

GUIDELINES FOR COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY “CLUB” ATHLETIC TEAMS

The following guidelines clarify the differences between community and school athletic teams. The guidelines also create boundaries whereby school and community teams may coexist while maintaining a clear separation.

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) schools shall not have or endorse competitive athletic teams or athletic club teams, except for those specifically designated as part of the MCPS interscholastic athletics program, as defined in the *MCPS High School Athletics Handbook*. There are some competitive non-school or community athletic teams that bear the name of the high school community, and in some instances are comprised primarily (or even exclusively) of students from that high school. However, these teams are strictly non-school or community teams, and may not be sponsored or endorsed by the school in any way. Guidelines to ensure the separation of non-school or community teams from the school include:

1. Neither school funds nor school booster club funds shall be provided to non-school teams.
2. Competitive community teams shall not conduct fundraisers at school events.
3. Competitive community teams shall not be included in school yearbooks, except in the “Community Events” or “Non-School Sponsored Activities” section.
4. Competitive community teams shall not be allowed use of school facilities for practices or team-sponsored activities unless they apply through ICB.
5. Competitive community teams shall not be included on school web sites or school social media outlets.
6. Competitive community teams may be covered/included in school newspapers.
7. Competitive community teams shall not be included in announcements except to the degree that any and all other non-school activities and results are included in announcements.
8. Competitive community teams shall not be included in pep assemblies or school awards ceremonies.
9. Students on competitive community teams shall not receive school-issued certificates or varsity letters for their participation.
10. Competitive community teams shall not use the school’s name, colors, or mascot in competition or for any other purpose, unless it is clearly identified as a community team. (Refer to the *MCPS High School Athletics Handbook*).
11. Competitive community teams shall not use both the name of the school and the school mascot in their names (i.e. Churchill Pit Bulls or Potomac Bulldogs, but not the Churchill Bulldogs).