



Frederick County Public Schools

GUIDE FOR STUDENT ATHLETES AND PARENTS

GENERAL STANDARDS AND FORMS FOR PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

PURPOSE: This Athletic Brochure is designed to be useful as a guide to student-athletes and parents. The intent is to condense into one brochure that information which is necessary to effectively understand and participate in the athletic program in Frederick County.

The brochure includes a collection of information pertaining to state and county procedures and regulations.

There may be questions which arise that may not be covered in this brochure. Remember, this brochure is only a guide. Only open communications between coaching staff, athletic director, parents, students, and school administrators will ensure an effective athletic program.

ENROLLMENT: Students shall be officially registered, as required by Maryland school laws and attending a member MPSSAA school. They may represent only the school in which they are registered and at which it is anticipated they will complete their graduation requirements.

AGE: Students who are 19 years or older as of August 31 are ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for the school year ahead.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: A student shall be examined and certified as being physically fit to participate in any tryout or practice. This examination shall be performed by a qualified physician between June 1 and the first day of practice. All physicals expire on May 31.

ATHLETIC INSURANCE AND PARENTAL PERMISSION: Every candidate for and participant on an interscholastic team must provide proof of parental permission and have insurance covering possible accident or injury in school-sponsored games, practice sessions and travel to and from athletic contests. Such coverage may be provided through the purchase of scholastic accident insurance, or by providing proof of similar or superior coverage.

FOOTBALL INSURANCE: The Board of Education offers an insurance policy option which students participating in football may purchase. Students must show proof of similar or superior coverage and/or purchase the football insurance through the Board of Education. There is no guarantee that all medical bills and expenses will be borne by the football insurance. There are exclusions and limitations that are delineated in the football insurance brochure that every football candidate should receive from his respective coach. If an injury occurs, parents and/or guardians of athletes should anticipate the distinct possibility of incurring medical expenses that will not be covered by insurance.

The football insurance option available through the school system, if selected, will cover students participating in football only. Insurance for school time and other sports must be purchased separately.

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC FEE: The school system will require that each student pay a nonrefundable fee of \$55 for each team in which he or she is a member.

Fees collected will contribute to the county athletic program to underwrite transportation, coaches salaries, officials' fees, equipment and uniforms.

AMATEUR STATUS: Any student who has not or is not using his athletic skill as a player for financial gain, or has not competed under an assumed name as a player, shall be considered an amateur. Employment as an instructor, counselor, or official may not be considered a violation. Students may not apply for reinstatement until at least 60 days after the date of the violation.

SEASON OF COMPETITION: Students may participate in interscholastic athletic contests a maximum of four seasons in any one sport in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12.

OUTSIDE TEAM MEMBERSHIP: The outside participation shall not conflict with the practice or contest schedule of the school including district, regional and state championship play. A principal and coach must authorize in advance an absence from a school scheduled practice or competition. Failure to comply with this rule will result in dismissal from the team.

TRANSFER: All requests for pupil transfers to schools outside their home school attendance area are to be directed to the Department of Pupil Personnel. Requests are considered on the educational merit of the request not the athletic accommodation. Transferring for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics is not a legitimate reason to request a transfer.

RECRUITING STATEMENT: No coach or school personnel are to discuss or otherwise promote transfers or changes in residence or residence arrangements with any student, parent or other person of influence or knowingly permit such activity to take place for the purpose of facilitating athletic participation.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY: A student to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities must have a minimum of a 2.00 grade point average and no "F" grades. Grades used to determine eligibility will be recorded on report cards and interim reports. Grades used to determine ineligibility will be nine week term grades only. Eligibility/ineligibility for fall extracurricular activities is determined by the fourth term grades from the previous year.

The student may practice during the ineligible period, but may not accompany the team, participate in any interschool competition (including scrimmages) or be excused from class for the activity concerned.

Fall sport eligibility will be determined by grades posted during the final marking period in June.

ATTENDANCE: Each athlete is required to attend school and classes regularly. On the day of an event (game or practice) an athlete must attend for the entire day; in the case of extenuating circumstances, the school administration may waive this rule.

DRUG, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND DRUG PARAPHERNALIA POLICY: Alcohol, drug and tobacco use is an extremely serious issue. Not only is the quality of life for the student athlete in jeopardy, but the quality of life of innocent by-standers may be in jeopardy as well. Team members depend on each other to be mentally and physically prepared to give their best effort each day. This cannot happen if the student athlete is using alcohol, tobacco or drugs not prescribed by a physician.

A participating student athlete found in possession or use of drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcohol, or tobacco, on or off school property, under or not under school supervision, shall be removed from the athletic extracurricular activity for the remainder of the season or 20 days, whichever is greater. If less than 20 days remain in the current season for the athletic event, the remainder of the 20 days will be served beginning the first day of the next athletic event in which the student participates.

Possession includes, but is not limited to, having control over the rights to use, even if those rights or privileges are shared with others. Possession does not require ownership.

SERIOUS ACTS BY STUDENT LEADERS: Students holding leadership positions or representing the school through academics, athletics and/or activities such as a club or organization, who commit an offense classified as a serious, unlawful act in the community or a serious suspendible offense may be removed from the position. Arrest, conviction, or legal judgment is not required.

STUDENT CONDUCT: As a result of misconduct (as described by the principal and/or coach) the principal and/or coach shall be responsible for deciding appropriate punishment. Any player ejected from a contest will be suspended for the next contest.

STARTING DATES FOR PRACTICE: Fall sports, August 15; winter sports, November 15; spring sports, March 1. If the first day of practice falls on Sunday, practice can begin on Saturday.

OUT-OF-SEASON PRACTICE: Member schools and coaches shall confine all organized or formal practices for a contestant or a team to the seasonal limitations. Any individual, group or gathering that has assembled for the purpose of instruction and is under the direction of any member of the school coaching staff would constitute a violation.

A coach may not coach a team representing his/her school beyond the sports season. The team may not use a name connected with the school. The team may not use school uniforms or equipment. The outside teams roster does not exceed 80% of returning players of what constitute a starting lineup in that sport. Returning players are those players that participated on any high school team the year before.

EQUIPMENT RESPONSIBILITY: It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to maintain and return all equipment and uniforms issued to them. Parents will be financially responsible for any equipment or uniforms which are lost, stolen, or misplaced during the time the student/athlete is responsible for them. The price of replacing these items will be the actual cost to the school for purchasing new replacement items. Until any charges for lost equipment have been paid, the student-athlete will not receive a report card or be eligible to participate on any other high school athletic team.

AWARDS: The minimum criteria for awarding a school athletic letter or other similar award must include: (1) The participant must complete the season in good standing; (2) The participant must fulfill all team related obligations; and (3) The coach may establish more specific requirements with the approval of the athletic director and principal.

SQUAD MEMBERSHIP: The coach of each sport is responsible for the determination of squad membership. Once an athlete becomes a member of a squad, he/she becomes ineligible to participate in another sport during that season unless formally cut or relieved from a squad by the coach.

Seniors and juniors are not eligible for junior varsity competition in any sport. Juniors and seniors are eligible for "B" level competition in cross country, wrestling, track, swimming and tennis.