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# New Prague Middle School



## Trojan Athletics/ Activities

**Athletic Mission Statement:**

"To provide the opportunities and conditions that will encourage and support students in a co-curricular program that serves to enhance the mental, physical, and social development of all participants.

**New Prague Middle School**  
721 Central Avenue  
New Prague, MN 56071  
952-758-1400 Office  
952-758-1499 Fax  
952-758-1404 Athletics

**Administrators:**  
**Mr. Tim Dittberner**  
Principal  
**Mr. Erik Garnass**  
Dean of Students/  
Activities Director

**School Colors:**  
Cardinal Red & Black  
**School Song:**  
Notre Dame Victory March  
**School Mascot:**  
Trojans



The New Prague Middle School program provides a wide range of athletic opportunities, which encourage broad participation for all students. The goals of the athletic program are to provide meaningful competition, enhance physical and mental well-being and teach positive values.

### **MSHSL ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES OFFERED AT NPMS**

- FALL: Boys' & Girls' Cross Country- 6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup>  
Boys' & Girls' Soccer-7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup>  
Boys' Football- 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup>  
Girls' Swimming-7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup>  
Girls' Tennis-6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup>  
Girls' Volleyball- 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup>
- WINTER: Boys' & Girls' Basketball-7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup>  
Girls' Hockey-7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup>  
Boys' Wrestling-6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup>  
Girls' Gymnastics- 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup>
- SPRING: Boys' Baseball- 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup>  
Boys' & Girls' Golf- 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup>  
Girls' Softball-7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup>  
Boys' Tennis 6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup>  
Boys' & Girls' Track-7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup>

### **FORMS NECESSARY FOR ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION**

1. A physical form must be on file for all sports participants.
2. The Minnesota State High School League Athletic Eligibility Statement must be signed by the student **and** parent/guardian annually.
3. On the reverse side of #2 above, The Minnesota State High School League Parent's Permit and Health Questionnaire must be signed annually. The signature of the parent or guardian approving participation is required.
4. An Emergency Medical Information form must be completed at the beginning of each sport season. Coaches will keep these forms and use them in case of an emergency.
5. If a student has an injury requiring medical attention, he/she must have a doctor sign a **Participation After Injury** release form before being allowed to return.

### **FEES**

The New Prague School District requires that a fee be paid for participation in all MSHSL athletic programs. Middle School fees are \$90.00 for all athletics. The exceptions are girls' hockey where the fee is \$265.00, and the girls' gymnastics is \$165.00. A family cap, which includes grades 6 through 12, is set at \$425.00. We encourage families to initiate a contact when this cap is approached. The fee cap applies only to MSHSL athletics; it does not include non-MSHSL activities or youth recreation sponsored by other programs.

### **FEE WAIVER**

District policy allows athletic fees to be waived on the basis of undue hardship or family income. Please see the Middle School Athletic Director for more information.

## **REFUNDS**

Refunds will be granted upon request per the following guidelines. A student who quits a sport, for any reason, prior to the first contest will receive a full refund. (NOTE: Refunds will not be processed until the student has turned in all equipment that has been issued to him/her.) After the first contest, no refunds will be made except in the case of injury or illness, which prevents continued participation. Refunds will be on a prorated basis for the first half of the season. No refund will be given after the first half of the season. In specific situations, the athletic director reserves the right to make exceptions to the refund policy.

- ◆ One-half refund after the first contest through the first one-quarter of the season.
- ◆ One-fourth refund through the first half of season (length of season is first practice date through the first scheduled game of post-season competition).

## **SPORTS PHYSICALS**

New Prague Middle School, as a member of the Minnesota State High School League, requires students who participate in interscholastic athletics to complete a physical examination every three years. **This physical must be on file in the Athletic Office before an athlete will be allowed to begin practice.**

## **ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOR STANDARDS**

Students involved in all athletic activities are expected to abide by all school attendance and behavior guidelines. Participation in athletic activities is a privilege offered to students in good standing.

1. Students excused due to illness must be in school by 11:00 a.m. and remain in school for the remainder of the day in order to be eligible to practice or participate in athletics that day.
2. Students with an "excused" absence are allowed to practice or compete/perform.
3. Students with in-school or out-of-school suspensions may **NOT** practice or compete/perform in athletics on days of suspension.
4. Students with an unexcused absence for **ANY** hour of the day may not practice or compete/perform on that day.

If a student should practice or compete on a day when he/she is ineligible, he/she will be held out of the next equivalent practice or contest/performance.

## **CHEMICAL/TOBACCO VIOLATIONS**

The Minnesota State High School League guidelines will be adhered to. MSHSL amended its guidelines to include possession of alcohol/tobacco products in addition to consumption/use. All allegations and complaints relative to a student's violation of the rules and regulations of the Minnesota State High School League shall be investigated by the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director shall make a thorough inquiry and investigation of all substantial charges received from responsible sources. The Athletic Director may also initiate an inquiry on his own when he has reasonable cause to believe that a student has been in violation of League rules. The Athletic Director will make a judgement based on the full investigation. Written notification will be given to the student and parents if a student is determined to be in violation of League rules. Any investigation conducted will follow due process guidelines as outlined by the Minnesota State High School League.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

All participants attending activities are required to ride to and from these events on the transportation provided by the school.

