

ELIGIBILITY

1. If a student is not in school, due to an unexcused absence, by 9:00 A.M., he/she will not practice that night or participate in any of the games that day, evening, or the following weekend if it is the last day of the school week. If a bus route does not run due to weather or other emergency situations, the athlete must still be in school by 11:00 A.M. in order to practice that night or participate in any of the games that day, evening, or the following weekend if it is the last day of the school week, and the parent or guardian must notify the school by 9:00 A.M. Extenuating circumstances will be considered.
2. To be eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities, a student at Hysham and Custer (grades 4 – 12) must:
 - a) Have at least a 67% in any class. If any grades are below a 67%, the students will not be eligible to play for that week.
 - b) End of the Quarter grades will be used for the following two weeks eligibility list.
 - c) If a student has an F at the end of the semester as a grade on their report card, the student cannot play until the midterm of the next quarter.
 - d) If a student is ineligible, they are encouraged to spend at least 1 hour per week with the teacher they are ineligible for during the week in order to get off the list the following week if his/her grades are at least a 67%.
3. Grades will be checked every Tuesday afternoon at 1:00 P.M. Grades for eligibility will be cumulative during a grading period. A list of students with grades below a 67% will be made available to staff members by Wednesday afternoon. Eligibility will run from Wednesday morning @ 8:00 A.M. until the next Wednesday morning @ 8:00 A.M.
4. A warning list of students with grades below 73% or an “I” will also be made available to staff members by Wednesday afternoon. Students on the warning list will also be encouraged to spend at least 1 hour with the teacher they are being warned by.
5. A student who is listed as ineligible for 3 weeks will be dismissed from participation the remainder of the season.
6. A student who is ineligible may practice, but may not travel with the team to games.
7. The student’s teacher will inform the parent/guardian of the student’s eligibility status if the student is on the warning or ineligibility list, and document it.
8. Each participant must adhere to the dress code of the participating schools for practices, games, and travelling, with discretion by the coaches.

ATHLETIC PHYSICALS

The Montana High School Association requires any student in Grades 8 – 12 who plan to participate in athletics **must pass** a physical examination in order to be considered eligible for participation in a MHSA contest. The certificate of physical examination, approved by the MHSA, must be completed and on file in the office **prior** to the participant's first practice. This examination must be certified by a physician, a physician assistant (PA), or a nurse practitioner (NA). This certification is valid for a period of one school year. A physical examination conducted before May 1st is not valid for participation the following school year.

The Custer/Hysham Sports Cooperative requires any student in Grades 4 – 12 who plans to participate in school sponsored athletics to have a physical examination on file in the main office prior to the participant's first practice. The school districts will not pay any cost incurred by the participant for the physical examination.

PARTICIPATION FEE

Students in Grades 4 – 12 who participate in a school sponsored athletic event will pay a fee that will be used to pay the MHSA annual dues. This fee will be paid by all students involved in the activity (i.e. players, managers, cheerleaders, video people, stat keepers, etc.)

The fees will be as follows:

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| Grades K-8 | \$25.00 per school year |
| Grades 9-12 | \$35.00 per school year |

The participation fee will include an activity ticket which will allow the holder entry into any home regular season game. An activity ticket is not good for tournament or play-off games held in Custer or Hysham.

Students will be charged this fee when they go out for a sport. Participants who quit or are removed from the team for academic or rule violations are not entitled to a refund. Refunds will not be given to students who move during the school year.

Any student unable to pay the participation fee due to financial constraints is encouraged to contact the Activities Director to make arrangements for an alternative method of payment of fees (e.g. installment payment).

Custer/Hysham All Sports Training Rules

1. Athletes must adhere to the following basic training rules:
 - A. No use of alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco products
 - B. Must act with respect and class at all times
 - Respect authority
 - Model proper sportsmanship
 - Adhere to the rules of the schools as stated in the handbooks
 - C. Training Curfew hours will be 10:00 p.m. on Sunday through Thursday, or the night before a game. Friday and Saturday night will be 12:30 a.m. For students coming from a school sponsored event, Training Curfew rules will begin ½ hour following the conclusion of the event. Exceptions for special circumstances will be worked out with the coach.
 - D. Participants must practice every practice session unless previous arrangements have been made with the coaching staff.
 - E. An unexcused absence from a practice or a game will result in loss of participation

for the next scheduled game. Students will not be allowed to travel with the team to the away game.

