

What Do Students and Parents Need to Know?

Helpful Information for Student-Athletes and Parents

(The following information is placed on the Athletics web page)

Required Forms and Required Reading

Students must review the following information and must complete and submit the following forms to the coach prior to participating in practices or tryouts. These materials are available at the school from either the coach or athletic director, or forms may be found on-line at the MCPS Athletics webpage: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/athletics>.

Required Reading – Parents and student-athletes are asked to 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 webpage.

- 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

- *Student-Parent Participation Contract and Parent Permission Form*. The form includes information that student-athletes and parents are required to review, including reference to the Health/Safety section of the MCPS Athletics website. This form 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 one year from the date of the exam, and covers participation for all sports within that time period. Students submit only the last page to the school/coach (Clearance Form). Schools keep the form on file.
- *Emergency Medical Card*. This form must be submitted for each sport in which the student wishes to participate.
- *Consent Form – ImPACT Baseline Concussion Testing*. All student-athletes must undergo baseline testing at least once every two years. This form indicates that the parent and student are aware of the purpose of baseline testing and that they consent for their child to undergo baselines 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 students are transported to games in cars. The coach of the team will provide this form if it is necessary for that sport.
- *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

- *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. Available in the main office of the school.
- *Student-Parent Athletic Participation Information.* Provides information on athletic participation including eligibility requirements. Available on the MCPS Athletics website or the athletic director.

Ticket Prices/Admissions

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

Extracurricular Activity Fee (ECA)

Students who are selected to participate on MCPS athletic teams must pay an extracurricular activities fee prior to competing in the first contest. The ECA fee is \$32.50 per year and covers all extracurricular activities for the year. Information is sent home to students during the summer. Additional ECA fee information can be found by searching *Extracurricular Activity Fee* on the MCPS home page or the Parents/Student section of the MCPS Athletics website.

Tryout Dates for the 2015-2016 School Year

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

- August 12 through 15, 2015—Fall Sports (Equipment may be obtained on August 11)*
- November 14, 2015—Winter Sports
- March 1, 2016—Spring Sports

*Fall teams have the option of starting tryouts as early as August 12th. Teams must begin tryouts no later than August 15th.

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

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 can be found on the General Information for Parents page of the MCPS Athletics website. Sportsmanship fundamentals include:

- 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.
- 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.

Contests 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. County-wide cancellation information can usually be found on the MCPS website, MCPS TV, @MCPSAthletics on Twitter, or local radio and television stations.