



**OFFICE OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
 PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD SCHOOLS
 181 Buffalo Avenue
 Medford, New York 11763
 (631) 687-6420**

**PARENTAL APPROVAL FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS
 GRADES 9-12**

Student's Name	Grade	Sport
School	Date	

Dear Parents or Guardians:

Your child has expressed a desire to participate in our interscholastic athletic program. It is important that you and your child understand the goals of the program and agree to abide by the rules established by the district for the benefit of those who participate both as players and as students.

1. Interscholastic athletics are a part of a broad extracurricular program designed to teach student certain skills and reinforce concepts of self-worth, cooperative effort (teamwork) and ethical decision making (sportsmanship).
2. Members of the Patchogue-Medford School District athletic squads are to be regularly enrolled students and must be taking at least four subjects and physical education.
3. A student shall be eligible for interschool competition in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 until the pupil's nineteenth birthday. If the age of nineteen years is reached on or after September 1, the student may continue to participate during the school year in all sports.
4. A student shall be eligible for interschool athletic competition for eight consecutive semesters upon entrance into the ninth grade and prior to graduation.
5. All participants must be approved by the school physician prior to the start of practice.
6. The coaching staff and other responsible school officials will do everything within reason to protect your child against injury, including providing appropriate equipment, safe facilities and training designed to reduce the impact of accidents. Despite these steps, injuries may occur and on a very rare occasion, may be serious and disabling. If you are concerned about this possibility, you should discuss it with your child's coach.
7. School insurance for the medical treatment of sport-related injuries is applicable only after the parents' health insurance, if any, has been used. School insurance is scheduled excess coverage and generally will not pay the full cost of treatment. The cost of medical benefit insurance on a first dollar basis would be so costly to the district as to effectively eliminate the program.
8. At the beginning of the season, the coach will explain the attendance and training rules as well as eligibility rules for participation. In addition to the strict observance of these rules, your child will be expected to continue to meet all regular school obligations of attendance, deportment and academic eligibility.
9. Not all students who wish to participate in interscholastic athletics may be able to do so. The size of a team is necessarily limited by the availability of supplies, equipment and coaching staff. Cuts will be made, when necessary, on the basis of skill development, readiness for competition and observance of the rules and policies of the team and school.
10. School equipment issued to your child for participation is the student's responsibility and must be returned promptly upon request. Reimbursement from the student will be expected for loss or destruction beyond ordinary wear and tear.
11. Any student absent from school may not practice or play in a contest that day.
12. A player whose conduct in or out of school discredits the school or squad shall be subject to disciplinary action.

13. Members of athletic teams who have in their possession athletic equipment illegally taken from Patchogue-Medford teams or other schools shall be subject to disciplinary actions.

14. Players drinking or having in their possession, at any time, any alcoholic beverage or using or having in their possession, at any time, a drug or illegal substance will be immediately subject to disciplinary action.

15. All athletes representing the Patchogue-Medford Schools are required to wear school uniforms in all athletic contests.

16. A student who participates in practice with or against a college, semi-professional or professional squad shall become ineligible to represent the school.

17. Any injury that requires medical attention must be reported to the coach and school nurse at the time of the injury.

18. Parents must inform the school nurse of any head injury or concussion that takes place during or just prior to the sports season.

19. The Patchogue-Medford School District personnel and coaches do not recommend or permit the use of any drug, medication or food supplement (creatine, androstenedione) for performance enhancement.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Combs
Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health Education,
Home and Careers and Student Health Services

I have read the information in the above letter and understand both the risks of injury to and the responsibilities of my child while participating in the Patchogue-Medford interscholastic athletic program.

I give permission for my child to participate in _____.
(Name of sport and level)

Date _____ Parent's Signature _____

Address _____

Home Telephone _____ Emergency Telephone _____

I understand that I will be required to abide by team, school and applicable association rules in order to maintain my eligibility to participate in Patchogue-Medford interscholastic athletics.

Date _____ Student's Signature _____