

WATKINS MILL HIGH SCHOOL
Wolverines

ED ROSS, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AND ECA ADMINISTRATOR

Parent/Student Handbook

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**PARENT/STUDENT ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION INFORMATION
WATKINS MILL HIGH SCHOOL**

The Athletic Department of Watkins Mill High School consists of the following sports or activities:

Fall Season (August 15 – November)

Cheerleading (Varsity and JV)
Cross Country (Co-ed)
Football (Varsity and JV)
Field Hockey (Varsity and JV)
Golf (Coed)
Poms (Dance Team)
Soccer (Boys Varsity and JV)
Soccer (Girls Varsity and JV)
Tennis (Girls)
Volleyball (Girls Varsity and JV)

Winter Season (November 16 – March)

Basketball (Boys Varsity and JV)
Basketball (Girls Varsity and JV)
Indoor Track (Co-ed)
Swimming/Diving (Co-ed)
Wrestling (Varsity and JV)

Spring Season (March 1 – May)

Baseball (Varsity and JV)
Softball (Varsity and JV)
Tennis (Boys)
Track (Co-ed)
Volleyball (Boys)
Volleyball (Co-ed)
Lacrosse (Boys Varsity and JV)
Lacrosse (Girls Varsity and JV)

Philosophy

Interscholastic athletics supplement and support the academic mission of the school system and assist students in their growth and development. Athletics assists in promoting the importance of teamwork, effort, goals, and commitment. Interscholastic athletics is highly competitive, but winning is not the primary measure of success. Sportsmanship, respect for participants, and dignity in the face of adversity are more important than the outcome of the contest. All athletes do not perform at the same level, but all can demonstrate effort, dedication, and fair play.

Sportsmanship

An important mission of the interscholastic athletics program is to teach and reinforce values relating to sportsmanship, competition, and fair play. It is expected that team personnel, parents, and spectators respect this mission by exhibiting appropriate behavior at athletic events. Countywide team and school awards are presented annually to schools whose coaches, players, and fans, demonstrate a high degree of sportsmanship.

Student Eligibility Requirements

Students must meet the following requirements to be eligible to participate. Participation of ineligible students shall result in individual and team sanctions, including forfeits for the team.

1. All participants are required to have a valid annual medical evaluation.
2. Students must submit a current *MCPS Health Inventory Form* (MCPS Form SRS-6), a *Medical Card for Athlete* (MCPS Form 560-30) and a *Student/Parent Athletics Participation Contract* before being allowed to participate in practices or contests.
3. Students selected for a team must pay the MCPS extracurricular activities (ECA) fee. Students may not participate in contests until they have paid the activities fee.
4. Students must achieve a minimum 2.0 grade point average for the most recently completed marking period, with no more than one failing grade. Academic eligibility is determined on the date report cards are issued, and remains until the next report card is issued.
5. Students must attend all of their scheduled classes in order to participate in a practice or contest on that day. If the principal or designee grants an excused absence in advance for a prescheduled activity, or an unforeseen emergency, the student may participate on that day.
6. If during the season a student has an unexcused absence, he/she may not compete in the next contest after the violation has been verified.
7. In addition to other infractions, a student may be suspended or removed from a team for unexcused absences or chronic tardiness to classes or team practices.
8. Students who are 19 years old, or older, as of August 31 of the current school year are ineligible.
9. Students may not participate in more than one interscholastic sport in one season.
10. A student may not participate when he/she is serving an in-school or out-of-school suspension. The student becomes eligible to participate on the next school day following the suspension.
11. Outside Participation Standards shall not conflict with the practice or contest schedule of the school.
12. Students whose legal residence is outside the designated boundary of a particular school may not participate unless they have received an official transfer and an athletic waiver.
13. Students and their parents must sign the school *Student-Parent Athletic Participation Contract and Parent Permission* form.
14. Students should refer to *A Student's Guide to Rights and Responsibilities* for additional guidelines and regulations related to eligibility.

