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## What Do Students and Parents/Guardians Need to Know?

Helpful Information for Student-Athletes and Parents/Guardians

*(The following information is placed on the Athletics website)*

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### **MCPS Philosophy**

MCPS believes participation in interscholastic athletics supports the overall mission of the school district to ensure that every student will have the academic, creative problem solving, and social emotional skills to be successful in college and career. The MCPS philosophy of interscholastic athletics is founded in our vision, mission, purpose, and R.A.I.S.E. core values, which were established in July 2017.

### **Vision**

We promote academic excellence, athletic achievement, positive sportsmanship, and upstanding citizenship by providing the greatest education-based interscholastic athletics program.

### **Mission**

Every student-athlete will attain the mental, moral, physical, and social-emotional skills to excel in the classroom, community, and the realm of competition.

### **Purpose**

To provide an innovative education-based interscholastic athletics program that maximizes diverse participation through a commitment to equity and access.

### **R.A.I.S.E. Core Values**

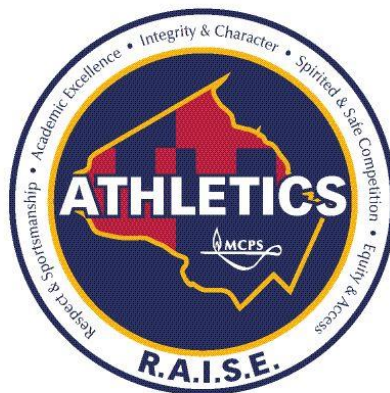
Respect & Sportsmanship

Academic Excellence

Integrity & Character

Spirited, Safe Competition

Equity & Access



### **Tryout Dates for the 2023–2024 School Year**

The following are the tryout dates/first practice dates for all fall, winter, and spring sports.

- August 9-12, 2023 – Fall Sports\* (Equipment may be distributed on August 8<sup>th</sup>)
- November 15, 2023 – Winter Sports
- March 1, 2024 – Spring Sports

\*Fall teams have the option of starting tryouts as early as August 9<sup>th</sup>. Teams must begin tryouts no later than August 12<sup>th</sup>.

For all sports except golf, the first contest is approximately three weeks after the first practice.

## **Required Reading and Required Forms**

During the online registration process for athletics students and parents/guardians must review and submit the following information prior to participating in practices or tryouts. Materials and resources are available on the MCPS Athletics website: <http://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/athletics> and/or from the local school.

### Required Reading:

During the online registration process, parents/guardians must review the following materials, all of which can be found on the document entitled *Required Safety-Related Forms, Documents, and Courses* under the heading of *Parents/Student-Athletes – Required Forms and Required Reading* in the *Health and Safety* section of the MCPS Athletics website.

- Concussion Information for Parents
- Baseline Testing Parent Letter
- Head's Up Concussions: A Fact Sheet for Parents
- Head's Up Concussions: A Fact Sheet for Athletes
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information for Parents
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest Frequently Asked Questions.

### Required Forms/Information:

The online registration program ParentVue incorporates all previously required paper forms and documents into an internet-based platform that you can access using your secure ParentVue login. The following forms are completed during the online registration process.

- *Student-Parent Participation Contract and Parent Permission.* This includes information that student-athletes and parents are required to review, including reference to the Health/Safety section of the MCPS Athletics website. This information must be submitted for each sport in which the student wishes to participate and is available in Spanish, French, Korean, Chinese and Vietnamese.
- *Pre-participation Physical Evaluation.* The Pre-participation Physical Evaluation is valid for 13 months from the date of the exam, and covers participation for all sports within that time period. Parents/guardians submit their student's physical as part of the online registration process (only the last two pages). Students may submit the last page of their physical to the school/coach (Medical Eligibility Form). Schools keep the forms on file.
- *Emergency Medical Card.* Student-athletes and parent/guardians complete emergency medical information during the online registration process for athletics. The ParentVue program generates electronic Emergency Medical Cards, which are provided to coaches and should be available at all practices and contests.
- *Consent Form – ImPACT Baseline Concussion Testing.* A baseline concussion test is required for all students prior to their initial participation in the MCPS athletics program. During the online registration process parents/guardians and student-athletes indicate that they are aware of the purpose of baseline testing and that they consent for their child to undergo baseline testing.
- *Pre-participation Head Injury/Concussion Reporting Form.* This form indicates whether the student has previously suffered a concussion.
- *MPSSAA Concussion Awareness and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Acknowledgement of Awareness Form.* This form indicates that the parent and student-athlete have received information regarding concussions.

