

BROWNING MIDDLE SCHOOL EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK 2026-2027



This handbook is to provide information for parents and students that may be interested in the interscholastic activities program of the Browning Public School, District #9, Browning, Montana.

It is impossible to list all the details about the various athletic programs in this handbook. **Each coach will handle situations that arise according to the signed copy of individual coach's rules in conjunction with the activities handbook. This manual is not all-inclusive, and each coach may have additions, which they will give to the athletes and parents at the parent meeting.**

This handbook will be reviewed annually and modified when necessary. However, as long as a policy or regulation is in effect, parents and athletes are expected to support and follow them.

WELCOME

Welcome to the activities program at Browning Middle School. We are excited about your participation in one or more of our activities and hope that you have a positive learning experience from your efforts.

The contents of this manual are designed to answer most of the questions you may have about the operation of our activities program.

The athlete in grades 6th, 7th & 8th grade is required to have passed a physical examination for the current school year on file prior to participating in any organized athletic program or contest. The athlete must fill out the emergency treatment release card. This card must be filled out completely and left with the BMS Activities Coordinator, before the student will be allowed to participate.

Browning Public Schools will strive to provide the students with the best possible opportunities for a rewarding experience.

EQUAL EDUCATION and NONDISCRIMINATION:

Browning Public Schools, District #9 is committed to nondiscrimination in the provision of all educational services. An equal educational opportunity is a fundamental right under both the Montana and United States Constitutions; it is the policy of this District to provide a learning environment free of discrimination. All students have the opportunity to participate in and receive benefits from all programs or activities including, but not limited to, course offerings, graduation requirements, athletics, counseling services, extracurricular and other school-related activities.

Discrimination in education because of sex, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, age, physical or mental handicap, political belief, and marital or parental status is prohibited unless based upon reasonable grounds as provided by law. The District is committed to taking the appropriate and feasible remedial action necessary to eliminate existing discrimination and its effects. Inquiries regarding discrimination or intimidation should be directed to the Browning Public Schools Title IX/504 Coordinator Beverly Sinclair 406-338-2715. In compliance with federal regulations, the District will notify annually, all students, parents, staff, and community members of this policy and the designated coordinator to receive inquiries. Notification should include the name and location of the coordinator and will be carried in all handbooks and published in community newspapers.

Inquiries regarding discrimination or intimidation at Browning Middle School may be directed to the BMS Title IX Coordinator, Sheila Hall - Assistant Principal at (406) 338 – 2725.

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Participation in interscholastic activities in the Browning Public Schools is a privilege. High Standards of conduct are expected from students participating in these activities. Interscholastic activities are provided to create a positive opportunity for the development of constructive citizenship attitudes and life skills. All interscholastic participants are representatives of Browning Public Schools and are expected to behave in an exemplary manner.

Participants and their parents or legal guardians will be aware of the philosophy and the rules and regulations under which they are given the opportunity to participate. As a prerequisite to participation, all students involved in the interscholastic activities outlined herein shall be required to file a form signed by a parent or their legal guardian and the participant indicating that they have read, understand, and agree to the rules and regulations as outlined in this Activities Handbook.

Goals

The objective of the Browning Public Schools Activities Department is that all participants will learn:

- The importance of good sportsmanship.
- To work cooperatively to create team or group success.
- To accept direction and authority from coaches or advisors.
- Socially acceptable emotional control.
- The importance of self-discipline.
- To compete/participate within a given set of rules or guidelines.
- To set reasonable goals and work toward their realization.
- To better understand other people's feelings and attitudes.
- To maintain physical well-being.
- The importance of constructive release of energy.
- To handle socially acceptable recognition.
- To think under pressure.
- That academics are always more important than athletics or extracurricular participation.

How to Be an All Star-Parent

By Rob Gilbert, Ph.D.

How do you define an all-star parent? Very simple, he or she is a parent who is a good sport and a great fan. To become an all-star parent or an athlete, there are times when you must stop parenting. When your son and daughter changes into uniform and becomes an athlete, you also have to change – from parent to fan. Your job on the sidelines or in the stands is not to be a parent, but to be your child's greatest fan.

There's no trick to learn here. You already know how to do this. Remember how you behaved when your baby was learning to "walk?" You were a fan and a supporter, weren't you? You applauded the "downs" as well as the "ups."

You never said things like, "What's taking you so long?" "How come the kid down the street is walking better than you?" "Why do you make the same mistakes over and over again?" You were the world's most appreciative audience.

Why should it be any different now that your child is an athlete? Your job is not to be the coach (unless you are hired by contract to be the coach) or the expert. You are there so that you can share the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat – together.

In fact, your child needs your support more in defeat than in victory. Did you ever notice that strangers feel free to come out of the stands and congratulate the winners? But, in defeat, sometimes the athlete's own teammates and coaches ignore him/her. As a parent you have to be there to cushion setbacks with a positive "We'll get 'em next time!"

Three "B's" For All-Star Parenting

1. Be There
2. Be Positive
3. Be Seated

Be There – You can never hope to be an all – star parent unless you show up at games. Regardless of the skill level of your child or the success of the team – go to the games. Be supportive. Don't be a fickle, fair – weather fan.

Be Positive – On the sidelines, if you can't say something positive, don't say anything at all. Nothing good comes from negative statements and nothing negative comes from positive ones. If you cannot be positive, at least be silent.

