

Student-Athlete initials: _____

Parent initials: _____

Hillsborough High School Rowing Club 2022-2023 Participation Policy

The mission of Hillsborough High School Rowing Club (“HHSRC”), which shall include all programs operated by HHSRC, is to facilitate an inclusive and nationally competitive rowing team for students of Hillsborough High School and Home-Schooled or Virtual School students residing in Hillsborough County.

In order to accomplish our mission, HHSRC strives to maintain a healthy and viable athletic program in which all students feel safe and welcome, and can be proud of the school and rowing program they represent. Our goal is to ensure that all student-athletes are provided unparalleled opportunities to grow as students and athletes in a supportive environment conducive to such development. In order to meet those goals, student-athletes and parents are expected to abide by the Hillsborough County Public Schools Student Code of Conduct and the HHSRC Participation Policy.

Participation Policy

Student-athletes and parents are expected to act in a collegial manner. The following standards of behavior are expected of anyone associated with the club while at practice, at regattas, during club travel, or at any club function.

- All persons, student-athletes, member families, and guests of member families are expected to act in a courteous, respectful, and responsible manner, with good sportsmanship and team spirit. Crew demands personal physical exertion and team cooperation.
- Student-athletes and parents will be expected to use only club-directed communications platforms for official team communications. HHSRC has determined TeamSnap and Remind as our official platforms.
- Parents and spectators are not allowed in the boathouse. Current Board of Directors members and volunteers who have completed a background check (\$36 at your own expense), the City of Tampa Waiver and 90-minute fee-based SafeSport certification will be permitted in the boathouse for activities related to their roles or activities approved by the Board of Directors.

Student-athletes are expected to:

- Give their best efforts and present a positive attitude. Irresponsible behavior is unacceptable while in the boats or on land.
- Follow directions given by coaches and parent volunteers. The coach will make the final determination regarding the setting of boats and regatta participation.
- Know how to swim prior to the initiation of training and are required to watch this safety video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rx5SUE_RdQ.
- Be on time and attend their assigned practices and must attend at least 90% of regattas. The coach must be notified ahead of time if an absence is necessary. Unexcused absences may affect a student-athlete's seat or boat assignment. HHSRC is not responsible for transporting student-athletes to practice but will help facilitate the organization of carpools to get student-athletes from the school to the boathouse. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that their child has transportation, and you must be proactive in obtaining a ride if you need it.
- Not to leave practice or a regatta site unless specifically approved by the coach when leaving for any reason. Students will have reliable and timely pickup plans in order to not inconvenience coaches.
- Assist in the preparation and breakdown before and after a regatta unless they have been given permission to leave by the coach.

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- Be aware that they are using expensive boats and equipment and will handle all equipment with great care. When on water and docking in and out, only the coxswain and coach's voices should be heard.
- Remember that they are guests of Tampa River Center Boathouse and will not use other school or club boats, oars, or equipment. Club equipment will only be used with direct supervision and approval of the coaching staff.
- Wash and clean boats, oars, and equipment and replace all equipment in the proper place after each rowing session.
- Advise the coaches immediately if the equipment is damaged or has any loose parts to avoid damage or accidents.
- Advise the coaches immediately if injured or ill.
- Follow dress code: student-athletes must wear appropriate rowing attire at all times. NO underwear/items that look like underwear, sports bras, or bathing suits/items that look like bathing suits are allowed at any time. Student-athlete shorts must be 3-inch inseam minimum.
- Arrive dressed for practice, ready to row. Changing clothing is not permitted in the Boathouse restrooms.
- Insofar as participation demands personal physical exertion and team cooperation, student-athletes will be expected to give their best efforts and attitudes, especially when that seems difficult.

SafeSport Policy

- Each year, student-athletes under 18 are required to complete *SafeSport for Youth Athletes*. Student-athletes turning 18 during the race seasons are required to complete the *SafeSport Adult Athlete course*. Course completion information can be found here: <https://www.hhsrowingclub.org/safesport/>
- Student-athletes will be expected to follow all SafeSport Rules and Regulations outlined in the USRowing SafeSport Policy Manual found <https://www.hhsrowingclub.org/safesport/>.

