

Authorization and Eligibility Guidelines for Athletics, Robbinsdale Area Schools

Robbinsdale Armstrong High School Activities Office

Activities Director – Larry Tate: 763-504-8818 larry_tate@rdale.org
Activities Assistant – Rebecca Enderlein: 763-504-8833 rebecca_enderlein@rdale.org

Robbinsdale Cooper High School Activities Office

Activities Director - Willie Howard: 763-504-8518 willie_howard@rdale.org
Activities Assistant - Sara Thurston: 763-504-8533 sara_thurston@rdale.org

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 who turns 20 during the 11th or 12th semester since first entering the 7th grade shall be allowed to participate through the completion of the 12th semester. Adapted athletes are eligible to participate until their 22nd birthday, provided they meet all other eligibility requirements.

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.

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 fully 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 fully 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 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. When a sport season begins on a Monday, that day shall be counted as the first Monday.

GRADUATE

Students who have graduated from a secondary school, or who have completed the terminal or final grade of a secondary school, or who have earned a GED or diploma are not eligible for participation in any League activity. A student who graduates while a member of a team with a season in progress may complete the season if three or fewer weeks of the regular season, exclusive of League tournament play, remains.

SEASONS OF PARTICIPATION

No student may participate in more than six (6) seasons in any sport while enrolled in grades 7-12, semester 1-12 inclusive.

SEMESTERS IN HIGH SCHOOL

A student shall not participate in an interscholastic contest after the student's twelfth semester in grades 7-12 inclusive. All twelve semesters shall be consecutive beginning in 7th grade.

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 after 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. If the student's parents move from one public school district attendance area to another public school district attendance area, the student will be eligible in the new public school attendance area or a non-public school if the student transfers at the same time the student's parents move.
If the parents move from one public school district attendance area to another, the student shall continue to be fully eligible if the student continues enrollment in the prior school for the balance of the current marking period or for the balance of the academic school year. If the student elects either of the current enrollment options above, the student will be fully eligible upon transfer to the new school.

A student who elects not to transfer upon a parent's change in residence shall continue to be eligible at the school in which the student is currently enrolled.

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. Divorced parents: 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 9-12 inclusive.
 5. Move 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.
- C. If none of the provisions in Athletic Rule 5.B.2.1-5 (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.
1. Students are immediately eligible for competition at the non-varsity level.
 2. A student may not obtain eligibility as a result of a transfer. If at the time of transfer the student was not fully eligible in the previous school, the student shall be ineligible in the new school. A student who was not in good standing at the time of transfer shall be ineligible until the penalty from the previous school has been served.
 3. Each time a student transfers and the conditions of the transfer do not meet any of the provisions of Bylaw 111.2.A-E, the student will be ineligible for varsity competition for a period of one (1) calendar year beginning with the first day of attendance at the new school. For example, if a student, while serving a one-year transfer suspension, transfers to another school and none of the provisions of Bylaw 111.2.A-E are met, an additional one-year suspension will be applied. The student will begin serving the additional one-year suspension immediately following the completion of the previous one-year suspension.
 4. 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.
 5. A student who transfers from one MSHSL member school to another MSHSL member school is ineligible for varsity competition for fifteen (15) calendar days from the first day the student attends practice in the fall or attends classes in the new school for the first time.
Upon transfer, the student will be ineligible at the former school and may practice at the new school but may not compete in any varsity activity at the new school.
The student will retain full eligibility at the former school if the student chooses to return to the former school during the fifteen (15) calendar day period.
If the student remains at the new school, following the fifteen (15) calendar day period, the student will become eligible at the varsity level only when the student has fully met all of the transfer criteria and has been deemed to be eligible both by the new school and the League office.
If any of the transfer criteria has not been met, the student will be ineligible for varsity competition at the new school and must then choose between varsity eligibility at the former school or JV eligibility at the new school.
 - a. The student may elect to decline the 15-day window to become eligible to compete at the varsity level at the receiving school

once the school administration determines the student has met all of the varsity participation eligibility criteria.

- b. A student may utilize this provision one time per 365 calendar day period.

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 in 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) use or consume, have in possession a beverage containing alcohol;
- (2) use or consume, have in possession tobacco;

- (3) use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell, or give away any controlled substance or drug paraphernalia;
- (4) use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away products containing or products used to deliver nicotine, tobacco products and other chemicals.

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: After confirmation of the first violation, the 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. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program.
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 or three (3) weeks, whichever is greater. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program.
3. Third and subsequent violations: 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 or four (4) weeks, whichever is greater. If after the third or subsequent violations, the student has been assessed to be chemically dependent and the student on her/his own volition becomes a participant in a chemical dependency program or treatment program, then the student may be certified for reinstatement in MSHSL activities after a minimum period of six (6) weeks. Such certification must be issued by the director or a counselor of a chemical dependency treatment center.
4. Penalties are progressive and consecutive.
5. **Denial disqualification: A student shall be disqualified from all inter-scholastic 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 then is subsequently found guilty of the violation.**
6. 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 who 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 request them from the Athletic Office. Intramural refunds will not be granted.

RESPONSIBILITY OF SCHOOL ISSUED EQUIPMENT

Students who are issued athletic equipment will be financially responsible for the return of equipment at the completion of the season. Any lost items will require reimbursement by the participant.

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.

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 September 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.