



MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Policy for Special Recognitions and Commemorative or Memorial Patches

The increased desire to recognize causes has prompted questions from member schools that have an interest in recognizing a cause during a contest. Oftentimes, schools want to change uniform colors, add uniform adornments, or use colored game balls or equipment. These changes may be in direct violation of sport-specific playing rules which creates challenges 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 and commemorative or memorial patches.

Modifications for Special Recognitions

1. Colored game balls or other equipment that does not meet the specifications prescribed by the sport-specific rules book is not allowed.
2. All uniforms must meet the sport-specific rule book requirements. Uniforms of a special color to bring awareness to a cause are not allowed. The following modifications are permitted if approved by the school administrative team:
 - a. A uniform patch four square inches (e.g. 2" X 2") or less.
 - b. Wristbands (cloth) or sweatbands of a color different than the uniform color. bands (cloth) or sweatbands of a color different than the uniform color.
 - c. Helmet decals of four-square inches or less.
 - d. Ribbons of a color different from the uniform color may be worn if they can be fastened securely without causing safety concern for players or opponents.
 - e. Colored shoelaces, shoes, or decals on shoes are allowed.
 - f. Socks, unless disallowed by rule, may recognize a specific initiative.

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 worn if steps below are followed.

STEPS TO FOLLOW IF A MODIFICATION/ADORNMENT MEETS THE SPECIFICATIONS ABOVE:

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 Administrator). Modifications 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.
3. Prior to the start of the event, game officials must be shown a copy of written communication from the school board or the administrative team approving the uniform modification.
4. A copy of the approved written communication from the school board/administrative team and shall be kept on file by the member school.

Memorial, Commemorative or United States Flag Patches for Uniforms

Memorial and commemorative patches may not exceed four square inches (e.g. 2" X 2") and United States Flag patches may not exceed 2" x 3" dimensions. 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 administrative team and does not need League approval provided it meets the following criteria:

1. A single memorial patch may be placed on the uniform and may remain for a period of time as determined by the school administrative team.
2. Memorial or commemorative patches may recognize a person of significance (coach, administrator, etc.) or an event as determined by the school administrative team.
3. Memorial, commemorative, or flag patch(es) placement must meet sport-specific rule book specifications.

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

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