Social Media Policy

HHSRC recognizes and supports the student-athletes rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social media; however, parents and student-athletes must acknowledge that rowing and competing for Hillsborough High School Rowing Club is a privilege and not a right. As a student-athlete, you have the responsibility to portray your team, your school, and yourselves in a positive manner at all times. For purposes of this policy, social media means any form of electronic communication through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content.

Student-athletes should understand that third parties, including the media, faculty, and future potential NCAA officials, can easily access your social media profiles and view all personal information. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the student-athlete and Hillsborough High School Rowing Club. Student-athletes need to remember that NOTHING is private on social media.

HHSRC will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online, including content that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual or entity. Examples of such behavior include:

- derogatory comments regarding another individual
- taunting comments aimed at a Hillsborough High School/Hillsborough County student-athlete or coach, or athletic representative at another institution
- derogatory comments against race, gender, and sex

- photos, videos, posts, or comments that depict or encourage unacceptable, violent, or illegal activities including, but not limited to, hazing, sexual harassment/assault, nudity, inappropriate gestures, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, smoking, underage drinking, and illegal drug use.

Hazing and Harassment Policy

Hazing is defined as recklessly or intentionally endangering the mental or physical safety or the health of any student for purposes including, but not limited to, initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating under the sanction of a high school and in accordance with Florida Statute section 1006.63.

A person commits a hazing and/or harassment offense if the person:

1. Engages in hazing, harassment, or bullying;
2. Solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in hazing, harassment, and/or bullying activities;
3. Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly permits hazing, harassment, and/or bullying to occur;
4. Has firsthand knowledge of the planning or occurrence of a specific hazing, harassment, and/or bullying incident involving a student and fails to report the plan to the HHSRC Head Coach or HHSRC Board member to prevent the occurrence;
5. Acts to destroy or remove public or private property for the purpose of initiation in, admission to, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization.

HHSRC's Participation Policy defines harassment as the severe or repeated use by one or more HHSRC members of oral, written, electronic or other technological expressions, image, sound, data, or intelligence of any nature (regardless of the method of transmission), or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at any other member that to a reasonable objective person has the effect of:

1. Causing physical or emotional harm to the other member or damage to the other member's property.
2. Placing the other member in reasonable fear of harm to himself/herself or of damage to his/her property.
3. Creating a hostile environment for the other member at any rowing activity.
4. Infringing on the rights of the other member at any rowing activity or materially and substantially disrupting the training process or the orderly operation of any rowing activity (which for the purpose of this section shall include, without limitation, practices, workouts, and other events of a member club).

Bullying Policy

Bullying is defined by the Centers for Disease Control as any UNWANTED AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR (S) by another youth or groups of youths who are not siblings or current dating partners that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated. OBSERVED OR PERCEIVED POWER IMBALANCE AND IS REPEATED MULTIPLE TIMES OR IS HIGHLY LIKELY TO BE REPEATED. Bullying may inflict harm or distress on the targeted youth including physical, psychological, social, or educational harm.

Common types of bullying include:

- Physical such as hitting, kicking, and tripping
- Verbal including name-calling and teasing
- Relational/social such as spreading rumors and leaving out of the group
- Damage to property of the victim

If bullying is occurring or it is reported to be occurring at HHSRC, the bullying is addressed by finding out what happened and supporting the youth and/or bystanders involved. In the case of where a student-athlete is involved, HHSRC will engage the parents to assist in mitigation of further bullying. If bullying behavior continues, the student-athlete and/or parent will risk having their membership in HHSRC forfeited.

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Reporting Procedures

HHSRC does not tolerate hazing, harassment, or bullying of any kind in any activities, whether team or non-team related. Student-athletes who violate the prohibition of hazing and harassment policy are subject to discipline by their coach, HHSRC Board President, and the Board of Directors. Any potential criminal activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities as well as SDHC.

It is the duty of student-athletes and parents to report any acts of hazing or harassment or bullying to a coach, a current Board member, or by email (hhsrowingclub@gmail.com) to the Hillsborough High School Rowing Club. There is no designated time limit for initiating a complaint under this procedure, but every effort should be made to bring the complaint to the attention of the appropriate club leadership as soon as possible, to make sure that memories are fresh and behavior can be accurately recalled and the unwanted behavior can be stopped as soon as possible.