Be seated – Even though it's good to be positive, it's not good to overdo it. Don't stick out. Be an admirer – not a cheerleader. Players should not confuse your voice with the public address system.

Once you start to become a positive, acknowledging fan, an interesting thing may happen; your child will want you at the games. When this happens, you will know that you are considered to be an important member of your child's personal all-star support team.

Parents Code of Conduct

The Browning Public Schools believes parents play a vital role in the development of student athletes. We ask that this code of conduct be distributed so that parents, players, and coaches have an opportunity to read and fully understand them.

- ☐ I will encourage good sportsmanship by being a positive role model.
- ☐ I will try my best to make athletics a positive experience for everyone involved, i.e., participants, coaches, officials, and spectators.
- ☐ I will insist my player treat other players, coaches, officials, and fans with respect.
- ☐ I will reinforce the school's drug and alcohol-free policies and refrain from using alcohol and other drugs before or during contests.
- ☐ I will do my best to understand and appreciate the rules of the contest.
- ☐ I will show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- ☐ I will be a "team" fan, not a "my child" fan.
- ☐ I will help my child learn that success is measured by the development of skills, not winning or losing.
- ☐ If I have a concern, I will talk to the coach at the appropriate time and place: never before, during, or immediately after a contest.
- ☐ I will do my best to remember my ticket to a school athletic event provides me with the privilege of observing the contest, not berating officials, coaches, or players.

Parents who confront coaches before, during or immediately after contests will be asked to leave by the administration or designee of the Browning Public Schools and will be escorted to the exits by school security. Parents who come to the sidelines or the benches during contests will also be asked to leave the contests by the administration and will be escorted to the exits by school security. Further consequences may occur, which could include exclusion from sporting contests at home venues for one calendar year.

ATHLETICS PHILOSOPHY

It is the philosophy of the trustee and School District 9 that all Browning Middle School students should have the opportunity for meaningful participation in extra-curricular athletics, both inter-school programs and intra-school programs. The district recognizes that adequate numbers of participants are needed to run both types of programs. When this occurs, children may have the chance to move from one program to another. Participation in either type of program is governed by factors such as concern for safety of students, the students' skill levels, attitudes, academic grades and attendance in school and at practices.

Win/loss records are not as important as student participation.

Physicals are required for all sports.

Coaches are expected to utilize positive methods to teach skills and sportsmanship while maintaining a competitive spirit.

Students must be eligible to participate. Eligibility requirements are in the student handbook and are explained at parent meetings at the beginning of each season.

Students must be in attendance at school to participate in practice and games.

ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

Activities Open to 6TH, 7TH & 8TH Grade Students:

Football

Boys/Girls Cross Country

Girls Basketball

Boys Basketball

Boys/Girls Track

Volleyball (Girls)

Wrestling (Boys and Girl's)

Softball (Girls)

ACTIVITIES

Football – Browning Middle School 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Tackle

Length of Participation: 6th 7th and 8th Grade – ~~August 2, 2026 – October, 2026~~ **August 19- October 3**

Frequency of Meetings Practice: 5 nights a week; 1 ½ - 2 hours each night

Description of Activity: Students participating in football go through the fundamentals of football. The football program at the elementary and middle school level is meant to develop the skills necessary to play competitive football. The player will learn to work as a team member, gain individual skills, develop sportsmanship and leadership qualities, and have fun.

Training rules are issued to students participating.

Cross Country Browning Middle School 6th, 7th & 8th Grade

Length of Participation: 6th, 7th & 8th Grade —~~August, 2026~~—~~October, 2026~~ **August 19- October 3**

Frequency of Meetings Practice: BMS 5 nights a week; 1 ½ - 2 hours each night

Approximate numbers involved Everyone who practices makes the cross-country team. (No Cuts)

Description of Activity: Students participating in cross country go through the fundamentals of cross country running. The cross-country program at the elementary and middle school level is meant to develop the skills necessary to run competitively. The runner will learn to work as a team member, gain individual skills, develop sportsmanship and leadership qualities, and have fun.

Training rules are issued to students participating.

Girls Basketball Browning Middle School 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade

Length of Participation: BMS 7th & 8th ~~Grade August, 2026~~—~~October, 2026~~ **October 7-November 21**

Frequency of Practice: BMS 5 nights a week; 1 ½ - 2 hours each night

Description of Activity: Students participating in basketball go through the fundamentals of basketball. The basketball program at the elementary and middle school level is meant to develop the skills necessary to play competitive basketball. The player will learn to work as a team member, gain individual skills, develop sportsmanship and leadership qualities, and have fun.

Boys Basketball: Browning Middle School 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade

Length of Participation: BMS 7th & 8th Grade ~~October 15, 2018~~—~~December 15, 2018~~ **October 7-November 21**

Frequency of Meetings Practice: BMS 5 nights a week; 1 ½ - 2 hours each night

Description of Activity: Students participating in basketball go through the fundamentals of basketball. The basketball program at the elementary and middle school level is meant to develop the skills necessary to play competitive basketball. The player will learn to work as a team member, gain individual skills, develop sportsmanship and leadership qualities, and have fun.

Golf BMS 6th, 7th & 8th Grade

Length of Participation:

BMS 6th, 7th & 8th Grade ~~April 8, 2019~~—~~May 18, 2019~~ **April 13, 2027- May 16, 2027**

Frequency of Meetings Practice:

BMS 5 nights a week; 1 ½ - 2 hours each night

Description of Activity: Students participating in golf go through the fundamentals of golf. The golf program at the middle school level is meant to develop the skills necessary to play competitive golf. The player will learn to be competitive on the golf course, gain individual skills, develop sportsmanship and

leadership qualities and have fun.

