

III. GENERAL POLICIES FOR ATHLETICS

A. Considerations to Determine if Forestville will Field a Team

There are four major considerations in determining whether or not Forestville Central School shall have a team in a particular sport. These are:

1. Minimum number of participants (team size).
2. Qualified coach available.
3. Facility available.
4. Sufficient opponents available in the area.
5. Budgetary considerations.

The following guidelines are established for fielding a sports team. If any of these qualifications cannot be met, the sport or team will be dropped for that particular season. Before making a final decision, the athletic director will consider unique circumstances, such as players still practicing with a team in a prior sports season resulting in temporary loss of membership to a team.

1. The minimum number of participants must be available to practice by 3:30 p.m. on the last possible date (the number of practices required before the first contest) to be eligible for the first game.
2. It is essential that the school district hire qualified coaches for all levels of competition. If, in the opinion of the athletic director, a qualified coach cannot be found, the sport may be dropped for the season. Every effort will be made until the last possible moment (the number of practices required before the first contest) to find a qualified coach. The minimum number of days necessary varies from sport-to-sport, and the athletic director will determine the last possible start date for the start of practice for each sport on an annual basis.
3. The practice facility to be used must be part of the school district, located within the confines of the district, or in close proximity to the district. All facilities other than those belonging to the district shall be inspected and approved by the superintendent's representative – the athletic director.
4. The majority of opponents shall be from the Western New York area.

B. Modified Interscholastic Athletic Program

Interscholastic competition in sports below the ninth grade and adapted to ages 12 to 14 in grades seven and eight have been modified by the NYSPHSAA. The program has been approved by the member schools and is based on several decades of experimentation and implementation with safety as the overriding concern.

The modified program is designed as a means of enriching the competitive athletic program for younger boys and girls. The modified program is designed to offer students the opportunity to engage in a more highly competitive experience than is found in intramural/recreation programs but not as involved as those found in junior varsity and varsity interscholastic competition. It is expected that a competitive program such as this will not always guarantee each member equal participation opportunities in contests.

C. Selection Classification Program

Forestville Central School participates in the New York State Education Department-approved program that provides for the opportunity for seventh and eighth grade students to participate on junior varsity and varsity teams. This program has been designed for the few students who would be served by playing on a higher level team than age and grade might normally indicate. **STUDENTS CAN ONLY BE RECOMMENDED BY THE VARSITY COACH.** It is expected that there will be only a few middle school students participating on high school interscholastic teams. Information must be collected and evaluated by the athletic director before a student can participate under this program. Considerations that must be met include:

1. Medical examination and approval by the school physician with the developmental or maturity level determined by the school physician in accordance with established guidelines for the level of team.
2. Height and weight should be in line with others on the team for full-contact sports.
3. Physical fitness achievement level is determined by the New York State Physical Fitness Screening Test, which must be administered by a physical education teacher selected by the athletic director. The athlete must meet the criteria established by the NYSPHSAA.

D. Outside Team Rule

The NYSPHSAA allows for outside competition. Forestville Central School athletes must understand that commitment to the school team comes first, and outside competition should not be detrimental to a Forestville Central School team. There will be many circumstances where a student should not participate in an outside activity due to the possible effect on the Forestville Central School team. Students should not participate until they check with the individual coach in charge of the school team.