



Helena Public Schools

2026-2027

Student / Parent

Activities Handbook

Mr. Eric Peterson
District Activities Administrator
1325 Poplar St.

Note: Policies and procedures in the handbook are subject to revision at any time due to changes in Board Policy, Administrative Procedure or state statute.

Mission

The mission of HPS Activities is to provide an educational opportunity for student to progressively grow in a variety of activities so they can become lifelong participants and spectators.

Beliefs

1. We believe in taking care of people and our programs.
2. We believe in an activity program that balances the rigor of academics with activities.
3. We believe that activities teach us to balance obligations and prioritize tasks.
4. We believe in multi-activity participation and realize tradeoffs exist when conflicts arise.
5. We believe that participation enhances leadership skills, relationships and maturity.
6. We believe in the highest standards of sportsmanship.
7. We believe in conducting oneself in an ethical manner.
8. We believe that activities should challenge students to push themselves to their potential.
9. We believe in respecting diversity among people.

10. We believe in providing skills to properly handle adversity and success.
12. We believe in promoting a positive image of the Helena Public Schools for our community.
13. We believe each program should be committed to striving for excellence.
14. We believe that activities will develop loyalty, cooperation, fair play and other desirable social traits.

INTRODUCTION

The Helena Public Schools provides for co-curricular and extracurricular activities as an integral part of the total secondary school educational program. The opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities is extended to all students who achieve the District's academic and social standards.

Research has shown that students who participate in activities tend to have higher grade point averages, better attendance records, and fewer discipline problems during the time they are participating. Research has also shown there is a high correlation between participation in extracurricular activities and success later in life.

It is important to remember that when taking part in activities you are representing yourself, your family, your school and the Helena Public Schools. You must, therefore, act responsibly, display good sportsmanship, and abide by the rules and regulations set forth in this handbook.

HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES PHILOSOPHY

Co-curricular and extracurricular activities shall be an integral part of the total educational program. The purpose of these activity programs is to enhance the development of knowledge, skills, and emotional patterns which characterize responsible citizens.

Emphasis shall be upon teaching through activities in addition to teaching the "skills" of activities.

Activities shall be tailored to the physical, mental, and emotional maturity levels of the youths participating in them and shall be primarily for the benefit of those youths. Active participation, individual improvement, and healthy competition are integral elements of all student activities.

Each program should strive to develop in the student those traits and skills that will provide efficient problem-solving and decision-making skills as well as the understanding to accept the consequences of their decisions and choices.

All students are encouraged to participate in co-curricular and extracurricular activities. Many of these programs do not limit the number of participants but there are some extracurricular activities that do limit the number of participants. Those students who try out for an activity but do not make the team are encouraged to seek other opportunities provided by the Helena School community.

ACTIVITY OFFERINGS

Student activity offerings at each high school may vary depending on student interests, facilities, budget, and availability of qualified sponsors.

Montana High School Association activities include all levels of the following:

Baseball, Basketball, Softball, Soccer, Cross Country, Swimming, Tennis, Track, Football, Flag Football, Volleyball, Golf, Wrestling, Speech, Band, Chorus, Orchestra, Cheerleading, and Drill Team

Extra-Curricular Clubs in the Helena School District include the following:

Student Government, DECA, BPA, Skills USA, Annual, Newspaper, BPA, and Drama

ELIGIBILITY

To participate, a high school participant must meet Montana High School Association rules **and** comply with all relevant Helena Public Schools policies and regulations. All rules and regulations of the Montana High School Association (MHSA) may be found in the MHSA Handbook at www.mhsa.org.

Age Rule – A student is not eligible for MHSA-sponsored events if the student turns 19 years of age before midnight, August 31, preceding that school year.

Enrollment/Attendance Rule – To be eligible to participate in an MHSA-sponsored event, a student must be regularly enrolled in school, must be in regular attendance from the enrollment date and must have received a passing grade in at least four (4) classes. Students who wish to participate in a sport or activity must be passing 4 credit bearing courses each semester to continue eligibility into the next semester. This rule does not apply to incoming freshman for their first semester of high school.

Private School/Home School Participants – Individuals attending private, or home schools will be eligible to participate in our public school activities programs. These students are subject to all MHSA eligibility requirements except for the enrollment in a minimum of number of classes. These participants are also required to follow all rules and regulations for athletic participation found in the Helena School District.

