

SEYMOUR R-II SCHOOL DISTRICT

ATHLETIC/ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK



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SEYMOUR R-II SCHOOLS

ATHLETIC / ACTIVITY HANDBOOK

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KEY: MAROON LETTERING is MSHSAA INFORMATION



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LETTERS TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student/Athlete/Participant:

Advisors (i.e. Coaches and Sponsors) are hired by the school district to be responsible for their respective program. The advisors establish criteria for team selection, often with input from the entire staff. This may be a subjective process. Team selection, practices and decisions regarding competition situations are the responsibility of the advisor. If you have questions regarding the process, we encourage the student and advisor to be the first point of contact. If questions still exist, please address these questions directly to the advisor. Please call the advisor to make an appointment. If you have further questions the advisor has not been able to answer, please contact the athletic director for athletic reasons and for activities contact the principal.

SCHOOL DISTRICT PHILOSOPHY

Recognizing the intellectual, personal, and social flexibility needed for meaningful and successful life in a constantly changing world, the Seymour R-II School District will strive to provide optimum experience for academic and social success for every student.

To foster this ideal, the school district will promote learning activities that are centered on the student and on the real world with the individual goals and realistic boundaries to be defined by the total school community of students, parents, patrons and educators.

The school will aim for positive learning. Achievement in all areas will be recognized and mistakes will be treated as experiences in learning rather than failure.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Seymour R-II School District mission is to use its financial, personnel, and educational resources to enhance the development of intellectual, physical, and social capabilities of students by providing every student with opportunities to learn.

INTRODUCTION

This interscholastic activities guide contains the policies and procedures established by the Seymour R-II Board of Education for the purpose of planning, organizing, and administering effective and functional activity programs. A clearly defined activities guide is fundamental to maximize the use of resources productivity, efficiency, and experiences in a successful school activities program. This structure is designed to be in compliance with state, conference, and local standards and regulations.

It is also the intent of the administration for this interscholastic activities guide to assist such personnel as directors, coaches, and sponsors by providing a resource guide to help them better understand individual job duties and responsibilities. Instructions for specific assignments are outlined in this guide for the personnel. It provides direction by the use of the chain-of-command and established the administrative line of authority in regards to the interscholastic activities program.

The guide is an instrument the administration used to answer questions and concerns by students and parents relative to rules, standards, procedures, and expectations relative to the interscholastic activities program in the Seymour R-II School District.



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INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES PHILOSOPHY

Interscholastic activities provide unique and meaningful learning experiences. They are considered an integral part of the total curriculum in the Seymour R-II Schools. The value students gain through interscholastic participation should supplement and promote the academic life and philosophy of the district. Such participation, however, is a privilege extended to students who meet the criteria for participation.

The mission of the activities program is to operate a well-defined and consistent program within the limits of the allocated resources for budget and personnel. The program is committed to the stated goals and objectives designed to accomplish the district's philosophy.

The interscholastic activities program shall be in accordance with the guidelines of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), The Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA), conference membership (Summit Conference), and policies, rules, and regulations of the Seymour R-II School District.

INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES OBJECTIVES

The Seymour R-II School District has selected activities objectives to help the district's mission and philosophy be accomplished successfully. The following objectives for the interscholastic activities program have been established:

1. To develop and promote attributes of good citizenship.
2. To develop a respect for authority and the rights of others.
3. To develop a realization of the values of conforming to rules and regulations.
4. To develop the desire to succeed and excel.
5. To gain social competence, self discipline, and emotional maturity.
6. To promote good sportsmanship and the appreciation of activities to enhance the students both as participants and spectators.
7. To develop high moral and ethical standards and pride in participants, classmates, and school.
8. To promote better health and physical fitness where practical for the participants.
9. To help the participants to develop academically both in accomplishments and attitudes.
10. To promote the ability to think as an individual and in the best interest of a team or member of a group.
11. To encourage and accommodate students who want to participate in multiple activities in the same season.

PERSONNEL

The selection and placement of personnel is considered one of the most important aspects of the interscholastic activities program in the Seymour R-II School District. The Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools, through the recommendations of building principals and activities administration, are committed to providing a quality interscholastic activities program through the personnel resources selected.

Personnel working in the interscholastic activities program shall be provided with job descriptions, duty expectations, guidelines and a line-of-authority to channel organizational chart for interscholastic activities has been established to provide such direction. The figure on the following page is designed to assist personnel working in the program. Every person who is provided an assignment in the interscholastic activities program is expected to know, understand and adhere to the chain-of-command.

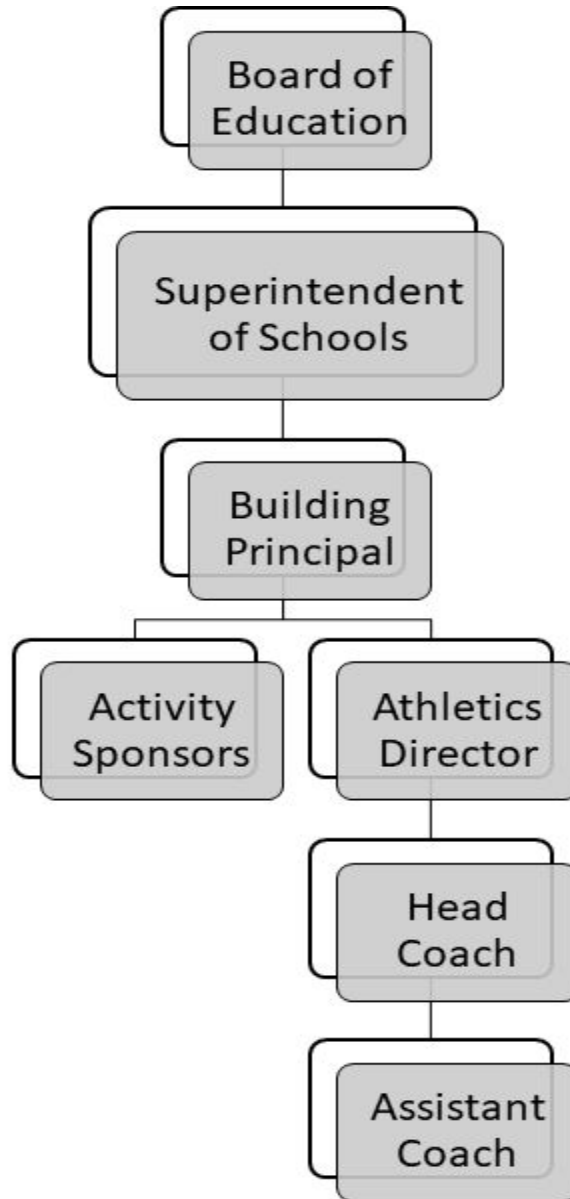
The Athletic Director shall be the facilitator of the interscholastic activities program. The Athletic Director shall be directly responsible to the middle school and high school principals. The Athletic Director will coordinate with the advisor and building principal on discipline issues. All discipline will be handed down by the building administrator.



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ORGANIZATIONAL CHART FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC/ACTIVITIES IN THE SEYMOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT



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CHAIN OF COMMAND ATHLETIC/ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT: SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL

Overview:

Communication is the cornerstone to any relationship. This is especially true in the coach-athlete relationship. Within this relationship difficult issues must be dealt with at times, including; discipline, participant performance, and participant dissatisfaction. Proper communication results in the positive resolution of such issues, stronger advisor - participant relations, and other benefits such as the students learning how to solve problems.

Parents also have a relationship with their child's advisor, and communication is equally important to this relationship. Parents may feel the need to step in on their child's behalf. Whatever the motive, proper communication will enhance advisor-parent and advisor - participant relations.

The following is a guide for advisors, parents, and student participants. This guide provides a chain of communication that will maintain and build positive relationships.

Chain Of Communication:

1. **Step One: Mandatory Advisor - Participant session.**

If a participant or his/her parent has any issue or problem with his/her sport experience, the participant is expected to address the advisor. Participants are also encouraged to talk with the advisor about any issue in their personal or academic lives.

2. **Step Two: Advisor-Parent-Participation session.**

If an issue has not been resolved in step one, this is the next step in the chain of communication. The guideline here is to set up an appointment at the advisor's discretion. If the issue is emotional, the appointment should be scheduled at a later time so the parties involved are calm and problem solving can occur. Also, the parent or participant should define the purpose of the session when the appointment is set.

Parents should not try to discuss important issues with an advisor as they are walking off the game, competition, practice, or event. There should be a 24 hour cooling down period before a meeting should happen.

In this step, there may be rare cases when it may be best if the participant does not participate in the session. If either the parent or advisor feels this is the case, this should be discussed when setting the appointment and purpose of the meeting.

3. **Step Three: Administrator-Advisor-Parent-Participant session.**

If an issue is not resolved in step two, this is the next step in the chain of communication. This step may be initiated by any party. Using the same process as above, an appointment is set and all parties define the purpose of the meeting.

Again, there may be cases where it is appropriate a participant not be present. This is to be discussed and determined prior to the appointment.

