



Horizon Lady Husky Softball
Student – Athlete Handbook

2022 Season

Head Coach: Jackie Coburn

~ PURPOSE, PASSION, & SUCCESS ~

Horizon High School Lady Husky Softball

First, we would like to welcome all players and their families to Horizon High School Lady Husky Softball. The coaching staff is very excited about the upcoming season and look forward to a fun and successful experience for all. We ask that **all players and parents** take the time to read over the following message from the coaching staff. We hope to clarify our beliefs as they relate to the unique situation of high school athletics. The following pages layout our expectations and the standards for athletes in the Horizon Husky Softball Program. Please review the entire packet, discuss it as a family, and return the signed acknowledgement form to your coach by the due date communicated.

Standards for the Players

Being part of the high school softball experience is demanding and requires commitment of time, energy, and patience. The Lady Husky Softball coaches view our program as an extension of the high school experience, an extension that is earned with a positive team-oriented attitude, a commitment to our program goals, and the desire to achieve the best. Being a member of this program brings with it responsibilities, both on and off the field. First, and foremost, is the responsibility to follow and adhere to all school and district policies. Other responsibilities range from the maintenance of the fields, respecting teammates and opponents, and to always represent Horizon High School in a positive manner.

No student will be permitted to compete until, in the opinion of the coaching staff, she is ready to do so. In addition to the criteria listed above, it is imperative that open communication takes place between the players and coaching staff. Student athletes are encouraged to respectfully express themselves, with any member of the coaching staff.

Playing time, positions, and team assignments are not negotiable issues.

- First you are a student, then you are a representative of Horizon High School, and finally you are an athlete. Your grades reflect commitment – if there is a class that causes you difficulty, please take the responsibility to find help.
- You will address teammates, coaches, parents, and umpires in a respectful manner at all times. NEVER question an umpire. Trash talking is not allowed.
- Be on time for practice, we start at 2:30pm sharp. Please be considerate of the effort and time put into practice and pre-game warm-ups by your teammates and coaches. Have a water bottle to fill up and always bring it with you!
- There will be absolutely NO SWEARING when representing Horizon High School.

- No throwing of bats, helmets, or other equipment. You are responsible for the care and maintenance of your uniforms and equipment.
- Cell phones and Apple watches are NOT PERMITTED for use during practice or game time.
- If you miss practice, then you WILL NOT start in the following game, but could still play. Also, you will not play at ALL if you miss practice for a non-school event or unexcused absence.
- If you miss two days of practice in a row you will need a doctor's note to clear you for participation. This is so everyone remains healthy and able to perform at the highest level.
- Assignments are to be completed on time – this includes goal setting, self-assessments, etc.

No one wants to win and put the best team on the field more than the coaches do. The Horizon coaches will make every effort to communicate with each student-athlete their position and role on the team. Athletes can ask anytime about how to improve their skills, get more playing time, etc. It's our GOAL to teach our athletes to communicate and be responsible within the Horizon Softball Program.

Parents may request a coach's conference to discuss a particular issue or circumstance involving **their** daughter. However, playing time and positions are not appropriate topics for these discussions. They WILL NOT be discussed with Parents!! Coaches will not speak to parents via email, text, or phone! If an issue needs to be discussed, please request a coach's conference.

Behavior expectations

Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing Horizon High School and the community.

Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school and the coaching staff.

Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow students, and others. This will assist both you and them in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.

Treat opponents the way that you would like to be treated, as a guest or friend. Who understands more than you the hard work and team effort that is required of your sport?

Refrain from taunting, trash talking, or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial, or sexual nature. Refrain from intimidating behavior.

Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner following either a victory or defeat.

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 of the people at the event.

Win with humility, lose with grace, do both with dignity!!! Avoid excessive celebrating after a play or end of a game.

Of Spectators...

Remember that you are at a contest to support your daughter's high school team and to enjoy the skill and competition, not to intimidate or ridicule the other team and/or its parents.

Remember that school athletics are learning experiences for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people, as you would praise a student working in a classroom.

Remember that admission to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others and be generally obnoxious.

Learn the rules of the game so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.

Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups. Treat them as you would treat a guest in your own home.

