

## **2424 GOALS FOR ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION**

Participation in interscholastic athletics for many pupils is a very important part of their educational experience. Beyond the athletic skills required for a sport, pupils develop leadership skills, sportsmanship and commitment to a team. Student athletes also experience the emotions of both victory and defeat, learn to accept and play a role within the framework of a team, develop lifetime athletic skills, and maximize his/her potential.

The Supervisor of Athletics shall appoint and evaluate coaches who know the fundamentals of the game and maintain the highest levels of sportsmanship. Coaches must be able to work effectively with their players and act as positive role models.

The goals for our student athletes vary according to age, grade and level of athleticism.

### **Eighth Grade**

1. Keep as many student athletes as possible. Student athletes will be evaluated and cuts may be made based upon skill level of student athlete, number of interested students, nature of sport, and safety.
2. Teach fundamental skills, team concept, and personal responsibility as a member of the team.
3. Prepare athletes to participate in the high school sports program.

### **Freshman**

1. Keep as many student athletes as possible. Student athletes will be evaluated and cuts may be made based upon skill level of student athlete, number of interested students, nature of sport, and safety.
2. Teach fundamental skills, team concept, and personal responsibility as a member of the team.
3. Prepare athletes for the next level in which competition, ability, commitment to excellence and winning become more important.

### **Junior Varsity**

1. Increased focus on competition. Tryouts will be conducted and cuts will be made based on the skill level of the student athlete, the nature of the sport, and safety.
2. Reinforce the fundamental skills while processing athletes for high mastery levels.
3. Prepare athletes for the next level in which competition, ability, commitment to excellence and winning become more important.

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4. After conferencing with the coach, athletes in eleventh grade should have an understanding of their level of proficiency and their prospects for participation at the varsity level.
5. A senior may not play on a junior varsity team.

**Varsity**

1. Maximum focus on competition and coaches will be free to place their best players on the field. Tryouts will be conducted and cuts will be made based on the skill level of the student athlete, the nature of the sport, and safety.
2. Seniors will be retained based on the coaches' perception of their value to the team, the amount of playing time they are likely to receive, and the degree to which they can contribute to team goals.
3. Mastery of fundamental skills will be expected and emphasis will be placed on teaching advanced skills.

Selection to Westfield High School teams will not be based on previous participation on club teams, recreational programs or participation in athletic camps. Selection for participation on varsity teams is at the sole discretion of the coaches as long as they act within the criteria enumerated within this policy and Policy 2431 (Athletic Competition).

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