

## HALO PARTICIPATION BYLAWS

**MISSION:** The purpose the Homeschool Athletic Leagues Organization (HALO) is to provide an opportunity for home school children to participate in organized, competitive athletics and to use that competition to teach Christian based principles that will encourage each young person to strive for spiritual maturity in all areas of their lives.

### SECTION 1: PARTICIPATION CRITERIA

1. Participants **must be homeschooled** and live with a legal guardian in an established residence within the State of Georgia. They must provide proper Declaration of Intent paperwork.

2. Age requirements for participation is as follows:

**Middle School (Rising 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades)**

-Cannot be 15 before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year in which they are participating.

**High School (Rising 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades)**

-Cannot be 19 before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year in which they are participating.

All players are limited to 4 years of High School eligibility to be used in a 5-year period beginning with their freshman year. Even if a player chooses NOT to participate in any of his/her high school years, the year still counts as a year of eligibility.

3. Academic Requirements

All students must maintain at least a “C” average in their academic courses and may not have less than a “D” in any course. It is the responsibility of each parent to notify the Coach any time their child does not meet these requirements during the season.

Student-Athletes not meeting the requirements stated here in shall not be allowed to participate until their grade average is within the required limits.

4. New or transferred students

**Into the program:** Homeschool students who move to the area in the middle of the season, or students who begin homeschooling in the middle of the season, may be considered for participation provided there is space available. No player may be removed from the team for the sole purpose of allowing one of these new players on the team. Public or private school students, who have been suspended or expelled from their school,

for disciplinary or academic reasons, may not participate in the HALO program for one year.

**Return to the program:** Any student who is or has participated in HALO athletic programs within the previous year and elects to participate in another homeschool athletic program; or, to participate in athletics, while continuing to homeschool, at a private Christian school or any other formally organized school, may not return to HALO without approval from the Advisory Board.

Parents of any student, covered in the previous paragraph, wishing to return to HALO, shall submit a letter to the Advisory Board including the following information:

1. an explanation of their reason for leaving HALO
2. an explanation or the reason for their desire to return
3. a formal request for reinstatement

The Advisory Board shall review and discuss the request at the next meeting following the receipt of the letter. Additional information may be requested by the Board, including a personal meeting with the parents if deemed necessary. The decision of the Board will be final and submitted in writing to the parties involved.

## **SECTION 2: PARTICIPATION RULES**

Participation Rules apply to all athletes, cheerleaders, and in some instances parents and spectators. It is important that we remember that we are not in athletics to follow the crowd, but to be an example. All coaches have full authority to enforce these rules during any scheduled practice or game. Anyone who does not feel they can abide by the rules and be committed to the team should not sign up.

Violation of any of these rules by the parent or participant may result in dismissal from the program or result in a probationary status for the coming year. An individual on probation will be immediately removed from the program upon violation of any of these rules. Individuals (or families) placed on probation will notified in writing from the Advisory Board. Appeals process is available.

1. Players and families must conduct themselves so as to be a good example of Jesus Christ in all situations.
2. No ridiculing of players (ours or the opponents) will be tolerated. This includes any type of taunting. Violations of this rule should be communicated to the athlete and his/her parents. Continued violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including removal from the team.

3. In our organization teamwork will be emphasized. There is no place for individual attitudes. If a player refuses to participate in a team activity, such as practice, drills or punishment, he/she may be dismissed from the team.
4. Players must attend all scheduled practices on time unless prior arrangements have been made with the coach. Prior arrangements mean that you have notified the coach at least 48 hours in advance unless there is an emergency. The “no practice, no play” rule will be in effect. Since we have a limited number of practice days compared to regular schools, it is very important that players make scheduled practices on time. Continued absence or tardiness may result in dismissal from the team.
5. All decisions concerning game situations and players will be made by the coaching staff and will NOT be open for discussion. If you have a concern, please call the coach or Athletic Director and do not disturb practice or a game. This includes times immediately following or prior to practices or games. Verbal assaults or confrontations with coaches (by parent or child) concerning playing time, game decisions, All-Star selections will NOT be tolerated. Violations of this rule will be cause for immediate dismissal from the program for the entire family.
6. Facilities that we use for practice and games may or may not belong to HALO. Please observe all rules when attending games or practices. Any damage done to practice or game facilities as a result of horseplay or maliciousness will be paid for by the parents of the individual(s) involved. If it was due to maliciousness, then the player may be removed from the team for the remainder of the year. If it was due to horseplay, the player(s) will be allowed to continue to play on “probation”.
7. Uniforms must be returned at the end of each season on the day of the last game. Failure to comply will result in a \$5 per uniform per day penalty until returned.
8. Parents and family members attending HALO games and events are expected to conduct themselves in such a manner so as to be Christ-like examples to our players and participants. This includes the manner in which we address the officials, coaches, and players of opposing teams and fans of opposing teams. Verbal abuse of any of those listed, or unsportsmanlike conduct by parents or family members will result in a warning. Second offence shall result in a one game suspension of the offender. Third offence will result in suspension from HALO home games for one year. Failure of a parent to comply may result in the removal of the child (or children) from the program.
9. Participation costs may vary from year to year and program to program. Participants and their parents will be notified prior to the beginning of each season as to what the fees will be.

10. We are constantly evaluating our costs and needs each year to make sure we can meet our obligations and keep fees reasonable.

Money from the participation fees are used for items including, but not limited to: uniforms, officials, facility rental, administration costs, insurance, coach's stipend, and tournament fees.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarships are a possibility, depending on available funds. If an individual is in need of a scholarship, they should contact the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director shall determine, in consultation with the coach and Treasurer, to what extent the need shall be met.

### **PAYMENTS**

Payment due dates vary from sport to sport. Each participant's family will be notified of the due date prior to the season.

Fees for ALL sports is \$430

\$130 Due upon registration (non refundable)

Remaining balance (\$300) MUST be paid before the 1<sup>st</sup> game.

(Can be broken into payments upon request)

### **INSURANCE**

HALO maintains a \$1,000,000 liability insurance policy, which covers damages to facilities we may use, injuries to non-participants at athletic events and transportation to or from athletic events when HALO rents a vehicle for such transportation.

HALO also maintains an Accident insurance policy that offers coverage for participants in the case of injury during events/games. This will offer additional benefits to the family over and above their major medical coverage.