

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The School Committee will make every effort to promote an interscholastic athletic program that is educationally sound and that encourages a comprehensive program to meet the needs of as many of our students as possible.

The Committee is committed to ensuring the maximum participation of, and growth opportunities that, athletics offer to all students and believes that the three levels of teams – middle school, junior varsity and varsity – are designed to offer opportunity to the greatest number of students possible and to match the growth, skill and maturity of student athletes.

When a team exists at the middle school level, 7th and 8th graders are expected to play at that level. The School Committee strongly believes that this is a good and appropriate entry into high school sports and matches the skill, maturity and endurance of most middle school athletes. However, there are conditions when it is necessary or appropriate to bring middle school students up to the junior varsity and/or varsity level.

In any of the situations listed below, coaches may not exclude or cut upper classmen first.

The conditions that coaches may consider moving middle school students to a higher level are:

1. When it is necessary to field a team
2. When it is necessary to even numbers between teams
3. When it is determined that bringing some middle school students up to a higher level provides more opportunity for other students to participate in the sport

Any middle school athlete that is being considered for the junior varsity or varsity level must be the most skilled in the position(s) needed, and demonstrate the emotional and physical maturity and endurance to play at an advanced level. A middle school athlete that shows “potential” but does not have the maturity, size or endurance to play at an advanced level should not be advanced.

Before any middle school student is considered for advancement, the coach must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Athletic Director and the Principal that the move is necessary to maximize student participation at all levels. The coach and Athletic Director must further confer with the Guidance Counselor and Principal and athlete’s parents to ensure the student’s readiness to play at an advanced level.

On the rare occasion that middle school athletes are brought up to the junior varsity or varsity level, the procedure outline in JJI-R will be followed. In the event that any of the steps in the procedure are not followed, the student will be determined to be ineligible to move up and there is no appeal.

In the event that a team does not have a delineated middle school team, or delineated junior varsity and varsity teams, all members of the Jr./Sr. High School student body may participate.

**Adopted By The
Hadley School Committee: September 22, 2014**