

3. Any activity involving the consumption of any alcoholic beverage, drug, tobacco product or any other food, liquid, or substance that subjects the student to unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health of the student.
  4. Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects the student to extreme mental stress, embarrassment, shame or humiliation, that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from remaining in school.
  5. Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or of school district policies or regulations.
- b. "Student organization" means a group, club or organization having students as its primary members or participants. It includes grade levels, classes, teams, activities or particular school events. A student organization does not have to be an official school organization to come within the terms of this definition.
- c. Reporting Procedures
1. Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of hazing or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy.
  2. The building Principal is the person responsible for receiving reports of hazing at the building level. Any person may report hazing directly to a school district Human Rights Officer or to the Superintendent.
  3. Teachers, administrators, officials, volunteers, and employees of the school district shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances or events which might include hazing. Any such person who receives a report of, observes, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall inform the building Principal immediately.
  4. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of hazing will not affect the complainant to reporter's future employment, grades or work assignments.
- d. Reprisal  
The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, coach, official contractor or employee of the school district

who retaliates against any person who makes a good faith report of alleged hazing or against any person who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation, or against any person who testifies, assists or participates in proceeding or hearing relating to such hazing. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment.

#### **B. Bylaw**

During the school year, a student shall not violate the racial/religious/sexual harassment and racial/religious/sexual violence bylaws of the Minnesota State High School League.

*Interpretation: The bylaw applies to the entire school year and any portion of an activity season that occurs prior to the start of the school year or after the close of the school year.*

#### **C. Penalties**

##### **1. Racial/Religious/Sexual Harassment and Hazing Violations:**

- a. First Violation: After determination of the violation, a student shall lose eligibility for the next two (2) consecutive interscholastic contests or two (2) weeks of a season in which the student is a participant, whichever is greater. Recommendations: 1) It is recommended that the student obtain information about racial/religious/sexual harassment and racial/religious sexual violence. 2) It is recommended that the student be referred to a community agency or a professional individual outside the school for counseling.
- b. Second Violation: After determination of the second violation, the student shall lose eligibility for the next six (6) consecutive interscholastic contests in which the student is a participant or three (3) weeks, whichever is greater. Before being re-admitted to activities following suspension for the second violation, the student shall show evidence in writing that the student has received counseling from a community agency or professional individual such as a school counselor, medical doctor, psychiatrist, or psychologist.
- c. Third Violation: After determination of the third or subsequent violations, the student shall lose eligibility for the next twelve (12) consecutive interscholastic contests in which the student is a participant or four (4) weeks, whichever is greater.
- d. Accumulative Penalties: Penalties shall be accumulative beginning with the student's first participation in a MSHSL activity and continuing through the student's high school career.

2. Racial/Religious/Sexual Violence Violations: After determination of the violation of the racial/religious/sexual violence rules, the student shall lose eligibility for the next year, i.e., twelve (12) calendar months.

#### **D. Procedure**

Before any suspension under these rules, the student shall be advised by the Coach, Assistant Principal, Principal or Athletic Director of the alleged violation and the student will have an opportunity to explain her or his involvement in the situations. If, after such conference the administration believes a suspension is justified, the student and the parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified. Suspension will begin with the time at which the administration was first notified of the incident.

Ineligible students may be allowed to practice, at the Coach's discretion, if they will be returning to the team when the period of suspension has been served.

#### **Activities Fee Schedule**

Activity fees of \$45, \$100, \$120, \$145, \$170, \$180 or \$210 per athlete are charged for each sport an athlete participates in each year depending on the length of the season. An individual shall pay for no more than two sports per year and a family will pay for no more than three sports per year.

These fees are to be received by the Athletic Office prior to the first practice in each sport season. Special payment schedules may be arranged in the Athletic Office to avoid excluding any participants.

Refunds of activity fees will be made on a pro-rata basis if the athlete is unable to continue the activity because of illness, injury or transfer, during the first half of the season only.

#### **Physical Examination and Parents Permit**

Any student who intends to participate in high school interscholastic athletics and cheerleading activities must have on file in the school, a record of a physical examination performed within the previous three (3) years. A health questionnaire shall be completed annually and could indicate the need for a physical examination prior to participation. The signature of the parent or guardian approving participation is required.

#### **Activity Categories**

The MSHSL has defined Category I and Category II activities. Rochester Public School District #535 has determined that the penalty for rules violations will be the same for both categories.



