

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Eighth Grade Participation in High School Athletics – 2026-2027 School Year

House File 2591 (2026) allows Iowa school districts to permit eighth-grade students to participate in high school interscholastic athletics. The Linn-Mar Community School District has adopted local guidance allowing eligible eighth-grade students to **try out** for and participate on high school teams in all sports offered at Linn-Mar High School, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

Participation is subject to all applicable eligibility rules, team selection processes, and the guidelines outlined in the attached guidance document.

Key Points for Families:

- **All high school sports available** — Eighth graders may **try out** for all high school sports beginning with the 2026-2027 school year (Poms - for the 2027-2028 school year; Cheer - The Iowa Cheer Coaches Association (ICCA) limits high school cheer participation to grades 9–12. Therefore, eighth-grade students will not be permitted to participate in high school cheer. This will be reevaluated if the ICCA changes its policy.)
- **Same-sport restriction** — Students may not compete in the same sport at both the middle school and high school levels in the same academic year (different sports at each level are permitted).
- **Parent/guardian transportation required** — Families are responsible for transportation to all high school practices and competitions.
- **No guarantees** — Making a team or receiving playing time is not guaranteed; roster and playing time decisions rest with the coaching staff.
- **Good Conduct & Physical required** — All participants must follow the district Good Conduct Policy and have a current pre-participation physical on file.
- **Registration process** — High School and Middle School registration opens July 1 [via Bound](#). Eighth-grade students interested in fall sports must complete a short Google Intent Form (July 1–20, 2026). [Click Here for 8th Grade HS Athletic Participation Google Intent Form](#). Specific details and links will be emailed and posted on the district website.

Please Review the Following Attached Links and Documents:

- [Linn-Mar HF2591 Eighth Grade High School Participation Guidance](#) — Full details on local implementation, eligibility, team selection, and responsibilities.
- [2026-27 High School Sports | Length of Seasons | # of Events](#) — Official IHSAA/IGHSAU season calendar and maximum contest limits.
- [2026-27 Linn-Mar Middle School Sports Calendar](#) — Middle school season dates for planning purposes.
- [HF2591 IHSAA/IGHSAU FAQ](#) — As state associations continue to provide guidance, we encourage families to review the HF2591 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document developed by the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU) and the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA). This resource helps address many of the common questions regarding eligibility, participation, and implementation.

We are excited to offer this new opportunity to our eighth-grade student-athletes and look forward to a great 2026-2027 school year!

Questions? Please contact the Linn-Mar High School Athletic Department.

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