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Athletic Placement Process (APP)

Purpose

The Athletic Placement Process (APP) is a program established by the New York State Education Department to ensure that student-athletes participate at the level most appropriate for their educational, social, emotional, physical, and athletic development. The APP provides an opportunity for qualified student-athletes in grades 7 and 8 to be considered for participation at a higher level of athletic competition when such placement is determined to be appropriate.

The West Irondequoit Central School District is committed to making athletic placement decisions that align with its Core Commitments by promoting student growth, maintaining high expectations, supporting student well-being, and providing equitable access to educational opportunities. Athletic placement decisions shall be made in the best interest of the student and the integrity of the interscholastic athletic program.

The APP is intended for exceptional student-athletes who demonstrate the skills, maturity, physical readiness, and commitment necessary to successfully compete at a higher level. Consideration for placement should be limited to students who are projected to be potential starters or significant contributors of at least 50% of contest play.

Step 1: Varsity Coach Request for Review

The varsity coach shall complete the district APP evaluation form for any student-athlete being recommended for placement at a higher level of competition. The must include evidence of the student's athletic ability, sport-specific skills, competitive readiness, maturity, and overall potential to contribute meaningfully at the higher level.

The recommendation shall include objective observations and supporting rationale demonstrating why placement at an advanced level is appropriate and in the best interest of the student-athlete

Step 2: Administrative Approval

The recommendation is reviewed by the Athletic Director, building administration, and student services staff as appropriate to determine whether the student is eligible to move forward in the process. In addition to having the appropriate sport specific skill and fitness level, the review will determine the student's social-emotional, mental, and academic readiness.

Only students who demonstrate readiness in all applicable areas shall be approved in the process.

Step 3: Parent/Guardian Permission

Following administrative approval, written consent from the student's parent or guardian shall be obtained before the student-athlete may participate in any APP assessments, evaluations, or team tryouts.

By providing consent, parents/guardians acknowledge their understanding of the increased expectations, responsibilities, and competitive demands associated with participation at a higher level of interscholastic athletics.

Step 4: Registration and Medical Clearance

The student must complete all required athletic registration procedures and receive medical clearance in accordance with the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) and district requirements.

No student-athlete shall participate in tryouts or practice until all required documentation and medical clearances have been completed and approved.

Step 5: Team Tryouts

The student-athlete must participate in team tryouts and demonstrate the ability to compete safely and effectively at the higher level.

Eligibility to participate in the APP does not guarantee selection to a team roster. Final roster decisions shall remain the responsibility of the coaching staff and shall be based on established team selection criteria, program needs, and the student's ability to contribute at the higher level.