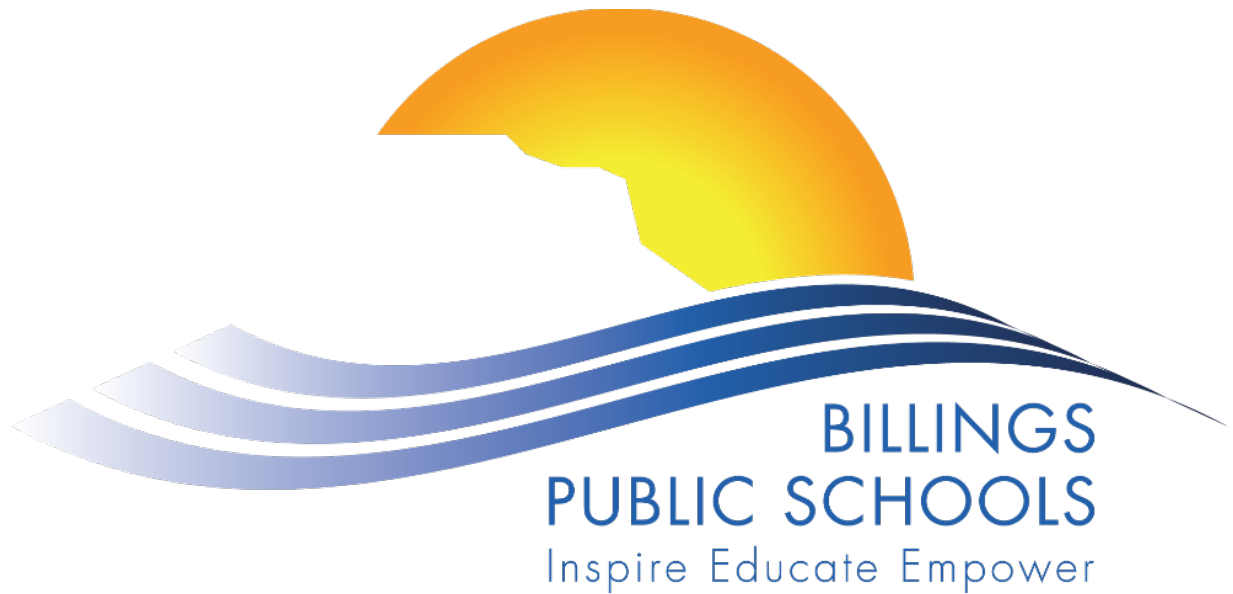




Student Activities Participation Handbook 2026-2027

School Board Approved 7/20/2026

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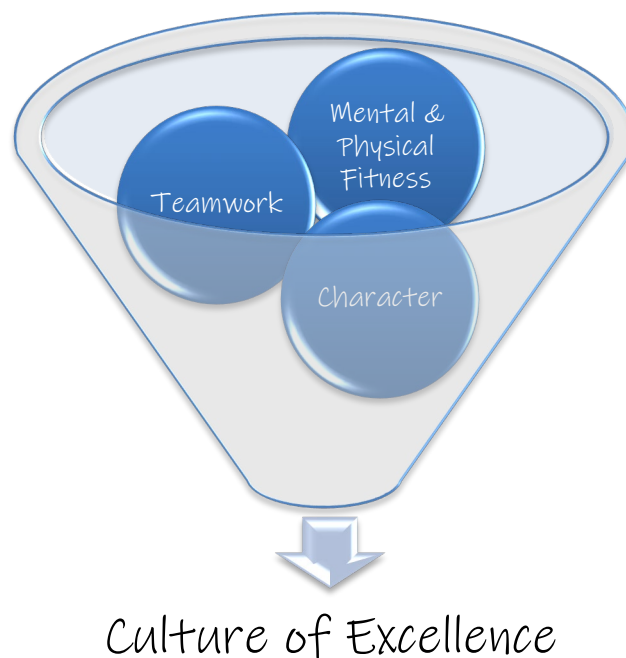
Welcome

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.

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.

