

Student Activities Participation Handbook 2024-2025

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Welcome

Welcome to Billings Public Schools Athletics and Activities, where we embark on a journey together to nurture the growth and development of our young student-participants. Billings Public Schools believes that participation in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities in a safe learning environment contributes to the all-around development of young men and women and helps prepare them for life beyond high school. In this handbook, we delve into the essence of sportsmanship, the importance of teamwork, and the invaluable role of parents in fostering a culture of excellence both on and off the field, court, stage, or in any other endeavor our student-participants pursue.

At the heart of every successful athletic endeavor lies the spirit of teamwork. It's more than just working together towards a common goal; it's about cultivating a culture where each individual's strengths contribute to the collective success of the team. Through collaboration, communication, and camaraderie, we empower our young student-participants to thrive in a dynamic, team-oriented environment.

As parents, we serve as the primary role models for our children, guiding them not only through the victories but also the challenges that athletics and activities inevitably bring. Our actions, attitudes, and words shape their perception of sportsmanship, integrity, and perseverance. By embodying these virtues, we instill in our young student-participants the values they need to become not only skilled competitors but also respectful individuals.

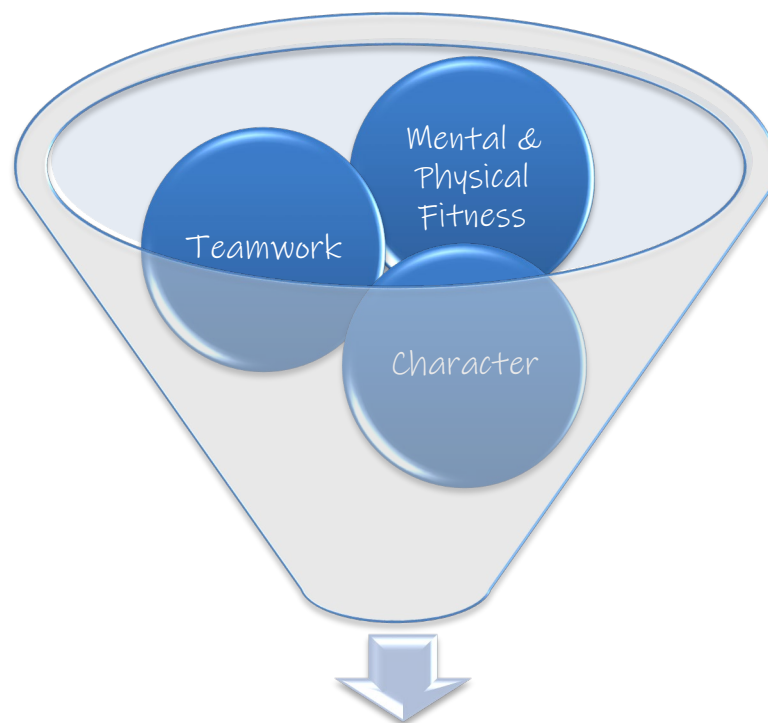
In this handbook, we explore the pivotal role parents play in supporting their children's athletics and activities journey, from providing unwavering encouragement to fostering a positive environment where sportsmanship flourishes. Together, let us champion the values of teamwork, nurture a culture of excellence, and inspire our young student-participants to become not only champions on the field, court, or stage but also role models in life.



Components of a Program of Excellence

Highly successful individuals, school clubs, ensembles, and teams achieve success through hard work and great character.

- ◆ The student-participant understands that his or her participation is a privilege that must be earned.
- ◆ The student-participant understands that he or she is held to a higher standard within the school and community.
- ◆ Each student-participant maintains a high degree of mental and physical fitness and alertness to perform to optimal capacity in the activity.
- ◆ Clear and consistent boundaries and expectations of behavior are established to assist student-participants in maintaining self-discipline.
- ◆ The Code of Conduct communicates those boundaries and expectations and the student-participants agree to comply with it.
- ◆ The Code of Conduct deters student-participants' involvement in the risky and dangerous behaviors associated with the use, abuse, and misuse of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.
- ◆ The desire to win comes with the understanding that to do so, to reach individual and team success, student-participants must work hard and make decisions that help them reach their full potential.
- ◆ Student-participants strive to be chemical free, dedicate themselves to their academic work, and accept the responsibilities that go along with traditions of excellence.



Culture of Excellence

Montana High School Association (MHSA)

Originally founded in 1921 to regulate athletic competition, the Montana High School Association strives to serve all member schools by governing high school interscholastic activities in Montana.

The mission of the MHSA is to assure that the membership is provided with leadership and support in advancing equitable MHSA interscholastic activities for the growth and educational experience for students.

The purpose of the Montana High School Association is to ensure that interscholastic activities in Montana are administered fairly. Policies pertaining to scholastic standing, transfer, awards, and other regulations that guide the Executive Board are adopted by the MHSA member schools. The MHSA is a service-based organization.

High school students throughout the state benefit greatly from interscholastic activities programs. These programs are an integral part of the high school experience, and promotion of good citizenship is essential to the growth and to the development of these valuable activities.

The MHSA is a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

Billings Public Schools is a member of the MHSA. As such, MHSA and NFHS rules and regulations apply to all schools and activities.

The full MHSA Handbook with Bylaws and Rules and Regulations is available on the MHSA website - <https://www.mhsa.org/handbook>.



Student Fees

High School

- ◆ **Participation Fee*** – \$65.00 per activity per year
- ◆ **Activity Ticket** – \$30.00 per year
- ◆ **Honors Music** – \$55.00
- ◆ **Instrument rental** - \$150 per school year; \$75 per summer; percussionists pay an additional fee for use of equipment.

Middle School

- ◆ **Participation Fee*** – \$55.00 per activity per year
- ◆ **T-Shirts** – \$13.00 (Ben Steele - \$15)
- ◆ **Shorts** – \$7.00 (optional)
- ◆ **Football Jerseys** – \$40.00
- ◆ **Honors Music** – \$55.00
- ◆ **Instrument rental** - \$150 per school year; \$75 per summer; percussionists pay an additional fee for use of equipment.

*The participation fee will not be refunded once practice has started.

