

Middle school programs directed and supported by the APS Athletic Department are recognized as New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA) sanctioned activities. Eligibility and participation guidelines set forth by the NMAA and the APS Athletic Department apply to all participating students and coaches. Refer to the NMAA Handbook, Section IX Junior High/Middle School for NMAA eligibility requirements.

- NMAA academic eligibility requirements are required of all participating students. In addition to the NMAA academic eligibility requirements, the following applies:
  - Competing during the first semester of the school year without reference to the previous semester grading period applies only to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Academic eligibility requirements shall apply to all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students upon the end of the first semester grading period of the school year.
  - Schools must determine academic eligibility/ineligibility at 8:00am on the fifth school day from the last day of the semester grading period.
- Students attending charter schools, alternative schools, schools of choice or home schools may participate in extracurricular activities at public schools provided all established criteria is met. Refer to the NMAA Handbook, Section X Charter School/Alternative School/Home School/Non-Member Private School Student Participation.
- The following age limitation requirements apply for participation. Refer to the NMAA Handbook, Section IX Junior High/Middle School.
  - 6<sup>th</sup> grade participants must be under the age of 13 on August 31 of the current school year.
  - 7<sup>th</sup> grade participants must be under the age of 14 on August 31 of the current school year.
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade participants must be under the age of 15 on August 31 of the current school year.
- Students meeting all eligibility requirements are allowed to participate in up to three seasons in a given sport. Participation beyond three seasons in a given sport is prohibited regardless the circumstances. Refer to the NMAA Handbook, Section VI Eligibility.
- APS Athletic Department participation guidelines specific to each sport apply. In addition to participation guidelines outlined below, there are maximum participation rules specific to each sport included in sport specific information available on the APS Athletic Department website.
  - Volleyball consists of two levels of competition, A-Team and B-Team, and may only include female participants from the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.
    - The A-Team may only include female participants from the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.
    - The B-Team may only include female participants from the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades.
    - A 7<sup>th</sup> grader may be moved up from the B-Team to the A-Team. Once a 7<sup>th</sup> grader is moved up to the A-Team, the 7<sup>th</sup> grader cannot return to the B-Team.
  - Basketball consists of a boys program and a girls program. Each program consists of two levels of competition, A-Team and B-Team, and may include participants from the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.
    - The A-Team may only include participants from the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.
    - The B-Team may only include participants from the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades.
    - A 7<sup>th</sup> grader may be moved up from the B-Team to the A-team. Once a 7<sup>th</sup> grader is moved up to the A-Team, the 7<sup>th</sup> grader cannot return to the B-Team.
  - Track & field consists of a boys program and a girls program. Each program may include participants from the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.
- The parent/legal guardian and student must submit a completed NMAA physical packet to designated school personnel prior to practice/tryouts and competition.

- The NMAA physical packet includes the following:
    - Verification of insurance for student
    - Emergency contact information for student
    - Physical examination form clearing/not clearing student to participate
    - Parent/legal guardian consent to treat a student by a qualified medical provider
    - Parent/legal guardian and student acknowledgment of concussion information
  - Coaches are not permitted to allow a student to practice/tryout, play or otherwise participate in a sport until a completed NMAA physical packet clearing the student to participate has been submitted to and approved by designated school personnel.
  - A completed NMAA physical packet required of a student shall be kept on file with the school athletic director.
- Students participating in an athletic program are required to take the NFHS Concussion for Students course and submit a course certificate of completion. Coaches are not permitted to allow a student to practice/tryout, play or otherwise participate in a sport until verification of course completion has been submitted to and approved by designated school personnel. Required certificate shall be kept on file with the school athletic director.
  - Students participating in an athletic program are required to have parent/legal guardian consent. The completion of the Athletic Participation Consent Form is required. The parent/legal guardian and student are required to sign the Athletic Participation Consent Form acknowledging the student and parent/legal guardian understand, accept and agree with terms and conditions outlined in the Athletic Participation Consent Form. Coaches are not permitted to allow a student to practice, play or otherwise participate until the student's signed consent form has been submitted to and approved by designated school personnel. Required consent form shall be kept on file with the school athletic director.
  - Students participating on a team and their parent/legal guardian are responsible for information and requirements outlined in the APS Athletic and Activity Code of Conduct. The parent/legal guardian and student are required to sign the acknowledgement form (included in packet) to confirm the code has been read, is understood by the student and parent/legal guardian and they each agree to abide by it. Coaches are not permitted to allow a student to practice, play or otherwise participate until the student's signed acknowledgement form has been returned to the coach. Required acknowledgement form shall be kept on file with the school athletic director.
  - Students are not allowed to participate while serving a school suspension (in or out of school). A suspended student shall be removed from all team related activities for the length of the suspension and may resume team participation upon the day the student is allowed to return to class.

Website Information for referenced documents and courses:

New Mexico Activities Association Handbook  
[www.nmact.org/nmaa-handbook/](http://www.nmact.org/nmaa-handbook/)

APS Athletic Department - Sport Specific Information  
[www.aps.edu/athletics/MSAF%20sport%20specific%20info](http://www.aps.edu/athletics/MSAF%20sport%20specific%20info)

NMAA Physical Packet  
[www.aps.edu/athletics/athletic-forms](http://www.aps.edu/athletics/athletic-forms)

NFHS Learning Center: NFHS Concussion for Students  
[www.nfhslearn.com/courses/61059](http://www.nfhslearn.com/courses/61059)

Athletic Participation Consent Form  
**[Athletic Forms — Albuquerque Public Schools \(aps.edu\)](http://www.aps.edu/athletics/athletic-forms)**

APS Athletic Department - Athletic and Activity Code of Conduct  
[www.aps.edu/athletics/athletic-forms](http://www.aps.edu/athletics/athletic-forms)