

ATHLETICS

Sports are a vital, cultural expression of America. They are as expressive of the American way of life as is the freedom of speech, the right to vote and choice of schools. Participation is neither compulsory nor mandatory, but voluntary. Athletics are conducted in schools because they make definite contributions to the fundamental purpose of education. Participation requires a physical effort and sacrifice. Through participation one learns about loyalty to friends, to school, to community and to one's self. Athletic participation illustrates that hard work, persistence and physical sacrifice will be rewarded. Participation in athletics provides opportunities for young men and women to learn lessons that cannot be learned either in the classroom or in the home. Remember, however, that mere participation does not guarantee that educational outcomes will be received, but with hard work, dedication and sportsmanship, athletics will bring about experiences that you will cherish for life. You are urged to participate in the Zumbrota-Mazeppa Athletic Program.

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

TITLE IX NOTIFICATION

It is the policy of the Zumbrota-Mazeppa School District to comply with the rules and regulations of Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs and activities, including employment.

Responsible Employee. The employee responsible for coordinating Zumbrota-Mazeppa's efforts to comply with and carry out Title IX is Tim McAthie, whose office address is ZMMS/HS, 705 Mill Street, Zumbrota, Minnesota, 55992; and whose telephone number is 507-732-7395, ext. 1104. Inquiries concerning the application of Title IX may be referred to this above named responsible employee.

Grievance Procedure. Any student or employee of District 2805 who has a complaint regarding the enforcement of Title IX shall contact the District's responsible employee to express his/her concern or complaint. Efforts will be made to come to a prompt and equitable resolution

ATHLETICS AND FINE ARTS

Zumbrota-Mazeppa Public School is a member of the Minnesota State High School League, an association of secondary schools formed to govern interscholastic contests in athletics, debate, speech, drama, and music. All players and contestants are subject to the rules and regulations of the League.

Zumbrota-Mazeppa is a member of Section IA and the Hiawatha Valley League. The following sub-divisions will be used in football, basketball, baseball and golf.

FOOTBALL -

BLUE

Cannon Falls
Kasson-Mantorville
La Crescent
Lake City
Rochester Lourdes
Stewartville
Byron

GOLD

Zumbrota-Mazeppa
Goodhue
Hayfield
Kenyon-Wanamingo
Pine Island
Triton

BASKETBALL - GOLF-BASEBALL

BLUE

Zumbrota-Mazeppa
Kenyon-Wanamingo
Cannon Falls
Triton
Goodhue
Lake City
Pine Island

GOLD

La Crescent
Byron
Kasson Mantorville
Hayfield
Rochester Lourdes
Stewartville

SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

One of the most important benefits of athletic competition is the building of character in individuals, either as participants or as spectators. Sportsmanship encompasses all the positive characteristics of interscholastic athletics including integrity, honesty, citizenship, fairness, respect, and adhering to prescribed regulations.

I WILL...

- Never intimidate or ridicule the other team or its fans.
- Remember that school athletics are learning experiences for students and that mistakes are sometimes made.
- Understand that the ticket of admission is a privilege to observe the contest and not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, support groups, including cheerleaders.

- Respect the integrity and judgment of contest officials.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Only display signs that are in good taste and don't block the view of others.
- Use only those cheers that support and uplift our team.
- Use appropriate language at all times.
- Learn the rules of the game, to understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
- Be a positive behavior role model, and censure others whose behavior is unbecoming.

CONSEQUENCES

- First Offense Verbal warning; possible removal from event venue..
- Second Offense Removal from event venue and possible suspension from attending next 1-5 home events.
- Third Offense Removal from event venue and possible suspension from attending home events for the rest of the school year.
- Severe Clause In the case severe poor sportsmanship or failure to follow supervisor's directions, immediate removal from the event venue may be necessary. An indefinite suspension from attending home future events will occur. A conference involving the concerned parties will determine whether and when attendance privileges will be reinstated.

Note: If a pupil returns to school or a school-sponsored activity without permission during a suspension, the act can be considered a violation of the suspension and may be cause for further disciplinary action.

GENERAL PARTICIPATION RULES

MSHSL ELIGIBILITY

In order to participate in any MSHSL-sponsored activity, a student must meet all eligibility requirements set forth by the MSHSL. These eligibility requirements are listed in the MSHSL publication "Athletic Eligibility Information", which must be read and signed by each student and his/her parent/guardian prior to participating in the activity. Eligibility rules and regulations can also be viewed by going to the publication section of the MSHSL web site, www.mshsl.org. In addition, a copy of the Official Handbook of the MSHSL is on file with the athletic director and high school principal, if a student wishes to review it in its entirety. Violations of eligibility bylaws of the MSHSL will result in specific penalties, which are also published in the aforementioned publications.

In addition, students participating in Zumbrota-Mazeppa's interscholastic activities are expected to adhere to the MSHSL Student Code of Responsibilities, listed below:

Student Code of Responsibilities

- Respect the rights and beliefs of others, and treat others with courtesy and consideration.
- Be fully responsible for one's own actions and the consequences of those actions.
- Respect the property of others.
- Respect and obey the rules of the school and the laws of the community, state, and country.
- Show respect to those who are responsible for enforcing the rules of the school and the laws of the community, state, and country.