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 (plus \$3.50 service fee). Must be purchased through GoFan.
- ◆ **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** – range from \$16 - \$20
- ◆ **Black Shorts/Spandex** – students must provide their own
- ◆ **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.

** Note regarding online Activity Tickets – Students who do not have a smartphone should visit their school Activities Office to purchase the ticket by check or cash. The student's name is added to a list containing students without smartphones and, at games or other events, upon checking in with the ticket taker, they are allowed admission.

High School Program Offerings

SPORT	TRYOUT?	BOYS	GIRLS
Baseball (V, JV)	Y	X	(X)
Basketball (V, JV, SO, FR)	Y	X	X
Cheer/Dance	Y	X	X
Cross Country (V, JV)	N	X	X
Flag Football (V, JV)	Y		X
Football (V, JV, FR)	N	X	(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, B, & Instructional team)	6, 7, 8	3	X	
Basketball - Girls (A, B, & Instructional 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	ALL	X	X
Softball (A and B team)	6, 7, 8	1		X
Track	6, 7, 8	5	X	X
Volleyball (A, B, & Instructional 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.

Ready to play
Ready to listen
Ready to learn

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, during, 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 arranges 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 results in dismissal from the team. Attendance requirements and consequences for music, drama, forensics, and other non-athletic activities are set forth by the coach or sponsor for that activity.

Equipment

Student-participants are responsible for all equipment checked out to them. A fee is charged to the student-participant for any loss or damage. Generally, the equipment provisions for each high school program are as follows:

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

Multi-Activity Participation

Billings Public Schools, in collaboration with MHSA, endorse the principle of multi-activity participation. Coaches and sponsors assist student-participants in their chosen activities. Coaches and sponsors collaborate to enhance their respective programs. During the off-season, coaches 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 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 review the request. The decision regarding the student-participant's attendance at the event without consequence is 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 is 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 required to travel to events 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 are student-participants 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 gives careful consideration before determining whether to travel or cancel by consulting with other ADs, coaches, administrators, bus

drivers, and bus company supervisors. Information is collected from weather and road condition reports, including the National and State Weather Service. The safety of the student-participants and staff is the highest priority.

During travel in inclement weather, the following guidelines apply:

- ❖ Student-participants are encouraged to bring a hat, gloves, a coat and a blanket.
- ❖ If the team is on the road and travel is deemed unsafe, the bus stops at the safest available site. The coach instructs the student-participants to contact their parents.
- ❖ If continued travel is deemed unsafe, the bus returns to the closest available site, and arranges for motel rooms for an overnight stay.
- ❖ If the bus gets stranded, the driver and coaches follow first aid and safety requirements and contact emergency personnel as appropriate.
- ❖ If a trip is not canceled and the student-participant's parents feel strongly against travel, the student-participant can be kept home without penalty.

Overnight Trips Expectations

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

- ❖ Student-participants are given a curfew to be in assigned rooms by the coach/sponsor. Failure by the student-participant to be present in the room at curfew results 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 is suspended from the activity for the remainder of the trip and remains suspended indefinitely until a review is performed by the appropriate administrator(s).
- ❖ A student-participant who enters a room after curfew where members of the opposite gender are staying receives a suspension for the remainder of the activity or event. Additionally, they 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/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/sponsor are suspended from that activity for the remainder of the trip.
- ❖ Any violation of School District #2 policy or state or federal laws results in the immediate suspension from the activity and are reviewed by School District #2 administration for possible expulsion.
- ❖ Student-participants who violate the Code of Conduct are not allowed to participate in the event(s) and may be sent home with their parents, depending on the individual situation.
- ❖ Bullying and harassment, such as making freshmen carry older kids' bags or requiring younger kids sleep on the floor, are not tolerated. Allegations of bullying and harassment are addressed in accordance with [School District #2 Policy 3210 on Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying](#).
- ❖ Coaches or sponsors inspect rooms at the beginning of the stay to report/note any existing damage in the room. Prior to check out, the rooms are again inspected by the coach or sponsor. Garbage must be picked up and there must be no damage. Student-participants are billed for any damage done to a room or any missing items such as pillows, towels, etc.



