

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 district 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 district 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

Messalonskee Middle School

Cross Country
Field Hockey
Football
Swimming
Boys' Track
Girls' Track
Golf

Messalonskee High School

Cross Country
Fall Cheering
Football
Boys' Track
Girls' Track
Boys’ Swimming
Girls’ Swimming

*Athletic Programs - Selected Participation

Messalonskee Middle School

Baseball
Boys' Basketball
Girls' Basketball
Cheering
Softball
Boys' Soccer
Girls' Soccer

Messalonskee High School

Baseball
Boys' Basketball
Girls' Basketball
Competitive Cheering
Field Hockey
Softball
Boys' Lacrosse
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
 JFCI – Student Substance Abuse Discipline

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