

HIBBING BLUEJACKET BASKETBALL



TEAM HANDBOOK 2025-26

“Success comes from knowing that you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming.” John Wooden

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OUR PROGRAM AND OUR MISSION

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

The Bluejacket program is a top level program that is an honor to be a part of. It has a rich history of many great players and teams. The success of the program dates back to the early 1900's and has been sustained for over a century. As a member of this program it is important to carry on the tradition that has been established with honor and Bluejacket pride.

THE 4 PILLARS OF THE PROGRAM

CULTURE: Who we are, what we do, and how we do it!

- Lead Others
- Positive Energy
- Pursue Greatness
- Be Connected

CHARACTER: Mental and moral qualities we expect out of our players/coaches.

- Respect
- Grit
- Integrity
- Selflessness
- Gratitude

QUALITY: GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT

- Development of players, teams, and the program.
- Success on the court, in the classroom, and in the community.
- Impact on others!

COMMITMENT: Be dedicated to your game, the team and the program.

- Show up and put in the work.
- Use the off-season to improve and get stronger.
- Be “ALL-IN”

These pillars are the foundation of everything we do within the program. If we can establish and maintain these pillars the program will be able to flourish.

OUR CULTURE

The success of the program will be dependent on the strength of our culture. The best programs have the strongest culture. We cannot win on the court until we win in the locker room. Our culture needs to be able to support the goals of the program. Our culture will be built on the following values.

VALUES

ON THE FLOOR

- PLAY WITH PRIDE
- BE COACHABLE
- NEVER GIVE UP
- POSITIVE ENERGY

OFF THE FLOOR

- BE A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL
- SHOW BLUEJACKET PRIDE
- BE RESPECTFUL AND RESPONSIBLE
- CONNECT WITH TEAMMATES

Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because **your character is what you really are**, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.

— John Wooden

AZ QUOTES



BLUEJACKET BASKETBALL

The BLUEJACKET program was built on guiding principles that were honored and honed by many great players. To be a great player and honor the program you must commit to the discipline required to be great.

BLUEJACKET PRIDE

Are We > Not Me Guys.

- They find ways to put the team first.
- They always pick up trash, even if it's not their own. They leave places better than when we found it.
- Always use "please and "thank you".
- Sit together with their teammates before games to stay connected and focused.
- They don't allow their tech devices to take the focus away from the team (i.e. bring phones/airpods into practices, film, the weight room, or on the bench.)
- Respect and care for their teammates. On and off the Floor.
- Are not worried about their stats. They only want to win. PERIOD.
- Bring *positive energy* all of the time, regardless of how the game is going or how they are individually playing. The *positive energy* should be shown on the floor and on the bench. ALWAYS.

→ Are committed to their academics.

- They go to class on time, are ready to learn, and stay in class until the bell rings.
- They treat their teachers with respect at all times.
- Communicate absences with teachers days in advance.

→ Are Prompt

- They Arrive Early, and not just show up "on time". They know that it's not about them being on time, it's about respecting our collective commitment and each other.
- They are on time for EVERYTHING. The bus, practice, game time arrival, and the weightroom. No excuses.

→ Are Mature

- They have a classy appearance.
- They don't act impulsively, they understand the difference between maturity/immaturity is one hour.
- They know there is a purpose with everything we do throughout a season.
- They control external emotions; we don't hang our heads, we don't pout, and we don't throw the ball down in anger. We don't accept poor body language.

- They accept coaching unconditionally.
- They never question an official's call verbally or visually.
- **Are "All In" off the court.**
- Take good care of their bodies, like an Olympic athlete. They rest, stretch, eat healthy, and never use alcohol or drugs.
- They prepare to win by preparing their mind first. Mentally, they are always ready to be their best.
- They get after it in the weightroom. They understand the importance of the reason why we are in the weightroom.
- **Are "All In" on the court.**
- They relentlessly compete in practices and games. To them, the games and practices hold the same importance.
- They understand the importance of pre-practice and post-practice discussions, film sessions, pre-game, halftime, and post-game discussions with coaches. This is where learning occurs.
- They loudly communicate on the floor.
- They never quit on plays.
- They pass up good shots for great shots.
- They are committed to simple play consistently throughout the game.
- They sacrifice their bodies; they are the first to the floor for 50/50 balls.
- They take charges.
- Run everywhere; they run to help someone off the floor, to the bench when substituted for, to timeouts, and to the locker room at halftime.

"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

OUR IDENTITY ON THE COURT

#1 TEMPO

We need to control the pace and tempo of the game. There will be times when we need to play fast and push the tempo of the game. There may also be games when we need to slow the tempo.. Regardless of the speed of the game the most important factor is that we play at our own pace.