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Policy

HHS Rowing club requires that all athletes remain drug, alcohol, and tobacco-free, while participating in the rowing club events and practices, including travel and during boarding for such events. The use of unlawful steroids is also strictly forbidden. A student-athlete should realize that the use of alcohol, drugs, vaping/e-cigarette or tobacco is detrimental to his/her health and performance and must agree not to use these substances as a member of the HHSRC. To accomplish these goals, HHSRC has enacted policies regarding involvement with drugs, alcohol, or tobacco at and outside of school.

Student-athletes for HHSRC, while in season, who use, are under the influence of, or are in possession of alcohol or drugs as well as tobacco/e-cigarette/vaping products while at practice, team transport, team activities or at local/state/national regattas (including during down time at travel regatta, i.e., while staying at the team hotel) will be suspended from HHSRC.

Student-athletes who were suspended from any high school program in Hillsborough county for these offenses, will also be suspended from being a member of HHSRC for the same length of time specified by the SDHC high school organization in which they are enrolled.

First Offense: Suspended from all HHSRC practices/regattas/travel for the remainder of that season or 30 school and/or practice days (excluding summer school), whichever is longer. In order to be considered for returning as an athlete on the HHS Rowing Club, the student-athlete must submit a request in writing to the HHS Rowing Club board of directors specifying offense correction steps taken. There is no guarantee of reentry as a member of the HHSRC.

Second Offense: Suspended from all HHSRC practices/regattas/travel for the remainder of that season and the next season. In order to be considered for returning as an athlete on the HHS Rowing Club, the student-athlete must submit a request in writing to the HHS Rowing Club board of directors specifying offense correction steps taken. There is no guarantee of reentry as a member of the HHS Rowing Club.

Third Offense: Suspended from all HHSRC practices/regattas/travel for the remainder of that season and will not be eligible to become a member of the HHS Rowing club for the remainder of their high school career.

NOTE:

1. If the school year should end before the suspension is completed, the suspension will continue into the next school year.
2. Loss of all awards, honors, and recognition for the seasons affected will result from any of the above offenses.

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Violations of the Participation and Code of Conduct Policies

The actions of one student-athlete may result in a generalization of all student-athletes and reflect on the individual, parents, school, team, club, and organization, whether it be positively or negatively. It is expected that all student-athletes abide by HHSRC policies as outlined herein. In addition to all HHSRC policies, student-athletes are responsible for following all local, state, and federal laws. Any participants who do not conform to this Participation Policy may be subject to consequences for their actions.

In accordance with Hillsborough County Public Schools Student Code of Conduct, bringing a firearm or weapon of any kind to any HHSRC-sponsored activity (including but not limited to practices and regattas) or making a threat or false report regarding a destructive device involving any HHSRC-sponsored activity shall be considered “zero tolerance” offenses subjecting the student-athlete to immediate expulsion from HHSRC.

If a violation of this Participation Policy by a participant of the HHSRC is witnessed, the student-athlete, parent, staff person, or volunteer should report said violation to an HHSRC Head Coach or an HHSRC Board member. When requested, every effort will be made to protect the identity of the person reporting the grievance. A grievance need not be filed for disciplinary action to occur.

Violations of the Participation Policy, in spirit or letter, including but not limited to such major offenses as unwanted physical contact, written or verbal threats of violence, possession of alcohol or drugs, etc., will be disciplined as determined by the HHSRC Board or any person(s) to whom the Board shall delegate such authority. The HHSRC Board will exercise its discretion based on the particular circumstances in determining the appropriate level of discipline in accordance with the Hillsborough County Public Schools Student Code of Conduct (“Discipline: Interventions and Consequences”), relevant rules and regulations of the Hillsborough County School Board, and the Participation Policies. The student-athlete may need to meet with the HHSRC Head Coach and/or Board members, and discipline may include the following penalties, as appropriate:

- Verbal or Written Warning
- Removal from practices/regattas for a specified period of time
- Expulsion from HHSRC (forfeiting membership)

In accordance with HHSRC bylaws, HHSRC Board may suspend from participation in any HHSRC activity any student-athlete, parent, member, or other person if the Board determines such suspension is appropriate or necessary.