Quitting a Sport

A student-participant who quits any sport or activity is not allowed to 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

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.

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

A student-participant who physically moves 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 MHSA 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 become ineligible for participation in all MHSA 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 MHSA 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.

Consequences

The following consequences apply to the scenarios described:

- ◆ GAME EJECTION – A student-participant who is ejected from an interscholastic athletic competition for unsportsmanlike conduct may not participate for the remainder of the event and is suspended for the next regularly scheduled or rescheduled event. A student-participant cannot be in uniform while suspended.
- ◆ DAILY ABSENSE – A student-participant is not allowed to practice or compete on the day of an absence unless prior approval has been granted by the principal. Student-participants must be in class at least ½ day to participate.
- ◆ SCHOOL SUSPENSION – A student-participant may not, under any circumstance, take part in practice or competition on a day they have been suspended from school.

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 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 are 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 is granted.
- ◆ Wherever possible, dismissal times are the same across the district as determined by the Activities Coordinator along with the Executive Director of Athletics and Activities.

- ◆ At no time are coaches or parents permitted to 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 coordinates a meeting between the school principal, the Activities Coordinator, and the student-participant and their parents to discuss dismissal or implement 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 is subject to consequences as determined by the individual program coach or sponsor as well as by the MHSA 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 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 is ineligible to participate in the next regular sport or activity event.

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

- H. JACKSON BROWN, JR.

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, is presumed to be forced 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 subject to the consequences listed in SD2 policies [Billings Public Schools Policy 3210 on Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying](#) and [Policy 3230 on Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Code of Conduct](#).

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, is 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 subject to the consequences listed in SD2 policies [Billings Public Schools Policy 3210 on Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying](#) and [Policy 3230 on Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Code of Conduct](#).

Student Arrest or Citation by Law Enforcement

(PENDING LEGAL APPROVAL)

Participation in Billings Public Schools athletics and extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a fundamental right. School District #2 is not obligated to permit any student who has been cited or arrested by law enforcement to participate in these activities.

Furthermore, the District has no obligation to await the resolution of the judicial process (including pending charges or ongoing adjudication) before addressing a behavioral situation under school policy. Upon notification of a citation or arrest for an offense deemed detrimental to the school environment, the student-participant will be immediately suspended from participation.

Misdemeanor offenses will be addressed in accordance with the disciplinary consequences outlined for Chemical Use violations in this handbook. Felony offenses will result in an 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 are 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 are 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 are 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 are investigated by the building principal or assistant principal. A determination that a violation occurred is only reached after a meeting with the student-participant, during which they are 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 are notified of the outcome and consequences. Written notification is 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 results in imposition of additional consequences.

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

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

Misconduct

A. First Offense

- i. Parent/guardian is notified as soon as possible following completion of the investigation.
- ii. Appropriate law enforcement agency is notified, if necessary.

- iii. Student may not participate in competition in any school activities for 25% of the regular season competitions. The student-participant is 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 is 2 weeks from the first date of suspension during which participation in any events is prohibited. The student-participant are 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 applies 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

- i. Parent/guardian is notified as soon as possible following completion of the investigation.
- ii. Appropriate law enforcement agency is notified, if necessary.
- iii. Student may not participate for 50% of the regular season competitions.
- iv. For cheer and dance, which span both the fall and winter seasons, the suspension is for 4 weeks from the first date of suspension during which participation in any events is prohibited. The student-participant is 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 activity participation.
- vi. Other discipline applies 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](#).
- vii. Team awards or captainships earned up to that point may be withdrawn at the discretion of the coach or sponsor.

C. Third Offense

- i. Parent/guardian is notified as soon as possible following completion of the investigation.
- ii. Appropriate law enforcement agency is notified, if necessary.
- iii. Student-participant is prohibited from participating 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.
- v. Other discipline applies 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](#).
- vi. 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. Parent/guardian is notified as soon as possible following completion of the investigation.
- ii. Appropriate law enforcement agency is notified, if necessary.