Volleyball: BMS 6th, 7th & 8th Grade

Length of Participation: BMS 6th, 7th & 8th Grade ~~December 17, 2018—February 16, 2019~~ August 19, 2026- October 5, 2026

Frequency of Meeting Practice: BMS 5 nights a week; 1 ½ - 2 hours each night

Description of Activity: Students participating in volleyball go through the fundamentals of volleyball. The volleyball program at the elementary and middle school level is meant to develop the skills necessary to play competitive volleyball. The player will learn to work as a team member, gain individual skills, develop sportsmanship and leadership qualities, and have fun.

Wrestling BMS 6th, 7th and 8th Grade

Length of Participation: BMS 6th, 7th & 8th Grade ~~February 5, 2019—March 16, 2019~~ February 8, 2027-March 27, 2027

Frequency of Practice: nBMS 5 nights a week; 1 ½ - 2 hours each night

Description of Activity: Students participating in wrestling go through the fundamentals of wrestling. The wrestling program at the middle school level is meant to develop the skills necessary to develop competitive wrestling skills. The player will learn to work as a team member, gain individual skills, develop sportsmanship and leadership qualities, and have fun.

Track: BMS 6th, 7th & 8th Grade

Length of Participation: BMS 6th, 7th & 8th Grade ~~March 18, 2019—May 11, 2019~~ March 29, 2027-May 9, 2027

Frequency of Practice BMS 5 nights a week; 1 ½ - 2 hours each night

Description of Activity: Students participating in track go through the fundamentals of track. The track program at the elementary and middle school level is meant to develop the skills necessary to be competitive in track. The player will learn to work as a team member, gain individual skills, develop sportsmanship and leadership qualities, and have fun.

Softball: BMS 6th, 7th & 8th Grade

Length of Participation: BMS 6th, 7th & 8th Grade ~~March 19,—May 12,~~ March 15, 2027- May 29, 2027

Frequency of Practice: BMS 5 nights a week; 1 ½ - 2 hours each night

Description of Activity: Students participating in softball go through the fundamentals of softball. The softball program at the elementary and middle school level is meant to develop the skills necessary to play competitive softball. The player will learn to work as a team member, gain individual skills, develop sportsmanship and leadership qualities, and have fun.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY

It is the expectation of Browning School District #9 that all of its students will experience success in all academic and extracurricular endeavors in which they participate. The efforts of all School District #9 employees will be focused on supporting the efforts of its students at achieving excellence in the academic and extracurricular areas.

Browning Public Schools has implemented the following Academic Eligibility Policy for students in grades 6-8 concerning participation in all extracurricular club/sport activities as listed in the Browning Activities Handbook. The goal of this policy is to encourage academic excellence and foster long-range goal setting by the students of Browning Public Schools. It is important that students and parents or guardians understand that the primary mission of the school is to provide an academic education to its students and the privilege of participation in extra-curricular activities will be based upon achievement in the classroom.

All activities involving out-of-district trips will be covered under this policy. Attendance at concerts, dances, sporting events, etc. sponsored by the school will also be covered under the following policy. For the purposes of this policy, days referred to will be considered to be calendar days.

Browning Public Schools **POLICY #3510 P(1)**

It is the expectation of Browning School District #9 that all of its students will experience success in all academic and extracurricular endeavors in which they participate. School District #9 also recognizes the positive impact of extra-curricular activities on student mental health and social development. The efforts of all School District #9 employees will be focused on supporting the efforts of its students at achieving excellence in the academic and extracurricular areas.

Browning Public Schools has implemented the following Academic Eligibility Policy for students, grade 6-12 concerning participation in all Extra-curricular club/sport activities as listed in the Browning Activities Handbook. The goal of this policy is to encourage academic excellence and foster long range goal setting by the students of Browning Public Schools. It is important that students and parents or guardians understand that the primary mission of the school is to provide an academic education to its students and the privilege of participation in extra-curricular activities will be based upon achievement in the classroom.

All activities involving out-of-district trips will be covered under this policy. Attendance at concerts, dances, sporting events, etc. sponsored by the school will not be covered under the following policy. For the purposes of this policy, days referred to will be considered calendar days.

Weekly feedback will still be given to the student concerning their academic standing.

Browning Public School students, (Grades 6-12), should meet bi-weekly eligibility by having a GPA of 2.0 or better **passing all their classes** to be eligible to participate in Extracurricular Activities as defined herein. A student whose GPA is lower than a 2.0 but is passing all of their classes is still eligible.

ACTIVITIES ELIGIBILITY

A bi-weekly eligibility list is generated every other Friday at 2 p.m. The first time a student is identified as ineligible they will be allowed to practice and compete, provided, they can show proof of attending tutoring sessions from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. If a student is identified as ineligible a second consecutive time the student becomes ineligible to compete until they are able to provide an updated grade report which shows that they are eligible by having at least a GPA of 2.0.

After being ineligible for two bi-weekly eligibility checks, the focus will be to help the student maintain the 2.0 GPA weekly, also student will need to report to tutoring on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30pm to 4:30pm and provide documentation of attendance in the tutoring program from an adult BHS staff tutor.