Additional Guidelines:

1. All sessions should contain some key elements for success.



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- A. Issues should be well defined. Solutions should be offered by all parties and then the best solution selected. Thus, a decision is made, a problem is solved.
 - B. Tone and volume of voice, respect, and appropriate behavior are other common elements.
 - C. All sessions should be student-centered. In other words, it is assumed all parties have the best interest of the student-participant held as top priority. It is also assumed all parties can recognize the difficulty in balancing the good of the individual vs. the good of the majority.
2. Exceptions may be appropriate in other cases. For instance, an advisor must notify an administrator immediately if a school discipline rule has been broken by a participant. Likewise, a participant or parent would want to notify an administrator if an advisor is placing a participant in harm's way. Accordingly, advisors will not assign punishment for violation of the building discipline code; this is the responsibility of the building principal.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS

1. Conduct at games, meets, competition, etc.
 - a. Good sportsmanship. Degrading opponents or their fans is not appropriate.
2. No coaching or talking to participants during live play at the event.
3. Avoid the use of profanity, alcohol, or drugs.
 - a. Appropriate treatment of school property.
4. Conduct at Practices
 - a. No coaching of participants during practice, drills, etc.
5. Observe the chain of communication in dealing with issues with your advisor.
6. Support of school and team rules. If a parent has a problem with a particular rule, they are expected to observe the chain of communication in discussing it.
7. Support of all participants on the team. Publicly degrading a participant or advisor is inappropriate.
8. Fans or parents not meeting these expectations, may be prohibited from attending.

STUDENT PARTICIPANTS: INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES FOR PARTICIPANTS

Students in the middle school and high school at Seymour are offered an opportunity to participate in a variety of school activities outside the classroom. The activities are categorized as interscholastic activities or local school clubs and organizations. whereas some clubs or organizations may participate in occasional competition, the interscholastic activities, sanctioned by the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA), are designed whereby one school competes against other schools as a major objective of the activity.

Each individual school make a determination as to which activities will best meet the needs and interest of the local district. The following section provides a list of the interscholastic activities offered for participation at the present time in the Seymour School District. the activities are listed by the activity season as scheduled by the MSHSAA. Some activities season encompasses the largest portion of the year while other activity seasons may overlap one another. Students sometimes have to make a choice as to which activities best fit their situation of circumstance as well as their choice of interest; however, advisors will attempt to accommodate dual activities.



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PARTICIPANT COMMITMENT

Students who choose to tryout and who are selected to represent the Seymour R-II School District in interscholastic activities are challenged to offer their best effort. The expectations are high in regards to the rules of good conduct, to the exhibition of good sportsmanship, to the work ethic of devoted practice, and the challenge of one's best performance.

Students are to recognize the importance of accepting responsibility, the need for specific training and practice, and the willingness to place the team or group's best interest before selfish interior motives. In the process of competition students will encounter attributes designed to help develop success for both the present and the future. They are afforded the opportunities to foster good character, dependability, self-discipline, honesty, responsibility, respect, and sacrifice.

Whereas challenges are to make each participant to glean from the circumstances to meet his/her individual need or self interest, in most cases the real reward comes when students recognize the benefits received by working in unison to accomplish or reach goals which could not be attained by an individual on their own. Commitment is the foundation of success in the interscholastic activities program.

POLICY FOR COMPETING IN TWO SPORTS AT THE SAME TIME

An athlete may participate in two sports during the same season if he/she meets the following criteria:

1. Student is academically eligible to do so.
2. The two sports are similar so special training is not required.
3. Both coaches agree.
4. Individuals on the teams are not affected in terms of participation and morale.
5. Study time is not affected.
6. Athletic Director has approved.
7. If approved to move forward, the athlete and both coaches will meet to set the schedule for the season.

The athlete agrees to be at both sports practices and contests as much as possible. The athlete will designate which sport is the primary sport.

The athlete will understand that failure to give 100% to either sport may impact both playing time and position on the team.

If the athlete fails to meet the above standards, the Athletic Director has the discretion to void the agreement and the athlete will go to the team they had designated as the primary.

If a situation would arise where an athlete who is involved in two sports has events on the same day, the following protocol would be used so that the athlete is not forced to make a decision:

1. State Team Competition
2. State Individual Competition
3. Conference Tournament
4. Conference Competition
5. Previously Scheduled Event
6. Rescheduled Event

If both events were non-conference events and did not meet protocol above, then athlete would go to the sport that he/she had designated as primary.



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Rules of the MSHSAA and Summit Conference will apply to all sport seasons. All sports will participate in MSHSAA sponsored tournaments or meets at the end of each season. In all cases, unless otherwise stated, the end of a sports season will coincide with their elimination from their respective state tournament series.

INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Fall : 1st Possible Practice July 31 (HS) and Aug 14 (JH)

- **Baseball** – V and JV - Jason Duey, Head Coach jduey@seymourschool.net
- **Boys Swimming** – V and JV - Abby Ruiz, Head Coach aruiz@seymourschool.net
- **Cross Country** – V and JH - Nick Cook, Head Coach ncook@seymourschool.net
- **Girls Golf** – V and JV - Laura Coutchie, Head Coach lcoutchie@seymourschool.net
- **Softball** – V and JV - Elisha Hastings, Head Coach ehastings@seymourschool.net
- **JH Boys' Basketball** – 7th and 8th - Chris Hastings, Head Coach chastings@seymourschool.net
- **JH Girls' Basketball** – 7th and 8th - Brandon Weiss, Head Coach bweiss@seymourschool.net

Winter: 1st Possible Practice Oct 30th

- **Boys' Basketball** – V and JV - Chris Hastings, Head Coach chastings@seymourschool.net
- **Girls' Basketball** – V and JV - Brandon Weiss, Head Coach bweiss@seymourschool.net
- **Girls' Swimming** – V and JV - Abby Ruiz, Head Coach aruiz@seymourschool.net

Spring: 1st Possible Practice Feb 26

- **Baseball** – V and JV - Jason Duey, Head Coach jduey@seymourschool.net
- **Softball** – V and JV - Elisha Hastings, Head Coach ehastings@seymourschool.net
- **Boys' Golf** – V and JV - Laura Coutchie, Head Coach lcoutchie@seymourschool.net
- **JH Baseball** – 7th and 8th - David Baker, Head Coach davidbaker@seymourschool.net
- **JH Softball** – 7th and 8th - Kevin Thurman, Head Coach kthurman@seymourschool.net

ACTIVITIES

The following eligibility requirements apply specifically to participants in music, speech/debate, academics, and drama. You may not miss school time because of participating in or traveling to an unapproved contest unless the absence is approved in advance by the Athletic Director or school principal. Violating this rule will cause you to be ineligible for a period not to exceed 365 days.

Activities:

- **Academic Bowl** – V and JV - Kim Fletcher kfletcher@seymourschool.net
- **Band** – Pride and Tradition - Dr. Christopher Lair clair@seymourschool.net
- **Cheerleading** – V and JH - Cathy Rahder crahder@seymourschool.net
- **Deca / FBLA** - HS - Kaci Mitchell kmitchell@seymourschool.net
- **Drama** - HS - Cindy Zind - czind@seymourschool.net
- **FCA** - HS - Beth Ann Porter bporter@seymourschool.net
- **FCCLA** - HS - Linda Herion lherion@seymourschool.net
- **FFA** - HS - Tiffany Kauffman tkauffman@seymourschool.net and Mickey Plummer mplummer@seymourschool.net
- **Fishing** - JH and HS - Kevin Thurman kthurman@seymourschool.net
- **Music** - HS and MS - Mark Hall mhall@seymourschool.net



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ACTIVITY PROGRAM

Seymour R-II Schools maintain a broad activity program designed to appeal to the needs and interests of all students. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the activity program. Interscholastic activities at Seymour are governed by the Seymour Board of Education and the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA). The activity program includes athletics (including cheerleading), music (including flag corps), drama and academic competition. To be eligible to participate, students must follow the co-curricular participation standards of Seymour Public Schools as well as meet the following eligibility criteria, which have been established by MSHSAA for its member schools.

MSHSAA GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS (pg 40 - 50 of the MSHSAA HANDBOOK)

2.1 STUDENT ESSENTIAL BY-LAWS - INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITIONS

2.1.1 Student Essential Eligibility Requirements for All Interscholastic Activities: Any student who represents his/her school in interscholastic activities shall be a bona fide student enrolled as an undergraduate student of the school (except as provided in By-Laws 2.3.4, 3.5.1, 3.5.3, and 3.10.3) and shall meet the following general standards of eligibility and the specific standards in By-Laws 3.3 through 4.1.6.

a. Bona fide student: In order to represent the school the individual must be a bona fide student and meet all eligibility requirements. A bona fide student is one who meets one of the following definitions:

1. A student who is enrolled in and regularly attending classes at the member school and who meets the minimum academic requirements in By-Law 2.3.2 through full-time attendance at the school as per By-Law 2.3.4.a.
2. A student who has established residency at the member school and whose official records and primary academic transcript is housed and maintained at the member school, and who is accumulating credits toward receiving a diploma from that member school, and meets the minimum academic requirements in By-law 2.3, but is attending classes at a non-member technical high school run by the member school's school district or accredited by DESE or a non-member alternative high school run or contracted by the member school's school district or accredited by DESE. Such students must meet all essential eligibility standards for participation.
3. A student who is recognized by the school as meeting the minimum academic requirements outlined in By-Law 2.3.2 through a non-traditional enrollment option as outlined in By-law 2.3.4.b and 2.3.4.c.