# Rochester John Marshall High School Rockets Authorization for Activities Participation

John Marshall High School  
1510 14th St. NW • Rochester, Minnesota 55901  
www.rochester.k12.mn.us/school108 (phone #507-328-5330)



## 2009-10 Eligibility Guidelines for John Marshall High School Athletics and Arts

### Instructions for completion by students and parents or guardians:

- 1) Please read and be familiar with all parts of this authorization brochure.
- 2) Sign each place that your signature is requested and return the page with signatures to the Athletic Office. Retain pages with rules stated.
- 3) Record of a physical examination signed by a physician is required every 3 years and must be on file in the Athletic Office.
- 4) The activity fee (see page 4) must be paid prior to participation in the first scheduled practice in that sport season.

### General Eligibility

In order to be eligible for regular season and Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) tournament competition, a student must be fully enrolled as defined by the Minnesota Department of Education and a bona fide undergraduate member of his or her school in good standing. A student who is under penalty of exclusion, expulsion or suspension whose character or conduct violates the Student Code of Responsibilities is not in good standing and is ineligible for a period of time as determined by the Administration.

A student ejected from a contest shall be ineligible for the next regularly scheduled game/meet at that level of competition and all other games/meets in the interim at any level of competition, for the first ejection. All other subsequent ejections shall result in ineligibility for four (4) regularly scheduled games/meets.

### Academic Eligibility

Student athletes must maintain satisfactory progress towards graduation. All student athletes should have achieved the following number of credits at the end of each semester to maintain eligibility.

#### Freshman Year:

End of 1st Semester	3 credits
End of 2nd Semester	6 credits

#### Sophomore Year:

End of 1st Semester	9 credits
End of 2nd Semester	12 credits

#### Junior Year:

End of 1st Semester	15 credits
End of 2nd Semester	18 credits

#### Senior Year:

End of 1st Semester	21 credits
End of 2nd Semester	24 credits

First quarter freshman and middle school students must maintain passing grades in all classes. All cases falling below this level will be reviewed by the administration. If a student is failing, the administration will intervene and develop a plan of action to assist the student. Students who are more than one (1) credit deficient are academically ineligible. Students who are deficient one (1) credit or less may be placed on academic probation. The probation may include any of the following options:

- a. Full participation with conditions
- b. Practice without competition
- c. Total non-participation

Student athletes considered to be Division I

or II scholarship prospects are reminded that there are course requirements to be eligible for scholarships. Contact your Guidance Counselor.

### Attendance and Behavior Standards

Athletes are required to attend school and compete in the attendance area in which their parent or guardian resides. Athletes are expected to abide by all school attendance and behavior guidelines. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege offered to students in good standing. Athletes are expected to be in class as scheduled. Unexcused absences will result in exclusion from the next event. It is the responsibility of the student to clear any truancy question. Coaches will be provided with an unexcused absence list on a daily basis.

Students absent due to truancy, illness or injury during their last half of the school day may not participate in contests or practice that day. Athletes may be excluded from events or activities due to behavior unbecoming that of an athlete or for a violation of the school's rules of conduct. A felony conviction will have a penalty no less than that for a first chemical violation. This determination will be made by the Coach, Athletic Director and Building Principal or Assistant Principal.

### Semesters in High School

A student shall not participate in an interscholastic contest after the student's eighth semester in grades 9-12 inclusive. All eight semesters of attendance shall be consecutive. The attendance of 15 days or more in one semester will count as a semester in administering this standard. Participation in high school interscholastic programs is limited to students in grades 7-12 inclusive. Students in grades 7, 8 and 9 may participate if enrolled in the regular continuation school for the educational unit and if all other eligibility requirements of the MSHSL have been met.

Elementary students grades 1-6 are not eligible for participation in any MSHSL sponsored activities; B-squad, junior varsity or varsity.

### Seasons of Participation

No student may participate in more than four seasons in any sport while enrolled in grades 9-12, semesters 1-8 inclusive.

### Enrollment and Required Subject Load

Students must be officially enrolled in (as defined by the Minnesota Department of Education) and attending the school before they are eligible to represent that school in MSHSL sponsored activities. Students must be properly registered, attending school and classes regularly, and enrolled in the required number of credits. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of the school's team no later than the fourth Monday after the official start of the sport season. Gymnasts must be on the school's team no later than the fourth Monday after the official season starts. When a sport season begins on a Monday, that day shall be counted as the first Monday.

