



## Education and Leadership for a Lifetime

2100 Freeway Boulevard, Brooklyn Center, Minnesota 55430-1735 | (763) 560-2262, FAX (763) 569-0499 | [www.mshsl.org](http://www.mshsl.org)

### **Policy for Special Recognitions, Commemorative or Memorial Patches**

The increased recognition of charitable causes by professional sports teams has prompted questions from member schools that have an interest in hosting a contest in recognition of a charitable cause. Oftentimes, schools want to change uniform colors, add uniform adornments, or use colored balls. These changes may be in direct violation of game rules which creates problems for the team, their opponents and the game officials. In an effort to provide uniformity, the MSHSL Board of Directors has developed a policy and procedures to address special recognitions, commemorative or memorial patches.

#### **Uniform Modifications for Special Recognitions**

##### **STEPS TO FOLLOW IF A UNIFORM MODIFICATION/ADORNMENT IS REQUESTED**

1. Prior to any special recognition or awareness, the event, and/or special recognition must be approved by the school board or by the school administrative team (Superintendent, Principal, Activities Director). Rule exceptions are only allowed for a specific game/recognition.
2. The event and special recognition must be shared with the opponent, and the opponent must agree to any change/adjustment in the rules.
3. Colored balls or other equipment, different from that prescribed by the rule book, is not allowed.
4. All uniforms must meet the rule book requirements. Uniforms of a special color to bring awareness to a cause are not allowed. The following exceptions are allowed:
  - a. A uniform patch four square inches or less may be worn.
  - b. Wristbands (cloth) or sweatbands of a color different than the uniform color may be worn.
  - c. Colored shoe laces, shoes, or decals on shoes are legal at any time
  - d. Socks, unless disallowed by rule, may recognize a specific initiative.
  - e. Helmet decals of four square inches or less may be worn.
  - f. Ribbons of a color different from the uniform color may be worn if they can be fastened securely without causing a safety concern for players or opponents.

**NOTE:** Be sure to consult the rule book of the specific sport. Anything listed above that is not allowed by rule (varies by sport) can only be used if all steps outlined in this policy are followed.
5. Prior to the start of the event, game officials must be shown a copy of this policy, and the letter from the school board or the administrative team approving the uniform modification.
6. A copy of the approval letter from the school board/administrative team must be sent to the appropriate MSHSL Tournament Staff in the League office. The letter will be kept on file in the event a question regarding a uniform modification is asked.

#### **Memorial, Commemorative or American Flag Patches for Uniforms**

The following guidelines have been established by the MSHSL Board of Directors as to when and for how long memorial, commemorative or American Flag patches may be worn on the uniform. Memorial and commemorative patches may not exceed 4 square inches and American Flag patches may not exceed 2x3 inches. Both may be worn on each item of the uniform apparel provided the patch does not interfere with the visibility of the player's number.

Approval to place a memorial or commemorative patch will be granted by the school Principal and does not need League approval provided it meets the following criteria:

1. A memorial patch may be placed for a member of the school team and may remain for the period of time that the student would have been eligible to participate.
2. Memorial or commemorative patches may recognize a person of significance (coach, administrator, etc.) or an event as determined by the school administration.

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact the League office at 763-560-2262.

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