



PUTNAM VALLEY ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

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MODIFIED ATHLETIC PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The Modified Athletic Program level of competition consists of athletic opportunities for students in 7th & 8th grades. This level provides a bridge between recreational activities and the organizational structure of an interscholastic athletic program. Interscholastic Athletics are governed by the rules and regulations of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association and Section One.

It is our goal for all student-athletes to have a quality and meaningful experience that focuses on maximizing participation, providing quality instruction, having reasonable opportunities to test learned skills in a competitive situation, and maintaining safety to ensure that practices and competitions are equitable as possible.

TEAM SELECTION

All students are “**entitled**” to pursue becoming a modified team member. Once chosen for the team, the athlete must “**earn**” his/her opportunity to play in a contest. There is no substitute for commitment and hard work. While we would like to provide an opportunity for every athlete who expresses interest in a program, this is not always possible. While we try to avoid cuts at the middle school level, certain factors exist that must be dealt with by imposing a limitation on the number of students that can be accommodated in specific programs. Ultimately, recommended team sizes may increase or decrease based upon the following factors – (1) experience of the coach, (2) skill level of the players, (3) repetitions available during practice and games, (4) facility space, and (5) safety – and will be made jointly by the modified and varsity head coach of each respective program.

The middle school athletic program is a fully developed interscholastic program and student athletes should consider time, interests, academic responsibilities, and team requirements before committing to a team. In order for the desired development of the adolescent athlete to occur, daily attendance at practice sessions is vital.

With the increasing number of children who are interested in playing on our teams, it is impossible to keep everyone who wants to play if we are to insure safety, quality of instruction and provide adequate playing time in contests. Coaches will inform any player who is not selected for the team in a caring and positive manner. Students should conduct a personal assessment of their skills to determine if they have the ability to make the specific team. This self-evaluation process could prevent the disappointment of not making the team.

DETERMINING PLAYING TIME

Coaches will attempt to “play” everyone while maintaining the integrity, competitiveness, and safety of the contest for all involved. It is important to point out that playing time is earned and not predetermined. The modified coaching staff will use the following criteria in determining playing time:

Attendance

1 - Practice Time: Is the player putting in quality practice time? Quality can be defined as the following:

- A. Showing up everyday for the entire time of practice.
- B. Playing hard throughout practice, even when they think the coach is not looking.

2 – Attitude -

- A. Coming to practice everyday with a positive attitude, wanting to get better and listening to the coach.
- B. Being focused and paying attention during practice.

3 – Competency of Skills: Does the athlete have the skill level needed to be out on the field/court so that he/she is safe as well as their teammates that need to rely on them?



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4 – Safety: Is the player being put in an environment the coach believes is safe for the player as well as the surrounding players to succeed in?

5 – Being in Shape: A certain level of conditioning is required to participate in athletics.

6 – Academics – meeting all deadlines that include daily assignments, testing, and long- term assignments. Using your time wisely.

7 – Ability - The Final Say: The Head Coach always has the final say. Situations arise in games that may require a change in personnel for reasons that usually include individual safety.. The coach must have that freedom.