

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Interscholastic athletics for boys and girls is an integral and desirable part of the district's secondary school educational program. Individual and team sports shall be based upon comprehensive physical education instruction and intramural activities, seeking broad participation from all eligible secondary students. Lifetime or carry-over sports are to be particularly encouraged and supported. Parity in the number and kind of sports activities for girls and boys is a clear objective of the district.

Student eligibility for participation on interscholastic teams shall include:

1. authorization by the school physician;
2. written parent or guardian consent (the written consent will contain information for parents on mild traumatic brain injury (TBI) and will provide a link to the State Education Department's web page on TBI); and
3. endorsement by the Building Principal based on established rules and various league and State Education Department regulations.

Although the district will take reasonable care to protect student athletes, students may still sustain injuries. In order to most effectively ensure student safety, open communication between students, parents and coaches about the child's medical condition is critical. Coaches, and other appropriate staff, will receive guidance and training regarding recognition of injury and removal of the student athlete from play in the event of injury. Parents and/or students are expected to report injuries so that student health can be protected.

In the case of a suspected or actual head injury, a student must be removed from play immediately. In order to resume participation following injury, including head injury, the student needs to receive medical clearance. The Superintendent, in consultation with appropriate district staff, including the school physician, will develop regulations and procedures to guide the process of return to play.

In recognition of the importance of appropriately managing head injuries, the Board authorizes the creation of a Concussion Management Team (CMT). The CMT will be comprised of the athletic director, a school nurse, the school physician, a coach of an interscholastic team, an athletic trainer and other appropriate personnel designated by the Superintendent. The CMT is charged with overseeing compliance with state training requirements, developing guidelines for use by coaches and physical education teachers and developing information for distribution to parents and students.

Athletic Placement Process

The Board of Education has established a committee for the Athletic Placement Process to include one principal, one nurse, one athletic director, and one PE teacher to consider each student's academic study, maturity, physical ability, overall health, and well-being.

The Northeastern Clinton Central School Board of Education may permit pupils in grades no lower than seventh to compete in interscholastic sports and associated activities; provided the pupils are placed at levels of competition appropriate to their physiological maturity, physical fitness and skills in relationship to other pupils on those teams in accordance with standards established by the NYS Commissioner of Education – Commissioner's Regulation Section 135.4 (c)(7)(ii)(a)(4).

The program is not to be used to fill positions on teams, provide additional experience, and provide a place for junior high students when no modified program is offered. Instead, it is aimed at the few select students who can benefit from such placement because of their level of readiness. Be it known that any student successfully completing the selective classification program is NOT guaranteed a sport on a higher level team.

Levels of Competition:

Modified: The Modified program is available to students in the seventh, eighth and ninth grades. Our goal is to provide as many students as possible the opportunity to compete at this level. We try to play all squad members an equal amount of time throughout the season barring academic, disciplinary or attendance problems. At this level our major goals are teaching the fundamentals of the sport, skill development, sportsmanship, responsibility, and developing interest in that sport. Winning is not the primary goal, but the desire to win and compete fairly is important. The modified program is a preparatory stage for higher levels of competition.

Junior Varsity: The Junior Varsity teams are usually comprised of 9th and 10th graders. Occasionally lowerclassmen also play on JV teams. At this level there is continued emphasis of skill development, fundamentals, sportsmanship and responsibility. Player development, mastering individual and team fundamentals and the execution of the programs system as taught by the coach are of primary importance. Although more emphasis is placed on winning at this level; development of individuals within the program is of equal importance. This is a time where individuals also begin to learn the importance of self-sacrifice for the good of the team. The Junior Varsity program prepares the athletes for the Varsity level of competition. Participation becomes more competitive and it is sometimes necessary to have cuts to keep squad numbers at a level where the coach can effectively teach all squad members. Efforts are made to play all team members in every contest, but play time may not be equal. At this level playing time is largely influenced by skill level, sportsmanship, responsibility, effort at practice and the motivation to succeed, academics, attendance and disciplinary issues.

Varsity: The Varsity level teams are primarily of 11th and 12th graders. Students from lower grades may be able to try out and compete effectively at the varsity level. This level often becomes the culmination of high school athletic development. Competition is increased, playing time becomes more contested. Coaches expect a higher work ethic, increased dedication and more advanced skills. Team and individual goals are set. It is important that each team member understand their role and how they can best contribute to those goals. Skill development, team and individual fundamentals, sportsmanship and responsibility are still important. More stress is now placed on discipline, working as a unit, sacrificing to reach maximum performance and playing to win. At this level playing time is largely influenced by skill level, sportsmanship, responsibility, effort at practice, the motivation to succeed, the ability to work with other team members as a group, academics, attendance and disciplinary issues. Play time may not be equal and possibly may not be in every game.

Course Credit

In accordance with existing Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, the Board of Education will permit students in grades 10-12 to receive credit towards high school graduation equivalent to physical education for participation in interscholastic athletics. Such credit will, in addition to other requirements, be contingent upon proven cardiovascular and physical fitness and competency in

lifetime or carry-over sports. Standards for such fitness and competency shall be developed by the administration.

Cross-ref: 5420, Student Health Services

Ref: Education Law §§ 305(42), 1709 (8-a); 3001-b 8 NYCRR §§135.4, 136.5

Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Dist. V. Doe, 520 U.S. 290 (2000) (constitutionality of student-led prayers at interscholastic athletic activities)

Concussion Management Support Materials, www.nysphsaa.org

Athletic Placement Process for Interschool Athletic Programs.

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/documents/AthleticPlacementProcess12-11-17FINALRevised.pdf>

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