



Archer Publishing is seeking identity-inclusive/affirming poems for this young adult sports poem anthology to address contemporary sports-themed topics that are of high interest to high school students and relevant to their lives. Especially looking to feature BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and multilingual #OwnVoices poets but all are welcome as Archer Publishing continues to look for new and visionary authors that bridge the gap between the LGBT and mainstream communities with an eye on diversity.

Call for Poems

Rhyme and Rhythm: An Anthology of High School Sports Poems

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At the heart of many high schools in America is sports. For some student-athletes, school sports are about pride, loyalty, legacy, and the opportunity to go to college. For other students, school sports are about being part of something, even it that means keeping stats, cheering from the bench, or updating social media. But not all student-athletes compete at school. Their sport may not be included; they may not have made the team; they may not have the grades to be eligible.

High school athletes know that their being does not begin and end at school. Their field of action and greatest accomplishment may be overcoming whispers of doubt on the bus home, holding down a part-time job, making dinner for siblings after a match, staying eligible for the next game. In the margins of the day, they can be found in driveways and parks and even on YouTube studying videos for training tips. Their rhythm of sport is their joy, escape, healing, and way of being.

We invite authors of young adult literature to submit poems for this anthology to explore how sports poetry uses the white space and ink to realize the many ways of being a student-athlete in America. We seek verse that reaches out, up, down, and across the pages of high school student-athletes lives:

- Imagine student-athletes during COVID-19 and Black Lives Matters protests. What was the impact on the meaning of sports for the student-athletes when seasons were canceled or they trained in masks or when they kneeled in protest? Where and how did they continue to compete?
- Bias in sports policies. What about the girl who isn't allowed or welcomed to compete on the boys' wrestling team? What of the lawsuits to change conference rules that allow high school athletes to compete in sports corresponding with their gender identity? How are athletes responding? What does sports activism look like?
- Think about the athletes who did not make the school team but continue to play in the parks and rec leagues. Where do they compete? Who are their teammates?
- Think about athletes who may be overlooked or a sport that is under-celebrated.
- Consider the high school athletes who have to take care of their siblings, carry their family legacy to compete, work a part-time job, and/or study into the night to be eligible to play. Where is the poetry off the courts and fields? What rhymes for them? What is the rhythm of their lives?
- Push boundaries of imagination. Vulnerable. Glorious. Grief-stricken. Hilarious.

We look forward to reading your poem submissions.

Contributors: For authors of young adult literature and poetry who write for 12-18. We hope this anthology will be read in high school classrooms, libraries, book groups, and choice reading. For the bus ride home after a game, for comfort after a loss, for joy in being on the page.
#ownvoices

Form: Topical, progressive, fiction, nonfiction, any form, lyric, narrative.

Length: No more than 40 lines. In Word format, justified, line spaced at 1.5; Garamond font at 10. At the top, include the title of work, author's name, email address, phone number, and word count.

Poem Submission Deadline:

November 1, 2020

Decision: January 2021

Revisions Due: March 2021

Publication Expected: late fall 2021/ early 2022

Send no more than two poems, of no more than 40 lines. A separate cover page that indicates the author(s)' full names, email addresses, affiliations, bio, and positionality statement. All poem submissions and questions should be submitted to the editor at YAsportspoems@gmail.com.

Copyright: All copyrights pertaining to the project Rhyme & Rhythm: An Anthology of High School Sports Poems anthology shall remain retained by Archer Publishing. All copyrights pertaining to the individual works shall be retained by the author/poets.

Compensation: There is no monetary compensation. Contributors shall receive 2 physical copies of the book.