

2025 - 2026

HANCOCK

BASKETBALL

ATHLETE - PARENT

HANDBOOK

WE CAN : WE WILL

Hancock Bulldog Basketball

To the Parent of Players

Thank you for supporting and encouraging your son and for helping him be a part of our team. He is important to you and he is important to his team and our coaches. We want him to be a successful player, yet we know that basketball success must come after family and academic success.

We will require grade checks and expect proper dress and behavior as he represents our Hancock Bulldog basketball program.

We are passionate about building an exciting and successful program at Hancock High. Your son belongs to a well rounded school district and a very competitive district in all sports. In order to become as successful as possible we need to recognize the efforts of many, including parents, administrators, community supporters, Hancock instructors and staff, other Hancock sports programs and our coaches.

Please support your son and our team in positive ways. Encourage them at home, cheer for them at games and enjoy the season.

Please allow the referees and opponents to do their jobs without negative comments; help make Hancock High a place where every game is enjoyable.

Again, thank you for all your help and support. It is appreciated.

Coaching Staff:

Jay Caserio

Dave Wanhala

Marcus Sutherland

PROGRAM GOALS

WE CAN : WE WILL provide the Hancock School District with:

- 1. A basketball program that meets the needs of the athletes of Hancock High.**
- 2. A basketball program that develops athletes physically, mentally and emotionally.**
- 3. A basketball program that respects all people and represents itself as first class on and off the court.**
- 4. A basketball program that provides an equal opportunity for all basketball players to reach their full potential.**

PRACTICE PREPARATION

- ❖ **Be on time with full attention, effort and practice with a purpose.**
- ❖ **Be prepared with proper gear for the court and notebook during film.**
- ❖ **Have a goal – even if small, for every practice. Get better everyday.**

GAME DAY DRESS

The athletes in the Hancock Bulldog basketball program will wear one of the following options to school on game day. Players will choose what they want to wear as a team, with the exception of away games. Players will wear their travel gear for road games.

- ❖ **Hancock Bulldog T-shirt with pants (don't have a team T-shirt yet)**
- ❖ **Hancock Bulldog ¼ zip with pants**
- ❖ **Dress shirt and tie**
- ❖ **Hancock Bulldog travel gear (away games)**

GAME DAY UNIFORMS

We want to establish a first class look, so we have set the following game day guidelines pertaining to dress.

- ❖ **All game jerseys are to be tucked in and shorts pulled up at all times.**
- ❖ **Undershirts have to match the main color of the uniform and no cut-offs.**
- ❖ **Please refrain from a different haircut or style from one day to the next.**
- ❖ **No distractions.**

PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

Dress, act and speak in ways that bring respect and dignity to you, your family, our school and our team in class, on campus and in the community.

AT SCHOOL:

- ❖ **School is our main priority. Plan ahead so that schoolwork and basketball does not conflict. If you are struggling in school, talk to your coaches. We will help you with a plan to balance your efforts.**
- ❖ **All forms and fees must be filled out and submitted prior to the first day of practice. Student-athletes can't practice until completed.**
- ❖ **Student-athletes will be on time to class and all basketball functions.**
- ❖ **Give full attention to coaches. Give 100% effort in practice and competition. Work hard to accomplish team goals. Perfect attendance does not guarantee playing time.**
- ❖ **Student-athletes are expected to participate in all fundraisers.**
- ❖ **Display sportsmanship in winning and losing. You are representing Hancock at all times; show pride in your team and school.**
- ❖ **This program is an educational experience. We want you to become confident, competitive, assertive and aggressive in a team situation. This demands commitment, unselfishness and loyalty.**

TEAM RULES

- ❖ **During practice or games the athletes will not be wearing hats, headsets, sunglasses, or earrings or jewelry.**
- ❖ **No athlete may participate in any athletic event if he has not attended a full and normal class schedule on the day of the event. Exceptions to this rule would be an excused absence or a family emergency.**
- ❖ **Student-Athletes will regularly have grade checks and will attend required study sessions when earning a D or F in class.**
- ❖ **All student-athletes will be dealt with individually if an issue may arise. No situation is exactly the same; therefore all punishments are not the same.**

COMMUNICATION – PARENTS / COACH

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to our children. As parents, when your child becomes involved in the Hancock Bulldog basketball program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coaching staff.

Communication You Should Expect From Your Child's Coach

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements (i.e. Fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning).
5. Procedures should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline as the result of your child unable to follow team rules and expectations.

Communication Coaches Expect From Parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concern in regard to coaches' philosophy and/or expectations.

As your child becomes involved with Hancock Basketball, he will experience some of the most rewarding moments in his life. It is important to understand there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child hopes. At these times, discussion with a coach is encouraged.

Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches

1. The treatment of your child mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you would like. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all student-athletes involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those below must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy and play calling.
3. Other student-athletes.

If these issues are directed towards the coaching staff the student-athlete will be suspended indefinitely. Players are encouraged to have a meeting with the coaches about the above issues and plans can be put in place for each player to improve.

If You Have A Concern To Discuss With A Coach

1. Call to set up an appointment.
2. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a game or practice. These can be emotional times for both parties. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolutions.

What Can A Parent Do If The Meeting With The Coach Did Not Provide An Agreeable Resolution?

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director, Mr. Ryan Towles, to discuss the situation.

Since the research indicates that a student involved with extracurricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, this program has been established. Many of the character traits required to be successful are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope this information makes both your child's and your experience with Hancock Basketball very enjoyable.

GAME DAY TRAVEL

Every athlete must ride the bus to and from every away game. Athletes are expected to be on the bus at the scheduled time of departure. Failure to do so will result in not playing in the game except for emergencies. During the travel to the game the player's cell phones will be collected keeping the focus on the task at hand, the game. Cell phones will be returned at the end of the game. Exceptions are long bus trips.

DISCIPLINE

Discipline will be handed out in a fair manner. Each incident will be handled individually and the disciplinary action will be based on the severity of the offense. Punishment will consist of any, and/or all of the following:

- A) Running B) Suspension C) Removal from the team**

GRADES

Grade checks will be issued every week throughout the school year and by the administration during the season each week for eligibility. Per district guidelines athletes will be ineligible by a week to week basis with two or more classes with a D- or F grade.

LOCKER ROOM

- ❖ No horseplay. Coaches will monitor at all times.**
- ❖ Keep your locker locked at all times. All equipment should be in your locker when not in use. Do not leave items outside your locker.**
- ❖ Place drinks and tape in the trash and do not leave any trash lying around.**
- ❖ The locker room is for Hancock basketball student-athletes only. Parents and friends of athletes may not come into the locker room at any time.**

PLAYING PHILOSOPHY

The Hancock basketball program is competitive. On the lower levels the coaches will try to allow all players experience, but not guaranteed. They will, however, receive the same in-depth instruction which will enable them to become the best basketball player they can.

The varsity program is strictly competitive and is for the very best male athletes at Hancock High School, regardless of their grade. There are no guaranteed amounts of playing time for those athletes who make up the varsity team. The coaches will make decisions that they feel benefits the entire program.

Players will be constantly graded in practice and games to help improve their weaknesses, reinforce strengths and provide the coaches valuable information.

MISCELLANEOUS

- ❖ During drills, everyone will participate either by performing or encouraging. Concentration will be high and there is no standing or chatting during drills.**
- ❖ Bickering on the court is unacceptable. Respect each other!**
- ❖ Absolutely no hazing will be tolerated**