#2 EXECUTE

It is important that we can execute the game plan and stick to our values. Players need to embrace their role and hone the skills needed to help the team win.

#3 DISRUPT

On defense we want to disrupt the flow of the offense. We want to make them uncomfortable and force them to take bad shots or turn the ball over.

#4 EFFORT

Our goal is to outwork our opponents from tip to finish. We must be relentless in our effort and pursuit of execution.

#5 TOGETHER

Everything we do we do together. Our relationships need to be strong on and off the floor. Communication and connectedness are needed for us to play as one and be unstoppable.

“A person does not become whole until he or she becomes part of something greater than herself.” - Jim Valvano, Former Head Basketball Coach, North Carolina State University

RULES/EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL PLAYERS

These guidelines are designed to help you understand the expectations for the Hibbing High School Basketball Program. It is the belief of the coaching staff that these expectations will ensure that all team members will be focused on a common goal: the continuous development and success as a group in the game of basketball. Deviations from these expectations often tend to cause distractions to the rest of the players on your team.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- As a member of the Hibbing Boys Basketball Program, you will be held to higher standards and expectations than other student-athletes at Hibbing High School.
- Be on time. Early is on time, on time is late, late is unacceptable.
- Always bring positive energy.
- Act like gentlemen.
- Be respectful.
- Always pick up trash.
- All weight room sessions are treated as practices.

LENGTH OF SEASON

- C-TEAM: The C-Team season starts November 18th and will conclude after the last regular season game.
- JV and VARSITY TEAM: The JV and Varsity Team seasons start November 17th and will extend until being eliminated from postseason play. The first round of section 7AAA play will take place on March 5th and could potentially extend into the last day of the State Tournament on March 28nd.
- The Varsity Tournament Team is limited to 18 guys. There may be some JV players not on the tournament team.

PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS

- Attendance is mandatory. If you don't attend practice, don't expect to play in games.
- Be on time. Early is on time, on time is late, late is unacceptable.
- Use the Locker Room appropriately. Keep the Locker Room Clean.

- If you have anything in a locker, you must have a lock. No exceptions.
- If you are injured, you are still expected to be at practice.
- Bring your own water bottle.

EXPECTATIONS BEFORE AND AFTER GAMES

- Be on time. Early is on time, on time is late, late is unacceptable.
- Varsity members attend all JV Team games and are in attendance by tip off, sitting together as a team
- JV and C-Team players should be dressed and ready for warm-ups 30 minutes prior to tip-off, unless told otherwise by the coach.
- Keep your uniforms and shoes on until after post-game conversation.
- Clean up the locker room. Leave the locker room nicer than when you arrived. Our locker room is an extension of the court.
- All C-Team players attend all Varsity games and are in attendance by tip-off, sitting together as a team, behind the Varsity team bench.
- Players must ride home with the team. Team bus rides are considered a team activity and part of the “journey” of the season. We believe that bus travel is an important component of overall team bonding.
- After road games when stopping at a restaurant remember that you are representing Hibbing High School and yourself -act like gentleman, be respectful, and sit together as a team.

GAMEDAY DRESS

- Players will wear a shirt and tie for home games unless told otherwise by the coach.
- No jeans are allowed. No hoodies allowed to be worn on top of dress clothes. No hats are allowed. Players will wear dress clothes to school.
- Players will wear team issued travel gear or approved Bluejacket gear for road games. Please wear Bluejacket gear to school.

BUS EXPECTATIONS

- Be on time. Early is on time, on time is late, late is unacceptable. If you miss the bus, you cannot play.
- Players should expect to sit together and share a seat.

- Players are expected to use time on the bus as study time.
- Players must ride home with the team. Team bus rides are considered a team activity and part of the “journey” of the season.
- We believe that bus travel is an important component of overall team bonding.
- Leave the bus nicer than when you arrived. Pick up trash. Regardless if it’s yours or not.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

- Family events (wedding, funeral, or family emergency).
- Some school functions.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Players need to be in class, on time, every day.
- Players need to be at school to be eligible for game play on a game day unless it is an excused absence for a medical or dental appointment.
- We will get home late from some road games. The expectation is that ALL players are in class during the 1st hour the next day.
- If you are at school, but do not come to practices, don’t expect to play in games.

VIOLATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

Players who violate any of the above guidelines may be assessed a consequence. The following are examples of consequences: Not starting, sitting out one half, sitting out for an entire game, sitting out for two games, extra conditioning, and removal from the team.