High School Program Offerings

SPORT	TRYOUT?	BOYS	GIRLS
Baseball (V, JV) Coming Spring 2025!	Y	X	
Basketball (V, JV, SO, FR)	Y	X	X
Cheer/Dance	Y	X	X
Cross Country (V, JV)	N	X	X
Football (V, JV, FR)	N	X	
Forensics (V, JV)	N	X	X
Golf (V, JV)	Y	X	X
Music (Band/Orchestra/Chorus)	N	X	X
Pep Band	N	X	X
Soccer (V, JV)	Y	X	X
Softball (V, JV)	Y		X
Swimming (V)	N	X	X
Tennis (V, JV)	Y	X	X
Track (V, JV)	N	X	X
Volleyball (V, JV, SO, FR1, FR2)	Y		X
Wrestling (V, JV)	N	X	X

Middle School Program Offerings

SPORT	GRADE	SESSION	BOYS	GIRLS
Basketball - Boys (A and B team)	6, 7, 8	3	X	
Basketball - Girls (A and B team)	6, 7, 8	2		X
Cross Country	6, 7, 8	1	X	X
Football (A and B team)	7, 8	1	X	
Music (Band/Orchestra/Chorus)	6, 7, 8		X	X
Softball (A and B team)	6, 7, 8	1		X
Track	6, 7, 8	4	X	X
Volleyball (A and B team)	6, 7, 8	4		X
Wrestling	6, 7, 8	2	X	X

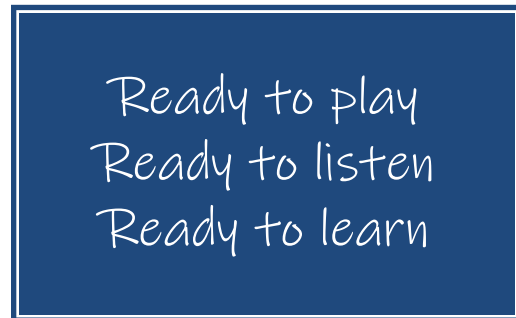
Code of Conduct

Expectations & Responsibilities of Student-Participants

Responsibility to Self – Student-participants develop strength of character through participation in school activities and healthy lifestyle choices.

Responsibility to Academic Studies – Student-participants are students first and strive to meet all academic standards established in this Code of Conduct and by their teachers.

Responsibility to School – Student-participants commit to engaging to the best of their abilities in every practice, competition, and other related activities. Student-participants follow all district, school, and classroom rules as written in handbooks and classroom syllabi.



Responsibility to Family – Student-participants follow all training rules, practice every day to the best of their ability, and play the game all out. They display good sportsmanship, foster self-respect, and earn the pride of their families, win or lose.

Responsibility to Community – Student-participants demonstrate class and sportsmanship, not because they win, but rather because they show character and excellence. Student-participants meet all MHSAA rules and regulations regarding participation in High School Activities.

Responsibility to Younger Athletes – Student-participants are role models for all youth throughout the community by realizing their choices have an impact on those around them.

Responsibility to Teammates – Student-participants follow all of their coaches' and sponsors' rules for the sport or activity, attend the mandatory pre-season and/or annual meetings and practices, and come ready to play by being at practice on time, ready to listen, and ready to learn. Student-participants are sincere, cooperative, and honest when asked to participate in any investigation arising under the Code of Conduct.

Expectations & Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians

Parents play a vital role in the development of their child's character and decision-making skills, including in sports and activities. A student-participant's success, the success of the team, and ultimately the program, is a partnership between the student-participant, the parent(s), the coach or sponsor, and the administration. Recognizing parents' important role in the success of their student-participants, it is expected parents will:

- ◆ Be a positive role model so that, through their actions, they can help make sure their student-participant(s) has the best possible experience in the activity.
- ◆ Be a "team" fan, not a "my kid" fan.
- ◆ Carefully consider what their student-participant expresses in any controversy, instead of hastily making judgments.
- ◆ Show respect for the opposing players, participants from other schools, coaches, sponsors, and fans.
- ◆ Be respectful of all officials' and adjudicators' decisions.

- ◆ Refrain from instructing their student-participant before or after a game or activity, as it may interfere with the plans and strategies of the sponsor or coach.
- ◆ Praise their student-participant in his or her attempts to improve as a student, as a participant in the activity, and as a person.
- ◆ Gain knowledge and understanding of the rules of the activity in which their student-participant competes.
- ◆ Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding performance by other school's participants.
- ◆ Assist their student-participants in understanding that success is achieved through skill development, placing emphasis on individuals deriving satisfaction from improvements made, regardless of wins, losses, scores, or other metrics.
- ◆ Talk with coaches and sponsors in a respectful manner, being mindful of the proper time and place, especially when voicing concerns. Follow the designated communication process outlined in this handbook, which includes allowing the coach or sponsor to address any issues before contacting the principal or Executive Director of Athletics and Activities.
- ◆ Support the tobacco, e-cigarette, alcohol, and other drug-free expectations of the school district by refraining from the use of any such substances before and during athletic contests, activities, and performances.
- ◆ Support and follow all MHSA rules and regulations.
- ◆ Support and reinforce the expectations set out in this handbook.

Victories build champions
Defeat builds character

Duration of Code

Student-participants are subject to the regulations outlined in this Code of Conduct starting from the date of the first practice for fall activities continuing throughout a student's participation. The Code of Conduct is in effect full time, day and night, both on and off School District property, including any school sponsored activity that extends beyond the academic school year.

Pre-Season Meetings

Prior to the start of the activity season, each coach or sponsor will arrange a meeting to communicate the expectations of the school and program to those who wish to participate. Student-participants, their parents/guardians, coaches, and sponsors are requested to attend.

Games/Practice Expectations

Student-participants are required to attend games and practices. Each individual head coach has established a team policy that outlines the consequences for missed practices or games. Continued absenteeism will result in dismissal from the team. Attendance requirements and consequences for music, drama, forensics, and other non-athletic activities will be set forth by the coach or sponsor for that activity.

Equipment

Student-participants are responsible for all equipment checked out to them. Any loss or damage could result in a replacement charge.

Generally, the equipment provisions for each high school program are as follows:

Activity	Supplied by high school	Supplied by student-participant
Baseball		
Basketball	Game uniform & warm-ups	Practice shorts, shoes, socks, & other necessities
Cross Country	Meet uniform	Practice gear, shoes, & socks
Football	Game jersey, pants, shoulder pads & other protective pads, helmets & accessories	Practice jersey, athletic supporter, shoes, socks, towel, & mouthpiece
Golf	None	All equipment
Music	None	All equipment needed for instrument
Soccer	Game uniform	All other equipment
Softball	Game uniform, batting helmets, protective equipment & catchers gear	Shoes, sweat gear, practice gear, & other necessities
Swimming	None	Swimming suit, protective cap, ear plugs, goggles, & other necessities
Tennis	Uniform	All other equipment
Track	Meet uniform	Shoes, sweat gear, practice shorts, shirt, & other necessities
Volleyball	Game jersey	Practice jersey, socks, knee pads, & shorts
Wrestling	Singlet, head gear	Socks, shoes, knee pads, practice gear, & sweats

Multi-Activity Participation

Billings Public Schools, in collaboration with MHSAA, endorse the principle of multi-activity participation. The expectation is that coaches and sponsors will assist student-participants in their chosen activities. Coaches and sponsors will collaborate to enhance their respective programs. During the off-season, coaches are expected to facilitate the sharing of athletes and encourage the allocation of time towards skill development in each chosen activity. While coaches will not advocate for exclusivity in any one sport, they will support the decisions made by student-participants and parents.

