

# Howell Athletic Association of Christian Home-educators

## Welcome to the HAACH Athletic Program

[www.haach.org](http://www.haach.org)

P.O. Box 1328  
Brighton, MI 48116

**Mission Statement: HAACH is a Christian,  
interfaith organization providing *competitive* sports  
in a Christian atmosphere.**



## **Introduction**

First and foremost, as Christian Athletes, we represent Christ in all we do, at all times! All involved in HAACH activities should look at these programs as an opportunity to bring the love of Christ to other families in our community through the venue of competitive sports. We are all privileged to have access to such a wonderful program.

### **Objectives:**

The objectives of the HAACH sports program include the following:

1. To glorify God through the use of His gifts to us.
2. To provide a Christian environment for players to develop their athletic talents.
3. To instill in the players an attitude about sportsmanship and respect to players, coaches, fans and officials that is consistent with Christian values.
4. To develop each student's individual and team skills and strategies, as well as an understanding of different roles in team make-up.
5. To provide a Christ-like witness to players and spectators both at home and away games.

### **Communication:**

We place a very high value on face-to-face communication, trusting in the Christian charity of all members of the HAACH family. HAACH asks parents to wait 24 hours after a game or event to approach a coach if a complaint arises. It is also requested that complaints are directed to the coach alone and not emailed and copied to others. This is in keeping with the Biblical mandate to first attempt to settle our dispute with our brother one- on-one.

If a problem arises concerning a player or a coach, the first step in resolution is direct communication between the parties involved. If additional steps are necessary to resolve the situation, then the Athletic Directors will be consulted. If a resolution cannot be reached with the Athletic Directors and the party in question then the HAACH Board of Directors will review the situation and resolve the situation.

### **Athlete Eligibility/Participation:**

Athletes must be 51% homeschooled and must not have participated in a high school home school graduation ceremony.

## **HAACH Guidelines for Players, Parents and Coaches**

**Below are the HAACH guidelines for players, coaches and parents. You committed to these guidelines when you registered your child(ren) to play. These are for your reference throughout the season as needed.**

### **Guidelines for Athletes**

As a Christian association, we expect the following of each athlete:

- Each athlete is expected to be committed to team goals. This implies that personal performance is *not* the only focus, but is directed toward achieving team goals and team unity.
  
- The coach is the head of the team, and as such needs each athlete's undivided attention during practices and games. Each athlete is expected to be attentive to the coach and to give him the respect he is due as the athlete's superior. The quality of athletic experience and success depends on a good working relationship between team members and coaches. If a problem between coach and athlete arises, both have the responsibility to work out a solution through good honest and charitable communication.
  
- The athlete is expected to maintain top physical condition by eating properly, getting sufficient rest, and observing other good health and fitness habits. As Christian athletes, it is essential to abstain from the use of tobacco products, alcohol, and illegal drugs. These items will not be tolerated and any violation will result in expulsion from the team.
  
- The athlete is expected to exhibit Christian conduct at all times. This is especially important during athletic contests. Respect for opponents and officials must be evident at all times. Such attitudes are a reflection on individual athletes and on HAACH.
  
- The athlete is required to attend every practice and game. Any absence must be coordinated with the coach prior to the event.
  
- At all times the athlete is expected to do his/her very best, giving 100%.
  
- The athlete is expected to accept responsibility for the care and maintenance of all HAACH sports equipment and uniforms.

- No foul or abusive language will be tolerated (at any time).
- Athletes will not question the judgments of coaches or game officials (on or off the field/court).

Penalties:

- A player found in violation of the rules and guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action. Such action may range from temporary suspension to expulsion from the program per the coach's, in consultation with the Athletic Director, discretion.
- Any player who verbally/physically abuses another player, participants or official may be suspended from play for the remainder of the season and may be disqualified from HAACH competition per the coach's discretion.

**Guidelines for Parents**

- As examples to our children, parents are expected to display Christ-like behavior at all times at all sporting events.
- Parents will show respect for our opponents and officials at all times.
- The parent is expected to encourage loyalty and dedication to the team, fellow parents and to the coaches. Attitudes of parents directly impact the attitudes of athletes. Prayers for athletes, coaches, and teams are important and appreciated.

