

**Board of Education Policy**

**ATHLETIC PLACEMENT PROCESS**

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WHEREAS, Section 135.4(c) (7) (ii) (a) (4) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education provides for a Board of Education to permit pupils in grades no lower than seventh grade to compete on interscholastic athletic teams organized for senior high pupils, or senior high school pupils to compete on interscholastic athletic teams organized for pupils in the seventh and eighth grade; and

WHEREAS, these pupils are to be placed at levels of competition appropriate to their physical maturity, physical fitness and sport skills, and social and emotional/mental maturity in relationship to other pupils in accordance with the standards established by the Commissioner of Education; and

WHEREAS, the State Education Department issues the competition standards for these pupils to compete under a program called Athletic Placement Process;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Miller Place Union Free School District Board of Education shall permit pupils to compete under Athletic Placement Process in all sports excluding football.

The intent of Athletic Placement Process is to provide for students in grades 7 & 8 a mechanism allowing them to participate safely at an appropriate level of competition based upon physical and emotional readiness and athletic ability rather than age and grade alone. Students do not mature at the same rate and there can be a tremendous range of developmental differences between students of the same age. The program is NOT to be used to fill positions on teams, to expose players to high school level coaching, provide additional experience, or provide a place for middle school 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 and ability to successfully compete at a high level of participation. It will also be *fairer* to the other students on the modified team.

The Miller Place Union free School district will follow New York State Education Department guidelines for the Athletic Placement Process (“APP”) unless otherwise stated. The program (varsity) head coach will make the recommendation to the Director of Athletics and initiate the request for a student’s consideration to compete at the desired level. This recommendation must be based on first-hand knowledge and may not be initiated by a parent request. Upon recommendation, the Administrative Approval step of the APP will be conducted by a committee, chaired by the Director of Athletics and comprised of at least one middle school physical educator, a middle school administrator, and a school nurse. Requests for consideration must be presented to the Director of Athletics a minimum of 10 days prior to the start of the season start date. Consideration will be given to all aspects of readiness and maturity. This includes review of academic, social, behavioral as well as physical maturity. *Decisions of the committee are final.*

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**Reference:** 8 NYCRR §§135.4  
*Athletic Placement Process for Interschool Athletic Programs*, The University of the State of New York, The New York State Education Department, *available at* <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/documents/AthleticPlacementProcess12-11-17FINALRevised.pdf>.

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