Assumption of Risk

Participation in interscholastic athletic activities often includes intense competition and poses the potential for serious, catastrophic, or life-threatening injury. Participants and parents are urged to consider that there are inherent risks and hazards associated with athletic participation. Risks vary from sport-to-sport and can occur under direct supervision and with use of proper safety equipment.

Hazing

Hazing is prohibited at all times. Hazing involves any act that subjects teammates to mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. In some instances hazing constitutes a criminal act. At a minimum, hazing may lead to immediate dismissal from a team.

Communication with Coaches

Parents should not attempt to address coaches immediately after games and practices. Coaches have many post game/practice responsibilities, including supervision of players. Also, the post game/practice period is often emotionally charged, and not conducive to productive discussion. If a parent feels a need to communicate a concern, the parent should contact the coach and/or athletic director to arrange a later meeting.

Proper Care of School Issued Uniforms and Equipment

Most uniforms and equipment are assigned to student-athletes strictly on a loan basis for the duration of the sports season. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to maintain that uniform/equipment in the same condition in which it was received. Damage to, or loss of equipment/uniform will be considered the direct financial responsibility of the student-athlete. Any student-athlete withholding property from one sport will be ineligible for receiving sport awards or participation in any sport award until that equipment is returned. Replacement cost is determined by the actual cost of replacing the missing/damaged items.

Transportation to Scheduled Events

Transportation for all athletic events will be available through MCPS unless authorized by the athletic director. While this is the standard rule, there are times when it is necessary for coaches and parents to transport players to events. In such cases, parents must sign a Non-MCPS Transportation form granting their child permission to attend an away contest in the manner checked on the form. All athletes on teams that take busses are expected to return to the school on the bus. At times coaches may allow for players to return from an away event with their parents/guardians.

Inclement Weather Policy

Montgomery County Board of Education policy states that in the event schools are closed due to inclement weather conditions, all extracurricular activities are canceled. These activities include practices, contests, meetings, or other events. Team members should make certain to contact their coach regarding interim or adjusted practice schedules. When it appears that inclement weather or heat related conditions may alter the status of a contest or practice session, athletes and parents must consult with coaches for changes in practice schedules and/or game plans.

Participation Standards

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege. Accordingly, students must meet certain standards in order to earn the privilege of participation. At a minimum, the following standards are required of all student-athletes.

1. Exhibit public behavior that will reflect positively on the team, school, and community.
2. Exhibit responsible, respectful, and trustworthy behavior to teammates and the coach.
3. Exert efforts to maintain a high level of academic achievement.
4. Comply with all team, school, and school system rules, regulations, and policies.
5. Exhibit appropriate behavior at all team and school-related activities.
6. Attend all team practices, contests and other functions, on time, unless ill or given prior permission to be absent by the coach.
7. Respect and comply with decisions made by the coach and athletic department.
8. Respect calls and decisions made by game officials.
9. Display good sportsmanship at all times.
10. Report to the coach any issues or developments that may affect eligibility status.

Residency

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) residency regulations require that students attend specific high schools, assigned by the school system, based on their legal residence. When a student participates at a school to which he or she is not assigned, or the home address of the student is not his or her legal residence, the student is not eligible to participate unless the student has received an official transfer, based on accurate information, and has received an athletic waiver from the Director of System-wide Athletics.

Use of Illegal Substances/Alcohol/Tobacco/Steroids/Controlled Substances

MCPS athletic regulations state that any student-athlete with verified use, distribution, or possession of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, and/or controlled substances on school property or at a school-sanctioned event, shall receive a minimum ten-consecutive school day suspension from all athletic activities. Participation in athletic activities will not resume until the school day following completion of the suspension.

Additionally, a Watkins Mill HS student-athlete will receive a five-consecutive school day "athletic participation suspension," during which time the suspended student-athlete must attend all scheduled team meetings, practices, and contests but will not be allowed to participate in these activities. Resumption of participation privileges will not continue until completion of this fifteen-consecutive day suspension.

A second violation of the drug and alcohol policy will be sufficient cause for the student-athlete to be removed from any athletic team participation for the remainder of the school year.