Transfer Rule – Transfer rules apply only to participation in varsity level activities. Student who are ineligible due to the MHSA transfer rule may compete in non-varsity level contests, against non-varsity level competition only. Any student who transfers from one high school to another high school is ineligible to participate at the Varsity level for ninety (90) pupil instruction days.

Ejection Rule – If a student, coach or advisor is ejected from an MHSA competition for unsportsmanlike conduct, they will not be eligible to

participate for the remainder of the event and will be suspended for the next regularly scheduled or rescheduled event at that level of competition and all other games/meets in the interim at any level of competition. A second violation will result in a four-competition suspension. The District Activities Administrator may also institute further disciplinary action when considering the severity and frequency of the occurrences.

The following amendment occurred to By-Laws, Article VIII, Section (2) on page 19 and 20 of the current MHSA Handbook: Section 2 - General Penalties, Section 2.8.2: a. Any attendee ejected by the Official and/or Administration from a regular season or MHSA tournament contest will incur a minimum two-week suspension from that team's games/events and all other MHSA games/events in the interim at any level of competition. If the ejection occurs with fewer than two weeks remaining in the team's season, the suspension will carry over to the start of the next sports season and will begin/continue with that season's first schedule contest. Same rules apply over the Christmas break or if the team's schedule is interrupted by more than 8 days.

Homeless Students - No policy or administrative regulation of the Helena Public Schools shall act as a barrier to the enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youths to include eligibility for participation in interscholastic activities based on the Transfer/Residency Rule. For further information, please contact the HPS's Federal

Programs Administrator who is also the District Homeless Liaison and is located at the Lincoln Center 1325 Poplar St., Helena, MT 59601.

Helena School Attendance Standards for Activity Participation

Students must attend the entire school day to be eligible to participate in a practice or competition on the same day or a day prior to an event scheduled on a non-school day. Students who miss part of a school day for a verified reason (doctor's appointment, family emergency, funerals, etc.) will be allowed to participate provided that a parent notifies the Principal's office prior to, or the same day of, the absence.

An **unexcused** student may not participate that day or subsequent days if on a weekend. A student may not, under any circumstance, take part in practice or competition on a day he/she has been suspended nor is truant from school.

Students should also be in school the day after a scheduled event. Participation gives no one a license to absent themselves from school. Coaches should strongly encourage class attendance and be aware of its impact on academic performance

PHYSICALS and MEDICAL RELEASE FORMS

Participation in athletic activities involves risk of serious personal injury. Athletic activities are hazardous and could include such injuries as paralysis, head injuries or possible death. Taking part in such activities is calculated risk-taking on the part of the student athlete and the parent. HPS does not assume financial responsibility for medical, hospital or ambulance expenses incurred because of athletic injuries. Every student trying out for an athletic team must have a completed medical history/physical form on file with the athletic trainer or turned in to the coach the first day of practice. No student may participate in any practice/tryout/warm up/competition without a completed medical history/physical form on file. Physicals are valid for two years from May 1st. Any incoming 8th grade student needs to have a physical after May 1st of their incoming high school year.

CONCUSSIONS

A concussion is an injury to the brain arising from blunt trauma, an acceleration force, or a deceleration force, which may involve certain observed or self-reported conditions attributable to the injury, including but not limited to transient confusion, disorientation, impaired consciousness, dysfunction of memory, loss of consciousness or signs of other neurological or neuropsychological dysfunction.

Prior to practicing or participating in any organized athletic activities during each school year, the student and the student's parent or guardian must review and sign the Student-Athlete & Parent/Legal Guardian Concussion Statement.

The District shall ensure that all coaches, athletic trainers, officials, including volunteers, will have access to and will complete training regarding concussions and head injuries at least once each school year.

An athletic trainer, coach, or official shall remove a youth athlete from participation in any organized youth athletic activities at the time the youth athlete exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion. Once removed, the youth athlete may not return to the organized youth athletic activity until the youth athlete no longer exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion and has received an evaluation and written clearance from a licensed health care professional that the youth athlete has been evaluated and is capable of safely resuming participation.

PARTICIPANT CONDUCT

Once you become a member of a team or activity at HPS, you have made a choice to uphold certain standards expected of activity participants in the HPS community:

1. The use of vulgar or profane language is unacceptable.

2. The coach of each activity shall set the standard for game or activity day dress.
3. Students are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior at all times.
4. Students are expected to be supportive of all team/activity members, coaches, and officials before, during and after an event.
5. Students are expected to follow all rules and regulations of the school as well as any specific rules and regulations adopted by the activity sponsors or coaches.

