

Middle School Sports Eligibility Expectations



In Washington Township Schools, there are a variety of clubs and activities at the middle school level. In addition, there are competitive district sponsored middle school sports. This includes a district middle school team (combination of students from Bunker Hill, Chestnut Ridge, and Orchard Valley) for Field Hockey (Fall Sport) and Wrestling (Winter Sport) that compete against other regional schools. Each middle school in Washington Township also has their own Boys' and Girls' Basketball teams that compete against each other in an intramural capacity. In order to be a middle school athlete, the understanding is that each athlete is a scholar and a person of character first and an athlete second. Consequently, in order to practice and participate in competition, each student athlete must review this Code of Conduct and sign the document agreeing to the expectations. Similarly, a parent or guardian must agree to the student expectations as well. Each team may have additional expectations necessary for their own team's success. District and team guidelines should be followed at all times.

- I. Obtaining a Physical
 - a. Go to <https://www.wtps.org/domain/338> to view the participation information on the District Athletics Page
 - b. Review the links discussing health and injury risks for the various offered sports
 - c. Register with Family ID
 - d. Complete the paperwork to certify in good physical health to play. That paperwork is endorsed by a family doctor, school nurse, and school physician.
 - e. Without a verified physical, students are not allowed to participate in physical practice or competition.

- II. Attendance
 - a. School Attendance (The middle school athlete must...)
 - i. ...maintain a satisfactory record of attendance, which is less than 15 days absent from school.
 - ii. ...be in school a full day (through period 6) the day of the competition or practice to be considered eligible to participate.

 - b. Team Attendance
 - i. Do not obtain more than two (2) unexcused absences.
 - ii. Before an absence from practice, contact the team coach via email or agreed upon method of communication. Explain the rationale as to why the absences occurred and understand the team parameters the individual coach established for attendance. This could include not competing in the next competition.
 - iii. Be prompt and ready to participate in practice based on the times indicated by the coach.

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- iv. A middle school athlete must sit with his/her team before and after competition unless otherwise permitted by the coach.

III. Academics

- i. A middle school athlete must be committed to his or her studies
- ii. A middle school student must be passing six (6) courses with a 70 or better throughout the duration of the season. A student cannot practice nor compete if they are failing two or more classes.
- iii. If a student athlete is not maintaining a C average or better (76% or above), we ask the student athlete to bring their schoolwork to practice or documentation that he/she is working with their teacher to improve their grades.
- iv. Every two weeks, the student athlete will present a progress report to the coach to verify academic achievement. A progress report template is listed under the Appendix.

IV. School Discipline (A middle school athlete who...)

- i. ...has an external or internal suspension, Saturday school or suspension the day of practice or competition is not eligible to participate.
- ii. ...has accumulated 3 or more Saturday, Internal, or External suspensions before or during the sport is not eligible to participate.

V. Character/Sportsmanship (A middle school athlete must...)

- i. ...realize he or she represents the district, school, team, and their family. Therefore, the athlete must present himself or herself as a respected ambassador for all of the above (district, school, team, family)
- ii. ...follow the guidelines of the Middle School Code of Conduct.
- iii. ...use appropriate/respectful language at all times.
- iv. ...maintain the highest level of sportsmanship at all times.
- v. ...treat all teachers, administrators, coaches, other players, and spectators with respect and courtesy
- vi. ...avoid the use of cell phones or electronics during practice or competition.
- vii. ...avoid taking pictures, posting on social media, or taking videos during practice or competition.
- viii. ...follow all reasonable requests made by the coaches (practice, rest, competition)

VI. Reporting an Injury

- i. A middle school athlete should immediately report any personal illness or injury or teammate's injury to a coach. Depending on the circumstances, attendance is still expected at practice and competition to support teammates.

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Consequences for violating the Middle School Athletic Expectations and Athlete Code of Conduct, depending on the severity or frequency, could result in one or more of the following:

- Appropriate disciplinary action determined by the coaching staff.
- Dismissal from the team.

“I agree to the terms outlined in this document: The Middle School Athletic Expectations and Athlete Code of Conduct.”

Student Athlete’s Printed Name: _____

Student Athlete’s Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian’s Printed Name: _____

Parent/Guardian’s Signature: _____

Date: _____

Middle School Athlete Bi-Weekly Progress Report

Student Athlete's Name: _____

| <u>Subject</u> | <u>Grade 76 or Better (Y/N)</u> | <u>Teacher's Signature</u> |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ELA | | |
| Math | | |
| Science | | |
| Social Studies | | |
| PE/Health | | |
| World Language | | |
| Exploratory/Music | | |

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