

## REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 18

**File: IGDJ**

### INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

#### Philosophy

The interscholastic athletics program offers students in grades 6-12 the opportunity to compete in various sports. In sponsoring this program, the Board has adopted the following philosophy.

It is our feeling that the purpose of extracurricular activities is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well being of the individual participants. It is expected that participants in our program will display the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play; to show and encourage respect to opposing teams, fellow players and coaches, and officials; and finally to encourage a winning spirit while not losing sight of the above ideals. It is the will of this School Unit that a successful program be made available to all with maximum participation. Liberal use of squad members is desired consistent with the winning tradition. It is further the will of this School Unit that our young people pursue as many sports and extracurricular activities as possible so as to expand their experiences and that coaches and advisors, working cooperatively, encourage students toward this goal of broad participation.

#### Selection of Team Participants

As is stated above, it is the intent of the Board to encourage broad participation in the interscholastic athletics program. However, due to the nature of certain sports, squad size must be limited. The following designates the various sports as either “open”, meaning participation is “not” limited to a set number of squad members, or “selected”, meaning that squad size is limited and, therefore, certain students may not be chosen for the team.

Even though a sport may be designated as “open” or “selected” based on number limitations, the Board further recognizes the need to insure the health and safety of each individual through proper conditioning and training, as well as the proper acquisition and progression of specific sport skills, techniques, and game strategies. For these reasons, a student must participate in tryouts and/or practices scheduled during the “preseason” time period in order to become a member of any team. This “preseason” time period begins with a date determined by the Maine Principals’ Association for each sport season and officially ends on the date of the Maine Principals’ Association’s first countable game/contest for each sport. Students must meet all local and MPA eligibility requirements in order to participate during this “preseason” time period.

#### Athletic Programs -Open Participation

<u>Messalonskee Middle School</u>	<u>Messalonskee High School</u>	<u>China Middle School</u>
Cross Country	Cross Country	Track
Field Hockey	Fall Cheering	
Football	Football	
Swimming	Boys' Track	
Boys' Track	Girls' Track	
Girls' Track	Boys' Swimming	
Golf	Girls' Swimming	

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### \*Athletic Programs - Selected Participation

<u>Messalonskee Middle School</u>	<u>Messalonskee High School</u>	<u>China Middle School</u>
Baseball	Baseball	Baseball
Boys' Basketball	Boys' Basketball	Boys' Basketball
Girls' Basketball	Girls' Basketball	Girls' Basketball
Cheering	Competitive Cheering	Cheering
Softball	Field Hockey	Softball
Boys' Soccer	Softball	Boys' Soccer
Girls' Soccer	Boys' Lacrosse	Girls' Soccer
	Girls' Lacrosse	
	Ice Hockey	
	Boys' Soccer	
	Girls' Soccer	
	Golf	
	Boys' Tennis	
	Girls' Tennis	

\*Squad size shall be maximized for all middle school and sub-varsity teams listed as “selected participation”.

It should be noted that (a) certain students may not be chosen for a sport in order to insure the health and safety of each individual and (b) future limitations, either due to budgetary restraints or unmanageable numbers, may have to be imposed by the Board in sports which are presently designated as “open participation”.

In those sports which have selected participation, it is the responsibility of the coach to choose the team. It is expected that each coach will base his/her judgment on open tryouts. The tryouts, three days minimum in duration and not to exceed the first Maine Principals' Association (MPA) countable game, should be comprehensive in format, allowing athletes ample opportunity to demonstrate their skill levels while affording the coaching staff sufficient time to assess abilities. Athletes must meet all local and MPA guidelines during the tryout period to participate. Following the last day of tryouts, rosters will be posted announcing the varsity, junior varsity, freshmen, and middle school teams.

As circumstances dictate, this may result in a primary assignment on one squad, while also playing at another level. During the season, players may encounter upward or downward movement in their primary assignments. As athletes move down to junior varsity and freshman squads, some players originally assigned to those levels may have reduced playing time.

Those athletes who will be playing on more than one squad will share practice time at each level. With each team utilizing the same philosophy, offense, defense, etc., shared practice time will provide athletes the opportunity to compete with each other in preparation for game situations.

Cross Reference:     ADC – Tobacco-Free Schools  
                          GBEC – Drug Free Schools  
                          GBED – Smoking on School Unit Premises  
                          JFC – Standards for Responsible and Ethical Student Behavior  
                          JICH– Student Substance Abuse Discipline  
                          JKD – Student Detention/Suspension  
                          JKE – Expulsion of Students

Date of Adoption:     August 5, 2009

Policies/RSU No. 18 Policies/I – Instruction/IGDJ – Interscholastic Athletics