

STUDENT – PARENT ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)

Philosophy

Interscholastic athletics supplement and support the academic mission of the school system and assist students in their growth and development. Athletics assists in promoting the importance of teamwork, effort, goals, and commitment. Interscholastic athletics is highly competitive, but winning is not the primary measure of success. Sportsmanship, respect for participants, and dignity in the face of adversity are more important than the outcome of the contest. All athletes do not perform at the same level, but all can demonstrate effort, dedication, and fair play.

Sportsmanship

An important mission of the interscholastic athletics program is to teach and reinforce values relating to sportsmanship, competition, and fair play. It is expected that team personnel, parents, and spectators respect this mission by exhibiting appropriate behavior at athletic events. Countywide team and school awards are presented annually to schools whose coaches, players, and fans, demonstrate a high degree of sportsmanship.

Student Eligibility Requirements

Students must meet the following requirements to be eligible to participate. Participation of ineligible students shall result in individual and team sanctions, including forfeits for the team.

1. All participants are required to have a valid annual medical evaluation.
2. Students must submit a current *MCPS Health Inventory Form* (MCPS Form SRS-6), a *Medical Card for Athlete* (MCPS Form 560-30) and a *Student/Parent Athletics Participation Contract* before being allowed to participate in practices or contests.
3. Students selected for a team must pay the MCPS extracurricular activities (ECA) fee. Students may not participate in contests until they have paid the activities fee.
4. Students must achieve a minimum 2.0 grade point average for the most recently completed marking period, with no more than one failing grade. Academic eligibility is determined on the date report cards are issued, and remains until the next report card is issued.
5. Students must attend all of their scheduled classes in order to participate in a practice or contest on that day. If the principal or designee grants an excused absence in advance for a prescheduled activity, or an unforeseen emergency, the student may participate on that day.
6. If during the season a student has an unexcused absence, he/she may not compete in the next contest after the violation has been verified.
7. In addition to other infractions, a student may be suspended or removed from a team for unexcused absences or chronic tardiness to classes or team practices.
8. Students who are 19 years old, or older, as of August 31 of the current school year are ineligible.
9. Students may not participate in more than one interscholastic sport in one season.
10. A student may not participate when he/she is serving an in-school or out-of-school suspension. The student becomes eligible to participate on the next school day following the suspension.
11. Students must satisfy school and school system Participation Standards.
12. Students whose legal residence is outside the designated boundary of a particular school may not participate unless they have received an official transfer and an athletic waiver.
13. Students and their parents must sign the school *Student-Parent Athletic Participation Contract and Parent Permission* form.
14. Students should refer to *A Student's Guide to Rights and Responsibilities* for additional guidelines and regulations related to eligibility.

Assumption of Risk

Participation in interscholastic athletic activities often includes intense competition and poses the potential for serious, catastrophic, or life-threatening injury. Participants and parents are urged to consider that there are inherent risks and hazards associated with athletic participation. Risks vary from sport-to-sport and can occur under direct supervision and with use of proper safety equipment.

Hazing

Hazing is prohibited at all times. Hazing involves any act that subjects teammates to mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. In some instances hazing constitutes a criminal act. At a minimum, hazing may lead to immediate dismissal from a team.

Communication with Coaches

Parents should not attempt to address coaches immediately after games and practices. Coaches have many post game/practice responsibilities, including supervision of players. Also, the post game/practice period is often emotionally charged, and not conducive to productive discussion. If a parent feels a need to communicate a concern, the parent should contact the coach and/or athletic director to arrange a later meeting.

Participation Expectations and Standards

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege. Accordingly, students must meet certain standards in order to earn the privilege of participation. At a minimum, the following standards are required of all student-athletes.

1. Exhibit public behavior that will reflect positively on the team, school, and community.
2. Exhibit responsible, respectful, and trustworthy behavior to teammates and the coach.
3. Exert efforts to maintain a high level of academic achievement.
4. Comply with all team, school, and school system rules, regulations, and policies.
5. Exhibit appropriate behavior at all team and school-related activities.
6. Attend all team functions unless ill or given prior permission to be absent by the coach.
7. Respect and comply with decisions made by the coach, athletic department, and game officials.
8. Display good sportsmanship at all times.
9. Report to the coach any issues or developments that may affect eligibility status.
10. Comply with safety and health precautions distributed and emphasized by the school system.