A parent/guardian may transport a son/daughter from an activity only if a signed release has been turned in to the Athletic Office on or before the day of the event.

Parents are asked to pick up their son/daughter 10 minutes after the completion of each practice/game.

## **EQUIPMENT**

Use of school equipment is a privilege. All equipment must be returned to the school at the end of a season. Students will not be issued equipment for any other sport or activity until they have returned or paid for all equipment from the previous sport. An athlete will be billed at replacement cost for any lost or non-returned equipment.

## **UNIFORMS**

All athletic teams representing New Prague Middle School shall wear uniforms and equipment issued by the school. All such issued equipment and uniforms are the responsibility of the student/athlete. These uniforms are **NOT** to be worn for personal use. They are only to be worn for practices, games or other specific school activities.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL (7<sup>TH</sup>-8<sup>TH</sup>) PARTICIPATION WITH HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS/GROUPS**

Seventh and eighth grade students who exhibit the physical, psychological, social and emotional readiness to compete on high school level teams may be allowed to do so after following the prescribed procedures.

The head coach will consult with the High School Athletic Director, Middle School Athletic Director, athlete, and the Middle School coach (if applicable) to discuss the appropriateness of a move. The Athletic Director or coach will notify the Middle School of the request to advance an athlete. Any Middle School student on a high school level team must adhere to the academic and eligibility requirement set forth by New Prague High School and the Minnesota State High School League.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP EXPECTATIONS**

We expect our spectators to:

1. Take part in cheers and applaud good performances.
2. Work cooperatively with context officials, coaches, and supervisors in keeping order.
3. Refrain from booing or making negative comments about officials or participants.
4. Show mutual respect for each other, public property and the safety of everyone involved.
5. Enjoy the competition and the efforts of everyone involved in the contest.

## **PROBLEM/CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

As coaches, we are professionals and are expected to conduct ourselves in a professional manner. We cannot promise that all of your concerns can be resolved to your liking, but we promise that we will listen to your concerns and respond to the best of our ability.

In order for our programs to be successful, we must all work together - parent, coach and participant. We all want to do what is best for each individual student/athlete whenever possible. As coaches, we care a great deal about your son or daughter and want to contribute to his/her individual development in a positive way.

To allow for an appropriate exchange of opinions when the need arises in either athletics or activities, a procedure has been developed to create an open line of communication between the school, parent/guardian, student and coach. The following procedure will allow for an exchange of opinion in a professional manner.

Most conflicts are better resolved with an appropriate cooling down period. No conflict between a parent, student, official, or coach/advisor should be addressed during or immediately after an event. The event site, practice field, lobby or locker rooms are not appropriate places to handle conflict. If you have a concern, please call or arrange a meeting the following workday after the incident, practice or game. Your meeting needs to be in a non-public setting or via the phone. Many of our coaches teach in the district. All coaches have voice-mail in the building where they teach. Leave a message and the coach will return your call. If you wish, a letter to the coach may be the most appropriate way to initiate a dialogue. If your concern has not been addressed to your satisfaction then refer to the flow chart below.

## **ATHLETE/PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION**

Every organization has and needs an orderly process to use when problems/issues arise. The method of communication at New Prague Middle School is as follows:



Parents/athletes are strongly encouraged to follow this method of communication whenever an issue arises concerning a coach. If a concern is not resolved to your satisfaction at one level, you are encouraged to go to the next level in the method of communication. However, all concerns should begin with the coach and then follow the above method of communication.

## **PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Parents are expected to encourage their sons or daughters to perform to the best of their abilities both athletically and academically. They should be a source of support for the athlete and the program in which they are participating.

Parents are role models for athletes and representatives of New Prague Middle School. As such, they are expected to exemplify good attitudes by treating all players, coaches, fans, officials, and other parents with respect and dignity. Parents must insist that athletes abide by rules established by the coach, the school district and the Minnesota State High School League.

Parents should be positive in support of their own team and recognize the achievements of the opposing team. Vulgar, racial, derogatory or disparaging remarks are never appropriate.

Parents should allow their athletes to enjoy the benefits of competition, remembering that not everyone can be the star, be on the first team, or have equal playing time.

Keep winning and losing in proper perspective. Athletic programs are primarily designed for students to learn and have fun. Athletes who do their best are to be commended even if their best may not be good enough to win.

## **DIRECTIONS TO SCHOOLS**

Maps and directions to Minnesota Conference schools for all of athletic competition are available on the school website, on the Minnesota Conference website or at [mapquest.com](http://mapquest.com).