The Hamlin School Mission Statement
The Hamlin School educates girls to meet the challenges of their time and inspires them to become extraordinary thinkers and innovators, courageous leaders, and women of integrity.

The Hamlin Creed
- Compassion
- Courage
- Honesty
- Respect
- Responsibility

Athletics Program Vision Statement
Hamlin aspires to be an outstanding educational institution that champions the merits of athletics and provides a high-quality experience to every athlete and coach. A high-quality experience is one in which every player:
  ● Has FUN playing the game
  ● Feels she is an important part of the team, regardless of individual or collective performance
  ● Learns “life lessons” that have value beyond the playing field
  ● Develops and learns as an athlete, as evidenced by a deepened understanding of the skills, tactics, and strategies of the game

Athletics Program Philosophy
The philosophy of Hamlin’s athletics program is to provide an inclusive and robust program that focuses on integrity, hard work, and “honoring the game.” The program is designed to help girls gain confidence and develop their self-esteem and leadership skills while also learning the value of good sportswomanship and the meaning of teamwork. Our athletes recognize that mistakes are an inevitable and important part of the learning process and that the key to success is being able to rebound from mistakes with renewed determination. We want Hamlin athletes to look forward to playing a competitive opponent because of the level of excellence required to rise to the challenge. Hamlin Lions will win with class, lose with pride, and be supported by parents, coaches and peers. Our athletes will know that those watching are proud of them regardless of the outcome because they played with heart, intensity, and honored the game.

At Hamlin, we believe in inclusion, which means there is a place for every type of athlete: beginners who are looking to have fun and explore something new as well as more experienced athletes who want to compete with vigor. While the levels of commitment and competition are greatest at the varsity level, all Hamlin coaches are united in their quest to
inspire their players to take ownership of their personal goals and level of improvement while having fun and enjoying the experience of playing on a Hamlin team.

The Hamlin School Sportswomanship Guidelines
Honest, hard play coupled with strong support from the stands is the mark of The Hamlin School. Poor sportswomanship, on the other hand, discredits the individual, the team, and the school. Athletes, coaches, and spectators are to keep in mind that the highly excitable atmosphere of a game can never justify rudeness or excessive complaints about officiating. It is the duty of the coach to speak clearly and respectfully with officials about unclear or questionable calls. Players are not to become embroiled in disagreements with either officials or opponents. Spectators are reminded that excessive badgering of an official is a self-defeating activity. It is likewise unbecoming for teams to blame lack of success on the poor performance of an official. Well-mannered teams, coaches, and fans need not be associated with a lack of competitive spirit nor a lack of enthusiasm.

The following guidelines regarding sportswomanship are an excerpt from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association and reflect the ethos of the Hamlin program. We believe that these ideas are pertinent to athletes and spectators and provide a broader view of sportswomanship.

STUDENT-ATHLETE
- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing the school and the community.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly. This will assist you in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated – as a guest – before, during, and after competition.
- Wish opponents good luck before the game, and congratulate them in a sincere manner.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote you and your sport. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of the officials and all people at the event.

PARENTS/SPECTATORS
- Remember that you are at a contest to support your team and to enjoy the skill exhibition and competition; you are not there to intimidate or ridicule the other team and its fans.
- Remember that school athletics are learning experiences for students and that
students may make mistakes. Praise student-athletes for their attempt to improve themselves as students and as athletes.

- Learn the rules of the game so that you can understand and appreciate why certain decisions are made.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student/athlete, and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Use only those cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
- Recognize and reinforce the efforts of school and league administrators in emphasizing the benefits of educational athletics and the rule of good sporting behavior.
- Be a positive role model through your own actions and by censoring those around you whose behavior is unaligned with the mission and values of The Hamlin School. At no time is it appropriate for parents to approach athletes, coaches, or officials during a sporting contest, regardless of time-out, half-time, etc.
- Please remember that parents also represent the school.