2.1.2 Participation: Eligibility to represent a school in interscholastic activities is a privilege to be attained by meeting the standards of eligibility cooperatively set by the member schools through this Association and any additional standards set by a member school for its own students.

2.1.3 Interscholastic Activity: An interscholastic activity shall be defined as any extra-class activity involving two or more schools in which two or more students participate who are identified with their schools.

2.2 CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS

2.2.1 Citizenship: Students who represent a school in interscholastic activities must be creditable citizens and judged so by the proper authority. Those students whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon themselves or their schools are not considered "creditable citizens." Conduct shall be satisfactory in accord with the standards of good discipline.

2.2.2 Law Enforcement:

- a. A student who commits an act for which charges may be or have been filed by law enforcement authorities under any municipal ordinance, misdemeanor or felony statute shall not be eligible until all proceedings with the legal system have been concluded and any penalty (i.e. jail time, fine, court costs, etc.) or special condition of probation (i.e. restitution, community service, counseling, etc.) has been satisfied. If law enforcement authorities determine that charges will not be filed, eligibility will be contingent upon local school policies.
- b. After a student has completed all court appearances and penalties, and has satisfied all special conditions of probation and remains under general probation only, local school authorities shall determine eligibility.
- c. Moving traffic offenses shall not affect eligibility, unless they involve drugs, alcohol, or injuries to others. *(Editor's Note: If a traffic offense is accompanied by an act covered in letter a above, such as property damage, bench warrant, etc., eligibility will be delayed per letter a.)*



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2.2.3 Local School:

- a. A student who violates a local school policy is ineligible until completion of the prescribed school penalties.
- b. The eligibility of a student who is serving detention or in-school suspension shall be determined by local school authorities.
- c. A student shall not be considered eligible while serving an out-of-school suspension.
- d. If a student misses class(es) without being excused by the principal, the student shall not be considered eligible on that date. Further, the student cannot be certified eligible to participate on any subsequent date until the student attends a full day of classes.
- e. Each individual school has the authority to set more restrictive citizenship standards and shall have the authority and responsibility to judge its students under those standards.
- f. Each school shall diligently and completely investigate any issue that could affect student eligibility.

2.2.4 Expulsion: A student who is expelled from school because of disciplinary measures shall not be considered eligible for 365 days from the date of expulsion. An expulsion is prompt removal of a student from school following the conduct for which the student is under discipline, whereby the student is not allowed to return to school until either an appeals process reinstates the student or the duration is fulfilled. However, this period of ineligibility shall not apply to any student expulsion for conduct otherwise protected by law which does not materially and substantially interfere with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of a school.

2.2.5 Student Responsibility: Each student is responsible to notify the school of any and all situations that would affect his/her eligibility under the above standards. If the student does not notify the school of the situation prior to the school's discovery, then the student shall be ineligible for up to 365 days from discovery, pending review by the Board of Directors. *Editor's Note: See also By-Law 3.10.5, Eligible at Time of Transfer.*

2.3 ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

2.3.1 Statement of Philosophy -- Participation in high school activities is a valuable educational experience and should not be looked upon as a reward for academic success. Students with low academic ability need the educational development provided through participation in activities as much as students with average or above average ability. Activity participation should be for all enrolled students making appropriate progress toward graduation and otherwise in good standing. Each local board of education is encouraged to establish criteria to ensure that students who are participating in MSHSAA activities are satisfactorily progressing toward meeting the local graduation requirements.

2.3.2 Grades 9-12 Requirements: A student in Grades 9-12 must meet the following requirements in order to be academically eligible to participate in interscholastic activities:

- a. **Semester Prior to Participation:** The student shall have earned, the preceding semester of attendance, a minimum of 3.0 units of credit or have earned credit in 80% of the maximum allowable classes in which a student can be enrolled in the semester**S, whichever is greater**, or a student must have made standard progress for his or her level the preceding semester in a special education program for the handicapped approved by the Missouri State Department of Education which, though un-graded, enrolls pupils of equivalent age.
- b. **Semester of Participation:** The student shall currently be enrolled in and regularly attending courses that offer 3.0 units of credit or 80% of the maximum allowable credits which may be earned, **whichever is greater**; or a student must be enrolled in a full course at his or her level in a special education program for the handicapped approved by the Missouri State Department of Education which, though un-graded, enrolls pupils of equivalent age.
- c. **80% Credit Requirement:** The calculation of the credit requirement described in a-1 and a-2 above for all enrolled students at the school shall be based on the maximum allowable classes in which a student can be enrolled at the member school during the normal school day due to the academic system that the member school has selected (7-hour day, block schedule, etc.) Credits earned in school-sponsored "extra" classes taken beyond the normal school day may be used toward academic eligibility. Internet classes offered **by and at** the member school and which are completed no later than the close of the semester with credit placed on the student's transcript can be counted toward academic eligibility. (See also By-Law 2.3.4 regarding other courses that may be utilized.)
- d. **Entry into 9th Grade:** A beginning 9th grade student shall have been promoted from the 8th grade to the 9th grade for first semester eligibility.
- e. A student must be making satisfactory progress towards graduation as determined by local school policies.



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DIAGRAM 2.3: SAMPLE HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC SCHEDULES

Academic Schedules	Credits Earned must equal 3.0 or 80%, whichever is GREATER
Six-period day (.5 each)	Must pass 6 of 6 (3.0)
Seven-period day (.5 each)	Must pass 6 of 7 (3.0)
Eight-Block schedule (.5 each)	Must pass 7 of 8 (3.5)
Four-Block schedule (1.0 each)	Must pass 4 of 4 (4.0)
Ten-Block schedule (.5 each)	Must pass 8 of 10 (4.0)

2.3.3 Grades 9-12 Trimester System: A student attending a school on a trimester schedule must earn the following credits in order to earn and maintain his/her academic eligibility. The student must be enrolled in and regularly attending classes during each trimester which will allow 2 units of credit or 80% of the maximum allowable credits to be earned, **whichever is greater**. This same academic requirement must be met during the trimester preceding participation. Like students on a semester system, a student on a trimester system shall be eligible or ineligible based upon both achievement in the preceding trimester **and** enrollment/attendance during the current trimester. An incoming freshman need only be promoted from the 8th grade to the 9th grade for eligibility in his/her first trimester of the 9th grade.

2.3.4 Grades 9-12 Enrollment Options for Academic Eligibility: The following options are available to students in order to meet the requirements of By-Law 2.3.2.a and b above.

a. Traditional Option: A student may meet the requirements outlined in By-Law 2.3.2 through being enrolled and attending classes full-time at the high school.

b. Non-Traditional Option 1 – Transcribed Credits: A student may meet the requirements outlined in By-Law 2.3.2 through meeting ALL of the following:

1. The student is an enrolled student of the high school, but all or some of the courses/credits are not taken at the local high school (virtual, post-secondary, work study, etc.).
2. All credits attempted/earned are placed on the high school transcript.
3. All classes must be completed by the **high school's** close of the semester, as per By-Law 2.3.11, in order for those classes/credits to be considered toward activity eligibility.

c. Non-Traditional Option 2 (Public Schools Only) – Seat-Time + Non-Transcribed Credits: A student may meet the requirements outlined in By-Law 2.3.2 through meeting ALL of the following:

1. The student is an enrolled student of the public high school of residence, as defined in By-Law 3.10, and is taking a minimum of **two** credit-bearing, seat-time classes for a minimum of 1.0 units of credit at the high school, **and**
2. The high school administration confirms after a full academic review that the student is further enrolled in courses taken outside of the school which bring the student up to the academic credit requirements outlined in By-Law 2.3.2 (80%). Each local school will determine its own oversight, standards, and criteria for approval of such outside courses/credits, as well as the procedures to determine success/credit confirmation for academic eligibility for the current and following semester. It is not necessary that such confirmed credits be placed on the high school transcript, but may be listed, at the school's discretion.
3. All classes/assignments must be completed by the **high school's** close of the semester, as per By-Law 2.3.11, in order for those classes/credits to be considered toward activity eligibility.

d. Transfer of Enrollment based on Changes in Bona-fide Student and Academic Status: Any student whose enrollment status changes from being a **non-bona fide** student (not meeting By-Law 2.1 **and** one of the 9-12 Enrollment Options) to **being a bona fide** student (meeting By-Law 2.1 **and** one of the 9-12 Enrollment Options) would be considered a transfer student (see By-Law 3.10.4), and ineligible to represent a member school until a transfer of eligibility form is filed and an eligibility ruling is rendered.