### Age

A student representing a member school in MSHSL activities shall be under 20 years of age on the date of the contest. If, however, a student has started a season, the student will be permitted to complete that season after reaching the student's 20th birthday. Adapted athletes are eligible to participate until their 22nd birthday or until they have completed eight semesters in grades 9-12 inclusive and they meet all other eligibility requirements.

### Amateur

A student must be an amateur in that sport. A student may not receive cash or merchandise for athletic participation. A student does not lose their amateur status because of reimbursement for officiating, instructing, teaching or coaching a sport.

### Graduate

A student shall not be a graduate of a four-year high school or any secondary school.

### Transfer Rule

A student in a 7-12 grade level who disenrolls from one high school and enrolls in another high school is a transfer student and subject to the MSHSL transfer rule. A student who transfers under an exception to attendance or guardianship change, shall be ineligible to compete at all levels (9-12) for a period of one calendar year from the date of transfer. Contact your Athletic Office for specific information regarding these situations.

## Foreign Exchange Students

Foreign exchange students are limited to one calendar year of high school eligibility beginning with their 1st date of enrollment and attendance.

## International Students

Students not participating in a CSJET approved foreign exchange program are eligible only at the B-squad or JV level.

## College and University Teams

Individuals who have participated or scrimmaged with a college or university team are ineligible for participation in any activity of the MSHSL.

## Awards Bylaw

Acceptable awards to students in recognition of participation in high school activities include medals, ribbons, letters, trophies, plaques and other items of little or no intrinsic value (\$100.00 or less). Violation will render a student ineligible for participation in any activity of the MSHSL.

## Athletic Camps and Clinics

### A. School Year

Students may attend athletic camps and clinics which have been approved by their high school Principal.

### B. Summer Vacation Period

Non-school specialized athletic camps and clinics do not require approval.

1. The non-school sponsored camp or clinic fee must be provided by the student or the student's parent(s) or guardian, unless other arrangements are approved by the MSHSL Board of Directors.
2. A student may attend a camp or clinic where a member of the school's coaching staff (sophomore, B-Squad, junior varsity or varsity) in that sport owns, administers, directs, organizes, or serves as an instructor or is a staff member during the student's attendance.

### C. Penalty

Penalties for athletic camp and clinic violations are the same as those for non-school competition and training.

(Contact your high school Athletic Director for specific guidelines regarding athletic camps, clinics and information on penalties.)

## Non-School Competition and Training for Team and Individual Sports

### A. During the High School Season

During the high school season, athletes will be able to compete in non-school events/competitions that do not match the events in which athletes currently compete in high school competition. Season defined: The high school season shall run from the first date that practice may begin until the team is eliminated in MSHSL tournament competition. Baseball, Softball and Skiing are exceptions to this rule. Exception: Summer Vacation Period-Students may participate on a non-school team in the same sport as they currently play at the high school level during the summer vacation period. Summer vacation defined: Summer vacation shall start on the Saturday following the

fourth Friday in May and end on Labor Day. Summer coaching waiver: If a student participates on a team coached by a member of the high school coaching staff, coaching contact shall end on July 31 unless an extension to the summer waiver is granted by the school's Athletic Director. Students may take private lessons during the MSHSL season.

### B. During the School Year, Prior To and Following the High School Sport Season

A student may participate in contests, meets or tournaments as an individual competitor or as a member of a non-school team provided that these activities are voluntary and not influenced or directed by a salaried or non-salaried member of the student's sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff.

1. A student may not use any type of high school uniform or equipment.
2. A student may not receive coaching or training from a salaried or non-salaried member of the student's sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport. Power skating and indoor soccer are included in this limitation.
3. A student may receive training through private lessons from a person who is not a salaried or non-salaried member of the student's sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport.
4. A student's fee for non-school coaching or training must be paid by the student or the student's parent or guardian unless approved by the MSHSL Board of Directors.

### C. Summer Vacation Period

1. A student may compete as an individual or as a member of a non-school team even though competing on a high school team in the same sport. Summer is defined as the day following the fourth Friday in May through Labor Day. (exception summer coaching waiver)

### D. Penalty

1. First Violation: After confirmation of the first violation, student shall lose eligibility in that sport for the next two (2) consecutive interscholastic contests or two (2) weeks of that season, whichever is greater. If there are fewer than two (2) events remaining in that sport, the loss of eligibility will continue into the next season in that sport. Note: This means that a senior who violates the bylaws at the end of one sport season will lose eligibility for two (2) games in the next sport season in which the student participates.
2. Second Violation: After confirmation of the second violation, student shall lose eligibility in that sport for the next six (6) consecutive interscholastic contests or three (3) weeks, whichever is greater.
3. Third Violation: After confirmation of the third or subsequent violations, the student shall lose eligibility in that sport for the next twelve (12) consecutive

interscholastic contests or four (4) weeks, whichever is greater.