- F. Students that are too sick to come to school for an entire day will not be allowed to practice, play in an athletic contest, or participate in an extra-curricular activity. To be able to participate in athletics and extra-curricular activities with a doctor's note, a student must be back in by noon. Exceptions may be made for afternoon medical appointments providing the student was present for school during the morning class periods.
 - G. Athletes are responsible for uniforms assigned to them. If they damage the uniform, they will be responsible for monetary reimbursement to the schools.
 - H. All students are required to ride the bus to all scheduled practices and games. If a student is not riding the bus home, the parents or legal guardian must be present to grant written permission for their son or daughter to ride with another person. (Special circumstances may apply with prior approval by the school superintendent.)
 - I. Athletes with a change in health status or using prescription or non-prescription drugs should notify coaches immediately for safety purposes.
2. Penalties will follow this format.
- A. First offense for "A" will result in no participation in the next four scheduled volleyball or basketball games, or next two scheduled football games or track meets. Athletes must practice.
 - B. First offense for "B", "C", and/or "D" will result in exclusion from the scheduled game.
 - C. Second offense for "A" will result in the dismissal from the team.
 - D. Next offense for "B", "C", and/or "D" will result in exclusion from the next two scheduled games or termination from the team. (Coach's discretion)
 - E. A third offense is automatic dismissal from the team.

STUDENT MISCONDUCT AT A SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITY

A student misbehaving or destroying property at a school sponsored event may lead to detention, suspension (either in school or out of school) or expulsion, depending on the degree of the misconduct. Destroying of property will require the student(s) to pay reimbursement for property destroyed.

STEALING

No stealing. If stealing occurs at a school sponsored activity, at an away or overnight trip, the participant will be immediately dismissed from the team. The participant will be suspended from school for 3 days starting the first school day after the incident.

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS

Individual coaches, sponsors, or advisors may assign additional rules pertaining to practices or curfew which may be more specific to their activity. These rules and failure to follow these rules' consequences will be handed out to the participants at their initial meeting. These rules should also be sent to the participants' parents and/or guardians.

MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate in a Contest, a student **shall meet all of the following criteria:**

- 1) be regularly enrolled in twenty hours per week at the school where the student participates
- 2) be in regular attendance
- 3) 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 MHSA or its Executive Board.
- 4) 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 in attendance. This rule shall be waived for IDEA '97 and Section 504 students when their individual education plan (IEP) under IDEA or their educational accommodation plan under Section 504 certifies that the student is not required to meet this minimum academic requirement. If a student is assigned an "incomplete" or a "condition" in a subject, he/she has not received a passing grade in this subject. The record at the end of the semester is final.

VARSITY LETTERING CRITERIA

FOOTBALL

Athletes participating in football must meet the following criteria to be eligible for an athletic letter:

- * Must have played in a minimum of one quarter per varsity game in a minimum of 5 games.
- * Play an average of one quarter per varsity game prior to a football injury.
- * Under special circumstances, a letter may be awarded to a player as determined by the head coach and athletic directors.

VOLLEYBALL

Athletes participating in volleyball must meet the following criteria to be eligible for an athletic letter:

- * Must have played in a minimum of one game per varsity match in a minimum of 10 games or be chosen to be a member of the tournament team.
- * Play an average of one game per varsity match prior to a volleyball injury.
- * Under special circumstances, a letter may be awarded to a player as determined by the head coach and athletic directors.

BASKETBALL

Athletes participating in girls' or boys' basketball must meet the following criteria to be eligible for an athletic letter:

- * Must have played in a minimum of one quarter per varsity game in a minimum of 10 games or be chosen to be a member of the tournament team.
- * Play an average of one quarter per varsity game prior to a basketball injury.
- * Under special circumstances, a letter may be awarded to a player as determined by the head coach and athletic directors.

TRACK

Athletes participating in track must meet the following criteria to be eligible for an athletic letter:

- *Must accumulate a minimum of 10 varsity points during the track season or place in the top 6 at the District Track Meet.
- * Under special circumstances, a letter may be awarded to a player as determined by the head coach and athletic directors.

MANAGERS

Managers will receive a manager pin and a certificate.

** The athletes from each school will receive the letters of their respective school.

Custer/Hysham All Sports Uniform Complaint Procedure

The Custer/Hysham All Sports Cooperative Board establishes this Uniform Complaint Procedure as a means to address complaints arising within the All Sports Cooperative Board. This Uniform Complaint Procedure is intended to be used for all complaints.

The Custer/Hysham All sports Cooperative Board requests all individuals to use this complaint procedure, when the individual believes the Custer/Hysham All sports Cooperative Board or its employees or agents have violated the individual's rights under: 1) Montana constitutional, statutory, or administrative law; 2) United State constitutional, statutory, or regulatory law; or 3) Cooperative Board procedure.

The Custer/Hysham All Sports Cooperative Board will endeavor to respond and resolve complaints without resorting to this formal complaint procedure and, when a complaint is filed, to address the complaint promptly and equitably. The right of a person to prompt and equitable resolution of a complaint filed hereunder will not be impaired by a person's pursuit of other remedies. Use of this complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to pursuit of other remedies, and use of this complaint procedure does not extend any filing deadline related to pursuit of other remedies.