2.3.5 Grades 9-12 Summer School: Secondary school-sponsored summer courses may count toward maintaining senior high academic eligibility for the **FALL** semester provided the following requirements are met:

- a. The counting of secondary school-sponsored summer school credits must first be approved by the local school administration.



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- b. Credit earned for the summer school course is placed on the student's school transcript and counts towards graduation.
- c. The course must be a class identified by the local school board/governing body as required for graduation/promotion requirements.
- d. Electives taken in any of the four **core content areas** (language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies) may be counted toward this requirement of academic eligibility.
- e. Online courses may not count as summer school credit, unless they meet the requirements of By-Law 2.3.4.a (taken at the high school) or 2.3.4.b (placed on the transcript).
- f. A MoVIP course may count toward fall eligibility if the course taken meets the requirements of this section and is completed on or before July 31.
- g. No more than one credit earned in summer school shall count toward maintaining academic eligibility.

2.3.6 Grades 7 and 8 Requirements: A 7th or 8th grade student must meet the following requirements in order to be academically eligible to participate in interscholastic activities:

- a. Grading Period: A "grading period" is a period no less than six weeks and no greater than nine weeks where progress is determined and is reported to students/parents. A student must have been promoted to a higher grade or a higher level in special education at the close of the previous year. However, any such student who failed more than one scheduled subject, or failed to make standard progress in special education, shall be ineligible the following grading period regardless of promotion to the higher grade. (However, see also item c below).
- b. Semester of Participation: The student shall be currently enrolled in and regularly attending the normal course for that grade or must have enrolled in a full course at his or her level in any public school special education program for the handicapped approved by the Missouri State Department of Education which, though ungraded, enrolls pupils of equivalent chronological age.
- c. Entry into 7th or 8th Grade: This section shall not apply to students promoted for the first time into the 7th or into the 8th grade prior to the first day of classes.

2.3.7 Grades 7 and 8 Missouri Virtual Instructional Program (MoVIP): In order to be considered academically eligible for participation in interscholastic activities at a member school, a student that is enrolled in MoVIP:

- a. Shall meet the requirements listed in 2.3.7 above; these minimums may be met through a combination of MoVIP courses and those taken at the member school;
- b. Shall, during the semester of participation, be enrolled in two or more standard classes at the member school. If there is a class associated with the activity, the student must be enrolled in that course in order to participate;
- c. Must complete MoVIP courses by the close of the grading period for the member school in order for those credits to be considered towards activity eligibility.

2.3.8 Grades 7 and 8 Summer School: A local school district may reinstate the **FIRST** grading period eligibility of a student being promoted to the 8th grade who has failed more than one class but no more than three classes if the student passes the appropriate number of core classes through secondary school-sponsored summer school, as described below, and provided the following requirements are met:

- a. The counting of summer school classes must first be approved by the local school administration.
- b. The grade earned for the summer school course is placed on the student's school transcript.
- c. Only core classes (science, math, social studies and communication arts) may count toward reinstatement of first grading period eligibility.
- d. A student who has failed two scheduled subjects must pass at least one core class through secondary school-sponsored summer school; a student who has failed three scheduled subjects must pass at least two core classes through secondary school-sponsored summer school.
- e. Correspondence courses may not count as summer school credit.

2.3.9 Fifth Day Requirement - Gaining Eligibility: A student who was academically ineligible the preceding semester (high school) or grading period (junior high) but meets the academic standard at the close of that semester (high school) or grading period (junior high) becomes eligible the **fifth day classes are attended** in the succeeding semester (high school) or grading period (junior high). **Exception:** *If an interscholastic contest is played before the formal opening of school and a student has become academically eligible for the fall semester/grading period and is eligible in all other respects he/she may be eligible to participate under this provision provided the student is properly enrolled in school.*

2.3.10 Fifth Day Requirement - Losing Eligibility: A student who becomes academically ineligible shall lose the privilege to represent the school the **fifth day classes are attended** in the succeeding semester (high school) or grading period (junior high). Exception: If a student becomes academically ineligible for the fall semester (high school) or first grading period (junior high) he/she is ineligible for all activities beginning with the first event.



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2.3.11 Incomplete at Close of Semester: Credit earned or completed after the close of the school's semester shall not count as having been earned that semester, except in case of illness verified by a physician. This rule is automatically waived in case a student fails to complete the required units of credit in a given semester because of his being drafted or being called to service in the National Guard or military service.

2.3.12 Alternative Schedules: The Board of Directors shall have the authority to determine the academic standards students shall meet in a school which does not have a traditional two-semester school year. Any changes approved shall be equitable for all students.

2.4 SEMESTERS OF ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE

2.4.1 Semesters - Grades 9-12: A student shall not participate in more than four seasons in grades 9-12 in any interscholastic activity. A student shall have only eight consecutive semesters (four consecutive years) of eligibility in high school, in which he/she may participate in one season per year in an activity, and these eight consecutive semesters shall begin on the twentieth (20th) day of the first semester a student enters the 9th grade or the first interscholastic contest in which the student participates, whichever occurs first. A student who participates in any part of an interscholastic event or contest shall count such as a season of participation. A student who applies for, is granted, and leaves school any time after the junior year to take advantage of an early release program shall no longer be eligible for interscholastic competition even though he or she later returns to school. *Editor's Note: Exception - Baseball and softball have two seasons per year in which a student may participate as listed in By-Law 3.28.*

2.4.2 Semesters - Grade 7 and 8: A student is eligible for only TWO SEMESTERS in each the 7th and 8th grade beginning with the first semester of entrance in each grade. A student who is repeating a grade is not eligible.

2.5 ENTERING AND WITHDRAWING FROM SCHOOL

2.5.1 Entering School: "Entering school" for the purpose of eligibility consists of regular registration for classes and attendance in classes.

2.5.2 First Eleven Days: A student must have ENTERED SCHOOL WITHIN THE FIRST ELEVEN DAYS of the semester in which he/she is competing. This rule is automatically waived in case a student is prevented from entering high school within the required time limit because of service with the National Guard, United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard, provided that the student enrolls in school within thirty days after he/she receives his/her discharge. A student transferring from a school district which has a school year beginning in September to a district which starts in August becomes eligible upon the change of residence and enrollment in a school in that district, provided he/she meets all other requirements.

2.5.3 Withdrawal: In case of withdrawal, if withdrawal occurs on or after the twentieth school day of the preceding semester, a student is ineligible for one complete semester; if withdrawal occurs before the first twenty school days of the semester have elapsed, that student will not be considered as having been in attendance that semester provided he or she has not participated in interscholastic activities during this period. *Editor's Note: This applies only to those students who drop out of school altogether before the twentieth school day of a semester. It does not apply to students who transfer to another school during a semester and continue their attendance.*

2.6 UNDUPLICATE INFLUENCE

2.6.1 Undue Influence: To maintain a proper relationship between the academic purposes of schools and their interscholastic activities programs, all members of the Missouri State High School Activities Association must refrain from recruitment, inducement or other forms of persuasion and undue influence which would encourage a student to enroll in a school primarily for interscholastic activities purposes.

2.6.2 Description of Undue Influence: What constitutes undue influence shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. Undue influence may, if primarily used to encourage or facilitate participation in interscholastic activities, include but not be limited to:

- a. The offer or acceptance of money, room, board, clothing or other valuable considerations to a student, or a student's parent or guardian, including but not limited to:
 1. transportation to and/or from school by any school official;
 2. provision for free or reduced rent for a parent or guardian;
 3. offer or payment of the moving expenses of a parent or guardian.
- b. Waiving or reducing tuition for any student to be certified as eligible for interscholastic activities, without establishing and following a plan submitted by the school and approved by the MSHSAA Board of Directors which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 1. statement of philosophy and policy concerning the reduction or waiver of tuition;
 2. procedures used to determine the qualifications for tuition waiver or reduction; and
 3. description of how the waiving or reducing of tuition is equally available and applied to students in similar circumstances.
- c. The payment of tuition by someone other than a student's immediate family or a financial aid program not approved by the Board of Directors.



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- d. The offer or acceptance of remuneration for work in excess of the amount regularly paid for such service.
- e. The offer or acceptance of school privileges or considerations not normally granted to other students.
- f. Any inducement to get a parent, guardian or student to change residence for interscholastic activities purposes.
- g. The contacting of a student(s) in another school by any person or group connected, directly or indirectly, with a member school (including but not limited to alumni associations, booster groups or similar organizations), and attempting to persuade or induce that student(s), primarily for interscholastic activities purposes, to attend the inducer's school.
- l. Exception: Persuasion or encouragement for a student to attend a particular junior high or high school by a school administrator or an approved interscholastic coach at that school is not undue influence if that student lives within the residence boundaries (3.10.1.d) of that junior high or high school and is enrolled and attending the lower school (elementary or middle/junior) managed and funded by that junior high or high school's district or system and which feeds directly to that junior high or high school.

