

# HALTOM FOOTBALL



## TEAM HANDBOOK

**DIVERSITY IN ASSIGNMENT  
UNITY IN PURPOSE**

# FOOTBALL

## Staff Organization

**Head Coach:** Jason Tucker

**Offense:**

Coordinator/QB: Courte Gilbert  
Running Backs: Daven Reese  
Offensive Line: Tyler Long  
Offensive Line: Sean Tierney  
Wide Receivers: Mason Bond

**Defense:**

Coordinator/DB: Michael Swan  
Defensive Line: Joe Brannon  
Inside LB: Paxton Gilbert  
Defensive Line: David Lara  
Outside LB's: Daniel Sanchez

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Coaches:**

Phillip Gonzales: Offense  
Mark Vandine: Offense  
Monte Sparkman: Offense  
Melford English: Defense  
Nicholas Kane: Defense  
Chris Howard: Defense

## Objectives of the Football Program

1. **The program will be an encourager and motivator of all players to excel in the classroom.** Academics and Football are not separate, they go hand in hand. Our coaching staff will strive to encourage all players to give their best effort in the classroom. We will take on the role of reminder to turn in work promptly and make that work a quality product. We will adhere to a policy of "No Zeros Allowed". If students turn in their work on time and stay organized, the Strong Grades will take care of themselves.
2. **Play at a level of effort, intensity, aggression and perseverance that our opponents cannot endure.**
3. **Through the Football experience, we want to become better people.** Players will learn to be encouragers. They will learn to be more accountable and responsible. They will learn to be positive about this day, their school, their community and their country. They will learn the influence they have on younger people and use this influence in a positive manner.
4. **Have fun. Football is a game to be enjoyed.** To be enjoyed it must be done correctly. Once learned correctly, there is nothing more fun. The player will give his best physical and mental effort, and once he has done that, everything else will take care of itself.
5. **Learn the extreme nature of football.** Between the white lines, we expect the most intense, physically aggressive people on the field. We expect perfect gentlemen off the field.

# Role of Players

**Assumption:** *That which is taken for granted.*

1. **We assume that you want to be the best football player you can be.** This is important because when our coaches look at you, they see what you could and should be and will push you to achieve your maximum.
2. **We assume that you want to play on a championship team.** Our practices, our off-season, and our summer program are designed to produce a champion. You understand that decisions are made with the priority being the team, and the individual must be second. Players must understand that the position they play is where they help the team the most, and cannot always be where they want to play.
3. **We assume that you expect to make the highest grades that you are capable of making.** You are responsible to the team to turn in your work on time.
4. **We assume you want to become a better person.** You understand that you represent the Football team 24 hours a day, not just at school. You may be the only player some people ever know. Your character is a reflection of our program

## Player Expectation

### I. General      A. Attendance      B. Attitude

#### A. Attendance

1. Be here every day on time.
2. If you cannot practice, come dressed out and encourage your teammates.
3. If you cannot come to practice, call and let coach know ahead of time. Do not send messages by other players. Do not send last minute texts/DM's.
4. Irregular attendance makes it difficult or impossible for you to be a part of the team.

**Consequences-***If you do not come to practice and do not call in, there is a strong possibility that you will not be allowed to play in the game that week. It is based on individuals and not on a general team. It has a great deal to do with attitude. A person who missed once with what turns out to be an acceptable reason will be judged less harshly than the chronic absentee or tardy.*

**General Rule: 9<sup>th</sup>/JV Missed Practice = Player will miss 1 Quarter of play**

**Varsity Missed Practice = Player will not start**

*There is no punishment for excused absence or tardy. Only the head coach can excuse absences or tardies.*

#### B. Attitude

1. Come every day with the expectation of something great happening.
2. Be an encourager every day.
3. Losers view the player/coach relationship as a competition (i.e. the player is trying to do as little as possible – the coach is trying to get much more).
4. Winners view the player/coach relationship as a cooperative effort to make the player the best he can be.
5. Have great expectations daily.
6. Don't be Cool – We have no room for cool players – Be passionate about the Football team.

**Consequences-** *If you have an attitude detrimental to practice or the team, you will be eliminated from practice. When this happens you will not compete in the contest that week.*

**Attendance & Attitude – choices you make.**

## II. On Field (Practice – Game – Off Season)

### A. Effort

1. You are expected to give effort every play.
2. You decide on each play, each drill exactly how much effort you will give.
3. Effort is simply a habit.
4. A player who gives 100% every play with less ability is often more productive than a player who gives 100% only under ideal conditions.
5. If you cannot give 100% effort – tell your coach.
6. **We don't want 90% – all or nothing.**
7. During practice – get in a habit of giving 100%; take each play, each drill one at a time.

