

Authorization and Eligibility Guidelines for Athletics

Robbinsdale Area Schools

Robbinsdale Armstrong High School Athletic Office
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Instructions for completion by students **and their parents** or guardians:

1. Please read all of the guidelines and forms that are included in this authorization package.
2. Sign in **EACH** place that your signature is requested.
3. A physical examination is required for grades 7-10 and/or every three (3) years and **MUST BE SIGNED BY A PHYSICIAN**.
4. Attach the necessary fee for the sport in which the student will next participate.

ACADEMIC — (CREDIT REQUIREMENT)

To be eligible, a student must be making satisfactory progress toward graduation. It is the policy of Independent School District 281 that in order for a student to be eligible to participate in Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) activities, the student must have had a passing grade in 80 percent of the previous semester classes in which he or she was enrolled. Coaches will screen the grades of their athletes at the end of each semester and first and third quarter grades also will be checked and athletes given warnings if passing grades are below 80 percent. A student who is declared scholastically ineligible may appeal the decision (see athletic director for details).

AGE

A student shall be under 20 years of age on the date of a 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.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Foreign Exchange Students participating in a private exchange program are limited to one calendar year of high school eligibility beginning with their first date of enrollment and attendance.

ALL-STAR TEAMS AND GAMES

Students who have participated, on a high school team (B-squad, junior varsity or varsity) shall not compete on an All Star team or in an All-Star game in sports sponsored by the MSHSL.

- A. All-Star team defined** An All Star team is one made up wholly or in part of players selected without benefit of a tryout from two (2) or more schools, teams or areas.
- B. Penalties**
 1. First violation: After confirmation of the first violation, the student shall lose eligibility for the next two (2) consecutive interscholastic contests or two weeks of a season in which the student is a participant, whichever is greater.
 2. Second violation: After confirmation of the second violation, the student shall lose eligibility for the next six (6) consecutive interscholastic contests in which the student is a participant.
 3. Third violation: After confirmation 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.
 4. Accumulative penalties: Penalties shall be accumulative beginning with and continuing through the student's participation on a varsity, junior varsity, B-squad or sophomore team or activity.

AMATEUR

A student must be an amateur in the sport in which he or she intends to compete. A student may not receive cash or merchandise for athletic participation. A student does not lose his or her amateur status because of reimbursement for officiating, instructing, teaching or coaching a sport. Individuals who have participated with a college or university team are ineligible for participation in any activity in the League.

AWARDS RULE

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 or less). Violation will render a student ineligible for participation in that activity.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for regular season and MSHSL tournament competition, a student must be properly enrolled as defined by the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning 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 Ethics is not in good standing and is ineligible for a period of time as determined by the principal.

ENROLLMENT, ATTENDANCE AND REQUIRED SUBJECT LOAD

Students must be officially enrolled in (as defined by the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning) and attending Robbinsdale Armstrong High School before they are eligible to represent Robbinsdale Armstrong High School in MSHSL-sponsored activities. Students are eligible for participation if enrolled in the high school from the beginning of the semester. Students enrolling after the semester begins will gain eligibility at the start of the third week or on the 15th calendar day after enrollment. Students must be properly registered, attending school and classes regularly, and enrolled in the required number of credits.

LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM

To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team not later than the fourth Monday after the official start of that sport season. Gymnasts must be on the school's team not later than the third Monday after the official start of that season. When a sport season begins on a Monday, that day shall be counted as the first Monday.

GRADUATE

A student shall not be a graduate of a four (4) year high school or any secondary school.

SEASONS OF PARTICIPATION

No student may participate in more than four (4) seasons in any sport while enrolled in grades 9-12, semester 1-8 inclusive.

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.

RACIAL, RELIGIOUS, SEXUAL HARASSMENT/VIOLENCE

A. During the school year, a student shall not violate the sexual harassment and 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 which occurs prior to the start of the school year or alter the close of the school year.

B. Reporting Procedures:

1. Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence or 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 sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence or 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 sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence or hazing. Any such person who receives a report of, observes, or had other knowledge or belief of conduct, which may constitute sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence or hazing, shall inform the building principal immediately.
4. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence or hazing will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades or work assignments.

