

COLUMBUS SCHOOLS



2025/2026

**ACTIVITY
POLICY**

COLUMBUS MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITY POLICY
2025-2026

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students will be allowed to participate despite race, sex or personal belief, provided they comply with eligibility rules and other regulations set forth for all students. Those activities include:

Football (boys)	FFA	Track
Basketball	FCCLA	Volleyball (girls)
Honor Band	Golf	National Honor Society
Speech/Drama	Cheerleading	Pep Band
Pep Club	Student Council	BPA
Foreign Language	Close-up	Cross Country
Wrestling	Softball (girls)	Baseball (boys)

INTRODUCTION

The behavior of athletic/activity team members and cheerleaders will affect the attitude of the public, in either a positive or a negative manner. The following policy is a guide for a positive self-image and the promotion of a positive public image.

The head coaches and advisors will review athletic, activity, and cheerleading procedures, and the "Activity Policy" during pre-season preparation. Each student and his/her parents are expected to read the policy and sign the agreement, verifying that the policies have been read, are understood, and that the student will follow the regulations outlined in this Policy. The parent is asked to help the student comply with the rules and regulations.

PHILOSOPHY

The major purpose adopted by the Activity Program at Columbus Schools is to provide an opportunity for students who are interested in inter-scholastic competition in an athletic activity, or involvement in an activity to fulfill their needs. Additional goals for the Activity Program are for the student to develop:

- Physical and mental fitness
- Social and civic responsibility
- Respect for self and others
- They will to strive for better performance.

PARTICIPATION FEE

All students participating in the activity programs sponsored by the school will be required to pay a participation fee of \$50.00 per player per sport for High School participants and \$30.00 per player per sport for Middle School participants. Participants in organizations that pay national membership dues (FFA, FCCLA, BPA etc.) will not have to pay this fee unless those participants belong to other non-exempt groups. Other exemptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The Activity Programs are extra-curricular activities of advanced skills. They are a part of the total school program which offers varied opportunities for our young people to develop skills, attitudes and knowledge which are important in the development of a readiness to deal with events to come in one's life.

The young people who choose to participate in the Columbus Activity Program are not only representing themselves, but their school and community as well. It must be considered a privilege to do so.

At the High School varsity levels, our Activity Program will become more selective. Our ultimate objectives will be to produce teams that will instill pride in our community and school.

The coach may establish additional training rules with the approval of the administration (Superintendent, building Principal, and Activities Director).

If a student chooses to participate in two or more MHSA or school sponsored activities with overlapping seasons, every effort will be made to schedule those activities to avoid conflicts. If conflicts do arise, the student must choose which activity he/she wishes to participate in. Reasonable consequences may result from missing the conflicting activity. Sub-varsity players will normally incur few restrictions or consequences due to the conflicting activities, as long as they continue to be at all practices and activities for which they are reasonably able to attend. Varsity players, especially those in key roles, may have to choose to accept reasonable sanctions for their absence from contests or practices. Efforts will be made to minimize the effect on game or meet participation through additional practice activities, but this is not guaranteed. Participants need to realize that a large amount of planning goes into the preparation for contests, and that their absence may have significant effects on how an advisor must rethink and adjust to a new scenario or personnel change. These consequences should be noted in writing at the beginning of each season and consistently enforced throughout the season. Coaches will work cooperatively to enhance participation and will not penalize students, beyond stated consequences, for involvement in more than one activity.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Students who participate in Columbus Activities are individuals who are dedicated to the advancement of sportsmanship in our schools, the excellence of the overall activity program and each individual program, and the improvement of the individual physically, mentally and emotionally. In order to achieve standards of excellence, the individual will not engage in activities which would be detrimental to him/her and the activity program, such as:

1. Use and/or possession of intoxicating substances (example: illegal drugs, alcohol, etc.).
2. Use and/or possession of tobacco (example: smoking, chewing, etc.).
3. Theft and/or vandalism (example: shoplifting, stealing from opponents or team members, destruction of personal or public property, etc.).
4. Other serious offenses, which constitute open or flagrant defiance of school authority (example: verbally or physically assaulting any faculty member, school official, game official, etc.).

PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO FOLLOW ACTIVITY RULES

1ST OFFENSE - Suspension from two weeks of events (including all sideline, bench, and travel exclusion), but may continue to participate in practice. Students who report their own violation within twenty-four hours of the occurrence will face suspension from one week of events. (Only applies to cases where a ticket is not issued.)