CORRECTION PROCEDURE

Any student who believes that they are marked ineligible incorrectly must meet with the teacher and provide evidence to correct the error. The teacher must fill out and sign a note to the coach/sponsor stating the error and its correction. The student must then get approval from the principal who will also sign the note to verify approval. The student must then give the note to the coach who will keep it for the duration of the season for future reference.

Browning Public Schools Policy 3510 (P) 1

All activities involving out-of-district trips will be covered under this policy. Attendance at concerts, dances, sporting events, etc. sponsored by the school will be covered under the following policy. For the purposes of this policy, days referred to will be considered to be calendar days. 1. Weekly feedback will still be given to the student concerning their academic standing. Browning Public School students, (Grades 6-12), should meet weekly eligibility by passing all classes to be eligible to participate in Extracurricular Activities as defined herein.

2. **ACTIVITIES ELIGIBILITY:** A weekly Eligibility list based on each student's in-progress grades shall be generated each Monday at 2:00 p.m. The eligibility period will begin the following Monday morning, and will run for one week Monday through Sunday. A student who receives ONE "F" on the weekly eligibility checklist will be on probation and can practice and compete until the next grade check. If, at the next weekly grade check, the student has at least one "F" the student immediately becomes ineligible to participate in competition, but can practice. The student will remain ineligible for competition until he or she is passing all the classes at the time of the weekly grade check. If the ineligible student has no "F" grades on the next grade report, he or she becomes eligible on the Monday following their week of ineligibility.

3. A student who receives more than one "F" on a weekly list shall become ineligible immediately for competition and will remain ineligible until he or she is passing all classes at the time of the weekly checklist.

4. The eligibility policy begins on the first day of each sport for Browning Middle School

CORRECTION PROCEDURE

Any student who believes that they are marked ineligible incorrectly must meet with the teacher and provide evidence to correct the error. The teacher must fill out and sign a note to the Principal stating the error and its correction. The student must then get approval from the Principal who will also sign the note to verify approval. The student must then give the note to the Athletic Coordinator & Coach who will keep it for the duration of the season for future reference.

1. For a student to participate in practice or a contest/event, he/she must have been in attendance at school that day, (Monday through Friday) or have an absence excused prior to 4:30pm on the day of the activity.

Activities included in this policy follow: All activities as defined by MHSA.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

1. For a student to participate in practice or a contest/event, he/she must have been in attendance at school that day, (Monday through Friday) or have an absence excused prior to 4:30 on the day of the activity. If student is absent AP (Absent-Parent called in) the student can still practice with no consequence. If unexcused, student can still practice with consequences from the coach.
2. Students who transfer to Browning Public Schools during a sport season, but prior to the divisional tournament or first playoff game date, will be considered eligible to participate if they are eligible according to MHSA standards. The grades that transfer in with the student must meet the eligibility criteria of Browning Public Schools. The student must also meet the MHSA 10-day practice requirement before participating in a contest/event.
3. Students who are ineligible for a semester according to MHSA criteria will be allowed to practice with the team while ineligible and compete the first Monday after the new semester begins, provided the student becomes eligible according to MHSA criteria. The Browning Public Schools eligibility policy will apply to these students. 97-98 MHSA Handbook, Article 2, Section (17).

Attendance

A student shall not practice or participate in any interscholastic activity, athletic event, school musical, club meeting, play, dances, practices etc. on a school day if he/she is not in attendance (physically in attendance in education/means participation) for all classes the day of the activity. For a student to participate in practice or a contest/event, he/she must have been in attendance at school that day, (Monday through Friday) or have an absence excused prior to 9:00am on the day of the activity.

1. **For a student to participate in practice or a contest/event, he/she must have been in attendance at school that day (Monday through Friday) for all seven classes, or have a medical excuse.**

- Call-ins for student participation in school sponsored athletic activities must be made prior to 9:00 a.m. on the day of the activity/practice. Call-ins will be accepted only for the purpose of athletic participation. Any absence or release request unrelated to athletic activities must follow standard school attendance procedures and receive appropriate administrative approval.**

I.E., if a student has an absence on Friday he/she may not participate in a Saturday event if no contest is held on Friday. A student who has an absence on Friday would have to complete a full day of classes on Monday to be eligible to participate again in interscholastic activities.

Extracurricular Activity Absence and Make-Up Work

Students participating in school sponsored extracurricular activities are responsible for maintaining satisfactory academic progress. When a student is absent from class due to an approved school-related activity, the student shall be permitted to make up all missed assignments, assessments, and coursework without academic penalty.

Students will be granted a minimum of two (2) school days following their return to school to complete and submit missed work for each class missed due to the activity-related absence. Teachers may provide additional time when deemed appropriate based on the nature and scope of the assignment.

It is the responsibility of the student to communicate with teachers regarding missed

coursework and to make reasonable efforts to obtain assignments prior to the absence whenever possible. Teachers shall provide students with access to missed instructional materials and assignments in a timely manner to facilitate successful completion of required coursework.

No reduction in grade or loss of points shall occur solely as a result of an approved school sponsored activity absence, **provided the student completes the required work within the established timeframe.**

CARE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT: Participants are responsible for the safe return of all equipment checked out to them. Game uniforms, practice gear, equipment, travel bags and other school issued items are to be checked back in with the coach, sponsor or advisor at the completion of each individual's participation. **Do not loan or "swap" equipment with another student without the approval of your coach, sponsor or advisor. You are responsible for the return of all equipment checked out to you!**

Students who have not properly returned school equipment will not be allowed to participate in another school activity until the equipment is properly returned or paid for. There will be an assessed damage fee (at the discretion of the activities director) for any school equipment unable to be used by future participants, to be paid prior to the start of the next sport season.