- *Transportation Form.* This form is applicable whenever student-athletes are transported to athletic activities in cars. Student-athletes and parent/guardians complete the transportation form during the online registration process for athletics.
- *Proof of Medical Insurance.* This form is only required for football.

### **Information**

Important information regarding athletic participation, health and safety, and eligibility is included in the following sources, all of which are obtainable from the school and/or the MCPS Athletics website: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/athletics>.

- *Student Information.* This document includes four pages from the *MCPS High School Athletics Handbook* regarding a wide range of information affecting student-athletes, including eligibility, transfer rule, ejections, drug policies, attendance, etc.
- *Health and Safety.* Parents and students are required to review the Health/Safety section of the MCPS Athletics website. The information included in this section is very important to the safety and welfare of students.
- *Student's Rights and Responsibilities.* Distributed to all students early in the school year. Includes criteria for participation and school system rules and regulations.
- *Student-Parent Athletic Participation Information.* Provides information on athletic participation including eligibility requirements.

### **Sports Medicine Program & Certified Athletic Trainers**

MCPS Athletics is excited to launch an enhanced sports medicine program for the 2023-24 school year! Included in the program are full-time, 12-month certified athletic trainers and a partnership with MedStar Health. Athletic trainers have been hired and have started in all 25 MCPS high schools! New for the 2023-24 school year - athletic trainers are now MCPS employees, who will provide streamlined and enhanced care for student-athletes and across the program.

### **Transportation**

MCPS buses are available for teams to utilize throughout the season for off-site games or events, assuming there are available drivers and buses and based on the game time. It is important to note that, due to buses making runs afterschool for students, buses are not available during the hours of 1:35-4:35 p.m. from Monday-Friday. This constraint, along with the convenience of leaving later and coming home earlier, results in instances when parent or student drivers may be preferred. If parent or student drivers are being considered for transportation to off-site events, each student's parents/guardians have the option to opt out of allowing their student to drive with parent or student drivers. Parents are required to select which mode(s) of transportation they consent to allowing their student-athlete to utilize during the season. This information is used to assist in the decision-making process. Ultimately, the decision on the mode of transportation is made utilizing a collaborative process based on the availability of buses and the consent and preferences of parents/guardians for each team. Transportation to and from practices is the responsibility of each student-athlete and family. Please consult your coach or athletics specialist for additional information.

### **Schedules**

Schedules are posted on [countysportszone.com](http://countysportszone.com) and on local school websites.

### **Ticket Prices/Admissions**

Information regarding ticket prices and season ticket options may be found in the Events section on the MCPS Athletics website.

## **Sportsmanship**

Sportsmanship is a primary mission of the MCPS interscholastic athletics program. MCPS has a comprehensive Sportsmanship Award Program in which parents and spectators are included in game ratings that ultimately decide schools and teams that win Sportsmanship Awards. Information regarding the MCPS Sportsmanship Award Program can be found on the General Information for Parents page of the MCPS Athletics website. Sportsmanship fundamentals include that:

- Fan support should be positive, respectful, and appropriate to a high school setting.
- Parents discuss issues and concerns with coaches at appropriate times. Avoid times immediately before or after games. Appointments are best.
- Comments that are discriminatory in any manner are unacceptable and should be reported immediately to school personnel. If you see something, say something.
- Spectators realize that officials must make judgment calls that are invariably disliked by one-half of the fans. Accepting unfavorable calls by officials can be important learning opportunity for students.

## **Contest Cancellation**

Contests may be cancelled countywide due to inclement weather conditions, or locally at a school due to adverse field/playing conditions. Local schools can provide necessary, updated information. Generally, when schools are cancelled, all athletic activities are cancelled. Countywide cancellation information can usually be found on the MCPS website, MCPS TV, @MCPSAthletics on Twitter, or local radio and television stations.