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.

Be a positive role model through your own actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.

Conduct in School

While athletics take place, for the most part, after school hours, it is still imperative that a student-athlete remembers that her main priority is to be the best student they can possibly be. Student-athletes are seen as leaders in the school community and should act in a way that represents not only themselves, but also the team, and Horizon High School.

It is imperative that both student-athletes and their parents are aware of the following rules:

Students must be in school to participate in practice or a game on that day. If the game is held over the weekend, then that student must attend a full day of school on the preceding Friday. If a student is absent on the day of the event, excused or unexcused, she will not be allowed to participate in that event on that day, period!

Student-athletes will not be allowed to participate in practice or a game the day she is dismissed from school.

Only the Athletic Director or Administrator can consider any exceptions to the above rules.

Students are expected to maintain a grade of “C” or better in every class they have during the semester in which they are participating in softball.

If a student is suspended from school for any reason, she will be ineligible to participate in sports from the end of school on the day the suspension is given, until the day she returns to school from her suspension.

If a teacher or the main office issues detention to a student-athlete, serving that detention takes precedence over any practice or game.

No student-athlete will be required to attend practice on a Sunday or religious holiday.

Alcohol / Controlled Substances / Tobacco

All athletes are governed by Horizon High School and Paradise Valley School District policies on controlled substances. The use, possession, or sale/distribution of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances are forbidden by school policy, the AIA and state law. Students in the presence of others who are using, selling, distributing, or in open possession of these substances should immediately leave the premises or suffer the full extent of the consequences.

All athletes are restricted and forbidden to use any of the above-mentioned substances. The following are the consequences related strictly to a student-athlete's eligibility to participate in only softball related activities.

First offense: Restricted from all softball related activities for 2 weeks. (Including attending practice and/or games).

Second offense: Immediate dismissal from the Softball program.

Physical Well Being of Athletes

The Horizon Lady Husky Softball Program does not want to have any athlete who is injured or impaired participating in practice or games. If a student-athlete has been referred to a doctor or has gone on her own, they will not be allowed to participate until that doctor clears that athlete in writing. This release must be presented to the coach and the athletic trainer prior to the release of the athlete to participate in any activity. If during the course of a game or practice, the athletic trainer, EMT, or physician deems an athlete unfit to continue, then that player will not be allowed to continue. Coaches or players cannot override a decision made by any of the aforementioned people.

Student-athletes visiting the training room prior to practice or a game should only stay as long as needed to treat her injury. The training room is not a hangout, or place to fool around with your friends and teammates.

Expectations for Away Contests

All team members will ride to and from a game on the bus provided for them. An exception to this rule would be that prior to the departure for an event a student-athlete delivers a parental note seeking permission for that parent to bring home his/her daughter. In this instance, the player can go home with their own parent.

While riding the bus each student-athlete will strictly follow the rules set forth by the bus driver.

When at another school or athletic venue, each member of the Horizon Softball program will act in a way that represents character, maturity, and discipline.

General Guidelines for all student-athletes

Student-athletes are expected to attend all scheduled practices and games unless excused in advance by the coach. Excessive absences may result in the dismissal from the team.

Coaches may have individual team rules for their respective teams in addition to the ones stated in this handbook.

Any athlete suspended for violation of athletic rules or individual team rules may not be eligible for a Varsity letter or an individual team award.

Any athlete suspended for an alcohol/controlled substance violation will not be eligible for post-season play.

Students, who are managers or work in some capacity for a team other than a player, are expected to adhere to all rules established for participants.

Coaches will set standards for dress and all students will wear the same outfit to and from the event.

An academically ineligible student may not be involved in, or participate in, any team activity. This includes practices, team bus transportation, etc.

In a student-athlete loses a piece of equipment or uniform that has been issued to her by the school, they must pay for the piece prior to having another one issued.

As coaches we do not tell you how to parent your children so please don't tell us how to coach!



Parent/Player Acknowledgement:

I understand that by signing this document WE (player and parent) will follow ALL rules set forth by the coaching staff of the Horizon High School softball team and ALL school rules along with district policies.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Player Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please list any medical conditions that the coaching staff should be aware of: