

SELECTION/CLASSIFICATION PROGRAM

I. NYSPHSAA SELECTION/CLASSIFICATION PROGRAM

The Selection/Classification program is a process for screening student-athletes to determine their readiness to compete in interscholastic athletic competition by evaluating their physical maturity, fitness and skill. The intent of this program is to provide athletes in grades 8-12 an opportunity to safely participate in an appropriate level of competition based upon readiness, rather than age and grade.

A. Implementation of the Selection/Classification Program

The Holland Patent Central School District participates in the Selection/Classification program and provides an opportunity for middle school athletes to move up in all sports.

This program has been designed to assess a student-athlete's physical maturation, physical fitness, and skill, so that the athlete may be placed at a level of competition which should result in increased opportunity, an appropriate competitive environment for the ability level and maturity of the student-athlete, and greater personal satisfaction.

The Selection/Classification program was designed for mature and exceptionally skilled students to advance to a more challenging level of play, and to provide an opportunity for less developed students to participate at an appropriate lower level that is suited to their development and ability. It is aimed at the few select student-athletes who can benefit from such a placement because of their level of readiness.

A criterion has been formulated by the State Education Department, which gives an accurate measurement for eligibility, and highlights the inherent differences in the various individual and team sports. The Commissioner of Education (Section 135.4) governs rules, regulations and guidelines for this program.

Normally, a student is eligible for high school athletic competition in a sport during each of four consecutive seasons, commencing with the youngster's entry into the ninth grade. However, by satisfying the requirements of the Selection/Classification program, a student may receive extended eligibility to permit:

1. Participation during five consecutive seasons in the approved sport after entry into the eighth grade; or

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2. Participation during six consecutive seasons in the approved sport after entry into the seventh grade. (Only for sports in which we do not offer a modified program)

B. Moving Up and Bypassing a Modified Program

1. For those sports where an eighth grader is presented with an opportunity to participate in a Junior Varsity or Varsity program. Please be advised that this program is designed to qualify the most elite athletes providing an opportunity for them to excel at a higher level of competition. This program is not intended to fill a roster.
2. The Holland Patent CSD head coach in each sport, in consultation with the athlete's Holland Patent CSD middle school coach/principal and physical education teacher, recommends those individuals to be selectively classified. In addition to the criteria mentioned above, the social and emotional maturity of each athlete is carefully assessed, along with the student's academic profile. It is expected that those athletes recommended for participation in the Selection/Classification program demonstrate a commitment to academic achievement when an athlete is being considered as a candidate for selection classification.
3. The competitive demands of a high school program are greater than those at the middle school level, and participation at a higher level will present a challenge with respect to time management skills and a student's commitment to academic achievement.

C. Moving Up When a Modified Program Opportunity Is Not Provided

1. Student-Athletes that are not provided an opportunity to participate in the modified level for certain sport programs; (Tennis, Bowling, Golf, and Alpine Skiing) shall be allowed an opportunity to be selectively classified at the 7th and 8th grade level.
2. If the athlete has had training and an appropriate competitive background in the sport, and demonstrates the academic, social and emotional maturity for play at the high school level, the student will be recommended for Selection/Classification testing.

D. Selection Classification Process

1. Created by New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), New York State Athletic Administrators Association (NYSAAA) and the State Education Department (SED)

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2. Provide for students in grades 7 & 8 a mechanism for them to participate safely at an appropriate level of competition based upon readiness rather than age and grade.
3. Selection Classification was designed to assess a student physical fitness, physical maturation and skill, so that the student may be placed at a level of competition that should result in a fairer competitive environment, reduced injury and greater personal satisfaction.
 - a. *Request* must be made by a lower level certified Holland Patent CSD coach and Holland Patent CSD physical education teacher in consult with the principal, coach and/or physical education teacher.
 - b. *7th grade students* will *not* have an opportunity for selection classification.

***Exceptions (sports that do not provide opportunities at the modified level)*

II. SELECTIVE CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES

- A. Parental/Guardian Permission Form submitted
- B. Selection Classification (maturity test administered)
- C. Athletic Performance Test is administered
- D. The student receives a tryout opportunity and is evaluated by the coaching staff
- E. The Athletic Director reviews all paperwork and notifies Section III
 1. JV/V will be considered for 7th grade student athletes that are interested in a sport where no opportunities exist at the middle school level.
 - a. (Tennis, Bowling, Golf, Alpine Skiing)
 2. A committee will meet during July/August prior to the upcoming school year to review all Selective Classification requests. The committee will consist of the following staff:
 - a. Athletic Director
 - b. Coaching Staff (HPCSD)
 - c. Principal
 - d. Physical Education Staff (HPCSD)

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3. The committee will review the:
 - a. Social/emotional and academic profiles of each student, as well as his/her fitness and maturity tests.
 - b. Parent/Guardian forms signed and submitted
 - c. Maturity test administered
 - d. Physical Fitness Test administered

F. Standards of Performance and SED Fitness Testing

If the youngster is approved to participate in the Selection/Classification program, the following procedures apply:

1. The school physician must administer a physical examination and determines the athlete's physical health and readiness through a state-mandated examination and a physical maturity evaluation.
2. An authorized physical education teacher, appointed by the Director of Athletics, must administer an Athletic Performance Test, as required by the State Education Department. The specific tests mandated and qualifying scores are sport specific. No one else other than the designated district staff member may administer the required tests.
3. If the school physician gives an athlete medical clearance, and the physical performance standards are met, the athlete will be permitted to participate in tryouts for a three-day period (possibly longer for those trying out for golf or tennis).
4. The athlete will be contacted with the final decision immediately after the three-day tryout period. If the athlete is denied the opportunity to participate in the high school program, he or she will be eligible to participate in that sport, if offered at the modified level.