

ATHLETICS

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools are voluntary members of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (M.H.S.A.A.) and compete only with member schools. As a member school district, the schools of Plymouth-Canton agree to abide by, and enforce, all rules and regulations of the M.H.S.A.A. Only seventh and eighth graders may participate at the middle school level.

Eligibility Rules

M.H.S.A.A. Middle School Summary- To be eligible a middle school student must comply with the following rules:

1. Enrollment-Middle School students must be enrolled by the fourth week of the present semester.
2. Age- A seventh grade student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contest must be under 14 years of age, unless the 14 birthday occurs on or after September 1, of the current school year. An eighth grade student must be under fifteen years of age, at the time of contest, unless the 15 birthday occurs on or after September 1, of the current school year.
3. Physical Examination- A student must have a physical examination which states the athlete is cleared for participation. This exam must both the physician/physician's assistant signature and a parent/guardian signature. A copy of this form must be on file with the office for the current school year. This examination must be done on or after April 15 and is good for one year. The athlete will not be permitted to try-out, practice or participate in games without a current exam on file.
4. Semesters of enrollment- A student enrolled in the 7th or 8th grade are not limited in the number of seasons of competition.
5. Semester records- Students must be passing 50% of total periods of work carried.
6. Current Semester Record- Students must be passing 50% of total periods of work carried up to within seven days of a contest.
7. Undergraduate Standing- Students may not be a graduate of a middle school.
8. Limited Team membership- After practicing with or participating with middle school teams, a student cannot participate in any athletic competition not sponsored by his or her school in the same sport during the same season.
9. Awards- Students should not receive any awards for participating in a middle school sponsored activity.

TO THE ATHLETE

Athletic Code of Conduct

- Accept sports participation as another opportunity to improve your educational experience.
- Develop your skills and knowledge of your sport to the best of your ability.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship toward officials, visiting teams, and fans.
- Establish sound rest, nutritional, training and conditioning habits.
- Adopt good study habits so that you may maintain an acceptable scholastic standard.
- Conduct yourself in an appropriate manner in the classroom, on the field of play and in the community.
- Show dignity and respect toward your coach fellow players and school equipment.
- Be on time and attend all practice sessions.
- Keep sight of values inherent in athletic participation. It is not whether you win or lose, it is how you play the game.
- Attend all classes daily; be punctual and prepared to contribute.
- The possession, use, or distribution of alcoholic beverages, tobacco (in any form), and illegal drugs, is prohibited and has no place in athletics. School policies will be enforced.

Sportsmanship Expectations

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing your school and community.
- Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by your coach and principal.
- Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or a friend. Who better than yourself, understands all the hard work and team effort that is required of your sport?
- Refrain from taunting, trash talking, or making any kind of unkind remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of an ethnic, racial or sexual nature. Refrain from intimidating behavior.
- Wish opponents good luck before the game and sincerely congratulate them after the game whether you win or lose.
- Respect the game officials and their judgments. The officials are doing their best to promote you and your sport. Treat them with respect at all times even if you disagree with their judgment.
- Win with humility and lose with grace; do both with dignity. Avoid excessive celebration after a play or at the end of the game.

TO THE PARENT/GUARDIAN

We feel that athletics will contribute to the overall development of your student. As with academics, parent involvement in these programs will help ensure a quality experience for all concerned. The coaches and athletic administration encourage you to be an active participant in the following ways:

- Read this information with your athlete and be familiar with the policies and procedures.
- Promote good study habits and the importance of high academics, as well as athletic performances.
- Encourage good attendance in classes in addition to practice and games.
- Help your athlete develop sound nutritional and rest habits.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship toward officials, visiting athletes, and fans.
- Assist your athlete with transportation home from practices and games.
- Keep lines of communication open by talking to coaches and athletic administrators when questions arise.

When a parent/guardian has a concern or question, the following chain of command is recommended: First the athlete should talk directly to the coach, then if needed, the parent/guardian should call to set up a meeting with the coach. If a satisfactory answer or resolution has still not occurred, then the building athletic liaison should be contacted to either meet individually with the parent/guardian, athlete, or all involved parties. Any further action will occur at the direction of the district athletic director or building principal.

Insurance

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools do not assume financial responsibility for medical, dental, or hospital expenses incurred as a result of athletic injuries. The parent/guardian assumes all financial responsibility. Therefore, it is recommended that all athletes be covered with some type of independent injury insurance.

Athletics is a voluntary, extra-curricular program in which the students may participate. If he/she so desires, he/she does so at his/her own risk of injury. It must be remembered, furthermore, that because the coaching staff encourages students to enroll in such a program, this in no way implicates the coach, school or Board of Education for liability in case of injury.

School Equipment

Students are responsible for all equipment issued to them. Athletics uniforms, both practice and game, are supplied for the sole purpose of athletic participation. The equipment is not to be used for any other purpose. When the season is completed all equipment is to be returned to the school. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Potential Dangers in Athletic Participation Informed Consent

Although serious injuries are not common in supervised school athletic programs, it is impossible to eliminate the risk. Participants have the responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury. Players must obey all safety rules, report all physical problems to their coach, follow a proper conditioning program, and respect their own equipment daily.

Assumption of risk

PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS PLACES THE INDIVIDUAL AT RISK WITH REGARD TO SIGNIFICANT INJURY. These injuries range from strains, sprains and contusions to permanent disability and death. The likelihood of catastrophic injury is minimal however, the potential does exist. THE PARTICIPANT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN RECOGNIZES THESE FACTS AND ASSUMES SUCH RISK.

Pay-to-Play

Cost: \$200 for unlimited sports; \$125 for 6th graders (cross country)

Please sign below, detach and return to the athlete’s coach. Keep the above information for future reference.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK

My son/daughter has permission to participate on the West _____ team this school year.
Sport

We have read and discussed the attached information regarding the coach’s expectations and the MHSAA state guidelines. We understand the requirement of a physical exam by the time of the first tryout date. We recognize the facts regarding the “Assumption of Risk” and assume such risk as described.

Athlete’s name _____
Last First Athlete’s signature Date

Parent/Guardian name _____
Last First Parent/Guardian signature Date

Address _____

Home Phone _____

***Other numbers: () _____

***Other numbers: () _____

**Number(s) at which the parent/guardian can be contacted during practices/match times in the event of an emergency. Please include AREA CODE.