2ND OFFENSE – Immediate suspension of 10 days from team or activity implemented by the administration, with a referral to the Board of Trustees that the student be suspended for the remainder of the season.

3RD OFFENSE – Immediate suspension of 10 days from team or activity implemented by the administration, with a referral to the Board of Trustees that the student be suspended from all activities for the remainder of the year. Must appeal before the Board of Trustees for reinstatement for the following year.

4TH OFFENSE – Immediate suspension of 10 days from team or activity implemented by the administration, with a referral to the Board of Trustees that the student be denied extra-curricular participation for remainder of High School attendance.

The district may become aware of infractions through law enforcement or court officers. Otherwise, student infractions must be reported and/or validated by employees of Columbus Public Schools or members of the Board of Trustees if action is to be taken under this policy. The District reserves the right to conduct its own investigation; make a determination of guilt; and apply sanctions independent of any pending court action against the student arising from the

same offense. Reporting of violations will not be allowed through anonymous phone calls or reports made by people not willing to confront the violator.

Special Education students will be considered in accordance with their IEP and the IEP team.

Offenses are accumulated throughout the student's high school career. Offenses are monitored and documented throughout the school calendar year. If a student is not in an activity when the infraction occurs, the consequence will be instituted at the beginning of the next activity season.

In the event a student exhibits open and flagrant defiance of school authority, additional action may be necessary up to and including out of school suspension or expulsion from school, in accordance with due process of law.

The Athletic Director will assist individual advisors in dealing with the following on an individual basis:

1. Curfew hours, as per the coach's instructions
2. Unexcused absence from practice sessions
3. Other misconduct of an irresponsible nature which, in the opinion of the activity department and administration, is detrimental to the team or school

Student participants will exemplify a positive attitude toward fellow members and the entire student body.

All student participants who have lettered are encouraged to participate in all "letter-winners" activities.

Use of prescription or non-prescription drugs or special medical conditions must be reported to the coaching staff immediately for safety purposes.

In order to insure equitable and consistent treatment of students, disciplinary action must be reported, in writing, to the following sources, if applicable:

Coaches and school administrators

Law enforcement officials

Parents of the offender

Witnesses must be willing to confront the offender in the presence of the head coach or adviser.

ATHLETIC/CHEERLEADING PHYSICAL

Students in grades 6-12 must have a physical before they will be allowed to practice. Students showing up for practice before having a physical will be sent home.

MANDATORY DRUG TESTING FOR MHSA EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

Definitions

Drug: Any substance considered illegal or controlled by the Food and Drug Administration.

Student Participation: Any student participating in extra-curricular athletics, activities, clubs or organization under the control and jurisdiction of the MHSA and or Columbus Public Schools.

Activity Season: Fall, Winter, and Spring seasons begin on the first day of practice/participation allowed by the MHSA/Columbus High School, and end as soon as the student leaves Columbus High School property after the final competition for that activity.

(See Attached Policy and Consent Form)

BULLYING/HARASSMENT/HAZING POLICY

Columbus Schools will strive to provide a positive and productive learning and working environment. Bullying, harassment, intimidation, or hazing by students, staff or third parties is strictly prohibited and shall not be tolerated.

Harassment, intimidation or bullying, means any act that substantially interferes with a student's educational benefits, opportunities or performance.

Hazing includes any act that recklessly endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or as a condition or membership.

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, who have overall responsibility for such investigations. This report may be made anonymously. A student may also report concerns to a coach, teacher or counselor, who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate official. The complainant shall be notified of the findings of the investigation, and as appropriate, that remedial action has been taken.

Students found in violation of this policy will be subjected to discipline up to and including expulsion. Individual may also be referred to law enforcement officials.

Retaliation is prohibited against any person who reports or is thought to have reported a violation, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in the inquiry. False charges shall also be considered a serious offense.

AGE RULE

No student is eligible to participate in an association contest that has turned nineteen (19) years old on or before midnight, August 31st, of a given year. If the student started a sport season while participation age, he/she may finish that season.