CULTURAL ENHANCEMENT TO UNIFORMS:

Browning Public School Schools recognizes and embraces the unique Blackfeet cultural heritage of the majority of the student participants. Enhancing uniforms with cultural artifacts to demonstrate cultural pride is permitted under the following circumstances:

☐ Varsity teams only. Must be initiated by the team members and head coach. ☐

Permission of principal and activities director prior to first contest of season. ☐

Home games and/or tournaments only.

☐ District not responsible for uniform enhancements not expressly provided by the district. ☐

Principal and activities director are responsible for assuring there is no violation of Montana High School Association rules and Title IX laws.

☐ Principal and activities director are responsible for assuring uniform enhancement are equitable among sports and across gender.

☐ Does not offend any cultural tradition.

☐ Must be the property of School District #9 and for the sole use of students of School District #9.

OTHER FEES AND/OR FINES:

Students must pay all fees and or fines owed to the school for lost or damaged school property, including textbooks, library books or uniforms before they will be allowed to participate in a sport or other extracurricular activity.

DURATION OF SEASONS:

Fall, winter and spring seasons begin on the first day of practice allowed by the Browning Public

School District #9 and end the day prior to the beginning date of practice for the next sport.

ACTIVITY INSURANCE

Browning Public Schools carries insurance on all students participating in any activity. This coverage is in force while practicing in or competing in, as a representative of the school and under direct supervision of certified full time school employee or qualified coach, an inter-school activity conducted under the regulation and jurisdiction of the Browning Public Schools.

This plan covers only medical expenses that are not payable by other insurance. Therefore, you must file a claim with your family insurance coverage or health provider.

Injury Report

On any injury for which a possibility of a claim for insurance may occur, or a doctor's visit will occur, the student's parents and coach should contact the high school athletic director's office within 72 hours of the incident. If the injured student must see a doctor for the injury, a statement of release from the doctor will be required before the student is eligible to participate in practice or games/meets.

Athletes injured in sports during practice/events should be documented within 72 hours by the Coach, filling out a Student Incident Report, and submitting it to both the Athletic Office, and the Principal's Office. Athletes also have the responsibility of initiating any insurance claim form if injury resulted in ambulance service, doctor's service, doctor's care, or hospital expenses. Remember – insurance companies have no way of knowing about an injury unless you inform them through a claim sheet. The claim can be accomplished with the Administration office.

Coaches are not to do any medical treatment on students, in which the symptoms indicate a communicable or infectious disease.

Steps to follow if a student sustains an injury:

1. Obtain a claim from the coach, sponsor, advisor or the Activities Director.
2. A doctor must treat the student within 30 days from the date of injury.
3. Proof of claim must be submitted within 90 days from the date of injury.
4. Benefits are payable for one year from date of accident.
5. **If covered by Indian Health Service, they have to be notified within 72 hours of the injury.** Call Contract Health Services @ Blackfeet Community Hospital – 338-6236. If no answer, leave message.

Note: If covered by Indian Health Services, **in a non-emergency situation**, you must call for **pre authorization for healthcare services** prior to obtaining the service.

INSIGHT

Any student assigned to insight for any substance use violation (Vapes, nicotine, cigarettes, alcohol, drugs) cannot participate in games until the INSIGHT procedure is completed. Students may practice while in the process of completing their insight classes but will not play in events until completion.

Progressive Discipline Summary

Offense	Required Intervention
1st Offense	Completion of EVERFI Modules assigned by the Wellness/Prevention Director
2nd Offense	Will be removed from the team and athletics for that season

HAZING

Definition: To persecute or harass with humiliating tactics or practical jokes, in general, or as an element of initiation into membership of a group. (This is inclusive of the tactic known locally as “giving snuggies”.)

Disciplinary consequences:

First Offense: Browning Public Schools must take a zero tolerance on this issue. Students found to have been involved in such defined initiations or hazing will be dismissed from the team or activity and will be subject to additional consequences as stated in the Browning Middle School Student Handbook.

1. A conference will be held with the participant, parent/guardian, coach/advisor and Activity Director as soon as possible following the violation.
2. A written report of the incident will be filed with the Principal and Superintendent
3. In addition, an investigation will be conducted to determine further legal actions that may be necessary.

Students and their families should be aware that serious civil and criminal charges might arise from initiation and hazing incidents.

CELL PHONES, PICTURE CELL PHONES, DIGITAL/IMAGING CAPTIONING DEVICES:

Cell phones must be turned off upon entering the school and should not be used during the instructional day. They are not to be taken into locker rooms and restrooms. These devices may be confiscated and the duration decided on by the administration or, other disciplinary actions taken based on the behavior plan.

SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL: Students assigned ISS or OSS will not be allowed to participate in practice or perform in any school sponsored activity during the time of the suspension. **They must also complete the BMS re-entry procedure following the suspension before returning to practice or competition.**

FIGHTING

Disciplinary Consequences: Coach/Sponsor will make a referral to the student’s building

administrator. Standard school disciplinary actions concerning fighting will be enforced as well as additional disciplinary actions as determined by the coach and or Activities Director. ***Note that students serving school suspensions for fighting are subject to the Suspension From School policy as outlined above.***

PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION: Public displays of affection involving athletes or club members are not appropriate while the student is a representative of Browning Public Schools, especially during games, on trips and in other buildings or facilities.