**Consequences:** *Not giving effort will result in one gasser for every time you don't give 100%. The team that gives 100% effort every play takes care of their conditioning during practice.*

### B. Compete

What are you watching when you see two teams competing is a contest of wills rather than skills. Skill will only come into play if one team is so superior in skill that the wills are never tested. Compete means to expect, prepare, practice, and play to win. It is higher than participation. It is to empty yourself physically, emotionally and mentally to achieve victory. It is to sacrifice individualism to be a part of something bigger. Compete means to not be afraid to make mistakes. Compete means to not fear failure. Compete means to always encourage your teammates.

**Consequences of not competing** – one gasser each

**Consequences of not competing habitually** - removal from program

### **We will compete year round**

1. It is the expectation that all HHS football players will run track unless they are competing in another school sport during track season. (baseball, wrestling, and/or basketball)
2. When basketball season is over, it is the expectation that HHS football players will report to track.
3. It is the expectation that Offensive Lineman and Front 7 Defenders will compete/tryout in wrestling unless they are competing in another school sport during those seasons. (basketball and/or baseball)

*These expectations are choices you make. You choose whether to go 100% physically (effort) and 100% mentally (compete). With every choice there is a consequence – the negative is punishment sure enough to help you understand that the positive choice not only is better, but easier.*

### **III. Classroom – School Building**

#### **A. Accountability**

*You will be held responsible for all work your teachers ask you to complete. We can help somewhat by helping you increase your vocabulary, but most of all being a winner in the classroom is giving a 100% effort which means turning in assigned work.*

**Vince Lombardi – “Winning is not a sometime thing.”**

**Consequences –** *For every assignment not turned in, it will be two gassers with 10 burpees after practice.*

#### **B. Responsibility**

*You are responsible for your actions. Breaking school and classroom rules are choices and must have consequences. You are a member of something great, and being suspended for breaking school rules hurts our team. Use good judgment in the classroom and on school grounds, always keeping the team in mind. Remember, you are a member of this football team 24 hours a day.*

#### **C. Attendance**

We believe the statement “Education is important” is a true one. If the actions of our student athletes within the football program do not reflect the “Education is important” statement, they may be removed from the program. There are 167 full school days, 6 half days, 40 Saturdays, 40 Sundays, and 29 days for Holidays between the first day of school and the last day. If education is important, people will do everything possible to get all their non-school responsibilities done on one of the 109 days that are holidays and/or weekends. Our standard is miss 5 or less school days during the year. This is not a difficult standard, although some have said it is. If a player misses too much school, they are not taking education seriously, and if they do not take education seriously, it will be hard to keep them in the football program. Once an athlete has reached 5 absences during a school year, they will be considered for removal from the football program. We start this for all 10-12<sup>th</sup> graders when the year starts. This standard starts at the end of football season for our 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

### **IV. Off Campus**

#### **Little Eyes Upon You**

There are little eyes upon you and they're watching night and day.  
There are little ears that quickly take in every word you say.  
There are little hands all eager to do anything you do;  
and a little boy who is dreaming of the day he'll be like you.

You're the little fellow's idol; you're the wisest of the wise.  
In his little mind about you no suspicions ever rise.  
He believes in you devoutly, holds all that you can say and do;  
he will say and do, in your way, when he's grown up like you.

There's a wide eyed little fellow who believes you're always right;  
and his eyes are always opened, and he watches day and night.  
You are setting an example every day in all you do,  
for the little boy who's waiting to grow up to be like you.

*The above was written for fathers, but it is just as true for athletes. High School athletes emulate College and Professional athletes, elementary children emulate you. Make sure what they are imitating is positive.*

# Consequences of Poor Choices

**Selfishness** – *You will be eliminated from the team. There is no cure except removal when you consistently put yourself above the team. You must be eliminated.*

## Symptoms (examples) of Selfishness

1. Chronic Tardy
2. Absent
3. Stealing,
4. Fighting
5. Violation of Dress / Appearance Code
6. Class Misconduct
7. Chronic Complaining
8. Derogatory posts about the athletic program on Social Media
9. Insubordination

## **Immediate removal from the program will happen for the following:**

1. Theft
2. Insubordination
  - a. i.e. Telling a coach “no”

## **Possible removal from the program will happen for the following:**

3. Chronic missing of practice for any reason
  - a. Chronic will be defined as 5 or more times within a calendar year.
  - b. Missing other sports will be considered in the total
4. Not competing
  - a. Refusal to compete in other sports that would accentuate your football skill level
5. Chronic derogatory posts on Social Media
  - a. (Chronic will be defined as no change in Social Media activity after warning from Coaches and/or administrators)
    - i. About the football program
    - ii. About the athletic program
    - iii. About Haltom High
    - iv. About teammates
    - v. Anything deemed “inappropriate” by administration
6. Pictures and Video taken in Locker Room Meeting areas without consent of the coaching staff and/or other parties in the pictures and/or video.
7. Chronic problems with eligibility
8. Chronic problems with discipline in regards to teachers, administration, coaches, and school staff.
9. Drug related issues.
10. Unrelenting, badgering, disgruntled family members
11. Problems in the Community/Public