**Participation Expectations**
The Hamlin School guarantees all athletes the opportunity to participate. **Playing time at the Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Grade 6 levels will be based on ability and effort (coach’s discretion); however, every athlete must compete in games. Playing time during playoffs is at the coach’s discretion and it is possible that every athlete may not compete.**

Regarding Grade 5 sports, all athletes are expected to play **fairly equally** during the season. At this level, **participation and learning the game are more important than winning or losing.** Therefore, coaches need to be creative about how to manage this situation to suit both the needs of the individual and the team. Playing time on JV, Varsity, and Grade 6 teams will not necessarily be equal. At these levels, we value competition and are playing to win.

**Athletic Offerings**

**Fall:**
- Varsity Cross Country - Grades 6-8
- Varsity Volleyball - Grades 6-8
- Junior Varsity Volleyball - Grades 6-8
- Grade 6 Volleyball
- Grade 5 Volleyball
- Running Club - Grades 5-
Winter:
Varsity Basketball - Grades 6-8  
Junior Varsity Basketball - Grades 6-8  
Grade 6 Basketball  
Grade 5 Soccer  
Running Club - Grades 5-8

Spring:
Varsity Soccer - Grades 6-8  
Junior Varsity Soccer - Grades 6-8 (if participation numbers are high enough to warrant)  
Grade 6 Soccer  
Grade 5 Basketball  
Track and Field  
Running Club - Grades 5-8

Tryouts/Team Placements
- Any student in grades 6-8 may try out for a Varsity or Junior Varsity sport.
- All Grade 7 and 8 students will be placed on either the Varsity or a Junior Varsity team, depending on skill level.
- Players may NOT quit a team if they are unhappy with their team selection. Players are welcome to schedule a meeting with the coaches or Director of Athletics to get a better understanding of why they were placed on that particular team, but by trying out, you are committing to that sport for the whole season, regardless of team selection.

Attendance Policy
- Athletes are expected to attend all of their team’s practices and games. Being a Hamlin athlete means showing commitment to the team, school, program, and community.
- Athletes must check the schedule of games and practices at the beginning of the season and inform the coach of any and all conflicts they have via email or written note.
- Excused absences MUST be communicated with the coach within the first two weeks of the season. After this date, any missed days will be considered unexcused unless approved by the Director of Athletics.
- If a player has two unexcused absences, the player will be called into a meeting with the Director of Athletics.
- At all levels, in-game playing time may be affected by amount of practice time missed.
Equipment
- Players are expected to be prepared for all practices and games with proper footwear, hair ties, water bottle, sport-specific clothing, sport-specific protective gear, and complete uniform, when applicable.
- A player who is unprepared may be asked to sit out for portions, or the entirety, of practices or games.
- Players should bring a healthy snack and water bottle to practices and games.
- PLEASE DO NOT GO TO AFTER3 FOR SNACK! Be responsible and bring your own!

Uniform
- Each player will be issued a uniform that she will be responsible for keeping clean and laundered for the entirety of the season. Please do not wear uniform to school, and do not eat in your uniform.
- Families are responsible for laundering uniforms in accordance with the uniform’s specific directions. PLEASE HANG DRY ONLY! We will send an invoice to replace damaged or lost uniforms.
- Players will need to bring their uniforms to school every game day.
- A player needing to borrow a uniform from the Director of Athletics on the day of a contest will need to sign it out and bring it back laundered the next day. Playing time will be adjusted by the coach accordingly.
- Laundered uniforms will be turned into the coach or Director of Athletics during the End of Season Celebration.
- Unaccounted uniforms may result in non-issuance of future uniforms or students’ yearbooks being withheld until the uniform is turned in or paid for.

Game Day Apparel
- ALL players will be given a “game day” shirt to wear on home and away game days, however, they will still be required to wear their uniform skirts or pants. Please do not wear uniforms to school.
- If a player plays multiple sports, the expectation is that the player will use the game day shirt for all seasons played that year and future years.
- If a game day shirt is lost, the player has the option of purchasing a new one if there are additional shirts available.
- These game day shirts do not need to be returned to the school.

Communication
- Coaches will have an email address that is accessible to their players and parents as
well as a cell phone number that will be available to the parents.

