



## CROSS COUNTRY INHERENT RISK FORM

This school strives to protect each student from possible injury while engaging in school activities. The guidelines and information identified below have been established for this activity in order to protect the student and others from injury and/or illness. Participants and their parents should recognize that conditioning, nutrition, proper techniques, safety procedures, and well-fitting equipment are important aspects of this training program. Each participant is expected to follow the directions/standards of the coach and must understand that failure to follow such directions or adhere to standards may place the participant at risk.

Travel to and from off-campus facilities shall be in accordance with the directions of the activity coach.

Guidelines are as follows:

1. Make certain that you wear all equipment that is issued by the coach. Advise the coach of any poorly-fitted or defective equipment.
2. Advise the coach if you are ill or have any prolonged symptoms of illness.
3. Advise the coach if you have been injured.
4. Engage in warm-up activities prior to strenuous participation.
5. Be alert for any physical or other hazards in the locker room or in or around the participation area. Advise coach of any hazard or concern.
6. Run only on the course prescribed by the coach.
7. Run in pairs in unfamiliar territory or in areas where there are few people.
8. Watch for objects being thrown from passing cars.
9. Approach dogs with caution.
10. Be familiar with basic first aid treatment for heat exhaustion, heat stroke, sprained ankle, or other runner-related injuries.
11. Face the oncoming traffic when running on roads. Be cautious at intersections and be acutely aware of erratic drivers and the location of vehicles at all times.

The above information has been explained to me and I understand the list of rules and procedures. I also understand the necessity of using the proper techniques while participating in the cross country program.

I am aware that cross country is a **HIGH-RISK SPORT** and that practicing or competing in cross country will be a dangerous and unpredictable activity involving **MANY RISKS OF INJURY**. I understand that the dangers and risks of practicing and competing in cross country include, but are not limited to, death, serious neck and spinal injuries which may result in complete or partial paralysis, brain damage, blindness, serious injury to virtually all internal organs, serious injury to virtually all bones, joints, ligaments, muscles, tendons and other aspects of my body, general health, and well-being. I understand that the dangers and risks of practicing or competing in cross country may result not only in serious injury, but in a serious impairment of my future abilities to earn a living, to engage in other business, social, and recreational activities and generally to enjoy life. I understand that due to the nature of the sport, the exact make-up of a running course may be unknown or contain unidentifiable hazards or circumstances.

We agree that neither the school district, nor the staff of the school district, nor the student organization of the school district shall in any way be held liable for any accident or injury in any way received on account of or while engaged in any athletic activity sponsored by the district. We further agree that neither the district nor any of their staff or student organizations shall be responsible for the payment of any bills rendered for medical services as a result of such accidents or injuries.

We also acknowledge that it is our responsibility to provide for any medical, disability or other insurance to mitigate any costs that may be unfortunately incurred as a result of participation in this activity.

By signing below, I certify that I have read the above, understand its content, and agree to its terms.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athlete's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*NOTE:* Student and Parent/Guardian, please read the Inherent Risk Form, sign/date, and hold in your personal file. It is not necessary to return the form with the athletics application package. If you have questions, please call Pam Kiteley, SMS Business Office, 360.452.5590.