A student whose character or conduct violates the Student Code of Responsibilities is not considered to be in good standing, and is ineligible for a period of time as determined by the school's code committee. This committee consists of the high school principal, athletic director, school board member, coach, and teacher.

BLUE CARD

Before a student may participate (practice or compete) in any MSHSL – sponsored activity, he/she must obtain a "blue card" from the office. In order to get a blue card, the student must complete and/or submit the following:

- MSHSL Eligibility Form (once per year)
- MSHSL Parent Permit/Health Questionnaire (once per year)
- Proof of a physical in the past three (3) years
- Participation fee for that activity

When all of these have been completed and/or submitted, the student will be issued a "blue card", which should be given to the coach/advisor of the activity. No student will be allowed to practice or compete in any MSHSL sponsored activity without a "blue card". MSHSL sponsored activities include all sports, speech, music and one act play.

Changing Sports

A student may change sports during the season because of illness or injury or after consultation with coaches involved, parents and Athletic Director. Generally, it is not in the best interest to change sports.

Missed Practice

Faithful and prompt attendance at all practice sessions is required. On the first unexcused absence the participant will receive a verbal warning from his/her coach. The student must realize he/she is jeopardizing his/her playing time in the contest. The second unexcused absence will automatically suspend the participant from the next contest and the parent, athletic director and principal shall be notified. On the third unexcused absence the participant will be dropped from the team. If a participant is in school and will be unable to attend practice that day, it is the responsibility of the individual to notify the coach before leaving school.

Starting Season

A student who does not report for practice on the first day must attend practice for two (2) weeks prior to participating in a game or meet, unless waived by Athletic Director.

Dress Code

Participants on all teams are asked to dress appropriately for home and away contests. Various dress codes will be at the discretion of each coach.

Eligibility Rules

The MSHSL eligibility rules shall be in force for the entire calendar year, i.e. the summer as well as the rest of the school year.

Injuries and Illnesses

It is the responsibility of the athlete to report to his/her coach all injuries that have been sustained while participating either in practice or meets/games. Any student receiving an injury or having an illness serious enough to warrant medical attention must present the "Participation after Major Surgery, Serious Illness, or Injury" form provided by the Minnesota State High School League before he/she will be allowed to participate. A trainer is available two days per week. Sign-up in the office if you wish to be seen by the trainer.

State Tournament

Athletes, student managers, and cheerleaders will be allowed to attend State Tournaments in their sports provided that:

- a. The participant has been a member of the team through the conclusion of their season.
- b. They are in attendance at school the day of up through departure time or their absence has been excused by the administration.
- c. Students or student groups involved must pay for their tickets and transportation expenses.

Lettering

The following general rules apply to all varsity sports:

- a. Athletes must participate in any and all scheduled events unless excused by the coach.
- b. Participants must complete the season as a member of the team in order to letter.
- c. Seniors may receive a letter if they have participated in their last four (4) years, but have not met the requirements of that particular sport.
- d. If in the opinion of the coach the manager has fulfilled his/her responsibilities as a manager, he/she shall receive a letter after two (2) years of managing in the same sport. Only students in grades 7-12 will be used as managers.
- e. A letter and certificate will be awarded to first time letter winners. A certificate will be awarded with each additional letter earned.
- f. Any letter granted to an individual without meeting the listed requirements will be at the coach's discretion with the approval of the Athletic Director.

SPECIAL LETTERING REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH SPORT

Dance team Participate in all varsity competitions, which includes invitational, duals, and section tournament.

Football Participate in at least 1/4 of the quarters played by the team in the varsity schedule.

Volleyball Participate in 1/4 of the total number of games played excluding Sub-Section, Section and State.

Cross Country Participant must run in at least two (2) varsity meets or make the Section or State Team.

Wrestling Participant must wrestle in at least six (6) dual varsity meets or place in the top four (6) of the section.

Basketball Participate in halves equal to the total number of games scheduled excluding post- season tournaments.

Baseball/Softball Participate in at least one (1) inning more than the games played excluding post-season tournaments.

Track and Field Participant must average one (1) point per varsity meet including the Conference meet. The Sub-Section, Section and State meets are not included in the total number of meets. Placing in the Conference or Sub-Section meet will qualify for a letter.

Golf..... Participant must play on varsity in 1/4 of scheduled matches including the Sub-Section meet.

Cheerleading Only Varsity cheerleaders may earn a letter. We will be using a point system to determine whether a cheerleader will qualify to receive a letter. Must receive 85% of the total possible points to earn a letter.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES LETTERING POLICIES

BAND LETTERING

The following rules will apply to band lettering. Band members must complete the year as a member of the band in order to letter. A letter will be awarded to all first time band letter winners, with a bar being distributed for each subsequent letter earned. Only one letter will be awarded per student each year. Any letter granted to an individual without meeting the listed requirements will be at the discretion of the director. The lettering period will take place from the 1st day of school through the end of the summer marching band season each year. In order to be awarded a letter, students must be maintaining a minimum grade point average of a B- or higher in Band. GPA will be determined by semester grades. Instrumental music classes offered at Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools are considered academic, with students being awarded credits toward graduation. The rules and regulations regarding group and individual performances, set aside by the director, will remain in effect and will take precedence over the rules established for individuals earning a Z-M letter.

