

North County League Middle Level Philosophy

Philosophy - Recognizing the unique developmental needs of the middle level student, the WIAA promotes activities that build student success through active **participation**, increased **skill building** and positive **sportsmanship**.

Participation

- Emphasize participation over win/loss records
- Provide opportunities for everyone to participate
- Balance competition with cooperation
- Encourage lifelong participation in activities
- Emphasize having fun

Skill Building

- Develop age appropriate skills
- Focus on fundamentals
- Develop skills as a foundation for improvement

Sportsmanship

- Develop a positive team attitude
- Encourage, cooperate and collaborate with peers
- Present positive adult role models that demonstrate self-control and respect

Middle School Coaches Shall Understand

- Students have varying levels of ability, and coaches need to present a developmentally appropriate program for students
- Positive encouragement is the strongest tool for learning
- Coaches should provide a safe environment for kids to "risk" and grow
- Activities should be meaningful and fun
- Fundamentals and practice are the building blocks for a successful athlete
- Coaches are a key role model
- Every team member's responsibility is to encourage one another
- Today's superstar could be tomorrow's bench warmer and vice versa