

### **Philosophy of Interscholastic Athletics:**

At Walton Central School, we believe that athletics are an integral part of a student's life. It is our mission to provide as many interested students as possible with an opportunity to participate in athletic competition. It is the nature of athletic competition to strive for success. Although winning is important, it does not replace all other goals. The number of victories is only one criterion when determining the season's success. The main purposes are to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well being of student-athletes through aspects of athletic contests.

### **Modified Program Philosophy:**

The modified program is open to all academically eligible students in grades seven (7) and eight (8). It is also open to students in grade nine (9) for boy's soccer as there is no JV program and this team competes in a modified A format.

At this level, the focus is on learning athletic skills, game rules, fundamentals of team play, commitment to a team, appropriate sportsmanship descriptions, and to participate in healthy competition. It is our policy to play all participants at this level (not necessarily equally), however each participant will be expected to make a commitment to all practices and sign and follow the Athletic Code of Conduct. This program is designed to offer students the opportunity to engage in a more highly organized competitive experience than what is found in intramural programs, but not as involved as in Varsity and Junior Varsity competition.

### **Junior Varsity Program Philosophy:**

The junior varsity program is open to those academically eligible student-athletes who display the potential of continued development into varsity level performers. With this in mind, it may be necessary, in some instances, to conduct tryouts and make cuts in selecting a team. Generally, the majority of the roster will be students in grade nine (9) and ten (10). Students in middle school may be considered if they have satisfied all SED requirements of the Selection Classification Program required for their particular sport **and** have parental approval along with approval from the Junior Varsity Coach, Varsity Coach, and Athletic Director (the selection classification process can not commence without the approval of the athletic director).

Junior Varsity teams work toward achieving a balance between team and player development and striving for victory. The outcome of the contest becomes more of a consideration at this level. The coach will make every effort to play all players, but in some circumstances there will be some team members that may not see individual game action.

### **Varsity Program Philosophy:**

The Varsity program is opened to all academically eligible high school students who display advanced skills. It is possible, but rare, for middle school students to be included. In cases where an advanced level of physical development, athletic skill and appropriate social-emotional development is demonstrated in a middle school student, they may be considered. Students in middle school must satisfy all SED requirements of the Selection

Classification Program required for their particular sport **and** have parental approval along with approval from the Varsity Coach and Athletic Director (the selection classification process can not commence without the approval of the athletic director).

The goals of the Varsity teams include: preparing to perform at the highest level, striving for victory in each contest, and working to reach the maximum potential of the group and individual. Playing time for individual team members will be determined by game strategy, work ethic, and skill. As such, all individuals on the varsity team have equal opportunity to play regardless of their age or grade. Since the coach is attempting to put the team in position to win each contest, it is possible that some individuals on the team will not see game action. Additionally, it is possible that underclassmen may see game action prior to upperclassmen. The Varsity Coach is the leader of that individual sport's program and will, in collaboration with the Athletic Director, establish the program's instructional strategy that is appropriate for each team at each level of competition.