# Mercy High School Athletic Participation Policies

## 1. Eligibility Requirements Prior to Participation (Athletic Eligibility Card)

Before a student-athlete may participate in **any tryout, practice, or team activity**, the following items **must be submitted to the Athletic Director**:

- **Mercy Athletic Policy Signature Form** (completed through Bound during the Registration Process)
- **Current Pre-Participation Physical Examination**
- **Emergency Contact Form** (completed on Bound)
- **NSAA Parent Consent Form** (completed through the online enrollment process)
- **SWAY Concussion Test** (completed at the school)
- **Payment of Athletic Participation Fee** (completed through Bound)

**Important:** Students who have not completed all of the above **will not be permitted to participate** in tryouts, practices, or competitions until all eligibility requirements have been satisfied.  No Card.  No Participation.

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## 2. Health and Medical Clearance

The health and safety of our student-athletes is a top priority. If a coach, teacher, athletic trainer, or school administrator has concerns regarding a student's physical ability to safely participate, the school may require additional medical evaluation or clearance before the student is permitted to resume participation.

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## 3. Citizenship and Conduct

Participation in Mercy High School Athletics is a privilege. Student-athletes are expected to demonstrate outstanding citizenship, integrity, respect, and sportsmanship at school, during athletic activities, and in the community. Failure to meet these expectations may result in disciplinary action or loss of athletic privileges.

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## 4. Game-Day Attendance Requirement

To participate in a practice, competition, performance, or athletic event on a given day, a student-athlete must be in attendance for at least half of the school day.

Exceptions may be granted for:

- School-sponsored activities
- Medical or dental appointments
- Circumstances beyond the student's control

All exceptions **must receive prior administrative approval** whenever possible.

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## 5. Academic Eligibility

Academic success remains the highest priority at Mercy High School. Student-athletes are expected to maintain satisfactory academic progress and demonstrate consistent effort in all classes.

To remain eligible for participation, students must comply with all academic eligibility requirements outlined in the **Mercy High School Student Handbook** governing extracurricular activities.

## 6. Attendance at Practices

Practice schedules will be established at the beginning of each season. Student-athletes are expected to:

- Arrive on time.
- Remain for the entire practice unless excused by the coach.
- Communicate conflicts with their coach in advance whenever possible.

Unexcused absences or tardiness are unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action, including reduced playing time or suspension from competition, at the discretion of the coach or sponsor.

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## 7. Drug and Alcohol Concerns

If there is reasonable suspicion of drug or alcohol use, a conference will be scheduled involving the student, parent/guardian, and school administration to determine appropriate next steps.

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## 8. Substance Use Policy

The use, possession, distribution, or being under the influence of illegal drugs, look-alike drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, nicotine products, vaping devices, or other prohibited substances is strictly prohibited and is a violation of Mercy High School Athletic Policy.

A violation may be established through:

- Admission of a violation to a coach, teacher, administrator, or other school official.
- Direct observation by school personnel.
- Citation or documentation by law enforcement.

**First Violation**

The following consequences will apply:

- Conference with the student, parent/guardian, coach or sponsor, and school administrator.
- Suspension from athletic competition or performance for **two (2) competition days**.
- Completion of **three (3) hours of alcohol/drug education** with Mercy High School counselors.

**Second Violation**

A second violation during the same school year will result in suspension from the athletic team or activity for the remainder of the school year.

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## 9. Athletic Participation Fees

Prior to receiving athletic equipment or uniforms, the required athletic participation fee must be paid through **BOUND**.

Athletic participation fees are:

- **First Sport:** $85
- **Second Sport:** $65
- **Third Sport:** $50

*Additional sport-specific fees may apply for items such as warm-ups, practice apparel, spirit wear, or personalized uniforms.*

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## 10. Uniform and Locker Responsibility

Student-athletes are responsible for the care and return of all uniforms, equipment, and lockers issued to them.

Uniforms must be returned:

- Clean and free of stains.
- On or before the date established by the Athletic Department.

Athletic lockers must be:

- Completely emptied.
- Cleaned.
- Returned by the designated deadline.

Failure to meet these expectations will result in a **$50 cleaning/non-return fee**, which will be charged through **FACTS**.

Students are also financially responsible for the repair or replacement of any lost, damaged, or unreturned uniforms, equipment, or lockers beyond normal wear and tear.