A student who is ineligible by reason of this age rule may seek a waiver from the MHSA under the following conditions and procedures. The student, his/her school, parent/guardian or other representative shall submit a timely written application for a waiver. **For fall sports, the application shall be submitted by March 15th of the preceding school year** so that if necessary, the request can be considered by the Executive Board prior to summer break. **For all other sports seasons, the application shall be submitted at least 60 days prior to the first activity for which he/she seeks the waiver.**

COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION/ELIGIBILITY

Montana High School Association rules pertinent to eligibility will be followed at all times. In addition, students must maintain a 2.0 GPA to participate in extra-curricular activities. Quarter grades will be used to determine academic eligibility. Students who become academically ineligible will do so on the Monday following posting of grades. Academically ineligible students will remain ineligible until the next quarter grade report. Spring quarter GPA will be used to determine first quarter eligibility in the fall of the next school year.

Quarter Grades

1st OFFENSE (Used one time only during student's high school career) – Suspension for a first-time ineligibility infraction during a student's high school academic career, based on quarter grades, will result in a two week participation exclusion from extracurricular events. A student may continue to practice during this time but will be unable to suit up, travel, or compete in any material manner with the team or activity. At the end of this two-week period, grades will again be checked. If the student is still ineligible, due to a GPA below a 2.0 and/or is receiving an F in any class, the suspension will continue for another two-week period. During this second two-week

period, a student may not practice, compete, or travel in any manner associated with the activity. If the student is still below a 2.0 and/or has an F in any class at the third grade check, that student will be dismissed from the team. As such, the student will not be allowed to practice, play games, or travel with the team and will forfeit any and all letters and/or awards associated with the corresponding activities. ***First offense only!***

2nd and SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES- Academically ineligible students, utilizing quarter grades, will become ineligible for a two-week period while the matter is referred to the Board of Trustees. A student may not continue to practice, suit up, or compete in any material manner with the team or activity. An accompanying recommendation from the Administration to the Board for suspension for the entire quarter will require official Board action for implementation. If this is the action of the Board, the suspension will last until the next quarter grade report.

Midterm Grades

At midterm, any student whose GPA is below a 2.0 will receive a two week participation exclusion from extracurricular events. The student may continue to practice during this time but will be unable to suit up, travel, or compete in any material manner with the team or activity. At the end of this two-week period, grades will again be checked. If the student is still ineligible, due to a GPA below a 2.0 and/or is receiving an F in any class, the suspension will continue for another two-week period. During this second two-week period, a student may not practice, compete, or travel in any manner associated with the activity. If the student is still below a 2.0 and/or has an F in any class at the third grade check, that student will again face suspension for another two-week period. During this second two-week period, a student may not practice, compete, or travel in any manner associated with the activity.

Cut Policy

If your program involves selections or "try-outs" for the team, the coach must provide athletic director with a copy of criteria before the season begins.

Individual coaches will develop their criteria for selection of those participants who will be placed on a team and those who will not be placed on a team. These criteria will be made known to participants at the beginning of their season. These criteria may be more stringent than the baseline requirements contained in this handbook. The Athletic Director prior to implementation will approve all team selection criteria.

MIDDLE SCHOOL EXTRA-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION/ELIGIBILITY

Classroom grades will be checked at the beginning of each season and checked at the end of each week during the activity. There will be a four tier system to determine eligibility.

Tier 1:

Full Eligibility – An athlete is passing all classes.

Tier 2:

Academic Probation – A student/athlete who has one (1) F or more than two (2) D on a grade report.

Tier 3:

Academic Limited Participation – A student/athlete who has one (1) F or more than two (2) D on a grade report twice during a season.

Tier 4:

Academic Ineligibility – A student/athlete who has one (1) F or more than two (2) D on a grade report on two consecutive grade reports.

Fully Eligible athletes may participate in practices and games with no limitations.

Academic Probation allows athletes to participate in practices and games, however they must attend homework club daily! Athletes will be on this tier for a period of 5 school days. At the end of the 5 days all grades will be checked. If all grades are passing the athlete will be granted Full Eligibility. If the athlete has one (1) F or more than two (2) D, he/she will be declared Academically Limited Participant.

Academically Limited Participation allows athletes to participate in practices but not in events, however they must attend homework club daily! Athletes will be on this tier for a period of 5 school days. At the end of the 5 days all grades will be checked. If all grades are passing the athlete will be granted Full Eligibility. If the athlete has one (1) F or more than two (2) D, they will be declared Academically Ineligible.