2.6.3 Penalty for Student(s) and/or School(s) Involved:

- a. School Offense: The attempt to unduly influence a student to enroll in a school or transfer from one school to another by any person or group connected, directly or indirectly with a member school (including but not limited to faculty, staff, students, coaches, parents of students, graduates, alumni associations, booster groups and similar organizations, etc.), may require the school concerned to forfeit participation in the district and state tournament(s) for the ensuing series competition. Further, the offending school's membership status in the Association shall be jeopardized and shall result in other such action under the Board Policy on Administrative Guidelines as the Board of Directors deems appropriate.
- b. Student Offense: The enrollment of a student in a school, or the transfer of a student from one school to another, because of undue influence shall cause the student to forfeit eligibility at the school concerned for a period not to exceed the remainder of his/her high school career and not to exceed 365 days at the member school from which the student transferred or, for an incoming freshman, the school(s) the student was eligible to attend under the Promotion Standard in MSHSAA By-Law 3.10.4.b.

2.7 VIOLATION OF BY-LAWS

2.7.1 A student shall not violate any of the rules contained in the By-Laws of this Association pertaining to the activity area concerned.

2.8 ASSUMED NAME

2.8.1 A student shall not participate under an assumed name.

2.8.2 The penalty for violation of By-Law 2.8 shall be ineligibility in the activity concerned for a period not to exceed 365 days from the date of violation.

2.9 LOCAL SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

2.9.1 Any member school shall have the authority to set any additional eligibility requirements, which are more restrictive, that it deems advisable.

2.10 POST HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

2.10.1 A student shall not have graduated from a four-year high school or its equivalent. Any student graduating during the final week of a semester shall be eligible to participate in any game or games played during said week, the final week terminating at midnight on Saturday. However, a student may play in a MSHSAA tournament series although the student may have graduated any time in May preceding the tournament.

2.11 SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE MISSOURI SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND THE MISSOURI SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

2.11.1 The essential requirements of eligibility in By-Laws 2.1 through 2.10.1 may be waived by the Board of Directors for the Missouri School for the Blind when in competition only with other schools for the blind provided such competition is governed by the standards adopted by the North Central Association of Schools for the Blind. The standards contained in By-Laws 2.1 through 2.10.1) shall be applied in all other competition. Except for the Age Standard, the MSHSAA Board of Directors is authorized to waive provisions of the By-Laws to accommodate programs of the Missouri School for the Deaf and the Missouri School for the Blind that are otherwise restricted because of the nature of the handicap of the students involved.



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OTHER POLICIES IN THE MSHSAA HANDBOOK THAT RELATE TO STUDENT / ATHLETES

17. BOARD POLICY ON HAZING AND HARASSMENT

It is the policy of the MSHSAA Board of Directors that hazing and harassment have no place in school-sponsored activity programs and pose a significant risk to the physical and mental welfare of students. Coaches, directors, sponsors and administrators must take an active role in the prevention of all forms of hazing and harassment. Students directly or indirectly involved in hazing incidents, on or off school grounds, could be considered ineligible by the school administration under the MSHSAA citizenship standard, By-Law 2.2.

Hazing: Willful conduct directed at a student that is intended to physically or emotionally intimidate, punish, embarrass, humiliate, ridicule, or place any student in a disconcerting position for the purpose of initiation, affiliation, inclusion or membership in any team or organization.

Harassment: Unwelcome conduct by a person that is sufficiently serious, persistent or pervasive, so that it affects another person's ability to participate in or benefit from the school program or activity by creating an intimidating, threatening or abusive environment.

31. BOARD POLICY ON PUBLIC CRITICISM - SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

Statement of Philosophy - The Missouri State High School Activities Association has established policies and standards which will cultivate the ideals of good sportsmanship, professionalism and conduct. It shall be the responsibility of each member school to ensure that all individuals directly associated with the interscholastic program conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike and professional manner.

The coach or director is a representative of the school at interscholastic activity events. It is the responsibility of all coaches and directors to serve as role models for students and the public.

All coaches, directors, administrators and student participants are to refrain from negative criticism of MSHSAA member institutions, officials, adjudicators, judges, etc. in public statements at or after interscholastic events. The appropriate public response to media questions at all venues regarding officiating/judging is "per MSHSAA policy, I am unable to comment." Any other response is a violation of this board policy and is subject to penalty.

Code of Ethics - A violation of the standards of professional conduct established by MSHSAA could include, but are not limited to:

- A. Making degrading and/or critical remarks about officials or adjudicators or the officiating or judging before, during or after an event either on or off site, or through any public means.
- B. Detaining the officials/adjudicators/judges during or following the event to request a ruling or explanation of actions or evaluation by the official(s)/adjudicator(s)/judges.
- C. Entering the officials dressing area following the contest.

Actions and Response - Negative actions by an individual directly associated with the program shall be reported to the MSHSAA office by the school and/or by the head contest official, adjudicator, judge, or manager. The school shall document the results of their investigation and actions taken, where necessary and appropriate. The MSHSAA Board of Directors will determine the appropriate penalties for violation of this board policy.

Commentary - It is within each individual's ability to treat others with dignity and respect. MSHSAA and its member schools expect each individual to be responsible for their actions and statements.

43. BOARD POLICY ON UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

MSHSAA By-Law 5.5 provides that each school is responsible for the conduct of its teams, coaches, students, and fans at games both at home and away. (A fan is considered a non-school student or follower of the school team.) These by-laws further make it clear that the Board of Directors has the responsibility to take action when the school does not, or cannot, adequately control the conduct of its players, coaches, students and fans. The game rules for each sport contain the standards of sportsmanship to be enforced by athletic game officials.

Unsportsmanlike conduct or misconduct of an athlete, coach, student, or fan, whether before, during, or after a contest is of concern to the Board of Directors if the incident can be directly related to an athletic event under the jurisdiction of the MSHSAA. After reviewing recommendations regarding procedures to be applied by a school, the Board of Directors at its June 26, 1992, meeting adopted the following policies to guide member schools and the MSHSAA office in coping with acts of unsportsmanlike conduct. (See also MSHSAA manual entitled, "Improving the Educational Values of Interscholastic Athletics by Providing for Better Sportsmanship and Conduct".)

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING--It shall be the responsibility of the game officials, as well as school administrators and other



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staff members present when such unsportsmanlike conduct or misconduct occurs to file reports as follows:

1. Game officials shall be required to file a special report with the high school principal and the superintendent with a copy to the MSHSAA office no later than 48 hours after penalties have been assessed for such conduct observed before, during, or following an athletic game. Action shall be taken against officials who fail to file a report.
2. Incidents noted by representatives of either of the participating schools, but not observed by the game officials, shall be reported by the observer to the principal(s) of the school(s) involved with a copy to the MSHSAA office.
3. Local managers of MSHSAA sponsored events shall be required to file reports immediately by telephone to the MSHSAA office followed immediately by a letter to the MSHSAA office with copies to the school(s) involved.

DUTY OF SCHOOL--When unsportsmanlike conduct or misconduct occurs, the school shall immediately take appropriate action to correct or resolve the matter. Such action shall be communicated in writing to the MSHSAA office within ten days. (The school need not communicate to the MSHSAA office such inadvertent actions as failure to report to the scorer when substituting, wearing a wrong number and other technical infractions which do not involve flagrant, abusive, or unsportsmanlike conduct.)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS POLICIES--The following policies are established to serve as guidelines for action to be taken by the school:

1. **PLAYERS**--When a player is assessed a penalty by a game official for unsportsmanlike conduct, the coach should remove the player from the game. If there are extenuating circumstances making the athlete's conduct more serious, the penalty imposed by the school shall be more severe. For player ejection refer to By-Law 5.5.
2. **COACHES**--Cases involving unsportsmanlike conduct of a coach shall result in action commensurate with the act committed. It may range from a reprimand by the high school administration to conditions set by the board of education that the coach must meet. For ejection of a coach refer to By-Law 5.5.
3. **STUDENTS/FANS**--Action regarding the misconduct of a student or fan shall range from a warning to being required to appear before the board of education to show reason why that person should not be prohibited from attending future games. Violent acts shall result in charges being brought against the individual or information being provided the prosecuting attorney, who may bring charges under Missouri law.
4. Action regarding all other acts of poor sportsmanship/misconduct should be appropriate to the offense committed.

AUTHORITY DELEGATED TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR--The Board of Directors has delegated to and instructed the MSHSAA Executive Director to assume the following authority:

1. Certain incidents constituting unsportsmanlike conduct or misconduct require immediate action because of the seriousness of the circumstances, the timeliness of the imposition of a penalty, and/or other circumstances. If such an incident takes place in the judgment of the Executive Director, he/she is authorized to take immediate action under the provisions of By-Law 5.5.1.a.

In his/her discretion and if time permits, the Executive Director may require the school administrator(s) and the offender(s) to appear before him/her.