- If a player must miss a game or practice on short notice, the coach and Director of Athletics MUST be notified, or the player will be considered unexcused.
- If a game or practice is cancelled due to weather, field conditions, opponents’ needs, etc., an email will be distributed by 1:00 p.m. or earlier on the day of by the coach or Director of Athletics. This email will contain information regarding when and where the pick-up of players will take place as well as any additional information.
- **Players and families are responsible for regularly checking their email and team page on InstaTeam to receive updates or schedule changes.**
- InstaTeam allows for email notifications, and there is an expectation that parents will subscribe to the team their daughters’ are playing on in order to receive real-time updates regarding practice location and game information.

**Proper Contact with Coach**

If a player has a question or concern to discuss with their coach, the player must schedule a time before or after practice. During practice or immediately after a game is not an appropriate time. If that meeting has not answered the question or satisfied the concern, an additional meeting will be made between the player’s parent/guardian and the coach. If this meeting does not resolve the issue, the Director of Athletics will schedule a meeting with the parent, player, and possibly the coach.

**Dismissal Procedures**

- Parents are required to check their daughter out after every home or away game as well as any off-campus practice. The coach will have a clipboard with the dismissal sheet and needs to note each player leaving. If a parent is taking several players home, the parent must check each player out with the coach.
- **ALL athletes will be dismissed on Broadway, or directly from the practice venue.** Players MUST tell their coaches when and with whom they are leaving.
- Middle School students who wish to walk home must have permission as noted on the Family Emergency Card form provided online.
- If a parent or guardian is more than 10 minutes late to an on-campus dismissal, that student will be checked in to After3 and may be signed out from there. Parents should contact the coach directly to inform her/him of tardiness.

**Transportation**

- **Parents must fill out a Parent Driver Insurance Form and submit a copy of their insurance card at the beginning of the season.**
- Parents will sign up for carpool through InstaTeam, pick up players at a designated time and place, and then drive players to off-campus locations.
• Parents are responsible for their carload of players until the coach assumes responsibility at the contest location.

• ALL players are expected to be picked up from game location by a parent or parent carpool. The post-game carpools are arranged amongst parents.

• At the conclusion of the game/contest, a parent driver MAY NOT leave until their entire carload has been signed out through the head coach. If a player is not signed out, and does not have a post-game carpool set up, she will be returned to school by a volunteer “Return to Hamlin” car. There will always be at least one driver returning girls to Hamlin.

• Volunteer parents driving the “Return to Hamlin” car must sign in any students they are dropping off with After3 if it is before 6:00 p.m.; if it is after 6:00 p.m., they will need to contact the Director of Athletics immediately.

• For teams that use the bus, attendance will be taken prior to leaving Hamlin. All students must remain seated, wear the safety harnesses provided, and abide by the safety protocols articulated by the driver.

### Team Photos

- Once per season, the Director of Athletics will arrange for a Picture Day. Coaches and players will need to wear their jerseys and game day attire.
- Additional photographs can be taken by parents/guardians, yearbook staff, Advancement Office, or Athletics Ambassador Committee members and emailed to the Director of Athletics.

### Conflicts in Extracurricular Activities

Any student who attempts to participate in several extracurricular activities may create a conflict of obligations, time, and schedules. The Director of Athletics recognizes that each student should have the opportunity to participate in a broad range of extracurricular activities and experiences, and to this end will attempt to schedule events in a manner that minimizes conflicts with other Hamlin events. **Families also have a responsibility to do everything possible to avoid creating conflicts** and should use good judgment when exploring extracurricular options. It also means notifying and immediately involving the coaches and Director of Athletics when a conflict arises.

Upon request of the family and approval of the Director of Athletics, players who recognize conflicts in their schedule will be issued three (3) excused practices within a season. These absences need to be communicated in writing with the team coaches and Director of Athletics within the first two (2) weeks of the season. If it becomes obvious that a student cannot fulfill the obligation to the team, she should withdraw from that sport after the conflicts are identified.
End-of-Season Celebration & Athletics Celebration

- There will be an end-of-year Lions Athletics Celebration that student-athletes, coaches, and parents are invited to attend. There will also be an end-of-season celebration for each team and its respective players and coaches.
- Coaches will identify several “highlights” for each player and deliver comments accordingly. Certificates will be printed, signed by coaches, and distributed during the ceremony. Varsity and JV letters will be awarded along with certificates.
- Celebration will be “potluck” style; parents will coordinate food and drinks.

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