OTHER IN-SEASON ACTIVITIES

The success of the team depends on our players’ overall health throughout the season. Engaging in other activities that would risk injury are discouraged. Players are expected to avoid all activities that use non-basketball muscle sets or are hard on the body during the basketball season. Risking injury in activities such as this jeopardizes your health and team success.

FAILURES, INCOMPLETES, AND ACADEMIC PROBATION

- At the end of each grading period, a student cannot have an “F” on a report card and must not have a “U” in conduct given by the administration.
- If a student receives an “F” on a report card, the student is ineligible for at least the first three weeks of the next grade period.
- Students must be making progress toward graduation.

LETTERING REQUIREMENTS AND POST-SEASON AWARD

LETTERING POLICY

You must achieve one or all of the following requirements:

- You must play in at least 25% of the halves throughout a season (EXAMPLE: In a 26-game season, there are 52 halves of basketball. In order to letter, you must be checked into the game in 13 of those halves).
- You must be in good academic standing throughout the season.
- Managers have to be present at all games.
- Coaches have the ability to letter individuals at their own discretion.

POST-SEASON AWARDS

Most Valuable Player: This award will be given to the player who had the biggest overall impact on any success the team may have throughout our season. This player contributed offensively, defensively, and as a leader on and off of the floor.- This award is decided upon a coach vote and a player vote.

Most Improved Player: This award will be given to the player who has shown the most growth from the previous season. This player committed to improving during the off-season and put in the work to improve his game. This award is decided upon a coach vote and a player vote.

Academic All-Star: This award goes to the player who has the highest GPA during the basketball season. They are a steward in the classroom and are a great representation of a true student-athlete.

Hard Hat: This award will be given to the toughest guy on the team. This player must have a relentless attitude...he is the guy who never stops competing and was the engine of the team. Willing to sacrifice his body for the team. This player never

wanted to come off of the floor in practice or in games and he demonstrated his true “toughness” in all areas of our basketball season. - This award will be decided upon a coach’s vote and a player vote.

Bluejacket Pride: This award will be given to the player who best exemplifies what it means to be a Bluejacket. This player positively impacts the team on and off the court. They show up early, stay late, work hard, bring positive energy, act selfless, and never complain.

Leadership Award: This award will be given to the player who demonstrates leadership qualities on and off the court. This is the player who teammates lean on and go to for advice. They are vocal and lead by example.

PLAYING TIME AND COMMUNICATION

PLAYING TIME

- Playing time is earned in practice and in games.
- It does not matter the grade that someone is in. We will play our best players. We are trying to win games.
- Playing time is not equal. It is the coaches’ decision and the flow of the game that determines playing time.
- Players earn playing time by being able to execute what we are teaching them in both games and practices, buying into a role, and playing with maximum effort.
- Coaches will communicate with the players about things to work on, but players need to communicate with coaches as well as to what they need support with.
- Remember that if you are not playing you are still an important part of the team. EVERYONE IS A PIECE TO THE PUZZLE– WE>ME!

ASPECTS THAT DECREASE PLAYING TIME

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Being late/leaving early from practice.- Unexcused absences or being tardy for class.- Not passing classes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Not rebounding.- Taking bad shots.- Not playing with great hustle.- Not playing disciplined.- Not playing defense. |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not practicing with maximum effort. - Not buying into a role given by coaching staff. - Bad behavior on or off the court. - Turning the ball over. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Playing and behaving selfishly. - Violation of rules/expectations above. - Poor body language. |
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PARENT EXPECTATIONS

- Parents will treat players, coaches, opponents, and officials with respect.
- All comments by parents and their guests from the sidelines will be encouraging and/or complimentary.
- Parents and guests will refrain from making comments about players' mistakes or errors. Parents will refrain from making derogatory comments to referees at any time.
- Coaching basketball is to be done only by coaches on staff. Parents agree to refrain from coaching or directing their child or other players during all games and practices.
- Parents will discuss player and/or team concerns and problems directly with the coach. These discussions will not take place right before or after a game. A meeting will be scheduled. During the meeting, playing time and comparisons to other players will not be discussed. We want to talk about your kid; not someone else's kid.
- Parents will participate when possible in the raising of monies needed to sustain the needs of the basketball program, regardless of the amount of playing time given.

PARENT/PARENT COMMUNICATION PROCESS

- Parents should talk to their sons about basketball daily in a positive way.
 - Player talks to the coach at their level (7th, 8th, 9th, JV, V).
 - Player and parent talk to the coach of their team.
 - Player talks to the varsity coach.
 - Player and parent talks to the varsity coach.
 - Player and parent talk to the athletic director.