- iii. Student-participant must complete a district approved drug awareness program.
- iv. Student-participant is prohibited from participating in any school activities for 90 calendar days, including weekends.
- 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. Parent/guardian is notified as soon as possible following completion of the investigation.
- ii. Appropriate law enforcement agency is notified, if necessary.
- iii. Student-participant must complete a district approved drug awareness program.
- iv. Student-participant is prohibited from participating in any school activities for one calendar year, including weekends.
- v. All team awards or captainships earned up to that point may be withdrawn at the discretion of the coach or sponsor.

Appeal for Reinstatement

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 takes place. The building principal, Activities Coordinator, and the Executive Director of Athletics and Activities 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 MHSA standards.
- ❖ Student meets all other MHSA standards for participation.
- ❖ Code of Conduct re-signed with the understanding that even one violation results in suspension.

Middle School Consequences and Transition to High School

Middle School consequences are consistent with those described in this code. However, middle school student-participants who have a code violation in 7th or 8th grade are 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 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 is in effect for the entire length of the season.
- ❖ *Behavior Expectations* –
 - ◆ The student-participant abides by the Code of Conduct and the rules, regulations, and policies of the district
 - ◆ Attends every practice – even one unexcused absence nullifies the contract

- ◆ Behaves appropriately at all practices as determined by the coach
- ◆ Gives a genuine effort at each practice as determined by the coach
- ◆ Gets along with and support other student-participants
- ◇ *Coach Expectations* – If the coach encounters any conduct issues with the student-participant, a meeting is arranged with the Activities Coordinator who has the authority to nullify the contract. If the contract is nullified, the student-participant is 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 completes all restorative expectations and re-signs the Final Acknowledgement Form.

Concussion Information

Fact Sheet for Parents & Student-Athletes

What is a Concussion?

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury (TBI) caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or by a hit to the body that causes the head and brain to move rapidly back and forth. This fast movement can cause the brain to bounce around or twist in the skull, creating chemical changes and sometimes damaging brain cells. You cannot see a concussion. Even a mild bump or “getting your bell rung” can be serious. Signs and symptoms can appear immediately or may not show up for hours or days after the injury.

Signs & Symptoms Signs Observed by Teammates, Parent and Coaches:

- ◆ **Appears dazed or stunned, vacant facial expression**
- ◆ **Moves clumsily or loses balance**
- ◆ **Answers questions slowly**
- ◆ **Loses consciousness (even briefly)**
- ◆ **Seizures or convulsions**
- ◆ **Slurred speech**
- ◆ **Shows behavior or personality changes**
- ◆ **Confused about assignment or position or forgets plays**
- ◆ **Can't recall events before and/or after hit**
- ◆ **Repeats questions or forgets instructions**
- ◆ **Unsure of game, score or opponent**

Symptoms Reported by the Athlete:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ◆ Headache or “pressure” in head | ◆ Numbness or tingling |
| ◆ Nausea or vomiting | ◆ Confusion |
| ◆ Balance problems or dizziness | ◆ Nervous, anxious, irritable, sad, or more emotional |
| ◆ Blurred, double or fuzzy vision | ◆ Feeling mentally slowed down |
| ◆ Sensitivity to light or noise | ◆ Fatigue or low energy |
| ◆ Drowsiness or sleep disturbances | |
| ◆ Difficulty concentrating or remembering | |

What should I do if concussion suspected?