NATIONAL ANTHEM/FLAG PRESENTATION RESPECT:

Students will stand at attention with their hand over the heart while the national anthem is being played. Athletes/club members are to remove hats/caps and stand at attention during the entire time the flags are being presented, including the time when the flags are being carried on and off the floor/field.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES AND TRIPS

Travel Considerations: Students on school-sponsored trips are under the jurisdiction of the school and its policies as outlined in this Activities Handbook, the Student Handbook and the School District #9 policy manual. Students must travel to and from the activities by transportation authorized by the school. Occasionally, circumstances require special travel arrangements. On those occasions, the Parent/Guardian must contact the Athletic Director or building Principal for approval of the travel plan prior to the bus leaving for the event. Parents wishing to have their student ride home with them after an event are to ***personally*** notify the coach/sponsor and submit a written request for permission to take the student.

Students are asked to keep in mind that when they travel, they are Browning's "Ambassadors" and are expected to behave in a manner that will reflect positively upon themselves and our community.

Students apprehended breaking the law, such as theft, consuming or having consumed alcohol, drugs, tobacco or non-prescription drugs will forfeit their opportunity to participate in the present activity, will be sent home and will be subject to further disciplinary action. **If a student is sent home, the parent/guardian will be required to provide transportation or pay the cost of providing transportation. Furthermore, if a student is detained by Law Enforcement the parent is responsible for penalties and transportation. Students who leave the group may be suspended from further trips or extra-curricular activities.**

Conduct on Buses: We are very fortunate to have excellent team buses for the transportation of our activity's participants. While riding in school provided transportation, students are required to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and to abide by all school transportation department rules concerning personal conduct, consumption of food & drink and general bus safety. Some of our buses are equipped with video viewing equipment. It is inappropriate to bring videos for viewing that may be offensive to some. All videotapes brought on trips must be pre-approved by the head coach or advisor before being brought onto the bus.

Conduct in Hotels/Motels: School related overnight trips are to be considered extensions of your regular school day. Students are to be under the supervision of an adult during the duration of any trip. An adult supervisor must accompany students wishing to leave the hotel/motel for meals or recreational purposes. Coaches, advisors or chaperones will designate appropriate times for students to be in their rooms and for "lights out". Students are expected to be in their rooms at the appropriate times and to

exhibit behaviors that are considerate of other hotel/motel guests, (i.e., no running up & down the halls, slamming doors, yelling, etc.). When staying in lodging provided by the school district, students are not authorized to incur any additional charges to their rooms. Charges for items such as phone charges or room service are prohibited.

Dress Code: Since students participating in extra-curricular activities are very visible to those watching the event, it is important that they represent their school and community in the best possible way. Blue jeans and tee-shirts are not considered to be appropriate attire when our students travel on extracurricular trips. To this end, all students involved in extra- curricular activities will follow the following guidelines for student dress.

1. No baggy or saggy pants or shorts are to be worn.
2. Belts are to be kept inside the belt loops.
3. Shirts are to be tucked inside the students' pants, dress or skirt.
4. Hats are to be removed upon entering a building.
5. Students are encouraged to wear clothing that identifies them as members of the Browning extra- curricular activity that they are participating in at the time.

Again, students are reminded that others based upon how we present ourselves make judgments and opinions about our community and ourselves. Members of Browning's extracurricular activities will present themselves in a way that fosters a positive opinion by others.

Individual coaches/advisors will have the option of implementing a dress code consistent with the expectations of School District #9 for its students. The advisor, sponsor, coach, Principal and/or Activities Director/Coordinator will make the final decision about the appropriateness of a student's attire.

LIST OF ACTIVITIES COVERED UNDER THIS POLICY:

All Sports Programs Activities are covered under this policy

Extra Curricular Activities

All School Sponsored Clubs

CODE OF CONDUCT

Browning Public School District #9

It is becoming more evident that tobacco (*including smokeless*), alcohol and other drugs may easily become addictive and harmful to an individual's physical and emotional health. As part of the curriculum offerings, School District #9 provides education regarding the use of these substances.

The District also has a Substance Abuse Policy, which recommends counseling assistance for the student experiencing a problem with tobacco (*including smokeless*), **vapes**, alcohol or other drugs. Additionally, the District has developed and implemented a program to assist students in need of help due to the use of tobacco (*including smokeless*), **vapes**, alcohol or other drugs.

Co-curricular activities, athletics included, are extensions of the District's curriculum and the student's academic experience and are privileges afforded to students during their educational experience. The District feels that a student participating in co-curricular activities should be a good representative for themselves, their family, their fellow participants & students, their school and their community. The District further believes that involvement in the use of tobacco (including smokeless), **vapes**, alcohol and other drugs is not an appropriate representation for students participating in co-curricular activities.

Contained in the Activities Handbook are the guidelines of expected behavior for students participating in co-curricular activities. We are asking you, the parent or guardian, to discuss with the activity participant the positive aspects of refraining from the use of tobacco (including smokeless), **vapes**, alcohol and illegal drugs. You should also note that there are penalties for participants who have been found to be involved in the use of tobacco (including smokeless), **vapes**, alcohol or other drugs during the time that he/she was participating in a co-curricular activity.