Students who engage in misconduct off of school property or outside of the school day may be subject to discipline by school authorities under certain circumstances. One of those circumstances is when students choose to participate in extra or co-curricular activities. In addition to the Student Code of Conduct in the individual building Student Handbooks, all students who voluntarily participate in District sponsored activity agree to abide by this Athletic Code of Conduct throughout the year in which the student participates in the activity. The Code is not a complete list of unacceptable conduct by students. HPS student athletes/activity participants are considered to be role models and expected to act accordingly during their high school career.

Any student athlete/activity participant whose conduct is found to be a discredit or to cause

unfavorable notoriety to the athlete / activity participant, team or the Helena Public Schools and which results in a suspension shall be subject to non-participation in the sport or activity for the length of the suspension as determined by the Principal or Assistant Principal.

Behavior and Citizenship

1. Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco are strictly prohibited. The possession, use, consumption, distribution, purchase, sale or manufacture of, or any other improper or unlawful involvement of any kind or description with illegal drugs, controlled substances, alcohol or alcoholic beverages, anabolic or androgenic steroids, tobacco, tobacco products, E-cigarettes, Vapor Pens, or facsimiles, “look-alike” drugs, drug paraphernalia, or substances or products that mask or tamper with any of these, is strictly prohibited. Also, prohibited is the distribution, abuse or misuse of over the counter medications or prescription drugs, or other chemicals or substances.

2. Hazing and/or initiation are strictly prohibited. Hazing means a behavior or pattern of behavior directed at one or more specific individuals which persecutes, harasses, humiliates, degrades, or endangers the physical safety of an individual. Hazing includes, but is not limited to, any coerced or involuntary activity by team members toward other existing or potential team members that subjects the team members to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects their mental or physical health,

safety or welfare. An initiation is a ceremony, ritual, test or activity with which a group admits a new member.

3. Students who commit any other behavior that displays poor citizenship in the judgment of the Principal or District Activities Administrator, whether it occurs on or off school property, whether it occurs during the school day, and whether a student is involved in activities at the time of the offense, may also lose their privilege to participate. **This includes activity on social media.**

Building/Community Standards

All HPS students are also responsible for complying with the rules in the HPS Student Handbook.

Depending on the situation, an athlete/activity participant may face consequences under both the Activity Code and the Student Code of Conduct. If a student is disciplined for a violation of the HPS Student Handbook, the District Activities Administrator will be notified. A conference between the District Activities Administrator and the student will be conducted to determine if there are any Athletic Code violations and consequences, if any.

**EXTRA / CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
PROCEDURE REGARDING ALCOHOL,
TOBACCO, TOBACCO INNOVATIONS AND
OTHER DRUG USE / POSSESSION &
GENERAL CODE OF CONDUCT**

Allegations of violations of the Extra / Co-Curricular Activities Procedure Regarding Alcohol, Tobacco, Tobacco Innovations and Other Drug Use/Possession & General Code of Conduct will be investigated by the building principal or assistant principal. The student will be informed of the allegations and provided the opportunity to respond to the allegations. If a determination is made by the Principal and/or District Activities Administrator, using the preponderance of the evidence standard, that a violation of the Extra / Co-Curricular Activities Procedure Regarding Alcohol, Tobacco, Tobacco Innovations and Other Drug Use/Possession & General Code of Conduct occurred, the student will be notified of that determination and of the proposed consequence for the violation of the Extra / Co-Curricular Activities Procedure Regarding Alcohol, Tobacco, Tobacco Innovations and Other Drug Use/Possession & General Code of Conduct.

Students participating in school sponsored activities assume a responsibility to fellow students, the district, and the community to be law-abiding citizens.

The administration shall place limits, up to and including restricting a student from participating in school sponsored activities or being awarded school

honors, if a student is found by school officials to have violated Board Policy or committed an act prohibited by state or federal law.

Obligation of Students Participating in School Sponsored Activities.

An appeal process will be available to all students under the District's "Uniform Grievance Policy".

Board Policy 1085 – Uniform Grievance Procedure.

Helena School District No. 1 recognizes the use of alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and drug paraphernalia as a significant health problem for many adolescents, resulting in negative effects on behavior, learning and the total development of each individual. Coaches and advisors of activities have a unique opportunity to observe, confront and assist young people. Helena School District No. 1 will make available at parent's expense education and awareness training in chemical and tobacco use issues for students who are in violation of its chemical and tobacco use regulations. The importance of the parent/guardian as the primary role model in the education and guidance of their children concerning alcohol, tobacco and other drugs is recognized and emphasized by Helena School District personnel.

