

Ames Community School District

Eligibility Application for 8th Grade Student-Athlete to Compete at High School Varsity Level

PHILOSOPHY

The Ames Community School District believes that our athletic programs are integral to the educational process and strive to provide challenging, meaningful, and competitive experiences for student-athletes. We aim to ensure that athletes develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, values, and self-esteem necessary to grow and shape a changing society. While it is important to acknowledge the skills of a student, it is also important to carefully consider the ramifications of promoting a student. This policy only supports the promotion of a student to the highest level of competition (varsity).

In making a recommendation for promotion of an athlete, there are many variables that should be considered, including chronological, physical, and emotional maturity. This policy presents a procedure that considers the needs of the young athlete while not unnecessarily displacing high school athletes. This process should not be initiated to enhance the quality of the team, but rather to meet the needs of an exceptional student-athlete.

While many athletes are very skilled, few are at the level for advancement to be considered. In making this recommendation, one must keep in mind the importance of keeping students in their peer group. We remind all individuals involved in the assessment that the young athlete may appear very strong within their chronological level of competition but may not perform well when they advance to the highest level.

CRITERIA

In considering a student for promotion, several criteria should be considered. This list is not meant to be exhaustive but represents the intent of the policy. The following criteria will be taken into consideration for approval to be granted:

1. The student's athletic skill level, as documented on the application form and as determined by all designated individuals on the form, is advanced enough to merit varsity competition.
2. Parent/guardian agrees to provide or arrange for student transportation to practices. Transportation to and from practice is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
3. The student is academically, socially, and emotionally ready for advancement.
4. The student demonstrates appropriate behavior in school and the community.

PROCEDURE

The process for completing the application is important. The welfare of the student is the first concern. Therefore, it is necessary for all involved to be sure that this process is strictly followed to prevent unnecessary emotional stress on the student.

The process should be initiated by the parent of the student athlete. **The parent must first contact the middle school activities director to start the process.** Once the middle school activities director is notified, they will be responsible for overseeing that the procedure outlined below is followed in a timely manner.

DEADLINES FOR APPLICATION

Applications for varsity sports are due by the following dates for each respective sports season.

- Fall Sports (football, volleyball, girls and boys cross country, girls tennis, girls swim and dive, boys golf) by the first day of August
- Winter Sports (girls and boys wrestling, girls and boys basketball, boys swim, girls and boys bowling) by the first day of October
- Spring/Summer Sports (girls and boys track, girls and boys soccer, boys tennis, girls golf, baseball, softball) by the first day of February

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APPLICATION PROCESS

Step 1: Parent/Guardian complete the below application and submit to the Middle School Activities Director

Date of Request: _____

Sport: _____

Student First: _____ **Student Last:** _____

Student ID: _____ **Current Grade:** _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

Parent/Guardian First: _____ **Parent/Guardian Last:** _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____ **Parent/Guardian Cell Phone:** _____

Parent/Guardian Address: _____

Parent/Guardian City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Data-based evidence indicating readiness to compete at the varsity level:

I desire to apply and participate in varsity athletics and understand and agree to all expectations outlined by this document.

Student Signature Date

I request that the applying student-athlete be permitted to compete at the varsity level in the sport named above.

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

**SUBMISSION OF THIS APPLICATION DOES NOT GUARANTEE APPROVAL. APPROVAL
AND/OR DISAPPROVAL OF THIS APPLICATION WILL BE IN WRITTEN FORM.**

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APPLICATION PROCESS CONTINUED

Step 2: The middle school activities director will contact the high school activities director and high school head coach to determine the level of skill of the athlete and whether the application process should be initiated. *If “No”, the Middle School Activities Director will inform parent(s)/guardian(s) via phone and in writing.*

Date completed: _____ If Approved move to Step 3: Sign: _____

Step 3: The middle school activities director will contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) to set up an eligibility application interview.

Date contact made: _____ Date of Application Interview: _____

Step 4: The middle school activities director will conduct an eligibility application interview with the high school activities director, high school head coach, parent(s)/guardian(s) and student to determine if the athlete meets all of the criteria listed and make a recommendation to continue or end the process. *If “No”, the Middle School Activities Director will inform parent(s)/guardian(s) in writing.*

_____ MS Activities Director Signature Approve Disapprove

_____ HS Activities Director Signature Approve Disapprove

_____ HS Head Coach Signature Approve Disapprove

APPEAL

If at any time the application is signed as not approved, a written appeal may be made to the Ames Community School District Superintendent within 5 School Days of receiving written notification of disapproval. The Superintendent will provide written notification to the applicant within 5 school days of receiving the appeal.

Date Appeal Received _____