4. Accumulative Penalties: Penalties shall be accumulative beginning with the student's first participation in a League activity and continuing through the student's high school career.

### E. Special Considerations

1. National Teams and Olympic Development Programs-The MSHSL may permit participation by high school students on bona fide national teams or in Olympic development programs if:
  - The program is approved and supported by the national governing body of the sport or if there is an Olympic development program of training and competition.
  - Directly funded by a national governing body on a national level.
  - Authorized by a national governing body for athletes having potential for future national team participation.

*Students who are invited to participate on National Teams or in Olympic Development Programs must contact their high school Principal to obtain an application form. This must be completed at least thirty (30) days prior to participation.*

2. During the school year, students who participate for their school in a sport may participate through training, try-out or competition on a National Team or in a United States Olympic Development Program provided the student receives an individual invitation from the United States Olympic Committee or the United States National Governing Body on the national level for that sport.
3. Students who have completed their eligibility in a sport are exempt from the non-school competition and training rules in that sport. All-Star rules shall apply.

## Mood-Altering Chemicals

### A. Philosophy and Purpose

The Minnesota State High School League recognizes the use of mood-altering chemicals as a significant health problem for many adolescents, resulting in negative effects on behavior, learning and the total development of each individual. The misuse and abuse of mood-altering chemicals for some adolescents affects extracurricular participation and development of related skills. Others are affected by the misuse and abuse of family, team members or other significant persons in their lives.

### B. Rule

During the calendar year, regardless of the quantity, a student shall not: (1) use or have in possession a beverage containing alcohol; (2) use or have in possession tobacco or electric cigarette; or (3) use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell, or give away any other controlled substance or drug paraphernalia.

The rule applies during the entire year including the summer months. It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a controlled substance specifically prescribed for the student's own use by her or his doctor.

### C. Penalties for Activities

#### 1. First Violation

*Penalty:* After confirmation of the first chemical violation, the student shall lose eligibility for 50% of the scheduled regular season events of the activity season in which the student is a participant. Any percent of an unfulfilled suspension will be applied in the next season the student participates in. The first possession violation will result in a suspension of 2 weeks or 2 events, whichever is greater.

#### 2. Second Violation

*Penalty:* After confirmation of the second chemical violation, the student shall lose eligibility for one calendar year. The student may choose an alternative penalty as follows:

-The student shall lose eligibility for 50%, or no less than MSHSL's minimum of 6, of the scheduled regular season events of the activity season in which the student is a participant.

-The student shall arrange and verify completion of 20 hours of community service.

-The student shall complete a chemical education project assigned by the administration.

-This alternative agreement must be signed by the student, parent/guardian and administration within 10 days of the violation report. A second possession violation will result in a suspension of 6 events or 3 weeks, whichever is greater.

#### 3. Third and Subsequent Violations

*Penalty:* After confirmation of the third and subsequent violations, the student shall lose eligibility for further participation.

If after the third or subsequent violations, the student has been assessed to be chemically dependent and the student on her or his own volition becomes a participant in a chemical dependency program or treatment program, the student may be certified for reinstatement in MSHSL activities after a minimum period of one calendar year. Such certification must be issued by the Director or a Counselor of a chemical dependency treatment center. A third possession violation will result in a suspension of 12 events or 4 weeks, whichever is greater.

4. Penalties shall be accumulative beginning with and throughout the student's participation on high school sponsored teams.

5. A student shall be disqualified for nine (9) additional weeks beyond the student's original period of ineligibility when the student denies violation of the rule, is allowed to participate and then is subsequently found guilty of the violation.

6. A student serving a penalty for a rules violation in a sport will be required to pre-register, report to the first day of practice,

participate during the entire season, meet all the requirements and expectations of the coach, and finish the season in good standing in order to fulfill the penalty.

7. Students having a suspension will not be eligible to letter or earn All Conference honors during the season(s) in which the penalty is served. Students having a chemical violation cannot serve as a captain for one calendar year from the date of the violation.