In addition, schools are an integral part of the community and must confirm and support existing state and local laws which prohibit the use of alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and drug paraphernalia by youth. Federal law requires schools to have consistent

alcohol, tobacco and other drug policies that give a strong no-use message to all youth.

Students who participate in extra/co-curricular activities must be willing to make the commitment to adhere to the regulations that govern these activities.

Therefore, middle school and high school students who participate in District extra/co-curricular activities are subject to all District regulations, conditions and consequences.

Regulations - During the school year and the season of practice, play or rehearsal a student shall not:

(1) Use, possess, buy, sell, or distribute alcohol, tobacco, unlawful drugs, controlled substances, hallucinogens, inhalants or drug paraphernalia. (It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor that is being used in the prescribed manner).

(2) Students participating in school sponsored activities assume a responsibility to fellow students, the district, and the community to be law-abiding citizens.

The administration shall place limits, up to and including restricting a student from participating in school sponsored activities or being awarded school honors, if a student is found by school officials to

have violated Board Policy or committed an act prohibited by state or federal law.

Duration

Except where otherwise stated, these regulations are in effect from the date of the first practice for fall activities, through the academic school year and include any school sponsored activity that extends beyond the academic school year. Violations will be cumulative from the first day of the activity involvement throughout the student's participation as a freshman, sophomore, junior and senior until graduation from Helena School District No.1. A student's suspension from an extracurricular activity may also adversely affect other areas upon return. Upon return from any suspension, the coach or sponsor will determine varsity letter, playing time, starting position, performance role; and offices held in groups. All unserved suspensions occurring at the end of the school year will be served the following school year commencing on the first day of the MHSA fall season.

Disciplinary Procedures: Investigation and Appeal

Any determination that a violation of these regulations has occurred will be made only after a meeting is held with the student and he or she is presented with the information indicating that a violation has occurred. The student must be afforded the opportunity to provide information in response. If a determination is made following that meeting that

a violation has occurred, the student will be notified of that determination and of the consequences of that determination. Any determination that results in consequences being administered as per these regulations will be provided to the affected student in writing. If a student disagrees with a determination made by the building administration under these regulations, the student may seek review of that decision by the District Activities Administrator, and may secure further review of the determination by the District Superintendent and Board of Trustees according to the procedure outlined in the Uniform Complaint Policy. (1085)

First Violation: The student will be:

- Required to register for and complete a district-approved education course at his/her parent's expense; and
- Temporarily suspended from competing or performing in extra/co-curricular activities for a period of thirty-four [34] calendar days. If a student self-reports a violation to the Activity Leader or designee, the temporary suspension period will be reduced to twenty (20) calendar days.
- Suspended from team practices for up to five (5) days following notification.

In either situation, the student must (1) provide appropriate proof of completion of the education component outlined above; (2) continue to attend and participate in activity practices during the temporary

period of suspension; and (3) complete a team/activity service as determined by the administrator and activity leader. The student's return to full participation in the activity is conditioned on fulfilling all of the requirements set forth above.

Second Violation: The student will be:

- Required to register for and complete a district-approved chemical assessment program at his/her parent's expense; and
- Temporarily suspended from competing or performing in extra/co-curricular activities for a period of sixty [60] calendar days. If a student self-reports a violation to the Activity Leader or designee, the temporary suspension period will be reduced to fifty (50) calendar days.
- Suspended from team practices for up to five (5) days following notification.

In either situation, the student must (1) provide appropriate proof of completion of the assessment component outlined above; (2) continue to attend and participate in activity practices during the period of temporary suspension; and (3) complete a team/activity service as determined by the administrator and activity leader. The student's return to full participation in the activity is conditioned on fulfilling the requirements set forth above.

