

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS/INTRAMURAL PROGRAMS

Interscholastic and intramural sports are recognized as an integral part of the educational instructional program. Athletics will be used to develop and promote worthwhile educational goals. The following principles will govern athletic programs in the Agawam Public Schools:

1. Athletics are an integral part of the educational program and shall receive full financial support as is the case with other recognized parts of the total educational program.
2. The physiological and social benefits to be gained through physical activity and sport competition shall be made available to both male and female participants. When no comparable program exists or where limited staff and facilities do not permit separate programs, competing together in non-contact sports will be a temporary solution (i.e. intramurals).
3. The extent of different interscholastic sports available in Agawam should be governed by the interest and needs of all boys and girls and will receive equal attention for field allocations, equipment, budget and coaching expertise.
4. Every reasonable precaution shall be taken to safeguard the health and welfare of all participating pupils. Playing fields will be kept and maintained in good, safe playing condition; quality protective equipment shall be provided; complete physicals for all athletics and medical coverage at all events where contact sports are scheduled shall be provided; and adequate medical insurance for all athletic participants will be provided. The school system employs an athletic trainer.
5. In each sport starting with the opening day of practice, a short conditioning period shall be held. Prudence in early practice sessions is essential. It is not permissible to practice before the opening date. Proper hydration of athletes will take place. Team tryouts with open participation and close scrutiny will be held before cutting the team for final team formation. All participants will be assigned to a specific team (fresh, JV, varsity).
6. Interscholastic programs will be conducted in accordance with the regulations and recommendations of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Association (M.I.A.A.). The academic standards set by the association will be observed.
7. Intramural programs will be provided at the middle and junior high schools. The emphasis of these programs will be to develop skills and to promote group competition.

Coaches

Coaches are hired by the principal upon the recommendations of the athletic director and subject to the approval of the Superintendent.

It is the meaningful interaction between coach and athlete as well as the many hours of practice that serve as a basis for athletic achievement. The coach as educator, teacher and trainer has the primary responsibility for developing skilled athletes and better human beings. In recognition of these factors, the School Committee advances the following principles as guidance for coaches:

- Competition and cooperation are factors found in all athletic situations and are necessary to elevate motivation and improve performance. Equal emphasis on these two factors will be in accordance with the criteria associated with the nature of the athlete and the sport.
- The coach will work for high morale and spirit through exemplary personal behavior and leadership which emphasizes acceptance and confidence in members of the team working toward a common goal.
- The major contributions of sports to all participants should be competition, cooperation, spirit, mind and body development, enjoyment, and development of social skills.
- At all times the welfare of the athlete will be the ultimate goal of the program and not the economic or public status of the school.
- Selection of team players will be made with fair consideration to all after an appropriate observation period in a team situation.

CROSS REFS.: JFC, Student Conduct
JFG, Interrogations and Searches