HHSRC Board President will communicate formal disciplinary actions to the Student-athlete team member in question and/or his/her parents. The Board reserves the right to provide an unidentified synopsis of the issue, to protect the privacy of the parties involved. Parents may address concerns regarding such measures directly to the Board of Directors and, if they are not satisfied with the explanation of events and consequences, they may appeal the decision in order to provide additional evidence or information. The Board’s decision after any appeal is final.

On occasion, a parent’s behavior toward coaches, team members, other parents, regatta officials, or HHSRC leadership may result in sanctions that affect their child’s continued involvement with HHSRC. Contentious, confrontational, or blatantly disrespectful athletes or parents who fail to act in a civil, mature manner may be barred from further participation with the club as stipulated in the HHS Rowing Club By-Laws.

If any student-athlete, volunteer, parent, coach, or HHSRC Board member suspects there has been a violation of this Policy, it is incumbent upon that individual to report such violation to a coach, a current Board member, or by email (ahsrowingclub@gmail.com) to the Hillsborough High School Rowing Club.

If the child of any HHSRC Board member is the subject of such a report, then that board member shall recuse himself/herself from the subsequent discussion and determination of discipline.

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Academics

Student-athletes must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA (effective Fall 2018) to be considered “in good standing”. In the event that a student-athlete’s GPA drops below 3.0, that student-athlete’s further participation will be determined by the HHSRC Head Coach.

Volunteer Hour Agreement

- Our club depends on parent volunteers. For *each season*, Fall and Spring, each family is obligated to contribute 10 hours of their time (20 hours annually).
- **Buy-Out Fee:** The club member's family may elect to "buy" out their obligation at a cost of \$20 per hour.
- **Deficit Fee:** Families not meeting the volunteer hourly commitment by the posted deadline (usually 2 weeks before the end of each season) will be assessed the prorated fee of \$20 per hour for any deficit.

Financial Agreement

Payment Due Dates: Members agree to pay dues according to the fee schedule. If payment is not received on the due date, the member or financially responsible party has 72 hours to arrange payment with the club treasurer. After 72 hours, the rower will be considered inactive and not be allowed to participate in practice, events, or volunteer opportunities for HHSRC or regattas. A \$25 assessment will be made on all fees received after the due date. Rowers cannot register for the following season until the previous season is paid in full.

- **Refunds:** In order to allow for a trial period, refunds of club dues will be given to new members during the first two weeks of practice. If a student leaves the club during the season, the rower and his family agree to pay all fees for the entire season, including the prorated buy-out amount for uncompleted volunteer hours.
- **Scholarships:** Scholarships may be considered on a case-by-case basis. However, a scholarship will not cover all the initial fees, team unisuit, travel and boarding at out of state regattas. Contact hhsrowingclub@gmail.com for information before the end of the registration period.

Please continue to Acknowledgement on the next page.

Student-Athlete initials: _____

Parent initials: _____

Acknowledgment

The undersigned parent/guardian and student-athlete acknowledge having received the Participation Policy were given an adequate opportunity to review them in their entirety.

By signing below, the student-athlete and their parent(s) acknowledge that participation in HHSRC is a privilege and not a right; you agree to uphold and abide by this Policy and understand that any violation may result in the student athlete's immediate suspension from the team and further disciplinary action as outlined in Hillsborough County Schools' and HHSRC policies.

The student-athlete and their parent(s) understand the commitment to the athlete's teammates and to this rowing program and that they are accountable for their behavior.

The student-athlete and their parent(s) understand that any violation of the Participation Policy may result in disciplinary action deemed appropriate by HHSRC Board of Directors.

The student-athlete and their parent(s) understand that rowing will include close proximity to others during the course of practice and races and that they will take personal responsibility to reasonably protect myself and my teammates from the spread of germs and viruses.

Signed,

**Student
Name:** _____

**Parent/Guardian
Name:** _____

**Student
Signature:** _____

**Parent/Guardian
Signature:** _____

Date: _____

Date: _____