

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**

See Policy 605 Co-Curricular Activities definition.

### **III. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The sports that are open for student participation in grades 7-12 because there is not an established grade 7–8 program in that sport will be listed on the district website prior to the start of each school year. 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.

The district website will post the list of high school sports that 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

#### 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 the student's 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 the student's 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, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, age, family care leave status or veteran status. Complaints or questions regarding discrimination are to be directed to the Title IX Coordinator for the district or the US Office of Civil Rights.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. Ch. 363A (Minnesota Human Rights Act)  
20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.* (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972)

**Cross References:** [Policy 605 \(Co-curricular Activities\)](#)  
[Minnesota State High School League Bylaws](#)

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