

The District 200 High School Interscholastic Athletic Program Philosophy

The interscholastic athletic program is a part of the district's comprehensive extra-curricular program. It is designed to provide student athletes with opportunities for personal and physical development in a teamwork environment. To accomplish this task, the district will commit appropriate personnel, financial support and facilities to manage the program in an equitable and ethical manner.

The athletic program strives to develop in its participants such life long traits as strong character, good sportsmanship, leadership skills and a strong work ethic. It also aims to develop personal characteristics in its participants such as integrity, self-discipline, responsibility, respect, and maturity. The program further challenges the student athletes to develop a positive self-concept as well as a healthy body and mind.

Participating in the District's extra-curricular program, including the athletic program is a privilege. Students must earn this privilege by meeting certain expectations as outlined in the Co-Curricular Code, which is published in the student handbook.

While some interscholastic athletic programs can accept an unlimited number of participants, the majority of the interscholastic athletic program offerings must limit membership. The number of student athletes selected for each team may vary from year to year, from sport to sport and between the district's two high schools. Averages are available from the Athletic Director upon request.

Selection of students will be based on their skill, work ethic, character and ability to meet the academic requirements for participation. Coaches will use tryouts, discussion with teachers, deans and administrators, and grade verifications to help determine how well each student meets the above criteria. The final responsibility for the team selection rests with the coaches.

Certified coaches are hired by each high school to select team members and to determine an athlete's playing time. Coaches are evaluated each year by the Athletic Director in an effort to encourage professional growth in their extended classroom, maintain a highly competent staff, and provide a program that offers equitable treatment of all student athletes.

Coaches will clearly communicate with their players on a regular basis. In particular, communication on team selections, rules, expectations and player/parent satisfaction will occur in the following manner:

1. When selecting student athletes, coaches are expected to have face-to-face communication with each player. Coaches will not post a list or speak to groups of cut athletes. Coaches will address individual circumstances with each student athlete who is dismissed from the team. Playing time is also a source of needed individual, face-to-face communication. Players and parents should feel they could approach the coach to discuss their son/daughter's playing time issues without concern for retribution.

2. Team rules and expectations will be clearly communicated by coaches during face-to-face parent/athlete meetings.
3. Coaches are encouraged to elicit the feelings and levels of satisfaction of players/parents in order to help improve the program. End of season surveys, exit conferences and/or team meeting will be used to obtain this information.

Finally, our athletic program, as part of the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) and the DuPage Valley Conference (DVC), is highly competitive. Given the competitive nature of our program, coaches make decisions regarding an athlete's rank on the team and the playing accorded to each athlete. Competition adds to school and community spirit and helps athletes; students and spectators develop pride in their school.