

INSTRUCTION – MIDDLE SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

The School Board believes that with few exceptions, high school athletic teams should be made up of high school students. Every attempt shall be made to recruit high school students for participation in activities. However, there are situations where seventh and eighth grade students will be allowed to participate on high school athletic teams to guarantee the viability of offering the activity or ensure the health and safety of individual team members.

Category 1: Subjectively evaluated sports are sports that are based on evaluation of coaching staff and the use of statistics that are able to measure and determine an athlete's ability. Limited seventh or eighth grade students may participate at the high school level to guarantee viability of an activity, i.e., high school participation numbers are not large enough to field three levels of teams (V, JV, C) or if the seventh or eighth grade student is a gifted athlete who will benefit from the experience of playing at the high school level and help develop strong and competitive programs for BHS athletics. These decisions need to be carefully weighed by the high school coaching staff, the Activities Director, and the Middle School Administrator, keeping in mind what is in the best interest of the seventh or eighth grade athlete. Seventh and eighth grade students may participate on high school teams if no high school athlete is cut or denied from participating at the junior varsity or C team due to the presence of a seventh or eighth grade student.

~~Seventh or eighth grade student participation is rarely allowed for the following athletic teams because of high numbers of high school participants: Football, Volleyball, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Boys Hockey, Baseball, Boys Golf, Boys Cross Country Skiing, Girls Cross Country Skiing, Boys Track, Girls Track, Boys Tennis, Girls Tennis, Boys Cross Country Running, Girls Cross Country Running.~~

Category 2: Stopwatch sports are activities that have a clear indicator of a student's ability through stopwatch time. Even though there may be adequate participation numbers at the high school level, a middle school student's time performance is a clear indication that they would qualify for section level competition, or higher, and these students/athletes could be advanced to the varsity sports team to represent Bemidji High School. Seventh and eighth grade students may participate on high school teams if no high school athlete is cut or denied from participating at the junior varsity or ~~varsity level~~ C team due to the presence of a seventh or eighth grade student. ~~Limited seventh or eighth grade students may participate at the high school level to guarantee viability of an activity, i.e., ninth grade student or junior varsity level competition. These teams include: Girls Hockey, Dance Team, Girls Golf, Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer, Girls Softball, Boys Swimming, Girls Swimming, Wrestling, Gymnastics.~~

~~Category 3: Stopwatch sports are activities that have a clear indicator of a student's ability through stopwatch time. Even though there are adequate participation numbers, a Middle School student's timed performance is a clear indication that they would qualify for state level~~

~~competition, these rare student athletes could be advanced to the varsity sports team to represent our school.~~

The following conditions apply to the seventh and eighth grade student athlete:

1. Seventh and eighth grade students will not be permitted to leave the Middle School prior to the established dismissal time for practice.
2. The student class schedule will not be changed due to participation in a Bemidji High School activity.
3. Dismissal for participation in regularly scheduled contests will be permitted when necessary.
4. Transportation from Bemidji Middle School to Bemidji High School for practices and scheduled contests will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
5. All fee requirements of Bemidji High School will be applicable.
6. All Minnesota State High School League eligibility rules will be in place for seventh and eighth grade students.
7. Any decisions made to accelerate a seventh or eighth grade student are made for the current school/season only and there are no guarantees for subsequent years.
8. The Bemidji High School Activities Office staff shall provide an annual report of seventh and eighth grade student participation in each activity to the Bemidji High School Principal, Bemidji Middle School Principal, Superintendent, and School Board on an annual basis.
- ~~9. Bemidji High School provides sports tryouts for eligible high school students in certain sports. Bemidji High School does not offer tryouts to high school teams for Middle School students.~~

The following procedures will be followed for high school placement:

1. The Head Varsity coach/advisor will recommend to the Activities Coordinator, student(s) he/she considers suitable candidates for higher level placement.
 - a. No consultation with either the student or his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) regarding this recommendation may occur prior to completion of steps 1-3.
 - b. The Head Varsity coach/advisor will be expected to provide adequate rationale for his/her recommendation.

2. The Activities Coordinator shall consult with the Head Varsity coach/advisor and the Middle School Principal. If the Middle School Principal believes more advice is desirable he/she may consult with Assistant Principals, Middle School coach/advisor of that activity, ~~Dean of Students/Activities Coordinator, and~~ teachers of the student, ~~counselor, school psychologist and/or school nurse.~~
3. If the Activities Coordinator, the Head Varsity coach/advisor and the Middle School Principal all unanimously agree on the promotion ~~higher placement~~, the Activities Coordinator, and/or Coach/Advisor, will contact the parent to make sure that they are in agreement and are able to support their athlete at a higher level. A document will be given to the parents/guardians for signatures of understanding of the promotion. ~~send a cover letter, parent application and a student application to the parents.~~
4. Parents who wish to have their son/daughter participate, will complete and return both forms.
5. Only if all five (student, parent(s)/guardian(s), Activities Coordinator, Head Varsity coach/advisor and Middle School Principal) agree, will the student be allowed to participate at a higher level.