



Student-Parent Guide to Interscholastic Athletics in Baltimore County Public Schools



Purpose This brochure is designed to be an informational tool and guide for student-athletes and parents to understand the regulations and policies that enhance the student-athlete's participation in the Interscholastic Athletic Program of the Baltimore County Public Schools. The regulations and policies set forth are under the auspices of the State Department of Education and the Baltimore County Public Schools.

Philosophy The Baltimore County Public Schools support the philosophy that a quality interscholastic athletic program is vital to the positive social, physical, and educational development of students. The interscholastic athletic program enhances and supports the academic mission of the school system. We are committed to promoting the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play at all athletic contests. We support high standards of good citizenship and propriety, along with regard for the rights of others.

Being a member of the interscholastic program is a privilege to be earned and maintained throughout the season. Each time participants step into a school or onto the practice field and anytime they participate in a game they are expected to represent themselves, family, team, and school in a responsible, sportsmanlike manner.

It is our responsibility to provide challenging opportunities for our student-athletes to compete successfully at the county, region, and state levels.

Overview The Baltimore County Interscholastic Athletic Program is organized within the framework of the Maryland Public Secondary School Athletic Association (MPSSAA) which is an affiliate of the National Federation of State High School Associations. A total of 28 sports are available to our students within Baltimore County's twenty-three high schools.

Varsity teams compete in four different classifications levels - "4A," "3A," "2A," and "1A" - in a schedule built around a core of intracounty competition. At the conclusion of each sport season, varsity teams have the opportunity to qualify for county, regional, and state level tournaments. The majority of schools offer ten boys', ten girls', and nine coeducational teams.

Junior varsity level competition is also available in 19 of the 28 sports offered, along with opportunities for additional post-season play at the county level.

In addition, Baltimore County provides an Allied Sports Program which affords students with and without disabilities an equal opportunity for participation in extracurricular sports. Allied Sports is a totally inclusive program designed for students interested in playing a sport but who do not necessarily possess the skill or desire to play on a varsity or junior varsity team.

Baltimore County boasts one of the largest athletic programs within the state of Maryland with over 1,500 coaches and 14,000 student-athletes participating yearly.

Fall Season

(Practice begins August 15)

Badminton Football
Cheerleading Golf
Cross Country Soccer
Field Hockey Volleyball
Allied Sports - Soccer

Winter Season

(Practice begins November 15)

Basketball
Cheerleading
Indoor Track
Wrestling
Allied Sports - Bowling

Spring Season

(Practice begins March 1)

Baseball Softball
Cheerleading Tennis
Lacrosse Track & Field
Allied Sports - Softball
Girls' Developmental Golf

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