

THE HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FORM

It is the goal of the Howard County Public School System's Interscholastic Sports Program to provide a safe and supportive environment for all student athletes. We believe athletes need to develop skills that will teach good sportsmanship, self-discipline, and relationship skills. Toward that end, coaches, students, and parents should be aware of school and county policies and procedures that enhance these goals.

Please read carefully the conditions of participation. Please complete and sign Section V and return this form to the appropriate coach or athletic director **prior** to your student taking part in any sport-related activity. We look forward to your child's active participation in our athletic program and anticipate an excellent season.

Section I - Guidelines for Participants

For students to be eligible to participate in the Howard County Interscholastic Sports Program they must have on file at their high school proof of meeting the following requirements. These requirements are to be met prior to the first practice for any sport.

- A. A medical insurance policy number covering the sport in which they wish to participate.
- B. A physical examination by a physician **after April 1** of the preceding school year.
- C. Parental permission as provided below.
- D. Verification (usually a copy of birth certificate) that the student has not reached 19 years of age prior to August 31st. Additionally, any student who has been awarded a high school diploma is not eligible to compete. (MPSSAA Handbook).

Section II - Other Eligibility Requirements and Howard County Public School System Policies

These requirements must be verified as having been met prior to the first competition for any sport.

A. Academic Eligibility

A student must comply with the Academic Eligibility for High School Extracurricular Activities Policy (Board of Education Policy #10124-R). "A full-time student earns academic eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities by passing all authorized courses for the marking period and maintaining a 2.0 grade-point average with no failing grades for the marking period which governs eligibility for that activity. This provision does not apply to incoming 9th grade students for fall eligibility." *A copy of this policy appears in the Student Handbook.*

B. Residency Requirement

A student who voluntarily transfers from one high school to another (unless the transfer is due to a change of residence) is **not** eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for a period of one year from the transfer date. This provision also applies to tuition paying students from out-of-county or country. (Board of Education Policy #3211.1)

C. Drug and Alcohol Policy

All students must comply with the Drug and Alcohol Policy (Board of Education Policy #3451). The use, possession, intent to distribute, and/or distribution of drugs/alcohol/non-controlled substances is in violation of this policy and will result in a 30-day suspension from extracurricular activities. A copy of the policy is in the Student Handbook.

D. Educational and Personal Rights Policy #3445 and the Howard County Public School System's Code of Conduct

Acts of humiliation or harassment of any individual by another are totally unacceptable. Parents violating this policy may be banned from all athletic events and/or practices for the remainder of the school year. For students, The Educational and Personal Rights Policy #3455 and the Howard County Public School System's Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Student-Athletes will be administered in connection with any violation. Participation in any intentional or reckless act directed against another individual for the purpose of intimidation, affiliation, or maintaining membership in any school sponsored activity, organization, club, or athletic team association with any Howard County Public School System team is a violation of the Educational and Personal Rights Policy #3445 and the Howard County Public School System's Code of Conduct. An "Intentional or reckless act" means any action taken or situation created that involves mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, humiliation, harassment, or ridicule. "Participation" includes situations in which a person is involved, even though he or she doesn't directly create the harm to another individual. If parents or athletes become aware of any incidents involving these inappropriate behaviors, please contact a coach, the athletic director, or an administrator. Both the policy and the Code of Conduct are in the Student Handbook.

E. Student Assault and/or Battery on School Staff Policy

All students must comply with the Student Assault and/or Battery on School Staff Policy (Board of Education Policy #3414). Assault and/or battery on school staff will result in suspension for a minimum period of 45 days or the remainder of the semester, whichever is greater. In addition, the student will be ineligible for participation in extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the current semester and the next consecutive semester. A copy of the policy is in the Student Handbook.

F. Years of Participation

Students may participate in interscholastic athletic contests for a maximum of **three** seasons in any one sport in grades 10, 11, and 12. Students who participate on an interscholastic team in grade 9 will have maximum athletic eligibility of four seasons in that one sport. (MPSSAA Handbook)

G. Amateur Status

Students must maintain amateur status. (MPSSAA Handbook)

Section III - Coach/Parents/Participants

- A. Coaches have the authority over who becomes a member of the team, when he/she plays, or is removed from the team. Coaching strategy is determined by the coaching staff. Acceptance of a position on a team includes acceptance of this policy. Thus, these issues are not open to parent/coach discussion.
- B. Coach, athlete, parent meetings are encouraged to resolve any other issues creating concern or dissatisfaction. Such meetings must be arranged at a mutually acceptable time and place.
- C. Any discussion between a coach and a parent should be conducted in a calm, non-threatening manner, or the discussion should be immediately terminated to be continued only by appointment with the Athletic Director.
- D. Coaches will fulfill all the duties and responsibilities mandated by their contract and listed in the Handbook for Interscholastic Sports Policies and Procedures.
- E. Parents and athletes should note that some athletic events may end after 11:00PM.

Section IV – Photo Release

I hereby grant permission to HCPSS to use my student’s photograph on the school’s website, the boosters’ website, or in other HCPSS printed publications. Permission Granted Permission Not Granted

Section V - Agreement

The Department of Education does not provide health/accident insurance for participants in the Interscholastic Sports Program. Consequently, the Department of Education is not liable for any medical expenses incurred while participating in the Interscholastic Sports Program. He/she has my permission to participate in the sport mentioned below.

PLEASE PRINT

Student: _____ *Insurance Co.: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ *Policy Number: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____ Sport: _____
Var. JV Freshman (circle one)

My signature below indicates that I have read the above information and confirms that this student resides at the address listed below; I am aware of the policies and rules governing eligibility and participation for athletic participation. I am also aware of the consequences for violating these policies.

(Parent/Guardian Signature)	(Date)	(Street Address)	(City, State, Zip)
(Student Signature)	(Date)	(Street Address)	(City, State, Zip)
(Home Phone Number)	(Mother’s Work Phone Number)	(Father’s Work Phone Number)	

*This form cannot be accepted without above information.