After you have read and discussed the Activities Handbook, please make certain that both student and parent (or legal guardian) have signed this form. Return the form to the appropriate coach or advisor. You may also return the form directly to the Activities Secretary in the high school office or to the office of the Activities Director.

We, the undersigned, have received the policies as stated in the Browning High School Activities Handbook, understand them and agree to adhere to them during the duration of participation in this sport or activity during the 2026-2027 school year.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Activity: _____

VALID THROUGH ALL PARTICIPATION OF 2026 – 2027 ACADEMIC YEAR

**You must return this form to your coach or advisor before participating.
Please do not return your Activities Handbook to the school. You should keep this handbook for future reference.**

Browning Public School District #9

Emergency Information Sheet

Participant's Name: _____

Address

DOB: _____ Age: _____ Phone: _____

List two persons to contact in case of emergency:

Parent or guardian:

Address: Phone: (H)_(W) Physical Address (if different than above):

Second contact's name:

Address: Phone(H) (W) Relationship to participant:

- Your Health Insurance Company: Policy #

Your physician's name: Phone: Are you allergic to any drugs? If so, what?

Do you have any other allergies (i.e. bee stings, dust, etc.)?

Do you suffer from: asthma diabetes epilepsy? Are you on any medication?

If so, what?

Do you wear contact lenses?

Other health information that we should be aware of (please list).

You must return this form to your coach or advisor before participating.

VALID THROUGH ALL PARTICIPATION OF 2026 – 2027 ACADEMIC YEAR

Browning School District #9

Student Participation Agreement

School Year 2026 - 2027

Student Name: _____

Last First Middle

Date of Birth: ____/____/____
(M/D/Y)

Age: ____.

Grade: ____

I am the natural parent or guardian of the above-named student and hereby give my permission for him/her to participate in extracurricular activities, both sports and other school-sponsored activities and instructional field trips. I understand that participation in these activities may mean that my child will be required to attend events on weekends or evenings which may involve travel outside of the School District. All such transportation will be in accordance with District policies and procedures.

Responsibility:

I understand that participation in such activities involves inherent risks to students. Regardless of reasonable safety measures taken by the District. For an in consideration of School District #9's agreement to allow my child to participate, I accept responsibility for any loss, damage or injury to my child and his/her property that occurs during participation in such activity that is not the result of fraud, willful injury or negligent violation of law by a trustee, employee or agent of the District.

Medical Care:

In the event it becomes necessary for the District staff member in charge to obtain emergency care for my child, neither the staff member nor the District assumes financial liability for such care. I agree to accept responsibility for medical expenses incurred in good faith by the District for my child resulting from an accident, illness or other unforeseen circumstances.

Signature & Address Information:

Parent/Guardian

Date:

Address:

Phone

Parent/Guardian

Date

Address:

Phone

Student

Date:

You must return this form to your coach or advisor before participating.

VALID THROUGH ALL PARTICIPATION OF 2026 –2027 ACADEMIC YEAR



Student-Athlete & Parent/Legal Guardian Concussion Statement

Because of the passage of the Dylan Steigers' Protection of Youth Athletes Act, schools are required to distribute information sheets for the purpose of informing and educating student-athletes and their parents of the nature and risk of concussion and head injury to student athletes, including the risks of continuing to play after concussion or head injury. Montana law requires that each year, before beginning practice for an organized activity, a student-athlete and the student-athlete's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) must be given an information sheet, and both parties must sign and return a form acknowledging receipt of the information to an official designated by the school or school district prior to the student-athletes participation during the designated school year. The law further states that a student-athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from play at the time of injury and may not return to play until the student-athlete has received a written clearance from a licensed health care provider.

Student-Athlete Name: _____

This form must be completed for each student-athlete, even if there are multiple student-athletes in each household.

Parent/Legal Guardian Name(s): _____

☐ We have read the *Student-Athlete & Parent/Legal Guardian Concussion Information Sheet*.

If true, please check box

After reading the information sheet, I am aware of the following information:

Student-Athlete Initials		Parent/Legal Guardian Initials
	A concussion is a brain injury, which should be reported to my parents, my coach(es), or a medical professional if one is available.	
	A concussion can affect the ability to perform everyday activities such as the ability to think, balance, and classroom performance.	
	A concussion cannot be "seen." Some symptoms might be present right away. Other symptoms can show up hours or days after an injury.	
	I will tell my parents, my coach, and/or a medical professional about my injuries and illnesses.	N/A
	If I think a teammate has a concussion, I should tell my coach(es), parents, or licensed health care professional about the concussion.	N/A
	I will not return to play in a game or practice if a hit to my head or body causes any concussion-related symptoms.	N/A
	I will/my child will need written permission from a licensed health care professional to return to play or practice after a concussion.	
	After a concussion, the brain needs time to heal. I understand that I am/my child is much more likely to have another concussion or more serious brain injury if return to play or practice occurs before concussion symptoms go away.	
	Sometimes, repeat concussions can cause serious and long-lasting problems.	
	I have read the concussion symptoms on the Concussion fact sheet.	

Signature of Student-Athlete

Date

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date



A Fact Sheet for **ATHLETES**

WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a brain injury that:

- ☐ Is caused by a bump or blow to the head
- ☐ Can change the way your brain normally works
- ☐ Can occur during practices or games in any sport
- ☐ Can happen even if you haven't been knocked out
- ☐ Can be serious even if you've just been "dinged"

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION?

