

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 719
PRIOR LAKE - SAVAGE AREA SCHOOLS

605.2 LEVEL OF ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

I. PURPOSE

All athletes in grades 9-12 should participate in the program established for their grade level. Students with exceptional ability in an activity may be moved to a higher level of competition at the discretion of the coaching staff.

II. DEFINITIONS

III. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The sports listed below are open for student participation in grades 7-12 because there is not an established grade 7–8 program in that sport. Middle school students are eligible for any level of high school program, provided they can compete at that level. The coaches of these sports will determine the ability of the athlete to compete.

Fall Sports

Boys & Girls Cross-Country Running
Girls Swimming

Winter Sports

Gymnastics
Boys & Girls Alpine Skiing
Boys & Girls Cross-Country Skiing
Boys Swimming

Spring Sports

Synchronized Swimming

The following high school sports will not automatically include 7-8 grade participants because there is:

- 1) A community program for 7-8 graders in that sport and/or
- 2) A school based 7-8 grade program:

Fall Sports

Football
Boys & Girls Soccer
Volleyball
Girls Tennis

Winter Sports

Boys & Girls Basketball
Boys & Girls Hockey
Wrestling
Dance Team

Spring Sports

Softball
Baseball
Boys & Girls Lacrosse
Boys & Girls Track
Boys & Girls Golf
Boys Tennis

Exceptional Athlete Policy: Participation of 7th and 8th Grade Athletes in High School Athletics

It is the general philosophy of the Prior Lake - Savage Area Schools to keep 7th and 8th grade athletes at their level of achievement with other students of similar age, grade level and general maturity (an exception of this policy are those sports which have been designated as including 7-12 grade students). However, on limited occasions, a 7th or 8th grade athlete may be physically, emotionally, academically and athletically mature. Consideration should be given to allowing that athlete to compete at the high school level. The needs of the athlete and concern for his/her physical, mental, emotional and academic well-being must be a high

priority. A decision to have a student compete at an advanced level requires a thoughtful and careful look at these elements to determine what will be in the best interest of the athlete.

Placement Procedures

The high school and middle school activities directors, and varsity coaches must reach unanimous agreement to offer participation in a high school program to a 7th/8th grader, after seeking input from coaches knowledgeable of students ability.

Prior Lake – Savage Area Schools complies with the requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, all Minnesota Statutes and federal laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, marital status, national origin, disability, sex, age, sexual orientation or place of residence in educational programs or activities. Complaints or questions regarding discrimination are to be directed to the Title IX Coordinator for the district or the US Office of Civil Rights.

School Board Adoption: March 8, 2021

An Equal Opportunity School District