Club and Outside Sports Participation

Student-participants are expected to dedicate themselves fully to Billings Public Schools activities. While we strive to understand our students, their skills, talents, and aspirations, it is important that external

commitments do not interfere with the goals and objectives of the school district team and/or activity in which they are involved. The following rules apply to participation in all outside activities, college recruiting and visitations, and participation in other out-of-season, school district activities:

- ◆ In-season practices take precedent. Proper rest and attention to homework is essential; therefore, student-participants are discouraged from attending practices of club sports following an in-season practice.
- ◆ In-season student-participants are allowed to attend the open gym of another district sport as long as the head coaches are in agreement on the times and activities that take place, the student-participant is in good standing academically, and the student-participant works on skills only and refrains from participating in competitions.
- ◆ In-season student-participants should not participate in weekend competitions when they have time off from in-season activities. Again, proper rest and time away from competitions is encouraged.
- ◆ In-season student-participants may request permission from their coach and Activities Coordinator to attend one outside activity categorized as a recruiting trip, invitational tournament, or all-star event. This event cannot lead to more than two missed games and must be communicated to the head coach at least two weeks in advance. The Activities Coordinator and head coach will review the request. The decision regarding the student-participant's attendance at the event without consequence will be based on the following criteria:
 - ◆ Potential Impact on the team
 - ◆ Potential rewards beyond high school, e.g., scholarship
- ◆ A student-participant who chooses to miss practices or games due to an outside activity without going through the application process or obtaining the appropriate permissions will be subject to a game suspension equal to the number of games or practices missed while attending the outside event.

Travel Rules and Alternate Transportation

Student-participants are expected to travel to the event on school district provided transportation unless there is an extenuating circumstance. In case of an extenuating circumstance, permission for alternate travel must be granted by completing an [Alternate/Return Travel Request Form](#). The form must be signed by the student-participant, parent/guardian, coach or sponsor, and the school administrator prior to leaving on the trip (this form is found on the Activities page of the district website).

Student-participants have the option to travel home with their parents/guardians. While it is recommended to complete an Alternate/Return Travel Request Form, the coach or sponsor may authorize the release of the student in a face-to-face meeting with the student-participant's parent(s)/guardian(s) prior to departure. At no time will student-participants be allowed to travel home with anyone other than their parents/guardians.

Local travel to cross town competition (except football) or off-site practices is the sole responsibility of the student and parent. Safe travel practices should be emphasized at all times.

Transportation During Inclement Weather

During inclement weather, the Director of Athletics and Activities will give careful consideration before determining whether to travel or cancel by consulting with other ADs, coaches, administrators, bus drivers, and bus company supervisors. Information will be collected from weather and road condition

reports, the National and State Weather Service, and weather forecasts. The safety of the student-participants and staff is the highest priority.

During travel in inclement weather, the following guidelines apply:

- ◆ Student-participants will dress appropriately by bringing hats, gloves, and coats. Bringing a blanket is recommended.
- ◆ If the team is on the road and travel is deemed unsafe, the bus will stop at the safest available site. The coach will instruct the student-participants to contact their parents.
- ◆ If continued travel is deemed unsafe, the bus will return to the closest available site, and arrange for motel rooms for an overnight stay.
- ◆ If the bus gets stranded, the driver and coaches will follow first aid and safety requirements and contact emergency personnel as appropriate.
- ◆ If a trip is not cancelled and the student-participant's parents feel strongly against travel, the student-participant can be kept home without penalty.

Overnight Trips Expectations

Students representing School District #2 are required to adhere to the following when student trips require overnight lodging:

- ◆ Student-participants will be given a curfew to be in assigned rooms by the coach or sponsor. Failure by the student-participant to be present in the room at curfew will result in an immediate suspension from the activity for the remainder of the trip or competition.
- ◆ A student-participant who leaves an assigned room after curfew will be suspended from the activity for the remainder of the trip and will remain suspended indefinitely until a review by the appropriate administrator(s).
- ◆ A student-participant who enters a room after curfew where members of the opposite gender are staying will receive a suspension for the remainder of the activity or event. Additionally, they will face permanent suspension from the activity for the remainder of the year. Student-participants shall not enter rooms where members of the opposite gender are staying at any time unless the coach or sponsor is also present in the room.
- ◆ At no time are student-participants allowed to have anyone who is not directly involved in the activity in their room without consent from the coach or sponsor. Student-participants who allow others to enter their rooms without permission from the coach or sponsor will be suspended from that activity for the remainder of the trip.
- ◆ Any violation of School District #2 policy or state or federal laws will result in the immediate suspension from the activity and will be reviewed by School District #2 administration for possible expulsion.
- ◆ Student-participants who violate the Code of Conduct will not be allowed to participate in the event(s) and may be sent home with their parents, depending on the individual situation.
- ◆ Bullying and harassment incidents, such as making freshmen carry older kids' bags or requiring younger kids sleep on the floor, will not be tolerated. Any allegations of bullying and harassment must be promptly reported and will be addressed in accordance with [School District #2 Policy 3210 on Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying](#).
- ◆ Prior to check out, the rooms will be inspected by the coach or sponsor. Garbage must be picked up and there must be no damage. Students will be billed for any damage done to a room or any missing items such as pillows, towels, etc.
- ◆ Student-participants who violate any team rules will incur the consequences set forth by the head coach as written in the specific program handbook.



Quitting a Sport

A student-participant who quits any sport or activity may not immediately participate in another sport or activity until the two head coaches or sponsors and the Activities Coordinator meet and grant permission.

In-District Transfer Policy

In order to participate in an MHSA activity (including Cheer or Dance) at any BPS high school, the student must be enrolled at that school on the date of the first scheduled practice and must go through tryouts and workouts as required by the coach. The student must be eligible under MHSA Transfer rules.

Note: Students who transfer in-district must be enrolled at that school for 90 school days before becoming eligible for varsity competition.

Student-participants who physically move into a different home within the district does not count as an In-District Transfer; student-participants who move are eligible to participate immediately.

In cases such as cheerleading tryouts, where the actual tryouts may occur at different schools and times, a student who does make the team at one school may not transfer to another school to tryout.

IDEA Accommodations

In 2004, Congress changed the [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#) to cover extracurricular activities. IDEA states that schools must take steps to give student-participants with IEPs an equal opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities by giving them the help they need to take part.

Reasonable accommodations for student-participants with IEPs ensure that all students can fully participate and benefit from these opportunities. These accommodations may include providing specialized equipment, modifying activities, offering additional support, or adjusting the environment to ensure inclusivity and accessibility for all participants.

Head coaches, sponsors, and the entire coaching staff are responsible for ensuring that a student-participant's IEP, 504, or other program is followed for extracurricular activities.

Academic Standards for Participation in High School

- ◆ The team coach or sponsor, the Activities Coordinator, or a school administrator may do random checks of grades at any time throughout the semester.
- ◆ Student-participants are required to meet all MHSA standards of academic eligibility as outlined in [Article II, Section 2 ELIGIBILITY of the MHSA Bylaws](#):
 - ◆ 2.1 A student must be enrolled in twenty hours per week and in regular attendance in ten hours per week at the school where the student participates. Regular attendance is defined as actual physical presence in the building (bricks and mortar) with exceptions for virtual learners and nonpublic or home school students who wish to participate. Contact the Activities Coordinator or coach or sponsor for additional information.
 - ◆ 2.2 A grading period is defined as one semester. A semester is defined as one half of a school year (approximately 18 school weeks or 90 school days). This definition is applicable to all schools regardless of the type of class scheduling format utilized (e.g., block, traditional, trimester etc.).
 - ◆ 2.3 A student must have received a passing grade and received credit in at least twenty periods of prepared class work or its equivalent in the last previous semester, at the school where the student participates; except that any ninth-grade student enrolled and

attending any junior high, in the same school system as the senior high school, may be eligible to participate on that senior high school's athletic teams. If the school prohibits participation by ninth grade students, this action by the local school will not be subject to review by the MHSAA or its Executive Board.