Penalties:

- A parent who verbally/physically abuses another player, participant or official or is found in violation of the rules and guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action. Such action may range from temporary removal from the HAACH sporting event to long term suspension from admission to HAACH sporting events per the coach's/referee's discretion.

## **Guidelines for Coaches**

Coaches are Christian role models for the young men and women who benefit from their instruction. HAACH recognizes that coaching is both rewarding and challenging. Coaching is also a great opportunity for developing close relationships with athletes and families, for achieving excellence in athletics, and for glorifying God.

- All coaches are expected to be leaders in exhibiting Christian values and responsibility. As a highly visible representative of HAACH and the community, the coach must accept a special role in demonstrating positive and responsible leadership and treat all athletes as *valued* members of the team.
- The coach is expected to treat all athletes, opponents, coaches, and game officials with respect, dignity, and fairness.
- The coach is expected to resolve all team conflicts with honest and charitable communication, equitable treatment of all persons involved, and a willingness to achieve positive results.

### **Penalties:**

- Any coach ejected from a game because of unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for the next game and may be subject to additional penalties.
- Any coach who verbally/physically abuses a player, parent or official may be suspended for the remainder of the season and may be disqualified from HAACH participation.

## **Playing Time Guidelines**

While we trust our coaches will strive for balance and fairness in determining playtime at all levels, because of the formative aspect of our program, it is expected that they will adhere to the following guidelines at each level:

### ***Elementary (5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>) Program:***

This level is considered an introduction for kids and families to the HAACH program. While developing the player's skills and understanding of teamwork and good sportsmanship, the emphasis should be on having fun and on making sure all kids are allocated approximately equal playtime. It is important that young kids not be discouraged or bored at this level due to too much bench time thus the emphasis is to draw new kids and families to the program and be certain

to allow kids to have fun while testing their skill at this level. In very close games, the coach may use some latitude to prioritize more skilled players to pull off a win, understanding that winning is encouraging to the whole team and also that our opponents want good competition as well. It is an encouraged practice to rotate starting lineup as well, since younger kids find it very exciting to be able to say they “started.”

***Junior High (7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>) Program:***

Amount of playtime will depend more on athlete’s level of ability and as game situations dictate. While each athlete should receive some playing time in every competition, it may not be equal time in each competition. If a player does not receive much playing time one game he/she may receive more the next. In the case of large leads players will be rotated through on a fairly even basis.

***High School (J.V., Varsity) Program:***

Amount of playing time is solely at the coach’s discretion. The coach will decide which players at any given time will maximize the “teams” ability to compete in the games at the highest level. The coach will take into consideration players skill level, attitude, attendance at practices and games.

**Pertaining to all levels:**

- 1. Coaches have authority to withhold playtime due to missed practices and games and this penalty takes precedence over playtime guidelines for that level.**
- 2. Tournaments can be considered a more competitive event and coaches may prioritize more skilled and older players at these events, regardless of level.**
- 3. Poor sportsmanship/inappropriate behavior or attitude can be used to withhold playtime, regardless of level.**

**Varsity Letter Program:**

The Varsity Letter program is designed to highlight the student-athletes that have put forth extraordinary effort in their respective sport.

To be eligible for a Varsity Letter, each student-athlete must:

1. Be in the 9th grade or higher.
2. Must exemplify Christ-like behavior both at practice and competitions.
3. Must have played at least 50% of varsity competitions or have participated in a Varsity sport for 2 consecutive years.

Each respective coach will monitor each Varsity athlete throughout the season to determine those athletes that meet the requirements to earn a letter. The HAACH Varsity letter/pins will be awarded at the end of season banquet.

## **Volunteer Expectations**

Parents are an important part of the HAACH program. HAACH is a volunteer, non-profit (501c3) organization with a governing board. We need the participation of ALL our families to make HAACH a successful organization. Parents are needed and expected to play a supporting role in this organization.

Each family must agree to fill some volunteer role. Needs will vary by season but team needs range from: team mom, statistician, concession coordinator, admissions coordinator, printed program committee, team photography, banquet coordinators, gym/game schedulers, gym monitors, line judges, and more. This is not a *pay and drop-off your children* league.