Academically Ineligible athletes are not allowed to participate in practices or events. They must attend homework club daily! Athletes will be on this tier for a period of 5 school days. At the end of the 5 days all grades will be checked. If all grades are passing the athlete will be granted Full Eligibility. If the athlete has one (1) F or more than two (2) D, they will be dismissed from the activity.

Coaches are encouraged to establish "study groups" between school dismissal and 4:00 PM for the purpose of helping students maintain academic excellence. Students are responsible for seeking assistance from classroom teachers. Coaches will not punish players/participants for being late for practice if the student has written verification that he/she has been receiving academic assistance from a teacher.

TRAINING SUGGESTIONS

1. Eight (8) hours of sleep each night
2. Eat pre-game meal 3 hours before game time
3. Lift weights
4. Report all injuries, blisters, sores to the coaching staff immediately
5. Keep all gear clean daily
6. Avoid the company of those people who habitually do not follow your regimen as pertains to training rules
7. Forget about your personal problems during practice and competition
8. Make sure your diet is a balanced one
9. Treat all adults and teachers in a respectful manner. Remember that you are "their" team, and their support is needed if we are to have a successful season.

TEAM TRANSPORTATION - OUT OF TOWN TRIPS

At the beginning of your involvement in activities for the year, you and your parent/guardian must sign an agreement to abide by activity policy and transportation rules. This will give the student permission to participate in a given activity and to travel **TO AND FROM** the activity on the school bus or other school-furnished transportation.

Buses will be provided for out of town games, or school sponsored activities. High School cheerleaders will ride to and from games on the bus, as room permits, for District, Divisional, and State contests. Students who travel on the bus are expected to return with their group on the bus. Permission to return by other means **will be denied** unless parents request permission in writing BEFORE DEPARTURE AND PICK THE STUDENT UP IN PERSON. Requesting to ride home with another adult, other than parents, must be approved 24 hours before departure time. Permission will be denied if this does not have prior approval. Students will not be allowed to ride home with other students.

When student spectators travel out of town representing Columbus Schools, all standards of behavior must be followed or the privilege will be denied. (The entire school and community are judged by your actions and your behavior at these out of town events.)

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORT PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Each student will furnish his own shoes, socks, and physical. The student must attend practice sessions, but there will be NO PRACTICING OR PLAYING ON THE DAY A STUDENT IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL, unless okayed by the Principal. A student must attend a minimum of three (3) class periods on game, trip, or practice days, if appropriate.

Athletes must have the proper number of MHSA days of practice before they are eligible to compete in a game or meet.

An athlete/student is suspended out of school for any reason will not be eligible to practice or play during the period of suspension.

TRANSFER RULE

Any student who transfers from one High School to another High School is ineligible to participate in a varsity Association Contest for 90 P.I. days from the date of enrollment in the school to which he/she transfers. This rule applies to a student who transfers after twenty (20) days of attendance or after he/she participates in an athletic contest while enrolled in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 EXCEPT the following students may be declared eligible:

- A student moves into a new district or school attendance area upon a corresponding change of residence by the parents or legal guardians with whom the student was living during his/her previous school enrollment.
- A student who is a ward of the court or state and is placed in a District or school attendance area by court order.
- Students transferring from one High School to another under a bona fide foreign exchange program will be eligible for two (2) consecutive semesters only after the Principal properly certifies that they meet all eligibility requirements. A bona fide foreign exchange student program shall be determined as those programs designated by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. A student who returns to the school at which he/she was enrolled directly before attending a bona fide foreign exchange program will be eligible immediately upon enrollment. (A student who has graduated from a high school in his/her own country and is now in the United States under a foreign exchange program would not be eligible. Refer Article II, Section.
- A student who marries and establishes a new residence in a new district or school attendance area.
- A student who transfers to another school because his or her school ceases to operate.
- A student in attendance at a school designated by the governing body of that school as a result of reorganization, consolidation or annexation or a student ordered transferred within a school system, for other than interscholastic competition purposes, by a board of education or governing body of a private or parochial school system.
- A student who completes the last grade available in the school system previously attended.
- A student moves from parent/legal guardian the first time in his/her high school career will be eligible upon verification to the MHSA office that this is the first move and certified by the Administrators involved that the move was neither athletically motivated nor was the move because of recruitment.