- ◆ 2.4 A student must have received a passing grade and received credit in at least twenty periods of prepared work per week or its equivalent during the last preceding semester in which he/she was enrolled.
- ◆ Students failing to meet the Eligibility standards will become ineligible for participation in all MHSAA contests for the following semester and until they fulfill the eligibility criteria. If an academically ineligible student-participant made the team through the regular tryout process, they may still practice with their teams if they maintain satisfactory academic progress as determined by school administration; however, ineligible students are not allowed to travel or dress out for home games. Upon becoming eligible and before participating in a contest, a student-participant must complete 8 (10 for football) practices as a comprehensive, regularly scheduled team practice according to the MHSAA Regulations. Regardless of whether they practice, ineligible student-participants must adhere to the rules and regulations outlined in this handbook and by the program head coach.

Academic Standards for Participation in Middle School

Academics are emphasized in the middle school program. It is essential that middle school students understand that participation in activities is a privilege, not a right.

The following guidelines apply to athletic teams, musical productions, clubs, and student council:

- ◆ The student-participant is required to maintain passing grades in all subjects. However, if a student-participant receives a deficiency, they may still participate provided there is an improvement in their grade average.
- ◆ Eligibility grade checks shall take place according to the policy implemented by the school principal.
- ◆ Whether student-participants are permitted to practice depends upon communication between the school administrator, teacher, and parent.
- ◆ The coach or sponsor will be notified of any ineligible student-participants.

Extra-Curricular Absences from School

- ◆ If student-participants miss all or part of a school day due to a scheduled activity, a school-related absence will be granted.
- ◆ Wherever possible, dismissal times will be the same across the district as determined by the Activities Coordinator along with the Executive Director of Athletics and Activities.
- ◆ At no time will coaches or parents dismiss students earlier than the times determined by the Activities Coordinator.

Dismissal from a Team

A head coach or sponsor can recommend that a student-participant be dismissed from their team. The coach or sponsor should coordinate a meeting between the school principal, the Activities Coordinator, and the student-participant and their parents to discuss dismissal or a contract for improvement.

Supervision

Student-participants are under the direction of coaches and sponsors at all times, including, but not limited to, the following:

- ◆ During practice sessions and team meetings.
- ◆ Before and after practice in locker rooms, training rooms, etc.
- ◆ While on any form of transportation carrying teams or groups to or from an activity or event.
- ◆ In motels, restaurants, and other public places while the team or group is present.
- ◆ During trips from the time of departure until the time of return, twenty-four hours a day.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Unsportsmanlike conduct will be subject to consequences as determined by the individual program coach or sponsor as well as by the MHSAs rules.

Out-of-Character Behavior

Athletic and activities programs of excellence are defined by highly successful teams and individuals who achieve success through diligent effort and outstanding character. Character encompasses the set of beliefs, attitudes, and actions that exhibit respect and consideration for others while embracing social responsibility within one's community.

Out-of-character behavior is considered in two different ways:

- 1) Behavior that does not meet the character standards as expected by School District #2, school, or team.
- 2) Behavior outside of what is expected from a student-participant. Coaches and administrators will determine "out-of-character" behavior consequences in relation to the behavior that occurred and in accordance with district, school, and team rules and regulations.

Student Suspensions from School

Students suspended from school are not permitted to be on school grounds during the time of their suspension and therefore may not practice or participate in athletic contests during the time of their suspension. Should there not be a contest scheduled during the time of the student-participant's suspension from school, the student-participant, as a result of his or her out-of-character behavior, will be ineligible to participate in his or her next regular sport or activity event.

Hazing/Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying



Hazing is defined as any activity that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation, membership, or affiliation with any athletic team or activity group. Any hazing activity, whether by an individual or by a group, shall be presumed to be a

forced activity even if a student willingly participates. Billings Public Schools does not condone any form of hazing as part of any school sponsored activity. No student, coach, volunteer, or district employee shall plan, direct, encourage, assist, or engage in any hazing activity. Furthermore, student-participants are governed by [Billings Public](#)

"Our
character
is what
we do
when we
think no
one is
looking."

- H. JACKSON
BROWN, JR.

[Schools Policy 3210 on Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying](#). Student-participants who violate this policy will be subject to the consequences listed in the policy.

Cyber Image Guidelines

Any identifiable image, photo, or video suggesting that a student-participant has been in possession of or present with alcohol or drugs, or that depicts actual use, out-of-character behavior, or criminal activity, will be regarded as confirmation of a violation of this Code of Conduct. Since the time or location of an image cannot be determined, the student-athlete depicted becomes responsible. It should be noted that individuals may attempt to implicate a student-participant by taking or altering images to put them in a situation that may violate this Code of Conduct; this underscores the importance of student-participants avoiding situations involving illegal alcohol or drug use. Furthermore, student-participants are governed by [Billings Public Schools Policy 3210 on Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying](#) and [Policy 3235 on Student Drug and Chemical Use and Abuse](#). Student-participants who violate these policies will be subject to the consequences listed in the policies.

Student Arrest or Citation by Law Enforcement

School District #2 is not obligated to allow a student who has been cited or arrested by law enforcement to participate in athletics or activities. Furthermore, there is no obligation for the Billings Public Schools to wait for the judicial process to run its course before addressing the situation. Therefore, upon first knowledge of an arrest or a citation that is considered an out-of-character offense, and even while charges are pending and adjudicated, the student-participant will be excluded from participation. Misdemeanor offenses will be handled according to the disciplinary consequences applied to Chemical Use as stated in this handbook. Felony offenses result in immediate and permanent suspension from participation.

Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco



Alcohol, drugs, and tobacco are strictly prohibited. This includes the possession, use, consumption, distribution, purchase, sale, manufacture, or any other improper or unlawful involvement with illegal drugs, controlled substances, alcohol or alcoholic beverages, anabolic or androgenic steroids, tobacco, tobacco products, e-cigarettes, vapor pens, facsimiles, “look-alike” drugs, drug paraphernalia, or substances or products that mask or tamper with any of these. Additionally, distribution, abuse, or misuse of over-the-counter medications, prescription drugs, or other chemicals or substances is prohibited. All student-participants are governed by [Billings Public Schools Policy 3240 on Tobacco Free Schools](#) and [Policy 3235 on Student Drug and Chemical Use and Abuse](#).