Third Violation: The student will be deemed ineligible for participation in activities for a period of

one calendar year. The student may, however, submit a petition to the District Superintendent no sooner than ninety (90) days after the incident requesting that he or she to be allowed to re-enroll in activities. Such a request must be accompanied by (1) a post-incident chemical dependency evaluation conducted by a licensed chemical dependency counselor and (2) a demonstration that all recommendations made in the assessment are being or have been satisfactorily met. The District Superintendent has the discretion to grant or deny the request based on his/her consideration of the relevant circumstances. The Superintendent's decision may be appealed to the Board of Trustees as outlined in the Uniform Complaint Procedure. (1085)

Extra / Co-Curricular Activities – All Levels

Baseball, Basketball, Softball, Soccer, Cross Country, Swimming, Tennis, Track, Football, Flag Football, Volleyball, Golf, Wrestling, +Student Government, +DECA, +BPOA, +Plymouth Troubleshooters, +Skills USA, +Speech, +Annual, +Newspaper, +BPA, +*Band, +*Chorus, +*Orchestra, +*Drama, +Cheerleading, and +Drill Team.

+Because these are yearlong programs the suspension will coincide with the MHSA Fall, Winter Spring calendar.

*All performances outside of the school day are affected. For the purpose of these regulations a student who misses one or more grade-related music event or performance will have the opportunity to

make up the portion of the grade which is related to the events or performances.

Calendar days begin on the first day of fall practice and end the last day of school. The activity seasons are outlined below:

- Fall - Start of Golf practice to State Football Championship
- Winter -Start of Wrestling practice to State Basketball Championship
- Spring - Start of Spring Sports Practice to last day of school for students

Bullying, Intimidation, Harassment & Hazing Prevention and Reporting Policy (Please refer to complete Helena School Board Policy 3005)

The District expressly prohibits any form of intimidation, hazing, bullying or harassment including but not limited to the following: any gesture or written, verbal or physical act that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, culture, social origin or condition, marital status, political affiliation or a mental, physical or sensory handicap, or by any other distinguishing characteristic.

Intimidation, bullying and harassment include acts that a reasonable person knew or should have known, under the circumstances the gesture or written or physical act (a) will have the effect of harming a student or damaging the student's property; or (b) will place a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or damage to the student's property; or (3) has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school's educational mission or the education of any student.

Reporting

All complaints about behavior that may violate this policy shall be promptly investigated. Any student, employee, or third party who has knowledge of conduct in violation of this policy or feels he/she has been a victim of hazing, harassment, intimidation, or bullying in violation of this policy is encouraged to immediately report his/her concerns to the building principal or the District Administrator, who have overall responsibility for such investigations. A student may also report concerns to a teacher or counselor, who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate District official. Students who have concerns about bullying or harassment from staff members are encouraged to report their concerns to the building principal. Complaints against the building principal shall be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent or District Administrator shall be filed with the Board.

All staff are obligated to address bullying, harassment, hazing and intimidation as described in Board Policy 5015, administrative procedures and / or staff and student handbooks.

Consequences

Students whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion. Staff whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline up to and including dismissal. Third parties whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to appropriate sanctions as determined and imposed by the District Administrator or the Board. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement officials.

Retaliation and Reprisal

Retaliation is prohibited against any person who reports or is thought to have reported a violation, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy, whether or not a complaint is substantiated. False charges shall also be regarded as a serious offense and will result in disciplinary action or other appropriate sanctions.

SPORTSMANSHIP

HPS prides itself on its students, coaches/activity sponsors and parents exhibiting good sportsmanship

at all District events. A display of unsportsmanlike behavior may result in sanctions against the team, player or parent. In order to maintain our outstanding reputation for sportsmanship, all team members, coaches and parents are asked to observe the following guidelines for sportsmanship:

1. Be supportive of all athletes, team members, coaches and officials.
2. Accept the decision of officials without dispute.
3. Recognize and show appreciation for the fine play of your opponent.
4. Cheer for your team, not against the opponent.
5. Don't allow negative sportsmanship by your opponent to become an excuse to do the same.

Displays of unsportsmanlike conduct may result in sanctions against the team, player(s), coach(es), or fans up to and including ejection from events or limitations on participation.

PARENT/COACH RELATIONS

Parents and coaches/activity sponsors both advocate for their students, and clear communication is necessary to ensure that all parties are aware of the expectations for the program.

Communication to Expect from your Student's Coach/Activity Sponsor:

1. Expectations the coach/activity sponsor has for your student and the team.
2. Location and times of all practices and contests.
3. Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, team/individual camps.
4. Medical procedures, should your student become injured during participation;
5. Team rules, guidelines, and requirements for earning awards.

Communication Coaches/Activity Sponsors Expect from Students:

1. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
2. Special concerns in regard to a coach/activity sponsor's philosophy or expectations.
3. Injury or circumstances that may endanger the student when participating.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches/Activity Sponsors

1. The treatment of your student – mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your student improve.
3. Concerns about your student's behavior.