GAMBLING

Students are not permitted to gamble for money while in school, on school property, in school vehicles, while on school-sponsored trips or when representing the school during activity or athletic functions. Students who are found to be betting, playing cards for money, rolling dice for money, playing keno or poker machines, gambling on the internet or involved in any other form of gambling shall be reported to the principal. Appropriate discipline will be administered in accordance with the district's Activity and student discipline policies.

INSURANCE

There will be no school-furnished insurance for any student. Students will receive insurance forms at the beginning of the school year, and parents will be responsible for and encouraged to sign up and purchase specific insurance, if they choose to have coverage. The district will carry the required catastrophic insurance policy mandated and administered by the MHSAA.

ACTIVITY STUDENT DRUG TESTING POLICY

The Columbus Board of Education in an effort to protect the health and safety of its extra-curricular activities students from illegal drug use and abuse, thereby setting an example for all other students of the Columbus Public School District, proposes to adopt the following policy for drug testing of activity students.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND INTENT

Although the Board of Education, Administration, and staff desire that every student in the Columbus Public School District refrain from using or possessing illegal drugs, District officials realize that their power to restrict the possession or use of illegal drugs is limited. Therefore, this policy governs only illegal drug use by students participating in certain extra-curricular activities. The sanctions imposed for violations of this policy will be limitations solely upon limiting the opportunity of any student determined to be in violation of this policy to a student's privilege to participate in extra-curricular activities. No suspensions from school or academic sanctions will be imposed for violations of this policy. This policy supplements and complements all other policies, rules, and regulations of the Columbus Public School District regarding possession or use of illegal drugs.

Participation in school-sponsored interscholastic extra-curricular activities at the Columbus Public School District is a privilege. Students who participate in these activities are respected by the student body and are representing the school district and the community. Accordingly, students in extra-curricular activities carry a responsibility to themselves, their fellow students, their parents and their school to set the highest possible examples of conduct, sportsmanship, and training, which includes avoiding the use or possession of illegal drugs.

The purposes of this policy are five-fold:

1. To educate students of the serious physical, mental and emotional harm caused by illegal drug use.
2. To alert students with possible substance abuse problems to the potential harms that drug use poses for their physical, mental, and emotional well being and offer them the privilege of competition as an incentive to stop using such substances.
3. Ensure that students adhere to a training program that bars the intake of illegal drugs.
4. To prevent injury, illness, and harm for students that may arise as a result from illegal drug use.
5. To offer students practices, competition and school activities free of the effects of illegal drug use.

Illegal drug use of any kind is incompatible with the physical, mental, and emotional demands placed upon participants in extra-curricular activities and upon the positive image these students project to other students and to the community on behalf of the Columbus Public School District. For the safety, health and well being of students in extra-curricular activities the Columbus Public School District has adopted this policy for use by all participants in interscholastic extra-curricular activities in grades 6-12.

The administration may adopt regulations to implement this policy.

I. Definitions

"Activity Student" means a member of any Middle School or High School Columbus Public School District sponsored extra-curricular organization, whether or not they participate in interscholastic competition. This includes any student that represents Columbus Schools in any extra-curricular activity in interscholastic competition. These activities are listed in the Activities Handbook.

"Drug use test" means a scientifically substantiated method to test for the presence of illegal drugs or the metabolites thereof in a person's saliva.

"Random Selection Basis" means a mechanism for selecting activity students for drug testing that:

A. results in an equal probability that any activity student from a group of activity students subject to the selection mechanism will be selected, and

B. does not give the School District discretion to waive the selection of any activity student selected under the mechanism.

"Illegal drugs" means any substance that an individual may not sell, possess, use, distribute or purchase under either Federal or Montana law. "Illegal drugs" includes, but is not limited to, all prescription drugs obtained without authorization, and all prescribed and over-the-counter drugs being used for an abusive purpose. "Illegal drugs" shall also include alcohol.

"Positive" when referring to a drug use test administered under this policy means a toxicological test result which is considered to demonstrate the presence of an illegal drug or the metabolites thereof using the standards customarily established by the testing laboratory administering the drug use test.

"Reasonable suspicion" means a suspicion of illegal drug use based on specific observations made by coaches/Administrators/sponsors of the appearance, speech, or behavior of an activity student; the reasonable inferences that are drawn from those observations; and/or information of illegal drug use by an activity student supplied to school officials by other students, staff members, or patrons.