Complaint Process

The following guidelines must be followed to meet with a coach or administrator:

- ◆ The student-participant must talk with the coach first.
- ◆ Coaches meet by appointment only and adhere to a “cooling off” period where no meetings will be scheduled until 24 hours after a game.
- ◆ Meetings are only scheduled for appropriate concerns such as the mental and physical well-being of the student-participant, ways in which the coach can help the student-participant improve, or concerns about the student-participant’s behavior.
- ◆ No meetings will be scheduled for inappropriate concerns such as playing time, team strategy, game decisions, or other team members.
- ◆ The student-participant must attend the meeting.

- ◆ If issues continue, additional meetings with the coach, the Activities Coordinator and/or school principal may be necessary.
- ◆ Additional concerns should be addressed by the Executive Director of Athletics and Activities who will work closely with the school principal to determine an appropriate course of action.

Disciplinary Consequences for Code of Conduct Violations

Investigation and Appeal Process

Allegations regarding violations of the Code of Conduct will be investigated by the building principal or assistant principal. A determination that a violation occurred will only be reached after a meeting with the student-participant, during which they will be presented with the relevant information and given the opportunity to respond. If it is decided that a violation occurred, the student-participant and their parent/guardian will be notified of the outcome and consequences. Written notification will be provided if consequences are imposed. If a student-participant disagrees with the decision, they may request a review by the Executive Director of Athletics and Activities, followed by further review by the District Superintendent and Board of Trustees, as outlined in [Policy 1700, the Uniform Complaint Policy](#).

Student-participants and their parents/guardians shall not retaliate against informants or individuals (faculty, staff, students, or other family members) who are involved in this process. Retaliation will result in imposition of additional consequences.

Honesty Clause: Student-participants commit to honesty and sincerity when participating in any investigation of potential conduction violations. If, when confronted by a school official, the student-participant is truthful, the consequence for the violation will be kept to the minimum. However, if the student-participant denies involvement and conclusive evidence is later found, the suspension for the violation will be doubled. A report of this Code of Conduct violation will be sent to the district Activities Office.

"Honesty is the best policy. If I lose mine honor, I lose myself."
- WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

In addition to any consequences set forth in school rules, policies, and procedures for violations of school rules, the following penalties will be imposed:

Misconduct

A. First Offense

- i. Notify parent/guardian as soon as possible following completion of the investigation.
- ii. Notify appropriate law enforcement agency if necessary.
- iii. No student participation in competition in any school activities for 25% of the regular season competitions scheduled for the activity. The student-participant will be required to attend and participate in practices and meetings at the discretion of the coach or sponsor.
- iv. For cheer and dance, which span both the fall and winter seasons, the suspension will be for 2 weeks from the first date of suspension during which participation in any events in prohibited. The student-participant will be required to attend and participate in practices and meetings at the discretion of the coach.
- v. For acts of vandalism, theft, or destruction of property, restitution must be made prior to returning to participation.
- i. Other discipline in accordance with school non-discrimination/anti-harassment policies and other policies. See [Policy 3300 Student Discipline: Consequences for Violations of Student Code of Conduct](#) and [Policy 3350 Student Discipline: Due Process](#).

B. Second Offense

- ii. Notify parent/guardian as soon as possible upon completion of the investigation.
- iii. Notify appropriate law enforcement agency if necessary.
- iv. No student participation for 50% of the regular season competitions scheduled for the activity.
- v. For cheer and dance, which span both the fall and winter seasons, the suspension will be for 4 weeks from the first date of suspension during which participation in any events is prohibited. The student-participant will be required to attend and participate in practices and meetings at the discretion of the coach.
- vi. For acts of vandalism, theft, or destruction of property, restitution must be made prior to returning to activity participation.
- vii. Other discipline in accordance with school non-discrimination/anti-harassment policies and other policies. See [Policy 3300 Student Discipline: Consequences for Violations of Student Code of Conduct](#) and [Policy 3350 Student Discipline: Due Process](#).
- viii. Team awards or captainships earned up to that point may be withdrawn at the discretion of the coach or sponsor.

C. Third Offense

- i. Notify parent/guardian as soon as possible following completion of the investigation.
- ii. Notify appropriate law enforcement agency if necessary.
- iii. No participation in any school activities for one calendar year including weekends. This includes cheer and dance participants.
- iv. For acts of vandalism, theft, or destruction of property, restitution must be made prior to returning to activity participation.
- ix. Other discipline in accordance with school non-discrimination/anti-harassment policies and other policies. See [Policy 3300 Student Discipline: Consequences for Violations of Student Code of Conduct](#) and [Policy 3350 Student Discipline: Due Process](#).
- v. Team awards or captainships earned up to that point may be withdrawn at the discretion of the coach or sponsor.

Chemical Use (Distribution)

A. First Offense

- i. Notify parent/guardian as soon as possible upon completion of the investigation.
- ii. Notify appropriate law enforcement agency.
- iii. No participation in any school activities for 90 calendar days, including weekends.
- iv. Student-participants must complete a district approved drug awareness program.
- v. All team awards or captainships earned up to that point may be withdrawn at the discretion of the coach or sponsor.

B. Second Offense

- i. Notify parent/guardian as soon as possible following completion of the investigation.
- ii. Notify appropriate law enforcement agency.
- iii. Student-participants must complete a district approved drug awareness program.
- iv. No participation in any school activities for one calendar year, including weekends during that period.
- v. All team awards or captainships earned up to that point may be withdrawn at the discretion of the coach or sponsor.

Request for Reinstatement Appeal

Student-participants who have been suspended from activities for the remainder of their high school career due to a third or a higher-level offense can appeal for reinstatement following completion of suspension for one calendar year. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the school principal and an appeal hearing will take place. The building principal, Activities Coordinator, and the Executive Director of Athletics and Activities will decide the outcome of the appeal based on the following conditions:

- ◆ Clean behavior record for one complete calendar year.
- ◆ Clean drug tests (purchased by the parents), if the violation(s) was drug or alcohol related.
- ◆ Completion of a district approved drug awareness program.
- ◆ Class work that meets all district and MHS standards.
- ◆ Student meets all other MHS standards for participation.
- ◆ Code of Conduct re-signed with the understanding that even one violation will result suspension.

Middle School Consequences and Transition to High School

Middle School consequences will be consistent with those described in this code. However, middle school student-participants who have a code violation in 7th or 8th grade will be given a clean record upon beginning high school.

Joining a Sport to Fulfill Consequences

A student-participant who receives a Code of Conduct violation may opt to join another sport they had previously chosen not to participate in, with the aim of fulfilling their consequences. The rationale is that it is preferable for a student to be involved in an activity rather than having idle time.

The following rules will apply to all student-participants who choose to go out for a non-primary sport in order to fulfill the consequence of a code violation:

- ◆ *Contract* – Agreed to and signed by the coach, the student-participant, and the student’s parents/guardians.
- ◆ *Duration* – The contract will be in effect for the entire length of the season.
- ◆ *Behavior Expectations* – The student-participant will abide by the Code of Conduct and the rules, regulations, and policies of the district; will attend every practice – even one unexcused absence will nullify the contract; will behave appropriately at all practices as determined by the coach; will give a genuine effort at each practice as determined by the coach; and will get along with and support other student-participants.
- ◆ *Coach Expectations* – If the coach encounters any conduct issues with the student-participant, a meeting will be arranged with the Activities Coordinator who has the authority to nullify the contract. If the contract is nullified, the student-participant will be withdrawn from the non-primary sport and must fulfill the original consequences in the primary season of their participation.
- ◆ *Code of Conduct* – The student-participant will complete all restorative expectations and re-sign the Code of Conduct.

