

<b>7421</b>	<b>Interscholastic Athletic Program Philosophy</b>
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Our interscholastic program offers students in grades 7-12 participation in a variety of sports. The purpose of these athletic programs is to provide competitive opportunities so that all student-athletes may further develop their athletic abilities. Student-athletes will strive to achieve their goals while learning and practicing the ideals of effective teamwork and sportsmanship in a positive atmosphere.

Athletic eligibility requires that the student:

- a. Provide written interval health history consent form. The consent form must contain information regarding mild traumatic brain injuries (concussions) as specified in the Commissioner's regulations.
- b. Obtain medical clearance from the school physician/nurse practitioner or the student's personal physician. The school physician/nurse practitioner retains final approval on any physicals performed by a student's personal physician.
- c. Meet the requirements for interscholastic competition as set forth by the Commissioner's regulations and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, including the Athletic Placement Process for students grades 7-8.
- d. Comply with all District rules, codes, and standards applicable to athletic participation.

### **Athletic Placement Process for Interschool Athletic Programs (APP)**

The Ballston Spa School District Board of Education shall permit students in grades no lower than seventh grade to compete on interscholastic athletic teams organized for high school students, or for high school students to compete on interscholastic teams organized for students in the seventh and eighth grades, after they have successfully completed the Athletic Placement Process for the requested sport and level.

These students will be allowed to compete at levels that are appropriate to their physical maturity, physical fitness, and sport skills in relationship to other pupils in accordance with the standards established by the Commissioner of Education, and the State Education Department issues the competition standards for these pupils to compete under a program called the Athletic Placement Process.

As outlined in the Athletic Code of Conduct, it is expected that all student-athletes will learn and demonstrate the following through personal and team performance.

- Sportsmanship
- Leadership
- Citizenship
- Self discipline

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- Commitment
- Teamwork
- Academic Responsibility
- Pride
- Physical fitness
- Confidence

### **A. Objectives of the Interscholastic Program**

Consistent with this philosophy, student-athletes will be placed in an appropriate level of competition based upon each individual's sport specific knowledge and skill level. At each level of competition specific objectives will be emphasized. The following information is presented as a breakdown of the different competitive levels offered in the interscholastic program and the focus of emphasis at each level.

#### **1. Modified Level**

This level serves as an introduction to competitive high school sports for student-athletes. The objectives of this level are:

- To acquire and develop sport specific skills and fundamental strategies,
- To provide student-athletes opportunities to practice skills and strategies in competition.

#### **2. Freshman and Junior Varsity Level**

These are intermediate competitive levels which serve as a bridge between the Modified and Varsity levels of competition. The objectives of these levels are:

- To continue development and refinement of sport specific skills and strategies,
- To provide student-athletes opportunities to demonstrate skills and knowledge in contests based upon the level of proficiency demonstrated in organized practice sessions.

#### **3. Varsity Level**

The varsity level is the highest level of competition offered in our athletic program. Student-athletes in this level must demonstrate high levels of proficiency in acquired sport specific skills, concepts, and strategies. The objectives of this level are:

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- a. To place emphasis on highly skilled competition,
- b. To base playing time upon the demonstrated performance of an individual in sport specific skills and abilities,
- c. To field competitive teams at the league and sectional level of competition.

## **B. Roles and Expectations**

High School sports bring people together. Coaches, parents, students and fans play integral roles in supporting our philosophy of providing a quality competitive experience for our student-athletes. The following identifies the role and expectations of these groups in relation to our interscholastic athletic program.

### **1. The Coach**

At all levels of competition, the role of the coach is one of instructional leadership. Our coaches will strive to provide a positive experience for student-athletes through quality instruction based upon personal and professional development. The coach will challenge and encourage each athlete, individually and as a member of the team, to reach the objectives of his/her respective level of competition.

In addition to his/her responsibilities for the varsity team, the varsity coach will serve as the instructional leader for the development of the total sport program. Varsity coaches will work with assistant/sub-varsity level coaches to deliver a coordinated program with regards to goals and objectives, instruction, supervision, and budget development.

Our coaches are responsible for providing the opportunity and leadership for the student-athlete to compete in an athletic environment which fosters sportsmanship and fair play. The academic pursuit of the student should be enhanced by athletic participation. The aforementioned guidelines serve as benchmarks for the conduct of coaches, and will be reflected in the Athletic Code of Conduct.

### **2. Parents**

The parents of our student-athletes are recognized as a valuable asset to our athletic programs. Through their academic, emotional and moral support, parents shall assist and support our coaching staff in teaching student-athletes

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the value of responsibility and commitment as it relates to our program objectives.

Parents are expected to recognize and acknowledge that the coach has sole responsibility for determining team practice/game organization, strategy, and the playing time of individual team members.

Through their attendance and conduct at contests, parents shall demonstrate their support for their child and his/her team by exhibiting good sportsmanship towards opponents, coaches, and contest officials, as identified by the Section II Code of Conduct for Spectators.

3. Students/Fans

Our student body and the fans of our programs within the community provide moral support for our student-athletes and teams through their attendance at contests, and by their adherence to and demonstration of appropriate behavioral conduct as identified by the Section II Code of Conduct for Spectators.

Adoption Date: 07/10/2019