

Students

**MOUNT PLEASANT COTTAGE SCHOOL UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT****SUBJECT: SELECTION/CLASSIFICATION PROCESS FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**

A Board of Education may permit students in grades no lower than seventh (7th) to compete on any senior high school team, or senior high school students to compete on any team for students in grades no lower than seventh (7th). Such may be permitted provided the students are placed at level of competition appropriate to their physiological maturity, physical fitness and skills in relationship to other pupils on those teams in accordance with Commissioner's Regulation Section 135.41(7)(ii)(a)(4).

Participating students shall be eligible to compete during five (5) consecutive seasons of each sport after their entry into the eighth (8th) grade or six (6) consecutive seasons of each sport after their entry into the seventh (7th) grade.

Only those students who do not meet the age and grade criteria need to meet the Selection/Classification Standard.

Accurate school files must be kept on each student enrolled in the Selection/Classification Process. The Athletic Director must inform opponents (league, section) of those students who became eligible as participants using this process.

The Board approves the use of the selection/classification process for all secondary school interscholastic team members. The Board directs the Superintendent to implement the procedures and maintain a file of those students deemed eligible as a result of those procedures.

**Seventh and Eighth Grade**

Students at the seventh (7th) and eighth (8th) grade level who meet the maturity and physical fitness standards for selection/classification will be eligible to participate in Varsity and Junior Varsity competition in the following manner:

- 1) Seventh grade level students will participate on Junior Varsity teams only. If a particular sport does not field a Junior Varsity team, then seventh grade students would not be allowed to participate in that sport.
- 2) Eighth grade students may participate in Varsity and Junior Varsity competition; however, the coach will make all reasonable effort to assure that Senior High students will be given ample opportunity for participation.
- 3) A special parental permission slip will be required for all seventh grade students playing on Junior Varsity teams, and a special parental permission slip will be required for all eighth grade students playing on Junior Varsity or Varsity teams.

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- 4) The Athletic Director of the Mount Pleasant Cottage School Union Free School District will review this regulation with his/her staff on an annual basis by October 1.

The intent of the selection/classification program is to provide safe and suitable participation at an appropriate level of competition for students in grades seven (7) and eight (8).

The selection/classification process shall not be used to promote students to higher levels of competition on a routine basis for the sole purpose of filling positions on Varsity and Junior Varsity teams. Proper placement of students is important.

Physical fitness tests will be administered by the school Athletic Director, or a certified Physical Education teacher under his/her direction. All examinations will be signed by the Athletic Director and the Physical Education Teacher who administers the tests. The primary responsibility in this area rests with the Athletic Director and all testing must be supervised by him/her. Students must achieve the raw score for each physical fitness test item required under the New York State guidelines.

Physical fitness testing for Junior High School students will be administered once during each of the following months: September, February and June.

All students who pass the physical fitness test will be examined by the school doctor for the maturity evaluation. All students who pass both portions of these evaluations will be eligible for participation.

All records of testing and evaluation will be filed in the Athletic Director's file.

**Waivers for Students with Disabilities**

A student with a disability who has not yet graduated from high school may be eligible to participate in a senior high non-contact athletic competition for an additional year under limited conditions. The term non-contact shall include swimming and diving, golf, track and field, cross country, rifle, bowling, gymnastics, skiing and archery.

The student must apply for and be granted a waiver to the age requirement and four-year limitation. A waiver shall only be granted upon a determination of the Superintendent that the student meets the following criteria:

- 1) The student has not graduated from high school as a result of his/her disability delaying his/her education for one year or more;

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- 2) This student is otherwise qualified to compete in the athletic competition for which he/she is applying;
- 3) The student must have been selected for such competition in the past;
- 4) The student has undergone a physical evaluation by the school physician, which included an assessment of the student's level of physical development and maturity as well as an assurance that the student's participation in competition will not present a safety or health concern for the student;
- 5) The Superintendent has determined that the student's participation will not adversely affect the opportunity of other students competing in the sport to successfully participate in the competition; and
- 6) The student's participation in the additional season of athletic competition shall not be scored for purposes of such competition.

Superintendent's Decision and Appeals

The Superintendent's decision granting or denying a waiver shall be immediately submitted to the local section of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) for review and approval.

If upon the review the waiver is denied, an appeal may be taken to NYSPHSAA, Inc. within two (2) weeks from receipt of the decision for a more extensive review upon which the original decision may be affirmed, reversed, or modified. The determination of NYSPHAA, Inc. may be appealed to the Commissioner of Education within thirty (30) days of the date of the determination.