Concussion Information

Fact Sheet for Athletes

What is a Concussion?

A concussion is a brain injury that:

- ◆ Is caused by a bump or blow to the head
- ◆ Can change the way your brain normally works
- ◆ Can occur during practices or games in any sport
- ◆ Can happen even if you haven't been knocked out
- ◆ Can be serious even if you've just been "dinged"

What are the symptoms of a concussion?

- ◆ Headache or "pressure" in head
- ◆ Nausea or vomiting
- ◆ Balance problems or dizziness
- ◆ Double or blurry vision
- ◆ Bothered by light
- ◆ Bothered by noise
- ◆ Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- ◆ Difficulty paying attention
- ◆ Memory problems
- ◆ Confusion
- ◆ Does not "feel right"

What should I do if I think I have a concussion?

- ◆ *Tell your coaches and your parents.* Never ignore a bump or blow to the head, even if you feel fine. Also, tell your coach if one of your teammates might have a concussion.
- ◆ *Get a medical checkup.* A doctor or health care professional can tell you if you have a concussion and when you are okay to return to play.
- ◆ *Give yourself time to get better.* If you have had a concussion, your brain needs time to heal. While your brain is still healing, you are much more likely to have a second concussion. Second or later concussions can cause damage to your brain. It is important to rest until you get approval from a doctor or health care professional to return to play.

How can I prevent a concussion? Every sport is different, but there are steps you can take to protect yourself:

- ◆ Follow your coach's rules for safety and the rules of the sport.
- ◆ Practice good sportsmanship at all times.
- ◆ Use the proper sports equipment, including personal protective equipment (such as helmets, padding, shin guards, and eye and mouth guards). In order for equipment to protect you, it must be the right equipment for the game, position, or activity; worn correctly and fit well; used every time you play.

Remember: When in doubt, sit them out!

Fact Sheet for Parents

What is a Concussion?

A concussion is a brain injury. Concussions are caused by a bump or blow to the head. Even a “ding”, “getting your bell rung”, or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious.

You can’t see a concussion. Signs and symptoms of concussion can show up right after the injury or may not appear or be noticed until days or weeks after the injury. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms yourself, seek medical attention right away.

What are the signs and symptoms of a concussion?

Signs observed by parents or guardians

If your child has experienced a bump or blow to the head during a game or practice, look for any of the following signs and symptoms of a concussion:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ◆ Appears dazed or stunned | ◆ Answers questions slowly |
| ◆ Is confused about assignment or position | ◆ Loses consciousness (even briefly) |
| ◆ Forgets an instruction | ◆ Shows behavior or personality changes |
| ◆ Is unsure of game, score, or opponent | ◆ Can’t recall events prior to hit or fall |
| ◆ Moves clumsily | ◆ Can’t recall events after hit or fall |

Symptoms reported by athlete

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| ◆ Headache or “pressure” in head | ◆ Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy |
| ◆ Nausea or vomiting | ◆ Difficulty paying attention |
| ◆ Balance problems or dizziness | ◆ Memory problems |
| ◆ Double or blurry vision | ◆ Confusion |
| ◆ Bothered by light | ◆ Does not “feel right” |
| ◆ Bothered by noise | |

How can you help your child prevent a concussion? Every sport is different, but there are steps your children can take to protect themselves from concussion.

- ◆ Ensure they follow their coach’s rules for safety and the rules of the sport.
- ◆ Encourage them to practice good sportsmanship at all times.
- ◆ Make sure they wear the right protective equipment for their activity (such as helmets, padding, shin guards, and eye and mouth guards). Protective equipment should fit properly, be well maintained, and be worn consistently and correctly.
- ◆ Learn the signs and symptoms of a concussion.

What should you do if you think your child has a concussion?

- ◆ **Seek medical attention right away.** A health care professional will be able to decide how serious the concussion is and when it is safe for your child to return to sports.
- ◆ **Keep your child out of play.** Concussions take time to heal. Don’t let your child return to play until a health care professional says it’s okay. Children who return to play too soon – while the brain is still healing – risk a greater chance of having a second concussion. Second or later concussions can be very serious. They can cause permanent brain damage, affecting your child for a lifetime.
- ◆ **Tell your child’s coach about any recent concussion.** Coaches should know if your child had a recent concussion in ANY sport. Your child’s coach may not know about a concussion your child received in another sport or activity unless you tell them.

Signs and Symptoms of a Concussion

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury, or TBI, caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head that can change the way your brain normally works. Concussions can also occur from a blow to the body that causes the head to move rapidly back and forth. Even a “ding”, “getting your bell rung”, or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious. Concussions can occur in any sport or recreational activity. So, all coaches, parents, and athletes need to learn concussion signs and symptoms and what to do if a concussion occurs.

Signs Observed by Parents or Guardians	Symptoms reported by your child or teen	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Appears dazed or stunned ◆ Is confused about events ◆ Answers questions slowly ◆ Can't recall events prior to the hit, bump, or fall ◆ Can't recall events after the hit, bump, or fall ◆ Loses consciousness (even briefly) ◆ Shows behavior or personality changes ◆ Forgets class schedule or assignments 	<p>Thinking/Remembering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Difficulty thinking clearly ◆ Difficulty concentrating ◆ Difficulty remembering ◆ Feeling more slowed down ◆ Feeling sluggish, hazy, or foggy 	<p>Emotional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Irritable ◆ Sad ◆ More emotional ◆ Nervous
	<p>Physical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Headache or pressure in head ◆ Nausea or vomiting ◆ Balance problems or dizziness ◆ Fatigue or feeling tired ◆ Blurry or double vision ◆ Sensitivity to light or noise ◆ Numbness or tingling ◆ Does not “feel right” 	<p>Sleep*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Drowsy ◆ Sleeps less than usual ◆ Sleeps more than usual ◆ Has trouble falling asleep <p>*Only ask about sleep symptoms if the injury occurred on a prior day.</p>

Links to Other Concussion Resources

- ◆ CDC Traumatic Brain Injury & Concussion: <https://www.cdc.gov/traumatic-brain-injury/>
- ◆ NFHS: <https://www.nfhs.org/sports-resource-content/nfhs-concussion-courses/>
- ◆ MHA: <https://www.mhsa.org/sportsmed>

Definitions of Terms

Activities: All school-sponsored sports, clubs, and other co-curricular and extra-curricular activities and organizations, including travel to and from activities and including related activities taking place during summer vacation.

Associated Misconduct: Being present at any time in a setting where any other person is engaged in chemical use as defined below. It is not misconduct to be in the presence of a person of legal age using tobacco. It is not misconduct to be in the presence of adults who are lawfully using alcohol at a family or social event that is unrelated to school or any school activity, such as weddings, holidays, and the like.

