In any instance, the expectation is that the coach will be notified of the absence in advance.

Removal from the Team

A student who is removed from a team/sport in season due to disciplinary/academic reasons will not be allowed to participate or practice in another sport until the end of the regular season of the team from which he/she was dropped.

Dropping or Transferring Sports

On occasion, an in-season student may find it necessary to drop out of a sport. If this is the case, students should notify both the coach and Athletics Director, and return all equipment and uniforms.

Students who wish to transfer sports during the season must have the consent of both coaches and the Athletics Director.

Equipment and Uniforms

Uniforms and equipment must be returned at the end of each season. When students lose

uniforms or equipment, they may not take part in any other sport until it is returned or paid for in full. Students may be financially responsible for all uniforms and equipment issued to them if they are not returned at the end of the season.

10. Expectations for Volunteer Coaches¹

HTH greatly appreciates and values the time and commitment volunteer coaches give to our community. Volunteer coaches are crucial to the success of the Athletics Program, and they allow us to supplement and broaden our existing programs. Our Athletics Program relies heavily on volunteer coaches who are committed to the HTH community and the thoughtful, healthy, and safe development of its students. To that end, we ask that volunteer coaches:

- Pass a background check that includes fingerprinting;
- Pass a tuberculosis (“TB”) screening (either negative intradermal test or chest x-ray);
- Maintain CPR/First-aid certification (renewed at least every two years);
- Attend a pre-season meeting with parents to provide information about the season;
- Clearly communicate expectations, schedules, and schedule changes to students and parents in a timely manner;
- Ensure students prioritize academics;
- Model professional language and behavior at all times when working with students, parents, and opposing teams;
- Be on time and prepared for all practices and games, and remain at all practices and games for the full duration, unless the Athletics Director or a school administrator is covering;
- Coordinate with the Athletics Director to excuse students early from class for travel to games;
- Report all injuries, discipline issues, and physical alterations to the Athletics Director.

11. Expectations for Parents

Parents play an integral role in sustaining the Athletics Program, including transporting students to/from practices and games, fundraising to expand opportunities for students, and being there to cheer on our teams in victory or defeat. We appreciate this indispensable support, and kindly ask that parents:

¹ The policies in this Handbook also govern CRASH coaches for the HTHCV campus.

- Attend pre-season meeting. The AD and team coaches will talk about schedule, equipment, and other expectations of the season;
- Help your student to come prepared to do his/her best by encouraging them to be physically and mentally prepared. This includes proper nutrition, sleep, and care of injuries;
- Schedule appointments, vacations, and college visits outside of school, tournaments, practice, or game time;
- Encourage your student to communicate appropriately and respectfully with the coach, teammates, officials, and fans;
- Refrain from questioning play time;
- Maintain a positive presence at all sporting events, and avoid making derogatory remarks about the officials or the opposing team;
- Remain in the spectator section during all games;
- Pay admission fees when appropriate.

12. Transportation

Due to limits on facilities and transportation, it is helpful, but not required, for parents to assist with driving students to/from practices and games. Parents who volunteer to drive students other than their own must first be pre-approved by the school's Site Manager and provide additional information including:

- Parent name
- Address
- Telephone number
- Driver's license number
- Make of vehicle, model and number of seatbelts in the car
- Insurance company, policy number and expiration date
- Vehicle registration document

While the vehicle is being used to transport students, the policy associated with the vehicle is the primary insurance for all costs associated with an accident. By law the number of people in the vehicle may not exceed the number of seats and seatbelts with a maximum of ten (10) passengers, including the driver. Every passenger in the vehicle must use a seatbelt, and there are no exceptions.

Students Driving Students

In addition to the information required for volunteer drivers, students who wish to drive other students must provide the school's Site Manager with the following:

- C. Permission slip signed by the parents of the student-driver; and

- D. Permission slips signed by the parents of each student-passenger.

13. Resolution Procedures

HTH encourages parents and students to work collaboratively to resolve issues by scheduling an appointment with the coach, campus Athletics Director, or Head Athletics Director. If the issue is not resolved, parents and students may schedule an appointment with the Dean of Students or School Director. In addition, the HTH Resolution Procedures section of the Student & Parent Handbook and HTH Uniform Complaint Policy & Procedures may be found on our website <https://www.hightechhigh.org/handbook/>.

14. Nondiscrimination Statement

HTH maintains that it is critical that all members of the HTH community respect each other's rights, individuality, and differences. Courtesy, tolerance and mutual respect provide the platform for sharing, learning, innovation and personal development. HTH is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals in education. HTH's programs and activities shall be free from harassment, or discrimination or bullying on the basis of actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender expression, gender identity, ethnic group identification, immigration status or citizenship, race, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, religious affiliation, creed, mental or physical disability, age, parental, family, marital status, and any other or any other basis

HTH adheres to all provisions of federal law related to students with disabilities including, but not limited to, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Improvement Act of 2004.