2. The Executive Director shall issue a warning to a school under the following circumstances:
 - a. When action taken by a school in response to an incident of unsportsmanlike conduct or misconduct is not considered satisfactory;
 - b. When a school fails to inform the MSHSAA office in writing of the action taken by the school within ten days of the receipt by the MSHSAA of a report of unsportsmanlike conduct or misconduct. The warning will be dissolved as of the date the MSHSAA office receives a reply unless the action taken is not considered satisfactory.
3. If a school receives a report during the same sport season of unsportsmanlike conduct or misconduct after having received a warning, the high school administrator and the offender (if applicable) shall be required to appear before the Executive Director to show cause why action should not be taken under provisions of By-Law 5.5.1.a.
4. These guidelines shall not be interpreted to limit the action of the Executive Director in any case in which, in his/her opinion, immediate or additional action is necessary.



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5. A school shall have the right to appeal any action taken by the Executive Director to the Appeals Committee.

SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES--

1. In any situation in which a player becomes involved in a fight or in which a substitute leaves the bench to go onto the floor/field when a fight breaks out among players, the MSHSAA Board expects as a minimum penalty that the coach suspend the individual for the remainder of that contest and for the next contest in which the team plays.
2. If members of a team engage in a fight during an interscholastic contest and this is later repeated in a subsequent game during the season, the Executive Director shall be instructed to take firm action in accord with provisions contained in By-Law 5.5.1.a including the possible exclusion of the team from the state tournament series in the sport concerned.

RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS--It is strongly recommended that all coaches and students be thoroughly informed of these policies adopted by the Board of Directors. It should be made clear that the primary purpose of these policies is to improve the educational and recreational values which interscholastic athletic games can have for our high school youth. If these values are lost, interscholastic competition can no longer be justified in the school program. (By-Law 5.5)

5.5 CONDUCT

5.5.1 Unsportsmanlike Conduct: The Board of Directors is vested with the power to suspend schools from membership for the unsportsmanlike conduct of teams, coaches, students or fans. Each school is responsible for the conduct of its teams, coaches, students and fans at games both at home and away.

- A. The Board may delegate to the Executive Director power to take immediate action when a situation demands such. The party or parties concerned shall have the privilege of requesting a hearing before the Board of Directors at its next regularly scheduled meeting for a review of the case and the action taken by the MSHSAA office.
- B. The Board of Directors may, at its discretion, substitute a fine not to exceed the sum of \$25.00 for each offense in lieu of suspension from the Association or to take any action that it deems advisable that does not exceed the maximum penalty of 365 days suspension from the association.
- C. A player who is ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall at a minimum be prohibited from playing in the next interscholastic contest for that sport at that same level.
- D. A coach who is ejected during a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall at a minimum be prohibited from coaching and attending the next interscholastic contest for that sport or activity at that same level, and must satisfactorily complete an approved online sportsmanship training course, prior to being reinstated.
- E. Ejections must be appealed at the contest site. All appeals must be made at the time of occurrence by using MSHSAA Board Policy for On-Site Protests, and the decision made at the contest site is final. (See full procedures for protests in the Board Policies in the back of the Handbook.)

5.5.2 Removal of Team From Game: Any school whose coach removes a team from play in protest may be required to appear before the Board at its next meeting to show reason why the school shall not be suspended.

5.5.3 Filing Charges: Any school shall have the right to file charges against any other school to be taken up at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. However, such school shall file its charges in writing and accompany them with a certified check of \$15.00, which will be returned when it appears before the Board of Directors to press the charges.

5.5.4 Forfeits:

- A. Forfeited and contested games shall be considered at one of the regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors.
- B. Games in which an ineligible player plays shall be forfeited. In a tournament, all games in which the ineligible player has participated shall be forfeited, but only the team defeated that is most advanced in tournament play shall be advanced on the bracket to continue tournament play.
- C. In situations involving ineligibility under By-Law 2.2, Citizenship Requirements, the Board of Directors will review a school's compliance with By-Law 2.2.3.g. If the Board determines that the school meets the provisions of this section of the Citizenship Requirements, the Board may consider rendering a penalty less than forfeiture of the contests in which the ineligible student participated prior to discovery. Further, the student would be penalized as described in By-Law 2.2.



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46. BOARD POLICY ON USE OF TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL PRODUCTS BY PARTICIPANTS

Use of any tobacco, alcohol, or controlled substance (other than prescription) by any participant while at a MSHSAA event on any event building/grounds is prohibited. Violation shall result in disqualification from the event.

ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

AGE LIMITS

- FOR GRADES 9-12
 - If you reach nineteen (19) years of age prior to July 1, you will be ineligible the next school year.
- FOR GRADES 8-9
 - In order to participate on or against teams made up of only eighth-graders, you must not have reached fifteen (15) years of age prior to July 1 preceding the opening of school. In order to participate on or against teams made up of only ninth-graders, you must not have reached sixteen (16) years of age prior to July 1 preceding the opening of school.

***NOTE:** Check with the Athletic Director for options available to you if you are ineligible for your grade level because of age.*

ALL-STAR GAMES

You may not compete in an all-star game or contest before you complete your eligibility in each high school sport. Participation in an all-star game or contest before ending your high school eligibility will result in you becoming ineligible to participate in any high school sport. A senior with no high school eligibility remaining for a specific sport may participate in an all-star game for that sport during the school year. **Contact the Athletic Director before agreeing to play.**

AMATEUR AND AWARDS STANDARDS

You may accept awards—symbolic in nature—such as medals, ribbons, trophies, plaques, etc. for participating in a school athletic program.

You may accept awards which are merchandise and such awards shall not exceed \$250.00 in the suggested manufacturer's retail price.

Awards as described above, presented by a person or group other than your school, must be approved in advance by the Athletic Director and the suggested manufacturer's retail price of a merchandise award shall not exceed \$250.00.

You may accept awards for participating in non-school sponsored athletic competition only if the awards are symbolic in nature or the merchandise item does not exceed \$250.00 in suggested retail value. (See items above). If the value of the award is over \$250.00 then you may pay the difference of the value in order to make it equal \$250.00.

The coach or sponsor of respective programs will be notified if a student on his/her squad is habitually absent either the day prior to, or the day after an activity, or who is late to school the day after a contest/event. The coach and/or the Athletic Director will counsel the student regarding eligibility to participate. Students who are absent from the classroom for misbehavior on the day of a MSHSAA activity may be ineligible to participate in the scheduled event. The rules and regulations contained in the Student Handbook apply to all home and away school sanctioned extracurricular activities.

COLLEGE AUDITIONS/TRYOUTS

You may participate in a college try-out, audition, or evaluation event outside of the school sport season of the sport concerned. Any absence from school or absence from practice in another school sport must have prior approval from the Athletic Director.

ENTERING SCHOOL

You must enter school within the first 11 days of the semester in order to be eligible.

GRADUATED STUDENTS

You will be ineligible to participate after graduation from a senior high school. Students who are granted an early release after their junior year are ineligible for future participation. (NOTE: You are eligible to participate in the state events which extend beyond the date of your school's graduation at the end of the spring semester of your senior year.)



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NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION

You may not practice for or participate with a non-school team or in any organized non-school athletic competition and for your school team in the same sport during the same season. (Exceptions for golf and tennis – Bylaw 235 – see Activities Director)

You may participate on a school team and a non-school team in different sports during the same season; however, you may not practice for the non-school team or participate in organized non school athletic competition on the same day that you practice with or participate for the school team without approval of your school administrator.

You must receive approval in advance from the Athletic Director in order to miss school time to practice for, travel to, or compete in organized non-school athletic competition.

You may not play at any time on an organized non-school basketball, football, or volleyball team made up only of members of your school team unless: a) the teams are nontraditional as defined in MSHSAA By-Law 235.2-b with limits to out of season; or b) during the summer months when there is no limit on team rosters/line-ups (235.2b).

You will become ineligible in any sport in which you play as a member of a junior college, college, or university team.

You may participate in international competition during the school year; however, the competition must meet the established criteria published in the MSHSAA Official Handbook and must be approved in advance by the MSHSAA Board of Directors. Before you join a non-school team or enter any non-school competitive athletic event, the Athletic Director should be consulted to make certain these standards are met.

SPORTS CAMPS/CLINICS

You may attend a specialized summer athletic camp(s)/clinic(s) where you receive instruction or coaching from a member of your school's coaching staff for a maximum of two calendar weeks in any one sport. A calendar week for any sports camp is defined as any seven consecutive days and any consecutive grouping of days shall be counted as one calendar week.

You may attend a non-school sponsored specialized sports camp(s) or group instruction for as long as you wish where you do not receive instruction or coaching from a member of your school's coaching staff.

You may attend a non-school specialized sports camp(s) or group instruction during the school year provided it does not result in any loss of school time; attendance does not occur within 14 days of the start of the school sport season for the sport concerned; it is not a team camp; and no member of the coaching staff of the school you attend or will attend the following year is involved in any way.

Before attending any specialized athletic camp(s)/clinic(s) or group sport instruction, you should consult with the Athletic Director to make sure it meets the criteria published in the MSHSAA Official Handbook.