Calendar Days and School Days: Calendar days are all consecutive days between the first and last day of the scheduled school year, beginning on the first day that activities begin in August until the last day of the academic year or last day of an activity (whichever is later). Calendar days do not include summer vacation; therefore, discipline may extend from one school year into the next school year. School days are instructional days and any portion of an instructional day. Thus, for example, if students are released at noon on a particular day, that portion of the day is considered one school day for purposes of calculating days of suspension.

Chemical Use: Using, being under the influence, having in his/her possession, buying, selling, giving away, distributing, or attempting to buy or distribute alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, illegal drugs, faux drugs, any other controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia. Distribution includes any attempt (successful or not) to sell, deal, disburse, dispense, divide, allocate, assign, provide, or give away alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, faux drugs, any substance associated with vaping, any other controlled substance, or drug paraphernalia. It is not a violation for a student to be in possession or using a medication which has been specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor and using it in the prescribed manner. However, it is a violation to misuse the prescribed medication or sell or distribute it in any manner to another person.

Disruptive, Destructive, or Disrespectful Conduct: Any conduct that violates other school rules or policies, including but not limited to fighting, hazing, bullying, harassment, intimidation, discrimination, stealing, destruction of property, violation of gun-free schools' policy, and gang activity.

Parent: A parent, legal guardian, caretaker relative, or other person with legal authority to make educational decisions for a participant.

Student-Participant: A student who belongs to, holds membership in, or is enrolled in an activity.

Title IX Violation or Other Discrimination: Discrimination on the basis of protected-class status, gender discrimination, sexual harassment (unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature or based on gender or other protected class), sexual intimidation (unreasonable behavior – verbal or non-verbal – which has the effect of subjecting someone to humiliation, embarrassment, or discomfort because of his or her protected class status), public display of affection (any physical contact between two or more individuals of a sexual nature taking place in public in front of others) on school property, at school events, or during any school activity.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct: Questioning officials' calls, making inappropriate gestures, using derogatory, demeaning, or other inappropriate language, swearing, using disrespectful signs or cheers, heckling referees, players, coaches, half-time performers, or opposing fans, or any other conduct that violates the sportsmanship rules and practices developed by the Board, administration, or Montana High School Association.

Vandalism: The act of willfully defacing or destroying the property, equipment, building, or facility of another person or entity.

Vaping: The act of inhaling and exhaling the aerosol, often referred to as vapor, which is produced by an e-cigarette or similar device.

What forms are required for participation?

Activity Type	Forms
Athletic/Sports	2024-2025 Pre-Participation Physical Examination Form
	Student-Athlete & Parent/Legal Guardian Concussion Statement
	Family and Medical Information Form
	Media Information Form
	Final Acknowledge Form
	Indemnity Agreement
Music	Family and Medical Information Form
	Media Information Form
	Final Acknowledge Form
	Indemnity Agreement
Forensics	Family and Medical Information Form
	Media Information Form
	Final Acknowledge Form
	Indemnity Agreement
School Club/Organization	Activity/Organization Information Form
	Media Information Form
	Final Acknowledgement Form
	Indemnity Agreement



Student-Athlete & Parent/Legal Guardian Concussion Statement

Because of the passage of the Dylan Steigers’ Protection of Youth Athletes Act, schools are required to distribute information sheets for the purpose of informing and educating student-athletes and their parents of the nature and risk of concussion and head injury to student-athletes, including the risks of continuing to play after concussion or head injury. Montana law requires that each year, before beginning practice for an organized activity, a student-athlete and the student-athlete’s parent(s)/legal guardian(s) must be given an information sheet, and both parties must sign and return a form acknowledging receipt of the information to an official designated by the school or school district prior to the student-athletes participation during the designated school year. The law further states that a student-athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from play at the time of injury and may not return to play until the student-athlete has received a written clearance from a licensed health care provider.

Student-Athlete Name: _____

This form must be completed for each student-athlete, even if there are multiple student-athletes in each household.

Parent/Legal Guardian Name(s): _____

We have read the Student-Athlete & Parent/Legal Guardian Concussion Information Sheet (found on SD2 district website). *If true, check box.*

After reading the information sheet, I am aware of the following information:

Student-Athlete Initials		Parent/Legal Guardian Initials
	A concussion is a brain injury, which should be reported to my parents, my coach(es), or a medical professional if one is available.	
	A concussion can affect the ability to perform everyday activities such as the ability to think, balance, and classroom performance.	
	A concussion cannot be “seen.” Some symptoms might be present right away. Other symptoms can show up hours or days after an injury.	
	I will tell my parents, my coach, and/or a medical professional about my injuries and illnesses.	N/A
	If I think a teammate has a concussion, I will tell my coach(es), parents, or licensed health care professional about the concussion.	N/A
	I will not return to play in a game or practice if a hit to my head or body causes any concussion-related symptoms.	N/A
	I/my child will need written permission from a licensed health care professional to return to play or practice after a concussion.	
	After a concussion, the brain needs time to heal. I understand that I/my child is much more likely to have another concussion or more serious brain injury if return to play or practice occurs before concussion symptoms go away.	
	Sometimes, repeat concussions can cause serious and long-lasting problems.	
	I have read the concussion symptoms on the Concussion Fact Sheet.	

Student-Athlete Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Activity/Organization Information Form

ACTIVITY/ORG NAME: _____ **DATES OF ACTIVITY:** _____

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

School: Ben Steele Castle Rock Lewis & Clark Medicine Crow Riverside Will James
 Senior Skyview West Career Center **Grade:** 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Gender: _____ Birthdate: _____ Email address: _____

Home Address and Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Home Address and Zip: _____

Email address: _____ Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

ACTIVITY/ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Purpose:

Description:

Family and Medical Information Form

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
School: Ben Steele Castle Rock Lewis & Clark Medicine Crow Riverside Will James
 Senior Skyview West Career Center **Grade:** 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
 Gender: _____ Birthdate: _____ Email address: _____
 Home Address and Zip: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
 Home Address and Zip: _____
 Email address: _____ Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
 Home Address and Zip: _____
 Email address: _____ Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Family Physician Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Hospital: _____

MEDICAL HISTORY

1. Broken bones? Yes No If yes, list bone(s) & year: _____
2. Knee trouble? Yes No If yes, when: _____
3. Hip trouble? Yes No If yes, when: _____
4. Elbow or shoulder trouble? Yes No If yes, when: _____
5. Ever had an operation? Yes No If yes, type: _____
6. Bruise or bleed easily? Yes No If yes, when: _____
7. Fainting spells or seizures? Yes No If yes, when: _____
8. Ever had a concussion? Yes No If yes, when: _____
9. Been unconscious as a result of an accident? Yes No If yes, when: _____
10. Headaches, particularly after exercise? Yes No If yes, when: _____
11. High blood pressure? Yes No If yes, when: _____
12. Kidney disease? Yes No If yes, when: _____
13. Wear glasses or contact lenses? Yes No
14. Diabetes? Yes No
15. Current medications and dosages: _____
16. Allergies or reactions: _____
17. Accommodations needed? Yes No If yes, select type: IEP 504

INSURANCE

If child is covered by family medical policy, please specify below or mark N/A if there is none.
 Insurance Company Name: _____ Policy #: _____

Media Information Form

There are times throughout the school year when student-participants may be photographed such as media, parents, coaches, or other community members may stop by and photograph or film students during participation in practices or games or interview them regarding various things going on with the team and/or sport.