Issues NOT Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other students.

It is very difficult to accept your student not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches/activity sponsors make judgment decisions based on what they believe to the best for all of the students involved. Playing time and strategy are discretionary decisions of the coach/activity sponsor and not subject to review.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

If you have a concern, please discuss the issue with your student first. If you still have concerns that you want to discuss with the coach/activity sponsor, you must follow this procedure:

1. Have your student meet with the coach to discuss issue
2. Call the coach/activity sponsor to set up an appointment.
3. If the coach/activity sponsor cannot be reached, call the District Activities Administrator, Eric Peterson, and the meeting will be set up for you.
4. Please give yourself time to understand your concern before approaching a coach/activity sponsor.

Attempting to confront a coach/activity sponsor before or after a contest or practice is not an ideal time.

If your concern is not resolved by meeting with the coach/activity sponsor, you must follow this procedure:

1. The parent and/or student should discuss the situation with the Principal or Assistant Principal informally in an attempt to resolve the situation.
2. If the parent and/or student wish to make a formal complaint, it must be put in writing, with a copy provided to the coach/activity sponsor, building principal and District Activities Administrator.
3. The District Activities Administrator will investigate the complaint and document the results of the investigation in writing. A summary of the findings of the investigation will be provided to all parties.
4. If the formal complaint is not satisfactorily resolved by the District Activities Administrator, the parent and/or student may appeal in writing to the Assistant Superintendent. The Assistant Superintendent will meet with the parties and issue a written decision regarding the appeal.
5. If the formal complaint is not satisfactorily resolved at this level, the parent and/or student may appeal to the Superintendent, or his designee, in writing. The Superintendent or designee will review

the written documentation and issue a written decision. The decision of the Superintendent is final.

ACTIVITY STUDENT TRAVEL **GUIDELINES**

Whenever ground transportation is required for 10 or more occupants in a single vehicle, students must be transported in a school bus. HPS will use transportation contractor-owned busses and chartered busses to perform the over the road transportation needs of the District. Private vehicles are not to be used for transportation of District student participants to and from District sanctioned activities unless approved by the Administration.

1. Students wishing to travel home from an event with a parent or guardian must sign out with the coach prior to leaving the event.
2. Students wishing to travel home from an event with an adult other than a parent or guardian (e.g. grandparent, aunt, uncle) must have prior written permission from the principal.
3. In rare instances when students need to travel to an event with a parent or guardian **PRIOR** written permission must be provided to the building principal.
4. Students are subject to the full direction and authority of the coach or advisor while involved in

activity travel. All school regulations concerning student behavior are in effect during activity trips.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR TRIPS

An extra-curricular trip occurs when students leave school grounds for an MHSA sanctioned event or co-curricular activities,

Types of extra-curricular field trips include:

- Recurring field trips (same activity over and over on regular basis, such as a choir or sports games)
- Overnight trips – trips requiring an overnight stay in order to complete an MHSA interscholastic athletic or co-curricular activity

MEALS

HPS does not pay for student meals during activity trips. Students will be told in advance, by the coach/activity sponsor, how much money the student should bring for meals, where they will be eating and how many meals are involved. Students are responsible for bringing their own money and are responsible for their own money. Students qualifying for the free or reduced lunch program can be funded for meals on trips. Students are responsible for contacting the head coach to receive funds before each trip.

GENERAL INFORMATION

CUT POLICY

Prior to tryouts, the head coach/sponsor and their staff must establish written criteria to be used to determine which students will make the team or activity for which they are trying out. Once established, those criteria shall be made available to all students who are interested in trying out for the event.

FUNDRAISING

1. **All fundraising efforts to support a team, club, or activity must be approved by the building administrator or designee.** An approval form must be submitted. Before giving approval, the administrator or designee will review the purposes of the fundraising effort, how much money will be spent, and the guidelines and directions that will be given to the students regardless of their participation. The administrator or designee may request to meet with the individual(s) submitting the application to gather additional information.
2. If the fundraising project includes the use of student time, it must take place at such times and place as to not unreasonably interfere with the operation of the school or interfere in the student's learning.