CO-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

The Seymour R-II Schools' co-curricular programs are intended to supplement the educational experience. Participation in co-curricular activities is a privilege, not an entitlement. Participants are expected to conform to a higher standard of conduct than is applicable to non-participants. They serve as representatives of the school and should set a positive example for other students. Therefore, every participant must abide by the following rules:



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ADDITIONAL DISTRICT LEVEL POLICIES

1. A participant must meet the eligibility requirements set out by the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) and must conform to all applicable MSHSAA rules and regulations.
2. A participant must meet any additional eligibility requirements as determined by the local area athletic conference and must conform to all applicable conference rules and regulations.
3. A participant must conform to district eligibility requirements, rules, regulations, and standards for participation as set forth below and as set forth in the Activities Handbook. The rules, regulations, and standards are not limited to the academic year. They are in effect 365 days a year.
4. A participant must be a credible school citizen as set forth below and as set forth in the Activities Handbook.
5. Rules, Regulations, and Standards
 - a. All policies that apply to the regular school day apply also to co-curricular activities. Advisors may establish policies for their groups in addition to those stated herein.
 - b. A participant who drops out of an athletic activity cannot participate in another athletic activity until the season for the first activity has ended unless approved by the coaches of both activities and the Athletic Director.
 - c. The district's junior high school and high school are members of MSHSAA. In all interscholastic competition matters, this district will adhere to the rules and regulations of MSHSAA and the Summit Conference.
 - d. A participant must demonstrate good citizenship in the school and community. Participants must conform to all general school rules and regulations, rules established by the advisors for the activity in which he/she is participating, and the laws of the community. In addition, participants must conform to the following rules:
 - i. A participant shall not be eligible to participate in any co-curricular activity while under out-of-school suspension.
 - ii. A participant who has been expelled or who withdraws from school following the administration's recommendation for suspension or expulsion shall not be eligible for 365 days from the date of expulsion or withdrawal.
 - iii. A participant being removed from any activity for disciplinary reasons will be brought under advisement of the Athletic Director, Advisor, and Building Principal; and appropriate action will be taken which may result in exclusion from other activities. A participant removed from class for misbehavior on the day of a scheduled event/activity may be ineligible to participate in the event and will be counseled by the Principal or Athletic Director as to their eligibility if other violations occur.
 - iv. A participant may not use or possess tobacco. The consequences set forth below will be assessed against participants who (1) use or possess tobacco whether on or away from school property; (2) use or possess tobacco while participating or attending a school sponsored activity, whether on or away from school property; (3) are observed by school personnel using or possessing tobacco, whether on or away from school property, or (4) self-reports the use of tobacco whether on or away from school property.
 1. IN SEASON:
 - a. 1st Offense: A participant will be suspended for 5-15% of all contest/events.
 - b. 2nd Offense: A participant will be suspended for 15-25% of all contest/events.
 - c. 3rd Offense: A participant will be suspended 365 days.



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2. **OUT OF SEASON:**
 - a. **1st Offense:** A participant will be suspended 1st contest/event of the next season of participation. Also you will be considered 1st Offense In Season.
 - b. **2nd Offense:** Loss of eligibility for 15-25% of all contest/event. You will also be considered 2nd Offense on In Season. contests/performances that are played in all MSHSAA-recognized activities and all other
- v. A participant may not use, possess or distribute drugs, look-alike drugs, alcoholic beverages, look-alike alcoholic beverages, controlled substances or look-alike controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, or items represented to be such. A participant will be in violation of this policy if the use, possession, or distribution (1) occurs on or away from school property or at a school-sponsored event (whether on or away from school property); (2) is reported or confirmed by a law enforcement agency; or (3) is observed by school personnel (whether on or away from school property), or (4) self reports the use, possession or distribution of look-alike drugs, alcoholics beverages, look-alike alcoholic beverages, or controlled substances whether on or away from school property. A participant in violation of this rule will be suspended from MSHSAA-recognized activities and all other team/group performances for:
 1. **IN SEASON:**
 - a. **1st Offense:** A participant will be suspended for 20-30% of all contest/events.
 - b. **2nd Offense:** A participant will be suspended 365 days.
 2. **OUT OF SEASON:**
 - a. **1st Offense:** A participant will be suspended 1st two contest/events of the next season of participation. Also you will be considered 1st Offense In Season.
 - b. **2nd Offense:** A participant will be suspended 365 days.
- vi. **CRIMINAL ACTS, VANDALISM, THEFT OR POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY** - Students are expected to refrain from acts of theft or vandalism. A student will violate the school district's citizenship standards if he or she engages in the following conduct: 1. Direct acts of theft or vandalism at school or elsewhere which are verified to the satisfaction of the administration. 2. Attempts to engage in theft of another person's property which are verified to the satisfaction of the administration. 3. Aiding or abetting another person who engages in acts of theft or vandalism at school or elsewhere which are verified to the satisfaction of the administration. 4. A violation, or alleged violation, of federal, state or local criminal law which results in a summons being issued to the student, or charges being filed in court against the student or conduct which is verified to the satisfaction of the administration. Violation of the theft/vandalism rules shall cause the student to receive the following citizenship penalty:
 1. **IN SEASON:**
 - a. **1st Offense:** A participant will be suspended for 10-20% of all contest/events.
 - b. **2nd Offense:** A participant will be suspended for 20-30% of all contest/events.
 - c. **3rd Offense:** A participant will be suspended 365 days.
 2. **OUT OF SEASON:**
 - a. **1st Offense:** A participant will be suspended 1st two contest/events of the next season of participation. Also you will be considered 1st Offense In Season.
 - b. **2nd Offense:** Loss of eligibility for 20-30% of all contest/events. You will also be considered 2nd Offense on In Season.



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- vii. **FIGHTING / VIOLENCE:** A participant may not cause or attempt to cause physical harm to another person. A participant will be in violation of this policy if this incident is (1) reported or confirmed by a law enforcement agency, or (2) observed by school personnel. A participant who attempts to cause or causes physical harm to another person will have the following punishments:
 - 1. **IN SEASON:**
 - a. 1st Offense: A participant will be suspended for 10-20% of all contest.
 - b. 2nd Offense: A participant will be suspended for 20-30% of all contest.
 - c. 3rd Offense: A participant will be suspended 365 days.
 - 2. **OUT OF SEASON:**
 - a. 1st Offense: A participant will be suspended 1st two contest of the next season of participation. Also you will be considered 1st Offense In Season.
 - b. 2nd Offense: Loss of eligibility for 20-30% of all contest. You will also be considered 2nd Offense on In Season.
 - viii. **WEAPONS:** A participant who is found to be in possession of a weapon as defined by the Safe Schools Act will be suspended from all MSHSAA-recognized activities and all other team/group performances for 365 days from the date of the incident.
 - ix. A participant must conform to the school discipline policy. Failure to abide by the school discipline policy, except as otherwise provided above, may result in a suspension for up to 365 days from all MSHSAA-recognized activities and all other team/group performances.
 - x. A participant who is arrested for, charged with, or convicted of a felony or misdemeanor under either criminal or juvenile law, whether the offense occurs on or away from school property is in violation of this subparagraph (x) and may result in a suspension for up to 365 days from all MSHSAA-recognized activities and all other team/group performances, as well as additional discipline under the school discipline policy.
 - xi. **Any High School student participant that is over on the unexcused absence policy will be ineligible to participate the remainder of the semester.**
 - xii. **Any High School student who owes a fine or fee of more than \$20 at the beginning of each quarter will be ineligible until the balance is below \$20 or payment arrangements are made with the High School Principal. There are flexible plans and financial assistance available if needed.**
 - e. Notwithstanding any provision of this policy or any other district policy, the district reserves the right to enhance or reduce the penalties associated with a violation of the co-curricular policy based upon the nature, severity, and frequency of the offense(s).
6. A participant who engages in additional violations of this policy while under a co-curricular suspension may be expelled from all MSHSAA-recognized activities and all other team/group performances. This does include all activities as well.