### D. Procedure

Before any suspension under these rules, the student shall be advised by the Coach, Assistant Principal, Principal, or Athletic Director of the alleged violation and the student will have an opportunity to explain her or his involvement in the situation. If, after such conference the administration believes a suspension is justified, the student and the parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified. Suspension will begin with the time at which the administration was first notified of the incident.

Ineligible students may be allowed to practice, at the coach's discretion, if they will be returning to the team when the period of suspension has been served.

## Racial, Religious, Sexual Harassment/Violence and Hazing

### A. Definitions

1. Racial Harassment consists of physical or verbal conduct relating to an individual's race when the conduct:

- has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or academic environment; or
- has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or
- otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment or academic opportunities.

2. Racial Violence is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another because of, or in a manner reasonably related to, race.

3. Religious Harassment consists of physical or verbal conduct relating to an individual's religion when the conduct:

- has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or academic environment; or
- has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or
- otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment or academic opportunities.

4. Religious Violence is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another because of, or in a manner reasonably related to, religion.

5. Assault is:

- an act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death;
- the intentional infliction of or attempt to inflict bodily harm upon another; or
- the threat to do bodily harm to another with present ability to carry out the threat.

6. Sexual Harassment is a form of sex discrimination that violates Section 703 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 USC 2000e, et. seq., and Minnesota Statutes Sections 363.01-.14, the Minnesota Human Rights Act.

a. Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature.

b. Sexual harassment may include but is not limited to:

- verbal, written/graphic harassment or abuse;
- subtle pressure for sexual activity;
- inappropriate patting or pinching;
- intentional brushing against the individual's body;
- demanding sexual favors accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning an individual's employment or educational status;
- demanding sexual favors accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment with regard to an individual's employment or educational status;
- any unwelcome touching of a sexual nature.

7. Sexual Violence is a physical act of aggression that involves the touching of another's intimate parts, either above or underneath the other person's clothes, or forcing another to touch one's intimate parts, either above or beneath one's clothes. Intimate parts, as defined in Minnesota Statutes 1990, Section 609.341, include the primary genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks, or breast of a human being. Sexual violence is a criminal activity.

a. Sexual violence may include, but is not limited to:

- touching, patting, grabbing, or pinching another person's intimate parts, either same sex or opposite sex.
- coercing or forcing sexual touching on another;
- coercing or forcing sexual intercourse on another;
- threatening to force sexual touching or intercourse on another.

8. Hazing

a. Hazing means committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with student organization, or for any other purpose. The term hazing includes, but is not limited to:

- Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking or placing a harmful substance on the body.
- Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental health or safety of the student.

**Fair Hearing Procedure**

The MSHSL Constitution and Rochester Public School District #535 provide a Fair Hearing Procedure for the student or parent(s) or guardian(s) contesting a school's failure to certify the eligibility of a student. **The student has ten (10) calendar days in which to appeal the school's decision.** This process includes an appeal before a hearing panel at the school and the right, if desired, to appeal that decision to the MSHSL Board of Directors or the School Board. An independent hearing examiner will hear the appeal and make written findings of fact, conclusions and a recommendation for the Board following the hearing. The Board's decision shall be final. A complete listing of the Fair Hearing Procedure may be obtained from the Athletic Director or high school Principal.

**Warning**

**Athletes and parents should be advised that by its nature, participation in interscholastic athletics includes risk of injury and the transmission of infectious diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis B. Although serious injuries are not common and the risk of HIV transmission is almost nonexistent in supervised school athletic programs, it is impossible to eliminate all risk. Participants have the responsibility to help reduce that risk. Participants must obey all safety rules, report all physical and hygiene problems to their coaches, follow a proper conditioning program, and inspect their own equipment daily.**

**Complete this form only one time each school year**

**This form must be completed, appropriately signed, and returned to the Athletic Office before the student will be permitted to practice or play. An activity fee is also required for each sport prior to the first practice in that sport season.**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle (Circle one)

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ School attending in 2009-10 \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Parents/Guardians \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Address \_\_\_\_\_

Father/Guardian Address (if different than above) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mother/Guardian Address (if different than above) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address to receive Athletic Dept. information \_\_\_\_\_

With whom does the student reside? \_\_\_\_\_

Rochester Public School attended last year \_\_\_\_\_

Did you transfer from a private school or another city or state? (If YES, name the school) \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have siblings participating in John Marshall High School Activities?  
 Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle the sports you plan to participate in this year.