For Student-Athletes:

- ◆ *Tell your coaches and your parents if you think you have a concussion – never ignore a bump or blow to the head.*
- ◆ *Get medical evaluation before returning to play.*
- ◆ *Give yourself time to get better – playing with a concussion risks a second, more serious injury and can cause permanent brain damage or death. Wear properly fitted protective equipment every time you play.*
- ◆ *Tell a coach if a teammate might have a concussion.*

For Parents / Guardians:

- ◆ Seek medical attention right away – only a health care professional should diagnose a concussion.
- ◆ Do not allow return to play without medical clearance by an appropriate healthcare professional.
- ◆ Inform the coach
- ◆ Inform the coach of any other recent concussions

Removal & Return to Play

A student-athlete must never return to play on the same day of a suspected concussion. Return must follow a gradual, stepwise protocol supervised by a health care professional. Written clearance from a licensed healthcare professional is required before returning to athletic participation under Montana law and MHSА policy

How To Prevent a Concussion

- ◆ Follow your coach’s safety instructions and the rules of the sport.
- ◆ Practice good sportsmanship at all times.
- ◆ Wear properly fitted and well-maintained protective equipment for every practice and competition.
- ◆ Support a team culture where athletes feel comfortable reporting symptoms and injuries without fear of losing playing time.

MORE INFORMATION

CDC Heads Up: www.cdc.gov/heads-up

NFHS Concussion in Sports Course: www.nfhslearn.com

MHSА Sports Medicine: mhsa.org/resources/sports-medicine

IMPORTANT: Any athlete with a suspected concussion must be removed from play immediately. Do not return the athlete to play on the same day.

WHEN IN DOUBT, SIT THEM OUT!

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) Information

Fact Sheet for Parents & Student-Athletes

What is sudden cardiac arrest?

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is a life-threatening emergency that occurs when the heart suddenly stops beating. It strikes people of all ages who may seem to be healthy, even children and teens. When SCA happens, the person collapses and doesn't respond or breathe normally. They may gasp or shake as if having a seizure, but their heart has stopped. SCA leads to death in minutes if the person does not get help right away. Survival depends on people nearby calling 911, starting CPR, and using an automated external defibrillator (AED) as soon as possible.

How common is SCA in young athletes?

As a leading cause of death in the U.S., most people are surprised to learn that SCA is also the #1 killer of student-athletes and the leading cause of death on school campuses. Studies show that 1 in 300 youth has an undetected heart condition that puts them at risk.

Warning Signs – Never Ignore

Report any of the following symptoms immediately to a coach, parent, or medical professional. Do not hide symptoms or play through them.

- ◆ Fainting, seizure, or convulsions during physical activity
- ◆ Fainting repeatedly or with excitement or startle
- ◆ Chest pain, tightness, or unusual pressure
- ◆ Unexplained shortness of breath during activity
- ◆ Unusual or extreme fatigue with exercise
- ◆ Pain or discomfort in arms, back, neck, jaw or stomach
- ◆ Dizziness or lightheadedness during exertion
- ◆ Feeling “not right” after physical activity
- ◆ Racing, fluttering, or irregular heartbeat

Risk Factors – Family History Matters

Most heart conditions that cause SCA are inherited. Share any of the following with your health care provider and accurately complete your Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation form:

- ◆ Family history of known heart abnormalities or sudden death before age 50
- ◆ Specific family history of Long QT Syndrome, Brugada Syndrome, Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM), Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Dysplasia (ARVD), Wolff-Parkinson-White (WPW) Syndrome, Catecholaminergic Polymorphic Ventricular Tachycardia (CPVT), Marfan Syndrome

- ◆ Family members with known unexplained fainting, seizures, drowning or near-drowning, or car accidents
- ◆ Family members with a known structural heart abnormality, repaired or unrepaired
- ◆ Personal or family history of high blood pressure
- ◆ Use of cocaine, inhalants, “recreational” drugs, excessive energy drinks, diet pills or performance-enhancing supplements

What causes SCA?

SCA occurs because of a malfunction in the heart’s electrical system or structure. The malfunction is caused by an abnormality the person is born with, and may have inherited, or a condition that develops as young hearts grow. A virus in the heart or a hard blow to the chest can also cause a malfunction that can lead to SCA.

What should I do?