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7. The management of a co-curricular activity is the responsibility of the coach or sponsor, who is in charge of the selection of participants and the extent of their participation. Each coach/sponsor may also establish additional written guidelines for their activities. These guidelines shall be presented orally and in written format. A copy of such guidelines shall be kept on file with the building principal and Athletic Director.
8. Participants who hold elective positions on any campus or are candidates for school “royalty” positions must adhere to the same rules of conduct listed in this policy as student participant. Disciplinary action for violation of these rules of conduct will be applied to those students who hold elective positions or are candidates for school “royalty” positions in the same manner.
9. The Athletic Director, Coach, Sponsor, and Building Principal will be informed of a participant’s removal from any activity for disciplinary reasons. This may result in exclusion from other activities, as well as additional consequences under the student discipline policy.
10. If a participant was already on a team during the current season, he/she may be allowed to practice with the team/group during a co-curricular suspension with the approval of the Advisor, Principal, and Athletic Director. An approved participant may travel to games or events with the team, but will not be able to participate or dress in team/group uniform.
11. A student who is currently under a co-curricular suspension may be allowed to try out for a sport/activity in the season in which the co-curricular suspension will expire.
12. Review Procedures - The district does not have the authority to excuse participants from the eligibility requirements established by MSHSAA. Additionally, participants are uniformly expected to comply with the eligibility requirements established by the district. Accordingly, the procedures below are provided for the sole purpose of minimizing suspensions and/or removals based upon inaccurate or incomplete information. The procedures are not intended to provide participants with an opportunity to (1) avoid suspensions or removals imposed for conduct they have actually committed, or (2) ask administrators for leniency when an appropriate consequence has been imposed for conduct that has occurred. Nor are they intended to suggest that participation in school activities is an entitlement rather than a privilege.
 - a. In most cases, a participant should be advised of the reason for the suspension or removal from an activity, and provided an opportunity to respond, prior to imposing the consequence.
 - b. When it is necessary, in the judgment of the coach, sponsor or administrator to suspend or remove a participant from an activity prior to advising the participant of the reason for such suspension or removal, the participant should be advised of the reason and given an opportunity to respond within a reasonably prompt time after the consequence has been imposed.
 - c. Participants may request a review of the suspension or removal imposed by a coach or sponsor to the Athletic Director.
 - d. Participants may request a review of the suspension or removal imposed or affirmed by the Athletic Director to the building principal.
 - e. Participants may request a review of the suspension or removal imposed or affirmed by the principal to the superintendent/designee.
 - f. Participants may request a review of the suspension or removal imposed or affirmed by the superintendent to the Board of Education. The Board, in its sole discretion, will decide which requests for review will be granted based on the facts and circumstances of each situation.



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- g. During the pendency of an appeal, a co-curricular suspension or removal will remain in full force and effective until the appeal is judged on.
13. **VOLUNTARY ADMISSION** - Voluntary admission of a violation of the Code will not result in suspension from competition but will count as a first violation, as the Athletic Director will be notified. In such a case, the student is required to meet with an intervention counselor. This provision may be used only one time by any athlete. The purpose of this provision is to allow the student to seek help and may not be used by a student if the Code violation is already known by the school or school representative. This doesn't allow you from getting out of any suspension that MSHSAA requires.
14. **Hazing**—Student hazing is inconsistent with the educational goals of the district and poses a significant risk to the physical and mental welfare of district students. Hazing of students, on or off district property, is prohibited and may result in suspension from school and from activity/athletic participation.

For purposes of this policy, hazing is defined as willful conduct directed at another student, whether occurring on or off school property, for purposes of initiation or admission to any school-related activity or athletic team. Conduct prohibited by this policy includes, but is not limited to, exposure or contact of genitals, buttocks, or breasts (female students), directly through contact with undergarments; threats of physical harm; and infliction of physical or mental harm or humiliation.

Students found to have violated this policy will be subject to suspension/expulsion from school and suspension and exclusion from activities/athletic participation depending on the severity of the misconduct.

Non-students who participate or enable the hazing of students may be excluded from attendance at school activities and school athletic events. District employees, including sponsors and advisors who have knowledge of school hazing, but fail to take corrective action, will be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

Participation in school activities is a privilege and not a right. All participants are required to comply with all of the above-listed requirements to be eligible for participation in school activities.

Violation of one or more of the above rules may result in suspension and/or permanent dismissal from the current team or activity and from additional school activities, depending upon the nature, frequency and severity of the violation(s).



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ATHLETIC PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

PARTICIPATION:

To provide a variety of athletic opportunities that encourage and allow interested students to participate in valuable physical and mental activities.

SKILLS & RULES:

To provide emphasis in development of fundamental skills and knowledge of each sport.

CITIZENSHIP AND SPORTSMANSHIP:

To cause students to achieve success fairly by demonstrating and teaching the following:

- 1) Respect for rules of each sport / activity
- 2) Desirable traits of citizenship and sportsmanship
- 3) Rules of society

SCHOOL SPIRIT:

To provide activities with which all students can identify.

COMPETITION:

To build competitive teams throughout the program.

AMBASSADORS:

To develop teams that will act as ambassadors of goodwill and public relations within and outside the Seymour community.

STUDENT CONFIDENCE:

To provide a program that develops students' sense of appreciation and enjoyment of athletics, while building individual self-confidence and group rapport.

ATHLETICS

EQUIPMENT:

An athlete must pay for lost or stolen uniforms and equipment. All equipment/uniforms should be cleaned and turned in immediately at the conclusion of the season.

ATHLETIC AWARDS

PARTICIPATION AWARD: A certificate will be presented to each athlete/student every year he/she meets participation standards established in that sport and is recommended by the Head Coach.

VARSITY LETTER AWARD: A certificate will be presented to each athlete/student every year he/she meets the letter standards established in that sport and is recommended by the Head Coach to be a recipient of the award.

When an athlete receives his/her first varsity letter at Seymour High School, the athletic department will present him/her with a chenille S. An insignia of the sport the athlete has lettered in the first year will be awarded, along with a metal bar will be awarded each year thereafter.



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ALL ATHLETES MUST ATTEND THE AWARDS CEREMONY AT THE CONCLUSION OF THEIR SEASON IN ORDER TO EARN ANY OR ALL OF THE ABOVE AWARDS. THIS INCLUDES MANAGERS, STATISTICIANS, ETC. INVOLVED IN THE SPORT SEASON. ONLY ABSENCES PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE COACH OF THAT SPORT WILL BE EXCUSED.

ALL ATHLETES MUST MEET THE GENERAL STANDARDS FOR ALL SPORTS AS WELL AS THE STANDARDS OF THEIR SPECIFIC SPORT TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR LETTER AWARDS.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

If you should commit an unsportsmanlike act while participating in a school event, you could become ineligible. If your conduct as a spectator is found to be unsportsmanlike, you could be barred from attending any school athletic contests. The unsportsmanlike conduct of any spectator regardless of age, could cause that spectator to be barred from attending school athletic contests.

SPORTS AWARDS NIGHTS:

Awards nights are held at the end of the Fall, Winter, and Spring sports seasons to honor the high school athletes.

TRANSPORTATION FROM GAMES AND TO PRACTICES:

Participants must ride the bus with the team to contests. Advisors may allow an athlete to ride home from a contest with his/her parent or guardian upon request due to special circumstances. The parent/guardian must sign the student out after the event. Also Participants that are to ride home with someone else need to turn in a TRANSPORTATION RELEASE FORM (Located at the end of the Athletic/Activities Handbook).

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

In order for a student to participate you must:

1. Have a current physical examination given by a licensed physician (M.D. or D.O.) or chiropractor and have proof of medical insurance on file in the Athletic Office.
2. Fulfill the Co-curricular policy requirements pertaining to the review of policy meeting with the Athletic Director as stated in Board Policy.
3. Complete a transfer of eligibility form (if required by MSHSAA)



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SEYMOUR ATHLETICS CONCUSSION PROCEDURES

If a student is suspected of having a concussion or displays concussion-like symptoms (see below) the coach or supervisor should:

- Remove them from competition immediately.
- They should not be allowed to practice for at least 24 hours.
- Only release them to play after they have been cleared by a physician.

Signs and symptoms of a concussion may include:

- Headache or a feeling of pressure in the head
- Temporary loss of consciousness
- Confusion or feeling as if in a fog
- Amnesia surrounding the traumatic event
- Dizziness or “seeing stars”
- Ringing in the ears
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Slurred speech
- Delayed response to questions
- Appearing dazed
- Fatigue

Some symptoms of concussions may be immediate or delayed in onset by hours or days after injury, such as:

- Concentration and memory complaints
- Irritability and other personality changes
- Sensitivity to light and noise
- Sleep disturbances
- Psychological adjustment problems and depression
- Disorders of taste and smell



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CLOSING REMARKS

Success is a journey, not a destination. It requires an intense amount of dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work. This outlook prevails in successful individuals, teams, and organizations. As part of this journey, our desire is that you have positive thoughts, and constantly strive to bring out the best in yourself and others. The teachers and administrators at Seymour are excited to have you as part of our activity program. As a participant you represent yourself, Seymour Public Schools, your team/organization, your director, sponsor, or coach, and our community. We are proud that you have chosen this responsibility and trust that you will take it seriously. We are anticipating a successful school year and hope you discover participation in our activities to be a rewarding part of your education.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Brandon Weiss
Seymour High School
625 E Clinton Ave
Seymour, MD 65647
OFFICE: 417.935.2287 x151
bweiss@seymourschool.net



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TRANSPORTATION RELEASE FORM

Name of Student _____

Name of adult student is leaving with: _____

Date of Event: _____

Event: _____

Location of Event: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Administrator Signature: _____

This form must be on file in the Athletic Director's office before student-athlete departs from Seymour High School.

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Athletic/Activities Handbook Verification

**Please sign below and return to Seymour High School Athletic
Office**

**I have reviewed the Athletic/Activities Handbook and understand
that I must abide by the guidelines set forth in the handbook.**

Student Name: _____

Sport(s): _____

Student Signature and Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature and Date: _____