*If there are problems in the community, consequences are severe. You may be the only representative of our program that people see. You represent us-it is imperative that you keep this in mind.*

## **General Playing time / Team Placement Consequences**

1. JV / 9<sup>th</sup> Level – Miss 1 Practice = Miss 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of next game
  - a. This rule could be waived if enforcing would require a game cancelation.
2. Varsity Level – Miss Practice = Will not start in Varsity Game
3. Miss Practice may mean moving to a lower level team as well.
  - a. i.e. Varsity down to JV for the week
  - b. i.e. JV Black to JV Orange

## Player Placement

Every player would like to be a starter on our Football Team. Unfortunately, not all of you will. The coaching staff will determine who will start. Consequently, I feel it is important for you to understand how we will determine depth charts as practice progresses.

*The following five points will be:*

1. Knowledge of Assignment/Coachability – We cannot and will not play people who do not know their assignments. Your position coach will spend extra time with you if you so desire. Everyone can and should know their assignments. Everyone should be able to handle being corrected and taught by the coaches.
2. Hustle & Effort – Everyone will be expected to give 100% at all times. Your teammates will be giving 100% and they will expect you to also. Extra effort wins the games.
3. Hitting & Mental Toughness – We will discover during spring and fall training who has a strong desire to be physical. Football is a contact sport and must be played with a great deal of toughness. Everyone can hit.
4. Contribution to the Overall Team – The individual who motivates his teammates to do better is always enthusiastic and ready and will make a greater contribution than one who does not have this quality.
5. Talent – If the above four characteristics are equal – and they should be – then the young man who produces on the field in the way of making plays will start.

## Locker Room Meeting Rooms

1. These are your athletic homes. You are responsible for keeping your individual area clean and as a team keep the area neat. You are not required to have everything in your locker in one exact manner. You are trusted to keep it orderly and neat AND LOCKER. Things only go missing/stolen when they are not locked up. If this should be a problem, your position coach and you can work on this together.
2. I will try to always pick up the locker room and meeting rooms after practice. Since I am paid only as head coach, I feel it is only fair that guys pay me to pick up after them. Each article is one gasser.
3. Only players are allowed in locker/meeting rooms. Do not have or invite anyone in without permission.
4. Pictures and video are not allowed to be taken in locker rooms and meeting rooms without a coaches permission.



## Parent Expectations

We would expect our parents to be positive about our program. If a parent makes negative comments about our program it prevents success and hurts others who are participating. When an athlete hears his parents speaking negatively, he learns to be negative not only about our program but about others too. Parents are the most important teachers in their children's lives. They teach by example. If there are problems, direct them to the coaches and try to make positive suggestions

### What we ask of you as a parent

1. Help your child attend every function on time.
2. If you have any questions or opinions, please communicate with coaches rather than players.
3. Never hesitate to call or visit with coaches about any concerns that you might have.
4. The only problem we cannot solve is the one we do not know about. Communicate with us.

### What parents can expect from coaches. We coach our players like they are our sons.

1. Football is a loud, tough, disciplined, emotional game. We coach the same way.
2. We work very hard to teach and stress our philosophy. We require your child's undivided attention when we are teaching. The team always comes first. We have no stars.
3. We may require your child to be more disciplined than you do.
4. Race, religion, or parent's occupation will make no difference in determining playing time.
5. Players will play the position that is most beneficial to the team, not the position they may play in college.
6. We evaluate your child 24/7.
7. Coaches will not be your buddy, but there must be mutual respect between us.
8. Players need to work out with the team in the summer.

### My door is always open: however, I do have 4 policies regarding conferences.

1. I will only meet with you if your son and I have already talked. Your son must also be with you, and I may have his position coach there as well.
2. Your son will know when you contact me.
3. I will only speak to you about your son. I will not talk about anyone else.
4. Schedule conferences in advance. Immediately before or after a game is not the time.

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## Acknowledgement of Rules and Expectations

**I have read the football handbook and understand the programs goals and policies.**

**I also understand the Athletic Department has issued a locker with a lock, and that it is the athlete's responsibility to lock things up. I also understand it is the athlete's responsibility to let the coaching staff know if there is a problem with the lock or locker that has been assigned.**

Player's name \_\_\_\_\_

Player's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_