## **Registration Fees**

Registration fees are expected to be paid in full upon sign-up. If any family cannot meet this expectation, then a payment plan can be arranged between the family and the HAACH treasurer. Even with a payment plan, a \$50 down-payment is expected at sign-up. There are also limited **partial** scholarships available for families. Scholarship forms are on the website at: [www.haach.org](http://www.haach.org), click on Sign Up info and the scholarship form link is located at the bottom of the page. Print out the form, fill it out and hand it to the HAACH treasurer at sign up or mail it to: HAACH P.O. Box 1328 Brighton MI 48116

## **Fundraising Expectations**

Each family is required to meet a fundraising obligation of \$60 for the Fall '09 Season.

HAACH continually strives to keep the cost of our sports programs as low as possible. The registration fee per sport covers only the basics needed for each sport to function. It covers the cost of gym and/or field rentals, referee fees and insurance fees for athletes. The registration fee does not cover the full amount needed to run each sport and extra money is needed to cover items like tournament fees, equipment, banquet costs and uniforms.

The major fundraiser for HAACH is our printed sports program. The printed sports program includes team pictures, team rosters, game schedules, candid

photos, Marshall award winners, coach bios and both business and encouragement ad space. This is a great way to gain community exposure for HAACH and provides a wonderful and treasured keepsake for our athletes.

To keep the registration fees as low as possible, we require family participation in selling ads for the sports program or the option to pay an extra fee instead. These extra funds are essential to keep the HAACH athletic program running and that is why each family is required to meet the fundraising obligation. Families have three options to meet this obligation:

1. Sell the designated fund raising amount or more of: ad space to businesses and/or encouragement ads to family and friends.
2. Write a check payable to HAACH for the fund raising amount obligation.
3. Sell less than fund raising obligation of ads and make up the difference with a check.

### **Incentives:**

We also offer a way for you to earn extra money to cover some or all of your fees and expenses if you wish. As an incentive to sell ads in the program, you will earn a \$20 Meijer gift card for every \$100 of ad space sold (business ads or e-ads). The fund raising obligation will be counted toward your first \$100 of ad space sold. We have had previous HAACH families cover all of their expenses with this optional method of self-funding.

### **Deadlines:**

\*\* During registration you will be given a date which is strictly adhered to in which we must receive you fundraising obligatory amount.

In order for HAACH to continue to operate smoothly every family must be responsible for their fundraising obligation. If the amount is not met by selling ads by the designated deadline, then athletes from that family will not be eligible to play in games until their fundraising obligation is met.

For questions or concerns, please contact the Fundraising Chairpersons –  
John and Karen Willette  
Ph# 810-220-8094  
Email: kneehighs06@yahoo.com

***Putting together a program like this requires an enormous amount of time and energy. We want to recognize and thank our Program Committee for their efforts. It is through their efforts that all families have an opportunity to keep their registration fees as low as possible.***

## **Uniform Deposit and Care:**

HAACH uniforms are reused each season to save on costs. For this reason, each athlete is expected to treat their uniform with the utmost care. Wash them in cold water/gentle cycle and hang to dry. We will collect a uniform deposit from each athlete. If the athlete's uniform is not returned or is returned in an unusable condition, the uniform deposit check will be kept and used to purchase a replacement. If the athlete returns the uniform in good condition then the deposit check will be returned.

## **And Finally, Stay Connected....**

The HAACH Web site ([www.haach.org](http://www.haach.org)) is a very important way to stay connected with team updates and important information. We do our best to keep it current so please check it frequently.....

Here are just some items you will find there:

**Welcome Page:** Here you will find updates about what is happening in HAACH and details about upcoming events like future sign ups.

**Contacts:** Need to find someone? Click the link for 'Contact Us' to find the most up to date contact list for Board Members, Athletic Directors, Schedulers or Coaches.

**Full Calendar:** All team schedules can be found under this link. The teams are organized by color and this is the most up to date calendar we maintain. Please check it weekly for changes.

**Game Results:** Find out how other HAACH teams are doing by checking their scores

**Fundraising Forms:** Need more forms to give out to local businesses, family and friends. You can find everything you need here.

**Directions:** We do our best to keep the directions on the web site up to date but always defer to your coach and/or team mom if there is a discrepancy.

**Spirit Wear:** Want to order some HAACH gear? Get forms and information here.

## Contact Information

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