The Custer/Hysham All sports Cooperative Board has the authority to contract with an investigator at any time during the complaint procedure process. Within fifteen (15) calendar days of the receipt of the investigator's report and recommendation, The Custer/Hysham All Sports Cooperative Board will respond to the complaint and take such steps as the Board deems appropriate and necessary.

Level 1: Informal

An individual with a complaint is first encouraged to discuss it with the appropriate coach/advisor, with the objective of resolving the matter promptly and informally. A sexual harassment should be discussed directly with the Superintendent.

Complaints shall not be addressed at games not via text, email, or any other form of technology. People with complaints should ask for a time to meet that is mutually agreeable between the

coach and the parent. Usually, it should not be done the same day. The meeting should never happen with other parents or students in attendance.

Level 2: Superintendent

When a complaint has not been or cannot be resolved at Level 1, an individual may file a signed and dated written complaint stating: 1) the nature of the complaint; 2) a description of the event or incident giving rise to the complaint, including any school personnel involved; and 3) the remedy or resolution requested. This written complaint must be filed within thirty (30) days of the event or incident or from the date an individual could reasonably become aware of such event or incident.

When a complaint alleges violation of the Custer/Hysham All sports Cooperative Board procedure, the Superintendents will collectively investigate and attempt to resolve the complaint. The Superintendents will respond in writing to the complaint within thirty (30) days of the Superintendents receipt of the written complaint. In responding to the complaint, the Superintendents may: 1) meet with the parties involved in the complaint; 2) conduct a separate or supplementary investigation; 3) engage an investigator (upon the Custer/Hysham All sports Cooperative Board's approval) or other District employees to assist with the investigation; and/or 4) take other steps appropriate or helpful in resolving the complaint.

If either the complainant or the person against the complaint is filed is dissatisfied with the Superintendents' decision, either may request, in writing, that the Custer/Hysham All Sports Cooperative Board consider an appeal of the Superintendents' decision. (See Level 3) This request must be submitted in writing to the Superintendents within fifteen (15) days of the Superintendents' written response to the complaint, for transmission to the Custer/Hysham All Sports Cooperative Board.

When a complaint alleges sexual harassment or a violation of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (the Civil rights Act), Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Superintendents may turn the complaint over to one of the District's nondiscrimination coordinators. The coordinator will complete an investigation and file a report and recommendation with the Superintendents within thirty (30) days of the nondiscrimination coordinator's receipt of the written complaint. The Custer/Hysham All sports Cooperative Board may hire an investigator to conduct the investigation. Within fifteen (15) days of the Superintendents receipt of the coordinator's report and recommendation the Superintendents will respond to the complaint and take such administrative steps as the Superintendents deems appropriate and necessary. If either the complainant or the person against whom the complaint is filed is dissatisfied with the Superintendents' decision, either may request, in writing, that the Custer/Hysham All Sports Cooperative Board consider an appeal of the Superintendents' decision. (See Level 3) This request must be submitted in writing to the Superintendents within fifteen (15) days of the Superintendents written response to the complaint, for transmission to the Custer/Hysham All Sports Cooperative Board.

Level 3: the Cooperative Board

Upon written appeal, the Custer/Hysham All Sports Cooperative Board will consider the Superintendents' decision. Upon receipt of written request for appeal, the Chairperson will either: 1) place the appeal on the agenda of a regular or special Custer/Hysham All Sports Cooperative Board meeting; or 2) appoint an appeals panel of not less than three (3) trustees to hear the appeal and make a recommendation to the Custer/Hysham All Sports Cooperative Board. If the Chairperson appoints a panel to consider the appeal, the panel will meet to consider the appeal and then make written recommendation to the full Custer/Hysham All Sports Cooperative Board. The Custer/Hysham All Sports Cooperative Board will report its decision on the appeal, in writing, to all parties, within thirty (30) days of the Custer/Hysham All Sports Cooperative Board meeting at which the Custer/Hysham All Sports Cooperative Board considered the appeal or the recommendation of the panel. A decision of the Custer/Hysham All Sports Cooperative Board is final, unless it is appealed pursuant to Montana law within the period provided by law.

Level 4: County Superintendent

When a matter falls within the jurisdiction of the county superintendent of schools, the decision of the Custer/Hysham All Sports Cooperative Board may be appealed to the county superintendent by filing written appeal within thirty (30) days of the Custer/Hysham All Sports Cooperative Board's decision, pursuant to Montana law.

Legal Reference: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Civil Rights Act)
 Title II of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990
 504 of the Rehabilitation of 1973