PHYSICAL DATE \_\_\_\_\_

FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Football - \$180 Boys Soccer - \$120 Boys Cross Country - \$120 Volleyball - \$120 Girls Soccer - \$120 Girls Cross Country - \$120 Girls Swim/Dive - \$145 Girls Tennis - \$120 Cheerleading - \$120	Boys Basketball - \$170 Boys Hockey - \$210 Wrestling - \$145 Boys Swim/Dive - \$145 Girls Basketball - \$170 Gymnastics - \$145 Girls Hockey - \$210 Adapted Floor Hockey - \$100 Competitive Dance - \$145 Cheerleading - \$120	Baseball - \$145 Boys Track - \$145 Boys Tennis - \$120 Boys Golf - \$145 Softball - \$145 Girls Track - \$145 Girls Golf - \$145 Girls Lacrosse - TBD Boys Lacrosse - TBD FINE ARTS _____ - \$45

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Red Card Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Payment \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credits Earned \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Red Card Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Payment \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credits Earned \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Red Card Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Payment \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credits Earned \_\_\_\_\_





**ROCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Athletic Department**  
**PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS**

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student-Athlete:

Over the past few years it has come to our attention that some parents and students have some misconceptions about the high school competitive athletic program. Please take a few moments to read this information. Hopefully, this will help you understand how a competitive high school athletic program is conducted and what the expectations and philosophy are.

In each program, a coach and/or coaches are hired by the school district to be responsible for that sport. Team selection, practices, style of play, game strategy, playing time and decisions regarding game situations are the responsibility of the coaching staff. The head coach establishes the criteria for these decisions with input from the coaching staff. This may be a highly subjective process. If you have questions regarding the process, feel free to address these questions directly to the head coach. Please call the coach to make an appointment outside of school, practice or game time. If you have questions the coach has not been able to answer, please contact the Athletic Office.

The Rochester Public Schools athletic program is highly competitive. Due to large schools and limited opportunities, we are not able to place every student on a team who wishes to participate. While this is not our desire, it is a reality. The hardest thing our coaches have to do is tell young people they have not made a team.

Please be sure that when your child tries out for a team, both you and they understand the possibility that they may not be selected. If selected, both you and your child should be prepared to accept placement at any team level, i.e. 9th Grade, B-Squad, Junior Varsity or Varsity. Students who try out for a team and then quit because they are not placed where they think they should be, unfortunately take away someone else's opportunity to be on the team.

At times, coaches have a very short amount of time to make team selections. They try to do the best they can in selecting the most talented and coachable athletes, filling needed positions and appropriately placing them on the team. We believe it is the coaches' responsibility and right to select the team with whom they will work for the entire season.

Our recent experience reveals that there are many "non-school teams" sponsored by a variety of organizations. Each coach looks for certain qualities in his or her players. Participation on a "non-school team" does not guarantee any player a spot on a high school team or playing time. While we believe players can gain valuable experience outside of the school athletic program, neither parents nor students should count on this type of participation to "guarantee" a spot on a high school team.

Years ago our district, like most districts throughout the state and nation, instituted a usage fee for extra-curricular activities. All athletes pay this fee regardless of their role on the team. This fee does not guarantee playing time but rather the opportunity to learn from a team experience.

In order to make a varsity team, a player must be capable and play a position the team needs. Underclass student-athletes possessing these qualities have the same opportunity to make a team that upperclassman do. Our team structure (9th grade, B-Squad, Junior Varsity, and Varsity), dictates that there will be more underclass players than upper class in the total program. Team selection will be the coaches' decision.

A common goal of a competitive athletic program is to put the most talented and coachable members of the team in competition in an attempt to win a contest. Starting positions and playing time are not guaranteed to anyone. Each member of a team is valuable to the team's overall progress and success. Some members may play extensively in a contest while others may not see "significant" playing time and make their contribution in another way. Each student should have personal improvement and team success as two of his or her goals.

By being a member of a team, regardless of time spent in actual competition, a person can learn many valuable life lessons. Among them are: citizenship, sportsmanship, respect for opponents and others, teamwork, responsibility, commitment to team and school, loyalty, placing team above self, learning to accept instruction and criticism, winning and losing with humility and dignity, self-control and being responsible for one's actions.

We sincerely hope this helps you to understand the goals and philosophies of the competitive athletic program in the Rochester Public Schools. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding any aspect of the athletic program.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student/Athlete Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**SIGN AND RETURN ONE COPY TO THE ATHLETIC OFFICE**