- ☐ Headache or "pressure" in head
- ☐ Nausea or vomiting
- ☐ Balance problems or dizziness
- ☐ Double or blurry vision
- ☐ Bothered by light
- ☐ Bothered by noise
- ☐ Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- ☐ Difficulty paying attention
- ☐ Memory problems
- ☐ Confusion
- ☐ Does not "feel right"

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK I HAVE A CONCUSSION?

- ☐ **Tell your coaches and your parents.** Never ignore a bump or blow to the head even if you feel fine. Also, tell your coach if one of your teammates might have a concussion.

- ☐ **Get a medical checkup.** A doctor or health care professional can tell you if you have a concussion and when you are OK to return to play.
- ☐ **Give yourself time to get better.** If you have had a concussion, your brain needs time to heal. While your brain is still healing, you are much more likely to have a second concussion. Second or later concussions can cause damage to your brain. It is important to rest until you get approval from a doctor or health care professional to return to play.

HOW CAN I PREVENT A CONCUSSION?

Every sport is different, but there are steps you can take to protect yourself.

- ☐ Follow your coach's rules for safety and the rules of the sport.
- ☐ Practice good sportsmanship at all times.
- ☐ Use the proper sports equipment, including personal protective equipment (such as helmets, padding, shin guards, and eye and mouth guards). In order for equipment to protect you, it must be:
 - > The right equipment for the game, position, or activity
 - > Worn correctly and fit well
 - > Used every time you play

Remember, when in doubt, sit them out!



A Fact Sheet for PARENTS

WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a brain injury. Concussions are caused by a bump or blow to the head. Even a “ding,” “getting your bell rung,” or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious. You can’t see a concussion. Signs and symptoms of concussion can show up right after the injury or may not appear or be noticed until days or weeks after the injury. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms yourself, seek medical attention right away.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION?

Signs Observed by Parents or Guardians

If your child has experienced a bump or blow to the head during a game or practice, look for any of the following signs and symptoms of a concussion:

- ☐ Appears dazed or stunned
- ☐ Is confused about assignment or position
- ☐ Forgets an instruction
- ☐ Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- ☐ Moves clumsily • Answers questions slowly
- ☐ Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- ☐ Shows behavior or personality changes
- ☐ Can’t recall events prior to hit or fall
- ☐ Can’t recall events after hit or fall

Symptoms Reported by Athlete

- ☐ Headache or “pressure” in head
- ☐ Nausea or vomiting
- ☐ Balance problems or dizziness
- ☐ Double or blurry vision
- ☐ Sensitivity to light
- ☐ Sensitivity to noise
- ☐ Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- ☐ Concentration or memory problems
- ☐ Confusion
- ☐ Does not “feel right”

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD PREVENT A CONCUSSION?

Every sport is different, but there are steps your children can take to protect themselves from concussion.

- ☐ Ensure that they follow their coach’s rules for safety and the rules of the sport.
- ☐ Encourage them to practice good sportsmanship at all times.
- ☐ Make sure they wear the right protective equipment for their activity (such as helmets, padding, shin guards, and eye and mouth guards). Protective equipment should fit properly, be well maintained, and be worn consistently and correctly.
- ☐ Learn the signs and symptoms of a concussion.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD HAS A CONCUSSION?

1. **Seek medical attention right away.** A health care professional will be able to decide how serious the concussion is and when it is safe for your child to return to sports.
2. **Keep your child out of play.** Concussions take time to heal. Don’t let your child return to play until a health care professional says it’s OK. Children who return to play too soon—while the brain is still healing—risk a greater chance of having a second concussion. Second or later concussions can be very serious. They can cause permanent brain damage, affecting your child for a lifetime.
3. **Tell your child’s coach about any recent concussion.** Coaches should know if your child had a recent concussion in ANY sport. Your child’s coach may not know about a concussion your child received in another sport or activity unless you tell the coach.

Remember, when in doubt, sit them out!

Be Prepared

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury, or TBI, caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head that can change the way your brain normally works. Concussions can also occur from a blow to the body that causes the head to move rapidly back and forth. Even a “ding,” “getting your bell rung,” or what seems to be mild bump or blow to the head can be serious. Concussions can occur in any sport or recreation activity. So, all coaches, parents, and athletes need to learn concussion signs and symptoms and what to do if a concussion occurs.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION

SIGNS OBSERVED BY PARENTS OR GUARDIANS	SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY YOUR CHILD OR TEEN	
☐ Appears dazed or stunned ☐ Is confused about events •Answers questions slowly •Repeats questions ☐ Can't recall events prior to the hit, bump, or fall ☐ Can't recall events after the hit, bump, or fall ☐ Loses consciousness (even briefly) ☐ Shows behavior or personality changes ☐ Forgets class schedule or assignments	<u>Thinking/Remembering:</u> ☐ Difficulty thinking clearly ☐ Difficulty concentrating or remembering •Feeling more slowed down ☐ Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy <u>Physical:</u> ☐ Headache or “pressure” in head ☐ Nausea or vomiting ☐ Balance problems or dizziness •Fatigue or feeling tired ☐ Blurry or double vision ☐ Sensitivity to light or noise ☐ Numbness or tingling ☐ Does not “feel right”	<u>Emotional:</u> ☐ Irritable •Sad •More emotional than usual •Nervous <u>Sleep*:</u> ☐ Drowsy •Sleeps less than usual •Sleeps more than usual ☐ Has trouble falling asleep <i>*Only ask about sleep symptoms if the injury occurred on a prior day.</i>