

I. THE FORESTVILLE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

A. Organization and Structure

The athletic program is one of several extracurricular activities the board of education directs the school administration to offer to secondary students in grades 7 through 12 at Forestville Central School. The superintendent of schools, under the board's direction, is responsible for organizing the program. The athletic program is coordinated by the athletic director, who has overall responsibility for all phases of the program. The athletic director is available if any problem develops within the athletic program. Parents are encouraged to attend parent meetings and to establish open communication with the coaches. Please feel free to contact the athletic director during work hours at 965-2711.

The board of education approves the appointment of all coaches for each season each school year. The head coach of a particular sport has direct responsibility for the entire program in that particular sport. The head coach structures and gives direction to middle school, junior varsity, and varsity teams. Head coaches make recommendations to the athletic director concerning their assistant coaches and program. The head coach is also responsible for development of the program to ensure that each athlete develops the basic skills in his or her sport that are requisite to achieving full athletic potential. The head coach directs and controls the team or squad, develops team rules and procedures, and acts as a consultant for the assistants' teams.

B. Philosophy and Goals

The nature of competitive sports dictates that a primary focus must be on the pursuit of excellence in very demanding situations. Competitive sports by its very nature include both mental and physical stress, concentration, self-sacrifice, hard work, joy, sorrow, elation, and disappointment. Sports are one place where a person cannot hide the results of one's efforts.

Competition can bring out the positive and sometimes, unfortunately, the negative human qualities of players. The sports experience should contribute to the overall education of each participant with constant emphasis on the pursuit of excellence. The focus of the program at Forestville Central School has been, and will continue to be, the development of the will to excel. However, winning is not as important as having the will to win.

Participants do not always get the same amount of playing time. There will be times when an athlete may not get in a game or match, and there will be times when some team members will only play for a short time.

There are those who feel that everyone should play equal amounts of time, but that is not going to be the case, particularly as a player rises toward varsity levels of competition. Modified programs typically put more emphasis on trying to get every player into a game or match, but there are no set standards or guarantees in this area. Likewise, gifted athletes (and their parents) should be well aware that the role of the substitute is as important as the role of the starter, and there will be times when starters will be taken out of games and matches. Understanding and accepting these realities are parts of the self-sacrifice required to be a team member. Sometimes members will leave a team because "they aren't playing enough" or "someone doesn't like me." Athletes must work for what they get, since there are no shortcuts in athletics.

C. Funding

The athletic budget is part of the overall district budget. Admissions receipts flow back into the general school district revenues and reflect only a small part of the entire program cost. When a school budget is not approved by voters, the district may be forced to go to a contingency budget. Athletics programs may not be included in a contingency budget unless they are approved by the board of education subject to a vote by the public.

D. New York State Public High School Athletic Association, (NYSPHSAA)

New York State is divided into eleven sections plus New York City. The state athletic association has a set of rules to govern each sport offered in any school in New York State. The state organization, NYSPHSAA, will be referred to often throughout this handbook. Forestville Central School District is a member of the NYSPHSAA and is included in Section VI with other Western New York schools. Section VI provides tournaments and play-off contests for most varsity sports, and the winners of these contests often move on to state-level competitions. Copies of the NYSPHSAA Handbook are available in the athletic director's office.

E. Section VI Athletic Association

Section VI is composed of member schools that cooperate to promote athletic competition in various sports. Individual and team champions are recognized by the Section, and Section schedules are provided within the guidelines of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

Section VI is highly regarded around New York State, and one of its goals is the joining of student-athletes and fans to emphasize the proper ideals

of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play. Forestville Central School athletes will give 100% effort toward this goal.