

Olympia School District

Track and Field -----SAFETY GUIDELINES

Prior to participating, both the student and parent must read carefully and sign.

When a person is involved in any athletic activity, an injury can occur. One should understand the information presented in these safety guidelines is to inform the athlete of proper techniques and inherent dangers involved with track and field. There is a chance of broken bones, muscle and soft tissue and back injuries, which could lead to some form of paralysis. Not all potential injury possibilities in this sport are listed, but athletes should be aware that fundamentals, coaching and proper safety equipment are important to the safety and enjoyment of the sport.

1. Proper warm-up is essential before strenuous activity takes place. Be aware of the potentially serious injuries if you do not follow correct procedures in stretching, and conditioning.
2. Perform only those skills and techniques as instructed and/or supervised by your coach.
3. Be sure all equipment, especially shoes, is fitting properly before each day's activity. Make sure all shoes have the proper cleats for both the event and track surface.
4. Athletes should wear the proper safety equipment as designated by the coach.
5. Travel to and from off-campus facilities and practice/competition sites must be in accordance with school policies and procedures.
6. Remove all jewelry and metal hair fasteners and other body adornments as required by rules and regulations for track and field.
7. Wear outer and under garments appropriate for humidity and temperature.
8. In order to help protect the safety of all squad members, squad members with physically limiting injuries and/or health conditions must inform the coach prior to each day's activity of the limiting conditions and participate only to the extent allowed by the coach.
9. Players should hydrate themselves frequently during practice and meets and follow the coaches' direction on hydration prior to and following practices and meets.
10. Notify the coach immediately if you are injured or do not feel well.
11. Practice only when your coach is present.
12. Hurdlers must make sure the hurdles are placed at the correct height and are facing in the proper direction. Do not run in the opposite direction the hurdle is facing.
13. Be aware of the safety rules for special events such as javelin, pole vault, discus, and shot put. These events require specialized training and special supervision of both the athlete and those in close proximity.
14. Do not attempt any field event without the prior authorization of the coach.
15. Before attempting any throwing event, make sure the throwing sector and landing area are free of people and obstructions.
16. Check all equipment and apparatus prior to using them each day. Special attention is required for pole vault pits to make sure the sections of the pit and the proper pads are in place surrounding the vault standards.
17. Pole-vaulters should never use a pole that does not properly match the athlete's weight and height to be attempted.
18. Athletes shall not attempt an event without proper instruction from their coach and the approval of a coach to attempt an event.
19. At the conclusion of each practice and meet, return all equipment to the proper storage area as directed by your coach and secure those storage areas as directed by your coach.

I (student name) _____, understand the above information, the list of rules, safety regulation/warnings and procedures. I also understand the necessity of using the proper techniques while participating in the track and field program.

Student Signature _____ Parent Signature _____
Date: _____ Date: _____