C. Penalties for Category I Activities

1. Racial/religious/sexual harassment 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.
 - 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.
 - c. Third violation: After determination of the third or subsequent violations, the student shall lose eligibility for the next (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 League 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. Penalties for Category II Activities

Each member school shall develop penalties that it will apply to the participants in these activities. A current copy of the member school's policy shall be kept on file in the member school.

TRANSFER RULE (MSHSL Bylaw 111)

- A. A transfer student is eligible for varsity competition provided the student was in good standing on the date of withdrawal from the last school the student attended and one (1) of the provisions below (section B) is met.
- B. A transfer student is eligible for varsity competition if:
 1. 9th Grade Option: The student is enrolling in 9th grade for the first time.
 2. Family Residence Change: The student transfers from one public school district attendance area to another public school district attendance area at any time during the calendar year in which there is a change of residence and occupancy in Minnesota by the student's parents.
 3. Court Ordered Residence Change for Child Protection: The student's residence is changed pursuant to a child protection order placement in a foster home, or a juvenile court disposition order.
 4. Custody of Student: A student of legally divorced parents who have joint physical custody of the student may move from one custodial parent to the other custodial parent and be fully eligible at the time of the move. The student may utilize this provision only one time during grades 9-13 inclusive.
 5. Moved from Out of State: If a student's parents move to Minnesota from a state or country outside of Minnesota and if the student moves at the same time the parent establishes a residence in a Minnesota public school district attendance area, the student shall be eligible at the first school the student attends in Minnesota.
 6. Enrollment Options Program: A student who utilizes Minnesota Statute 124D.03 Enrollment Options Programs, and transfers without a corresponding change of residence by the student's parents shall elect one of the following:
 - a. retain full eligibility for varsity competition for one (1) calendar year at the school where the student was enrolled prior to the transfer after which time the student shall become fully eligible at the school to which the student has open enrolled; or
 - b. be eligible only at the non-varsity level in the school to which the student has open enrolled for one (1) calendar year.
- C. If none of the provisions in Section B (above) are met, the student is ineligible for varsity competition for a period of one (1) calendar year beginning with the first day of attendance in the new school.

CONTACT YOUR ATHLETIC DIRECTOR for specific information about the Transfer Rule.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

Participation in high school interscholastic programs is limited to students in grades 7-12 inclusive. Students in grades 7 AND 8 may participate if enrolled in the regular continuation school for the educational unit and if all other eligibility requirements of the League have been met. Elementary students grades 1-6 are not eligible for participation in any MSHSL-sponsored activity.

ATHLETIC CAMPS AND CLINICS

- A. **School year** Students may attend athletic camps and clinics that 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 parents or guardians, 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. Penalties

1. First violation: After confirmation of the first violation, the student shall lose eligibility for the next two (2) consecutive interscholastic contests or two weeks of a season in which the student is a participant, whichever is greater. 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, the student shall lose eligibility for the next six (6) consecutive interscholastic contests in which the student is a participant.
3. Third violation: After confirmation 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.
4. Accumulative penalties: Penalties shall be accumulative beginning with and continuing through the student's participation on a varsity, junior varsity, B-squad or sophomore team or activity.

MOOD-ALTERING CHEMICALS

A. Philosophy and purpose

Robbinsdale Area Schools and the Minnesota State High School League recognize 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 the abuse of family, team members or other significant persons in their lives.

- B. **Rule** Regardless of the quantity, a student shall not:
- (1) buy, possess or use a beverage containing alcohol;
 - (2) buy, possess or use tobacco;
 - (3) use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell, or give away any controlled substance; or
 - (4) use anabolic-androgenic steroids.
1. The rule applies for the entire calendar year.
 2. 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

1. First violation: Loss of eligibility for two consecutive contests/events or two weeks (14 calendar days), whichever is greater. Two weeks of loss of eligibility would normally result in ineligibility for four or more contests. Required attendance at all insight classes for chemical/alcohol violations in order to regain eligibility.
2. Second violation: Loss of eligibility for 17 consecutive weeks. Eligibility may be regained after professional chemical evaluation at student or family expense. MSHSL rules also must be met, six contests/events or three weeks (21 calendar days) whichever is greater.
3. No further participation in any activities for remainder of student's high school years. Eligibility may be regained with a professional chemical evaluation and treatment plan (at student/family expense) Must also meet MSHSL eligibility rules for third violation (loss of eligibility for 12 contest or four weeks (28 calendar days), whichever is greater.
4. No further participation in any activity for remainder of student's high school years.
5. 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.
6. Denial disqualification: A student shall be disqualified from all interscholastic athletics 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 is subsequently found guilty of the violation.
7. Conduct of Captains/Student Leaders: A student shall be ineligible to be a captain/leader of a team/activity for the year or for the first year after the year in which the student was selected as a captain/leader if there has been confirmation that the student violated the MSHSL and/or District 281 alcohol, tobacco or other controlled substances policy. A captain/leader of a team/activity shall be removed from the position of captain/leader and shall forfeit all honors afforded a captain/leader.