CHOIR LETTERING

The following rules will apply to choir lettering. Choir members must complete the year as a member of the choir in order to letter. A letter will be awarded to all first time choir letter winners, with a bar being distributed for each subsequent letter earned. Only one letter will be awarded per student each year. Any letter granted to an individual without meeting the listed requirements will be at the discretion of the director. Students not able to accumulate enough points to earn a letter will have their accumulated points carry over to the following year. Total point accumulation will take place from the summer prior to the school year through the last day of school. In order to be awarded a letter, students must be maintaining a minimum grade point average of a B- or higher in Choir. GPA will be determined by semester grades. Choir music classes offered at Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools are considered academic, with students being awarded credits towards graduation.

MATH LEAGUE LETTERING

Lettering requirements for Math League at ZM 7-12 are as follows:

A student receives a letter for Math League if they meet one of the following criteria:

- 1) The student earns one of ZM's two highest point totals for the season.
- 2) A student participates in at least 12 meets in their high school career.

1-ACT AND 3-ACT PLAY LETTERING

A student receives a letter for 1-Act and 3-Act play lettering if they meet the following criteria:

1. Performances
Full Length 4 shows 10 points
One Act 2-8 shows 40 points
20-80 points
2. Rehearsals (Actors and Student Director) Full Length 1 point per hour
6 weeks 4 nights per week 1-3 hours per night 72 hours
One Act, 1 point per hour, 6 weeks 4 nights per week 1-2 hours per night
3. Rehearsals (Crew) - 1 point per hour
Full Length and One Act
2 weeks, 4 nights per week 1-3 hour per night 24 points

4. Roles outside of school

Actors and crewmembers are encouraged to take part in plays outside of school. Each performance will be worth 10 points with a maximum of 100 points

5. Viewing performance

Zumbrota-Mazeppa community. Each performance viewed will be worth 5 points with a maximum of 50 points. A program with the house managers or director's signature, must accompany each performance.

Total Points Possible	310 (actors)	234 (crew)	
Points Needed to Letter	225 (actors)	125 (crew)	175 (Combination)

General Rules:

- A letter will be awarded to all first time drama letter winners, with a bar being distributed for each subsequent letter earned. Only one letter will be awarded per student each year.
- Any letter granted to an individual without meeting the listed requirements will be at the discretion of the director. (Students graduating in the

years '02 and '03 have the opportunity to earn additional letters if they are able to prove that they participated in a play.)

- Students unable to accumulate enough points to earn a letter will have their accumulated points carry over the following year.
- Additional hours may be added to the One Act Rehearsal time if the team advances and for both at the discretion of the director.
- Students earning a drama letter from Zumbrota-Mazeppa must have participated in a show at the high school to be considered for a letter.

ZMMS/HS ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY

If a student is failing one or more classes at the **grade in progress check**, he/she will be ineligible for **one contest**. If the student fails a class for **the semester**, he/she will be ineligible for **two contests**; except in football/ cross-country – **one contest** due to number of contests. Exception to ineligibility - if the failure occurs second semester and the student attends summer school and receives credit for the failed class(es) they will remain eligible. The student will be mailed a letter of ineligibility that includes the number of contests to be missed. Any **NC** (No Credit) or **W** (Withdrawal) due to attendance issues will be treated like a failing grade – eligibility will be reinstated once the NC has been cleared up.

- All students are allowed / required to practice during their ineligible period.
- If a student failed a second semester class and participates in a fall activity, they will be ineligible for two contests (except for football – one contest) unless the courses failed have been retaken and passed – this applies to all failed classes.
- Special Education: Any student who has an I.E.P. will be eligible if the student's case manager determines that the student is working up to his/her ability.
- Academic standing, disciplinary matters and enrollment status may limit eligibility for participation. The high school principal has the authority to declare any student ineligible/eligible if unusual circumstances occur.
- An incomplete will be treated the same as a failing grade, **except** when the incomplete is made-up and the grade received is a D- or higher; the student will become eligible **immediately**.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE ON DAY OF ATHLETIC CONTEST, MUSIC, DRAMA, SPEECH AND DEBATE ACTIVITIES

All students participating in an athletic contest, speech, debate, drama, or music event are to be in school at least six periods on the day of the event. Any absence on this day must be excused by the principal for the individual to take part in any after school hour's events. Any medical appointments, dental appointments, etc. on this day are to have **PRIOR** approval of the principal. The principal should be notified by phone by the parents as soon as possible if an emergency arises at home on the day of the event and the student will be arriving at school after the beginning of the third hour.

Any student who has an unexcused absence during part of the day of the event will be ineligible to participate in an event during or after school hours on that day.

Activity Practices - Students must be in attendance during the school day to be eligible to participate in an afternoon or evening session.