Some of the pictures or videos taken may be used in the school, on the district website, in printed materials the district distributes, in local newspapers, or during local television broadcasts.

We want to protect your family’s rights to privacy and safety. Before publishing any pictures or video, we are asking for your permission to do so. Please indicate your preference regarding this issue by checking one of the boxes below. For your child’s protection, if you do not give permission, we will have an area designated for them to sit whenever the media is present.

Check appropriate box.

- I DO give my permission and release to permit my child to appear in any and all media during school activities.
- I DO NOT give my permission and release to permit my child to appear in any and all media during school activities.

Participant’s Parent/Guardian

Participant

Print Name

Print Name

Signature

Signature

Today’s Date

Today’s Date

Final Acknowledgement Form

By initialing and signing below, I acknowledge that I have received, read, completed, and understand each of the following items and I will abide by all SD2 policies regarding participation in the activities program.

Student Initials	Parent/Guardian Initials	Parent/Guardian Initials	Item
			Family and Medical Information Form
			Media Information Form
			MHSA Physical Examination Form
			MHSA Student-Participant & Parent Concussion Statement and Fact Sheet
			Code of Conduct, Student Expectations & Responsibilities, Parent/Guardian Expectations & Responsibilities, and other content of this handbook
			Fees will be paid by established deadline. Fees include BPS Activity Fee, Participation Fee, and any team fees as implemented by head coach.
			I agree to be responsible for the safe return and/or replacement of all equipment issued by the school to the above participant.
			If emergency service/treatment is required and parents/guardians cannot be reached, I hereby consent for the participant above to be given medical care by the doctor/hospital selected by school personnel.
			I understand that Billings Public Schools carries a medical insurance policy which covers participants. I also understand that coverage is limited and is most effective as a secondary coverage policy.
			I give permission for the participant listed to participate in BPS activities. I understand that while involved in the activity, including related trips, the participant is subject to all school and activity program policies and rules. I also understand that it may be necessary for participants to provide their own transportation to some events and/or practices and are responsible for their own safe travel.
			I understand that Billings Public Schools has a Student Drug and Chemical Use and Abuse Policy which prohibits the use of covered chemicals from the first day of Fall practice to and including the last day of school. I have read the policy and understand its expectations.

Assumption of Risk, Release & Waiver of Liability, & Indemnity Agreement

By signing this document, you may be waiving your legal right to a jury trial to hold the provider legally responsible for any injuries or damages resulting from risks inherent in the sport or recreational opportunity or for any injuries or damages you may suffer due to the provider's ordinary negligence that are the result of the provider's failure to exercise reasonable care.

In consideration of my minor child or children being allowed to participate in any way in any extracurricular sport, club, or recreational program, event, or other activity (the "Activities") sponsored, planned, programmed, or otherwise organized by Billings Public Schools or a school within the Billings Public School district ("BPS"), whether or not actually taking place on BPS property, on behalf of myself (the "Guardian") and the participant identified above (the "Participant"), I sign this ASSUMPTION OF RISK, RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT (this "Release"). By signing this Release, I understand, acknowledge, and agree to the following:

1. I represent and warrant that I am at least eighteen (18) years of age, am of sound mind, and am able and competent to sign this Release. I further represent and warrant that I have legal custody of or otherwise am legally authorized make decisions for or on behalf of the Participant, including signing this Release.
2. I fully understand and will instruct the Participant that there are certain inherent risks associated with participating in the Activities that cannot be eliminated. While it is impossible to compile a complete list of all possible risks, the risks include but are certainly not limited to: (a) minor injuries such as scratches, cuts, bruises, contusions, strains, dehydration, infection, stress, and fatigue; and (b) major injuries such as infection, tendonitis, growth plate irritations and trauma, hyperextensions, shin splints, injuries to the eyes, loss of sight, loss of hearing, cold and heat exposure illnesses, joint sprains or dislocations, ligament tears or ruptures, muscle pulls and strains, bone fractures, neck and back injuries, heart attacks, stroke, concussions and other head injuries, paralysis, and even death. Also included in these risks are the same or similar injuries that might result from participating in the Activities, traveling to and from Activities, lifting or moving weights or other objects, and using equipment, sports courts, sports fields, tracks, or other facilities, including without limitation from the acts or omissions of others or from the unavailability of emergency staff or emergency medical care (hereinafter all these risks and potential injuries are referred to as the "Risks").
3. In full understanding of the Risks and for myself, my spouse or partner (if any), and the Participant, I knowingly and freely assume all the Risks, both known and unknown and whether or not expressly listed herein, and assume full responsibility for the Participant's participation in the Activities.
4. For myself, my spouse or partner (if any), and the Participant, I acknowledge that BPS or any third-party Activities provider may adopt rules, regulations, terms, and conditions for participating in the Activities (the "Rules"). I agree to comply with the Rules and to instruct the Participant to comply with the Rules. I further understand and agree that BPS or any third-party Activities provider may deny the Participant from participating or remove the Participant from participating in the Activities for failure to comply with the Rules.
5. To the fullest extent permitted by law, for myself, my spouse or partner (if any), and the Participant, and on behalf of my and their respective personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin:
 - a. I agree to release, waive, and discharge and agree not to sue BPS and its former, current, and future trustees, officers, officials, agents, employees, volunteers, and representatives

(each a “Released Party” and together the “Released Parties”) from all liabilities with respect any loss, damage, claim, or demand on account of or related in any way to any injury, illness, disability, death, or other harm to person or property damage or loss arising out of or related in any way to the Participant’s participation in the Activities;

- b. I agree to defend, indemnify, and save and hold harmless the Released Parties and each of them from any loss, liability, damages, or costs (including without limitation attorney’s fees) they or any of them might incur due to a claim arising out of or related in any way to the Participant’s participating in the Activities;
 - c. I understand and agree that BPS is not required to provide insurance to cover the Participant or any other person in the event the Participant or anyone else suffers personal injury, illness, disability, death, or other harm, or property loss or damage, arising out of or related in any way to participating in the Activities; and
 - d. I voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently accept and assume full and sole responsibility for any injury, illness, disability, death, or other harm to person or property damage or loss, plus all related costs and expenses, arising out of or in any way related to the Participant’s participation in the Activities and the Risks, including without limitation the negligence, acts, and omissions of others.
6. For myself, my spouse or partner (if any), the Participant, I expressly agree that this Release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of Montana. If any portion of this Agreement is held invalid, I agree that the remaining portions shall continue in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Participant has read and voluntarily signed this Release, and further agrees that no oral representations, statements, or inducements have been made. I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE READ THIS WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND I FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

Participant’s Parent/Guardian

Participant

Print Name

Print Name

Signature

Signature

Today’s Date

Today’s Date