3. No rewards or prizes may be offered to groups, classes, or students unless specifically approved by the building administrator.
4. **Student participation is voluntary. A student's ability to participate on an athletic team or in a club is not contingent on the student participating in fundraising activities.**
5. **Sales quotas for students may not be a part of any fundraising effort and students may not be required to pay for any unsold items which are returned to the organization.**
6. The parents/guardians of students under the age of 18 must give permission for their students to participate in a fundraising effort before any products or materials are sent home with the student.
7. Fundraising projects must be appropriate for the public-school environment and age of the students involved.

SUPPORT OF ACTIVITY GROUPS/TEAMS

All expenditures by a school support organization in support of athletic teams must be done in conformance with gender equity requirements of Title IX and the Ridgeway Settlement Agreement. MHSA permits the following expenditures, with approval of the District:

- The purchase of merchandise (travel shirts, jackets, shooting shirts, etc.) for an athletic team where the District maintains ownership of the merchandise.

Merchandise may be checked-out to students during the athletic season but must be returned to the District at the end of the season. A student who does not return merchandise purchased with money donated by a school support organization at the end of the athletic season will be billed for that item. MHSA does not permit a school support organization to purchase merchandise for students to keep.

- The purchase of meals for students while traveling during regular season and/or the post-season. In no event, however, shall any cash be distributed directly to students for the purchase of such meals or for any other reason.
- The school support organization may, with prior approval of the building administrator or District Activities Administrator, conduct fundraisers that allow students to voluntarily earn money to use to purchase personal merchandise.
- Only students who actually work may be compensated and the compensation must be commensurate with the work completed (i.e., number of cars washed, number of discount cards sold) or with the number of hours worked.
- No school support organization shall donate money to sponsor or finance any student's participation in a specialized camp or invitational tournament.
- School support organizations shall not directly compensate any District employees or volunteers (whether as advisors or coaches) with the payment of

money or goods for their service to an athletic team or school club.

- Money donated by a school support organization shall not be used for the purchase of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products.

NIL (NAME, IMAGE, LIKENESS)

Students may engage in name, image and/or likeness (NIL) activities subject to the following:

1. The student's NIL activities may NOT include an image or likeness of the student in uniform or other clothing or gear provided by the MHSA or the member school the student is attending or has attended.
2. The student shall not use any MHSA or the member school's facilities, proprietary patents, products, copyrights, and/or equipment for the purpose of any NIL activities
3. The student shall not use any MHSA or the member school's practice and/or game film for the purpose of any NIL activities
4. The student shall not promote any person or entity, or their services and/or products, during the MHSA member school's scheduled school day or during any team activities.
5. When required to follow the MHSA or MHSA member school's uniform or dress requirements, the student may not wear any

person's or entity's logo, mark, or insignia, or in any other way represent the person or entity with which the student has agreed to an NIL activity.

6. No compensation (or prospective compensation) for the NIL activity may be provided by the MHSA member school; an agent of the member school (e.g., school booster club, foundation, employee, etc.); or anyone affiliated with the member school in any way attempting to induce the student to attend or participate in any activity of a MHSA member school.

7. The student shall not promote activities, services, or products, directly or in any way associated with, but not limited to: i. Alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, or vaping. ii. Controlled substances, including illegal drugs (such as cannabis) or any paraphernalia iii. Any item, activity, or conduct which is prohibited or unlawful for any school aged student under state or federal law or the policies of the MHSA or the MHSA member school. iv. Gambling of any kind, including sports betting, lottery, or other, even if the entity for whom the student has agreed to engage in NIL activities has the appropriate permits or licenses as required by law. | 2

2025 MHSA Proposals b.

Violation of by-law 16.2 may result in a determination by the member school and the MHSA of the student's ineligibility for activity participation. Compliance with these rules does not guarantee the student's NIL activity or activities comply with other

laws or rules which may affect the student, such as rules established by the NCAA, NAIA, or NJCAA. Students and their parents or guardians are strongly encouraged to contact any such organization which may have separate rules and to consult with their own legal counsel regarding any compliance questions or concerns, including review of any contracts or agreements related to NIL activities of any kind. The MHSA and its staff will consult with MHSA member schools, parents/guardians, and/or students who have questions about the MHSA-specific NIL rules but will not offer advisory opinions that are binding on the MHSA, its staff, or its Board of Directors, and will not review contracts or agreements relating to NIL activities.

LETTERING REQUIREMENTS

As student who successfully completes an activity and meets the *specific program's lettering requirements* will be given a letter and pin. An actual letter will be issued for a student's first letter and certificates and pins thereafter.