DUE PROCESS

The League Constitution provides a *due process procedure* for the student and parent contesting a school's failure to certify the eligibility of a student. This process includes the right to an appeal and the right, if desired, to appeal that decision to the League's board of directors. An independent hearing panel will hear the appeal and make written findings of fact, conclusions and a recommendation for the board of directors following the hearing. The board's decision shall be final. A complete listing of the due process procedure may be obtained from the athletic director or the principal of the high school.

PARTICIPATION REFUND POLICY

No refunds will be processed until the student has turned in all equipment issued. Refunds will not be given after four weeks from the official start date of the season. Athletes that require disciplinary actions that result in termination of participation on a team/activity will also result in forfeiture of registration fees. Students needing refunds can pick them up in the Athletic Office. Intramural refunds cannot be guaranteed.

NONSCHOOL COMPETITION AND TRAINING FOR TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

A. During the high school season During the high school season, a student may not participate as a member of a non-school team or compete as an individual competitor in the same sport.
Season defined: The high school season shall run from the first date that practice may begin through the conclusion of the state tournament in that sport. Baseball, softball and skiing are exceptions to this rule.

B. During the school year, prior to and following the high school sports 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 school uniform.
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 provided by the student or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) unless approved by the 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 defined: The day following the fourth Friday in May through Labor Day. (Exception Summer Coaching Waiver*
2. Students may be coached by their high school coach.

D. Penalties

1. First violation: After confirmation of the first violation, the student shall lose eligibility for the next two (2) consecutive interscholastic contests or two weeks of a season in which the student is a participant, whichever is greater.
2. Second violation: After confirmation of the second violation, the student shall lose eligibility for the next six (6) consecutive interscholastic contests in which the student is a participant.
3. Third violation: After confirmation 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.
4. Accumulative penalties: Penalties shall be accumulative beginning with and continuing through the student's participation on a varsity, junior varsity, B-squad or sophomore team or activity.

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:
 - a. Approved and supported by the national governing body of the sport or if there is an Olympic development program of training and competition.

- b. Directly funded by a national governing body on a national level.
 - c. 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. 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.

INSURANCE

If you do not have some form of accident insurance coverage, the school has information regarding an athletic accident plan. Athletes who want to register for this insurance may get the necessary information and forms from the athletic secretary in the main office at school.

WARNING, AGREEMENT TO OBEY INSTRUCTIONS, RELEASE ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND AGREEMENT TO HOLD HARMLESS

I am aware that playing or practicing to play/participate in any sport can be a dangerous activity involving **MANY RISKS OR INJURY**. I understand that the dangers and risks of playing or practicing to play/participate in any of the above sports may result not only in serious injury, but in a serious impairment of future abilities to earn a living, to engage in other business, social and recreational activities and generally to enjoy life.

Because of the dangers of participating in sports, the student and parent/guardian must recognize the importance of following coaches' instructions regarding playing techniques, training and other team rules, etc. and must agree to obey such instructions.

As of Sept, 1990, it is the policy of Independent School District 281, Robbinsdale Area Schools, to follow the rules established by the Minnesota State High School League in regard to chemical and tobacco use and abuse by students participating in League-sponsored activities. Information received throughout the year from police reports in accordance with Minnesota Statute 126.036 (1988 Session Law 691) will be used by the district when those reports pertain to the eligibility of students involved in league-sponsored activities.

Students Please Note

If a student participant in athletics, fine arts activities or school-sponsored clubs/activities violates any provision of the District 281 Middle School and High School Co-curricular Eligibility policy, the first measure of discipline will be the district's Student Rights, Opportunities and Responsibilities and Discipline Guidelines. The second measure of discipline will be the Middle School and High School Co-curricular Eligibility policy. In addition, student participants must abide by all relevant Minnesota State High School League rules.