

**RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**RYE, NEW YORK**

**5280**

**INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**

Interscholastic athletics is an integral part of the District's secondary school education program.

Student eligibility for participation on the interscholastic teams shall include:

1. Eligibility under Policy 5275 (Eligibility for Middle School/High School Extra-Curricular Activities);
2. Authorization by school physician;
3. Endorsement by school principal based on rules and regulations of various league, conference, sectional, State Education Department Regulations and the New York State Athletic Association;
4. Written parent/guardian consent;
5. Compliance with Regulation 5280-R and/or 5280-R1, as applicable; and
6. Execution and compliance with Helmet Waiver Form, as applicable.

Although the District will take reasonable care to protect student athletes, students may still sustain injuries. In order to most effectively ensure student safety, open communication between students, parents and coaches about the child's medical condition is critical. Coaches, and other appropriate staff, will receive guidance and training regarding recognition of injury and removal of the student athlete from play in the event of injury. Parents and/or students are expected to report injuries so that student health can be protected.

In the case of a suspected or actual head injury, a student must be removed from play immediately. In order to resume participation following injury, including head injury, the student needs to follow the District's return to play protocols set up by the District Concussion Management Team (CMT) (see policy 5425).

Course Credit

In accordance with existing Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, the Board of Education will permit students in grades 11-12 to receive credit towards high school graduation equivalent to physical education for participation in interscholastic athletics.

Athletic Placement Process

The New York State Education Department and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association endorse an athletic placement process whereby middle school students can qualify for high school athletic programs after a screening process to determine their readiness [physical maturity, fitness and skill] to compete in interscholastic athletic competition. The intent of the Rye City School District athletic program is to provide students in grade 7-12 an opportunity

to participate at an appropriate level of competition based on readiness rather than age and grade. Seventh and eighth graders [with certain restrictions] may qualify for freshman, junior varsity and varsity programs, if there is room on the team roster without cutting high school students from respective teams. If a modified, freshman or junior varsity program does not exist in a specific sport, the seventh or eighth grade student athlete who meets the selection/classification criteria can advance to the varsity level as long as it is a non-contact sport [e.g. swimming, diving, gymnastics, golf] and as long as no high school student is cut from the team roster. If Rye does not offer a modified program in a specific sport and the District has a junior varsity team for that sport, a seventh or eighth grade student [with certain restrictions] may selectively classify for a freshman or JV team only, not the varsity, as long as no high school student is cut from the team roster. If there is a modified team for a specific sport, an 8th grade student can attempt to selectively classify up to the JV level only, as long as no high school student is cut from the JV team roster.

Normally, a student is eligible for high school athletic competition in a sport during each of four consecutive seasons commencing with the students entry into ninth grade. An eighth grader who, after appropriate screening and classification, is placed on a high school team shall be eligible for five consecutive seasons of eligibility. A seventh grader, processed in the same manner, shall have six consecutive seasons of eligibility.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for developing regulations for the implementation of this policy.

Cross ref: 5275, Eligibility for Middle School/High School Extra-Curricular Activities  
5280.1 Athletics and Physical Education Opt-Out  
5425, Student Concussions and Head Injuries

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