

	<b>ABERDEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>	<b>NEPN Code: JJGA-R</b>
	<b>POLICIES AND REGULATIONS</b>	

## **GUIDELINES FOR REQUESTING ADVANCEMENT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETES TO THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVELS**

The following paragraphs refer specifically to middle school students who wish to participate in athletics at the high school level.

1. The “Request for Participation” can be picked up in the office of the Athletic Director. The top of the form must be completed in full with ample and sufficient reasons given for the request. The signatures must be obtained in order, from the top to the bottom with the Superintendent or designee making the final decision. The Athletic Director will confer with both Middle and Senior High School coaches/teachers before giving his or her opinion.
2. If, in the opinion of the Superintendent or designee, the middle school student’s participation in high school sports would result in a significant lessening of the quality of the middle school program, or be inappropriate or harmful for the middle school student, or have a potentially undesirable effect upon the high school level participants, he or she may deny the request.

Inappropriate or harmful to middle school students may be defined as having a negative impact upon the student’s academic or citizenship development. Or, if the student making the request has academic/citizenship issues at the time of making the request it may be denied for cause.

3. Any middle school student who requests to be in high school level athletics must maintain eligibility at the new level of participation according to the adopted standards of the Aberdeen Public Schools during the term or terms in which they participate at the higher level.
4. Middle school students may participate in higher level athletics without making a formal written request through the Superintendent or designee in the following sports.
  - a. Cross Country
  - b. Golf
  - c. Soccer
  - d. Gymnastics
  - e. Tennis
  - f. Competition Dance
  - g. Competition Cheer
5. In athletic activities, middle school students can be considered for competition at all levels including Ninth, Sophomore, Junior Varsity, and Varsity.
6. Athletes advancing under this policy to high school teams are required to participate in all try out sessions afforded the high school level athletes who are attempting to become a member of the team in question. If the middle school athlete fails to make the high school team they will be returned to participation in middle school level sports.

7. Athletes advancing to a team beyond their grade level under this policy will have the following mandatory guidelines applied without exception:
  - a. Advanced athlete will be a starter on the level to which they are unless physically unable to participate or due to disciplinary reasons.
  - b. Advanced athlete will participate at a level that includes the majority of the event at the level advanced to on each and every occasion unless physically unable to participate or due to disciplinary reasons.
  - c. Advanced athlete would not be excluded from any post-season events their team would qualify for participation unless physically unable to participate or due to disciplinary reasons.
8. If a student is approved through this process and it is determined at a later date that they no longer meet the requirement identified in paragraphs two (2.) and/or seven (7.) above the student will be moved back into the middle school program. This determination will be made by the administration in conjunction with the coaching staff and the parents.
9. Any necessary transportation between the middle school and the higher level activity will be the responsibility of the middle school student and his or her parent.

**REFERENCES:** Aberdeen Central High School Coaches' Handbook

**ADOPTED:** November 10, 1997

**REVISED:** September 10, 2001

**REVISED:** July 24, 2006

**REVIEWED:** December 12, 2011

**REVISED:** June 13, 2016