"Sample" means a sample of urine collected for the purpose of analysis for the presence of illegal substances.

II. Procedures

Each Activity Student shall be provided with a copy of the "Student Drug Testing Consent Form", which shall be read, signed and dated by the student, parent or custodial guardian and coach/sponsor before such student shall be eligible to practice or participate in any extra-curricular activities. The consent requires the activity student to provide a urine sample: (a) annually before participation in extra-curricular activities; (b) when the activity student is selected by the random selection basis to provide a sample; and (c) at any time when there is reasonable suspicion to test for illegal drugs. No student shall be allowed to practice or participate in any extra-curricular activities involving interscholastic competition unless the student has returned the properly signed "Student Drug Testing Consent Form."

Prior to the commencement of drug testing each year an orientation session will be held with each Activity Student to educate them of the sample collection process, privacy arrangements, drug testing procedures and other areas which may help to reassure the activity student and help avoid embarrassment or uncomfortable feelings about the drug testing process.

Each Activity Student shall receive a copy of the Activity Student Drug Testing Policy. The head coach or sponsor shall be responsible for explaining the Policy to all prospective students.

All Activity Students will be required to provide a urine sample before the student may participate in an extra-curricular activity covered under this policy. A student who moves into the district after the school year begins will have to undergo a drug test before they will be eligible for participation.

Drug use testing for Activity Students will also be chosen on a random selection basis from a list of all Activity Students who are involved in off-season or in-season activities. The Columbus Public School

District will determine a number of student names to be drawn at random to provide a urine sample for drug use testing for illegal drugs.

In addition to the drug tests required above, any Activity Student may be required at any time to submit to a test for illegal, or the metabolites thereof when an Administrator, coach, or sponsor has reasonable suspicion of illegal drug use by that particular student.

Any drug use test will be administered by a proper representative of the Columbus Public School District. When required for testing confirmation, a professional laboratory shall be required to use scientifically validated toxicological testing methods, have detailed written specifications to assure chain of custody of the specimens, and proper laboratory control and scientific testing.

All aspects of the drug-use testing program, including the taking of urine specimens, will be conducted so as to safeguard the personal and privacy rights of the student to the maximum degree possible. The test specimen shall be obtained in a manner designed to minimize intrusiveness of the procedure.

An initial positive test result will be subject to confirmation by a second and different test of the same specimen. The second test will use the gas chromatography/mass spectrometry technique. A specimen shall not be reported positive unless the second test utilizing the gas chromatography/mass spectrometry procedure is positive for the presence of an illegal drug or the metabolites thereof. The chosen laboratory shall preserve the unused portion of a specimen that tested positive for a period of three (3) months or the end of the school year; whichever is shorter. Student records will be retained until the end of the school year.

III. Confidentiality

The laboratory will notify the Superintendent of any positive test. To keep the positive test results confidential, the Superintendent will only notify the Principal, Activities Director or designee, the student, the head coach/sponsor, and the parent or custodial guardian of the student of the results. The Principal/Activities Director or designee will schedule a conference with the student and parent or guardian and explain the student's opportunity to submit additional information to the principal/activities director or to the lab. The Columbus Public School District will rely on the opinion of the laboratory that performed the test in determining whether the positive test result was produced by something other than consumption of an illegal or performance-enhancing drug.

Test results will be kept in files separate from the student's other educational records, shall be disclosed only to those school personnel who have a need to know, and will not be turned over to any law enforcement authorities.

IV. Appeal

An Activity Student who has been determined by the Principal/Activities Director to be in violation of this policy shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Superintendent or his/her designee(s). Such request for a review must be submitted to the Superintendent in writing within five (5) calendar days of notice of the positive test. A student requesting a review will remain ineligible to participate in any extra-curricular activities until the review is completed. The Superintendent or his/her designee(s) shall then determine whether the original finding was justified. No further review of the Superintendent's decision will be provided and his/her decision shall be conclusive in all respects. Any necessary interpretation or application of this policy shall be in the sole and exclusive judgment and discretion of the Superintendent, which shall be final and non-appealable.