Residency

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) residency regulations require that students attend specific high schools, assigned by the school system, based on their legal residence. When a student participates at a school to which he or she is not assigned, or the home address of the student is not his or her legal residence, the student is not eligible to participate unless the student has received an official transfer, based on accurate information, and has received an athletic waiver from the Director of System-wide Athletics.

Illegal Substances/Alcohol/Tobacco/Steroids/Controlled Substances

MCPS athletic regulations state that any student-athlete with verified use, distribution, or possession of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, and/or controlled substances on school property or at a school-sanctioned event, shall receive a minimum ten-consecutive school day suspension from all athletic activities. Participation in athletic activities will not resume until the school day following completion of the suspension. Individual schools may adopt a more-stringent regulation or penalty than that stated above.

Montgomery County Public Schools
STUDENT – PARENT ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION CONTRACT
and PARENT PERMISSION FORM

Student: _____ Student ID: _____

School: _____ Team: _____ School Year: _____

Parent and Student-Athlete: Review this contract carefully (front and back), complete information as requested, affix signatures, and return the completed contract/permission form to the school.

Stipulations

The student-athlete and his or her parent/guardian have received and read the *Student-Parent Athletic Participation Information*. Based on this information, the student and parent/guardian understand and stipulate to the following:

1. I/We understand the eligibility regulations required for participation and affirm that all eligibility requirements have been satisfied, including age, residence, and academics.
2. I/We understand that participation of ineligible players will result in individual and team sanctions, including forfeits for the team.
3. I/We affirm that the student will exert effort to maintain a high level of academic achievement.
4. I/We understand there is potential for serious, catastrophic, or life-threatening injury associated with participation in a sport.
5. I/we have reviewed safety and health-related information made available by the school system, including information regarding concussions, proper hydration, proper hygiene, and MRSA.
6. I/We affirm that the student will not participate in hazing at any time, of any nature.
7. I/We, as a participant or spectator, will exhibit a high level of sportsmanship at contests.
8. I/We will follow appropriate procedures in communicating concerns to coaches.
9. I/We affirm that the student will abide by all team and participation standards.
10. I/We affirm that the student will not use steroids, illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco unless medically proscribed for a specific condition or illness.

Zero Tolerance Policy (WWHS Policy)

Walt Whitman's Zero Tolerance Policy applies to any student who brings alcohol/drugs/ controlled substances and/or weapons onto the school grounds or to a school-sponsored activity, or who is under the 52 influence of alcohol/drugs/controlled substances at any time on school property or at a school-sponsored activity. Possession encompasses students' vehicles, book bags, lockers, or on their persons. If it is determined that a student is involved with alcohol/drugs/controlled substances/weapons or there is reasonable suspicion that the student is involved in or under the influence, the student is to be referred to an administrator immediately. The administrator will confer with the student to determine if there is just cause to investigate further and may call the police to verify a reasonable suspicion. If it is confirmed that the student was involved with alcohol/drugs/controlled substances or is in possession of a weapon, the student shall be suspended for ten days; the parent/guardian informed; the police notified. The student shall be denied the privilege to participate in any school-sponsored activity, either as a spectator or member of a school-sponsored activity, on or off school property, for the period of one calendar year from the date of infraction. The principal may review the privilege to participate after six months if the student has completed 100 hours of community service approved by the principal. This includes: sports teams, prom, banquets, class/club officer, dramatic roles or attendance at activities sponsored by the school and other such activities, on or off school grounds. Students may be required to attend AA meetings or show evidence of counseling. The intent of this policy is to have students think seriously about deciding to come onto school property under the influence of alcohol/drugs/controlled substances/weapons or to have such in their possession, on their persons, or in their lockers or their vehicles.

Residency Verification

Students must be legally enrolled at a high school designated by the school system based on their legal address. Please respond to the following residency questions:

TURN IN THE LAST SHEET ONLY