For Student – Athletes:

- ◆ Tell a coach, parent, or athletic trainer immediately if you have symptoms
- ◆ Do not hide symptoms or continue to practice/play
- ◆ When in doubt, speak up and sit out
- ◆ If a teammate collapses: get help, call 911, bring the AED

For Parents / Guardians:

- ◆ Report concerning symptoms or family history to the school
- ◆ Do not allow participation without medical follow-up if symptoms are present
- ◆ Know your school’s AED location and Emergency Action Plan
- ◆ Know the cardiac chain of survival – you may need it on the sidelines

Cardiac Chain of Survival – Act Immediately

1 RECOGNIZE Athlete unresponsive?	2 CALL 911 Activate EMS immediately	3 START CPR Hard & fast compressions, center of chest	4 USE AED As soon as available
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Removal & Return to Play

Under Montana HB 869 (2025), a student-athlete who exhibits signs or symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest may be removed from participation by a coach, athletic trainer, or official. The student-athlete

may not return until evaluated and cleared in writing by a licensed physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner.

MORE INFORMATION

American Heart Association: www.heart.org

Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation: www.sca-aware.org

MHSA Sports Medicine: mhsa.org/resources/sports-medicine

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 (Team Managers do not need to complete the physical form or concussion statement)	2026-2027 Pre-Participation Physical Examination Form
	Student Athlete & Parent/Legal Guardian Sudden Cardiac Arrest & Concussion Statement
	Family and Medical Information Form
	Media Information Form
	Final Acknowledge Form
	Indemnity Agreement
	Interim Medical Form
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



I will report symptoms (my own or a teammate's) to a coach, parent, or athletic trainer immediately and will not hide or play through them.		N/A
I understand that a concussion is a serious brain injury requiring removal from play and medical evaluation and clearance before return to participation.		
I (or my child) will not return to play in a game or practice if a hit to the head or body causes any concussion-related symptoms.		
After a concussion, the brain needs time to heal. I understand that athletes are much more likely to have another concussion or more serious brain injury if return to play or practice occurs before concussion symptoms go away. Repeat concussions can cause serious and long-lasting problems.		

Student-Athlete

I acknowledge that I have received, read, and understood the Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Concussion Information contained in this packet.

Print Name

Student-Athlete Signature

Date

Parent / Legal Guardian

I acknowledge that I have received, read, and understood the Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Concussion Information in this packet, and have reviewed it with my student-athlete.

Print Name

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Activity/Organization Information Form

****This form is only used for non-athletic clubs and organizations.****

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 or filmed by media, parents, coaches, or other community members who may stop by during practices or games or interview them regarding 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

Interim Medical Form

Students are required to have a preparticipation physical examination completed every two years prior to the first practice of any sport. The examination must be certified by a licensed medical professional acting within the scope and limitations of their practice. Physical exams conducted after May 1st are valid for the following two years. Physical exams conducted prior to May 1st are valid only for the remainder of that school year and the following year. An interim history form is required during the off years and must be submitted to the school prior to first practice.

Athlete Name: _____ Gender: _____ Grade: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Current School: _____

Medical History

Since last physical exam has this student?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Had surgery?		
Been hospitalized?		
Had a serious illness?		
Had an injury requiring a physician's care?		
Been diagnosed with a concussion?		
Started taking any new medications?		
Developed any new allergies?		
Developed any health problems?		

Explain YES answers:

Consent Form

1. I certify that the information provided above is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also attest that the above student has been evaluated, treated and/or received clearance by an appropriate medical provider for any questions answered yes above and does not have any medical conditions that would restrict them from participating in athletics this school year.
2. I hereby give my consent for the above student to engage in approved athletic activities as a representative of their school. I also give my permission for the team physician, athletic trainer or other qualified personnel to have access to information provided here and may be disclosed to other school personnel involved in the medical care of this student.
3. I give my consent to necessary medical services, first aid and emergency medical care that may be required in the event of injury while at a school-sanctioned activity. If emergency medical treatment is required and the parent(s) or guardian cannot be contacted, I hereby consent for the above-named student to be given medical care by the doctor or hospital selected by the school.

Name of Athlete (Printed)_____Athlete Signature_____

Name of Parent/Guardian(printed)_____

Parent or Guardian Signature_____Date_____

The original copy of this form MUST be returned to the school.