V. Consequences

Any Activity Student who tests positive in a drug test under this policy shall be subject to the following restrictions:

Self-Reporting Training Rule Violations

SELF-REPORTING: The purpose of this provision is to encourage a student/athlete to seek help. The student may not use this voluntary admission, reported within twenty-four (24) hours of the infraction, if the authorities already know the training infraction. This provision may be used only one time by a student while enrolled in grades 6-8, and used only one time while enrolled in grades 9-12 and will be documented by the activities director. To be treated as a self-referral, this must be the first knowledge that the school official has of a violation. A self-referral carries a 7-day suspension from competition, but the student will continue to practice.

REPORTING: A school staff member can be made aware of the violation of this alcohol/drugs/tobacco policy by any source (such as police, school personnel, counselors, coaches, advisors, community members, parents and other students, but anonymous telephone calls or reports made by people not willing to confront the violator will not be acted upon.)

Penalties for Failure to Follow Activity Policies

- First Offense: - Suspension from two weeks of events. Students who report their own violation will face suspension from events for one week. First offense only.

- First Offense Positive Drug Test- The parent/guardian will be contacted immediately and a private conference will be scheduled to present the test results to the parent/guardian. A meeting will then be set up with the student, parent/guardian, Activities Director, and Principal concerning the positive drug test. In order to continue participation in the activity the student and parent/guardian must, within five (5) days of the joint meeting, show proof that the student has received drug counseling from a qualified drug treatment program or counseling entity, conducted at the family's expense. Additionally, the student must voluntarily submit to a second drug test to be administered within two (2) weeks in accordance with the testing provisions of this policy.

Should the parent/student not agree to these provisions the consequences listed in this policy for the second offense will be imposed.

- Second Offense: - Suspension from the team or activity for the remainder of the season.
 - Second Offense Positive Drug Test- The parent/guardian will be contacted immediately and a private conference will be scheduled to present the test results to the parent/guardian. A meeting will then be set up with the student, parent/guardian, activities director, and principal concerning the positive drug test. In order to continue participation in the activity the student and parent/guardian must, within five (5) days of the joint meeting, show proof that the student has received successful completion of four (4) hours of substance abuse education/counseling provided by an outside certified counselor approved by the school district, such counseling at parent expense. The parents must provide the school with a report from the counselor within the allocated time. The student may not participate in any meetings, practices, scrimmages or competitions during this period. The student will be randomly tested monthly for the remainder of the school year. The time and date will be unknown to the student and determined by the Principal/Activities Director or designee.

- Third Offense: - Suspension from all activities for the remainder of the year. Must appeal before an Advisory Committee to request reinstatement for the next year.

- Third Offense Positive Drug Test- Complete suspension from participation in all extra-curricular activities including all meetings, practices, performances, and competition for the remainder of the school year, or ninety (90) school days (1 semester) whichever is the longer. All counseling requirements from previous step will apply again.

- Fourth Offense: - Denied extra-curricular participation for remainder of High School years.

Offenses are accumulated throughout a student's high school career. Offenses are monitored and documented throughout the calendar year. If a student is not in an activity when the infraction occurs, the consequence will be instituted at the beginning of the next activity season.

Special Education students will be considered in accordance with their IEP, with the IEP team.

Student and Parent Due Process

If determination is made that a student has violated this policy, the student, parents and/or guardians shall be notified of the violation by telephone where possible. The student, parents and/or guardians shall be notified of the discipline consequences to be administered.

VI. Refusal to Submit to Drug Use Test

A participating student, who refuses to submit to a drug test authorized under this policy, shall not be eligible to participate in any activities covered under this policy including all meetings, practices, performance and competitions for the remainder of the school year. Additionally, such student shall not be considered for any interscholastic activity honors or awards given by the school.

* * * *

Columbus Public Schools is committed to cooperating with parents/guardians in an effort to help students avoid illegal drug use. The Columbus Public School District believes accountability is a powerful tool to help some students avoid using drugs and that early detection and intervention can save lives.

Policy History:

Adopted on: 07/10/2007

Revised on:

Columbus Public School District
Student Drug Testing Consent Form

Statement of Purpose and Intent

Participation in school sponsored extra-curricular activities at the Columbus School District is a privilege. Activity Students carry a responsibility to themselves, their fellow students, their parents, and their school to set the highest possible examples of conduct, which includes avoiding the use or possession of illegal drugs.

Drug use of any kind is incompatible with participation in extra-curricular activities on behalf of the Columbus Public School District. For the safety, health, and well being of the students, the Columbus Public School District has adopted the attached Activity Student Drug Testing Policy and the Student Drug Testing Consent for use by all participating students at the Middle School and High School levels.

Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities

Each Activity Student shall be provided with a copy of the Activity Student Drug Testing Policy and Student Drug Testing Consent, which shall be read, signed and dated by the student, parent or custodial guardian, and coach/sponsor before such student shall be eligible to practice or participate in any interscholastic activities. The consent shall be to provide a urine sample: a) random selection during asport season or school year to participate in extra-curricular activities; b) as chosen by the random selection basis before the season. Failure to take a drug test when selected will be deemed as a failed drug test. No student shall be allowed to practice or participate in any activity governed by the policy unless the student has returned the properly signed Student Drug Testing Consent.

Student's Last Name

First Name

MI

I understand after having read the "Student Activity Drug Testing Policy" and "Student Drug Testing Consent," that, out of care for my safety and health, the Columbus Public School District enforces the rules applying to the consumption or possession of illegal drugs. As a member of a Columbus extra-curricular interscholastic activity, I realize that the personal decision that I make daily in regard to the consumption or possession of illegal drugs may affect my health and well being as well as the possible endangerment of those around me and reflect upon any organization with which I am associated. If I choose to violate school policy regarding the use or possession of illegal drugs any time while I am involved in in-season or off-season activities, I understand upon determination of that violation I will be subject to the restrictions on my participation as outlined in the Policy.

Signature of Student

Date

We have read and understood the Columbus Public School District "Activity Student Drug Testing Policy" and "Student Drug Testing Consent." We desire that the student named above participate in the extra-curricular interscholastic programs of the Columbus Public School District and we hereby voluntarily agree to be subject to its terms. We further agree and consent to the disclosure of the sampling, testing and results as provided in this program.

Signature of Parent or Custodial Guardian

Date

Signature of Coach

Team

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS PERMISSION SLIP TO THE SCHOOL:

.....

PERMISSION SLIP – 2025-2026

We, the parents/guardians have read the Columbus Schools' "Activity Policy," and UNDERSTAND the rules and regulations.

The activity coach has gone through this handbook with the student participants and has discussed the expectations, rules and consequences as outlined.

I give my permission for my son/daughter to participate in extra-curricular activities, practice and games, at home and on the road.

I also give my permission for the coach or sponsor to authorize treatment of my son/daughter, should they require medical attention due to injury.

I agree that my son/daughter will follow and be subject to the rules and regulations as prescribed in the "Activity Policy" and be subject to the penalties indicated for violation of these rules and regulations. I realized, too, that the standards for eligibility set by the Montana High School Association will be followed at all time, in addition to the eligibility rules set by the school district.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Coach Signature

THE THREE ATTACHED FORMS MUST BE SIGNED AND RETURNED TO YOUR COACH OR ADVISOR ONE WEEK AFTER RECEIVING THE HANDBOOK.

This Handbook has been read, approved, and adopted by the District #6 School Board of Trustees as policy updated August 11, 2025.

(This form must be signed and returned for activity participation)

COLUMBUS SCHOOL DISTRICT
FIELD TRIP CONSENT FORM

It is the policy of the Columbus School District to require parental permission before allowing a student to travel to and from practice for a school sponsored sport or game alone or with members of his/her class team. This travel may be by a non-school owned vehicle or a school owned vehicle. If you would like your child to participate, please carefully read and sign this document.

I hereby give permission for my child, _____, to go to and from school sponsored activities including sporting events and practices. Transportation may or may not be supplied by the district.

As a parent or guardian, I understand that the school and the staff will do as much as possible to prevent accidents. However, I fully understand that some travel and activities involve inherent risks to students regardless of all feasible safety measures that may be taken by the district. In consideration of the district's agreement to allow my child to participate in these extracurricular activities, I agree to accept responsibility for any loss, damage, or injury to my child that occurs during my child's participation that is not the result of fraud, willful injury to a person or property or the willful or negligent violation of a law by a trustee, employee or agent of the Columbus School District

In the event it becomes necessary for the District staff in charge to obtain emergency care for my child, neither he/she nor the School District assumes financial liability for expenses incurred because of an accident, injury, illness and/or unforeseen circumstances.

Parent or Guardian: _____ Date _____
(Please Print)

(Signature) _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Does your child have a medical condition which the school should be aware of before allowing your child to participate? Yes_____ No_____. If yes, please state the nature of the medical condition. _____.