

**NEW HAVEN ATHLETICS  
MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS  
BI-LAWS**

**12/2017**

### **Purpose of the Program**

New Haven Public Schools and the Athletic Department offer an Intra-Scholastic Athletic Programs for our Middle School (Grades 7-8), student athletes. Each season we offer multiple sports for both male and female student-athletes. The purpose of the program is to introduce new sports/activities to our youth and increase the number of athletes around New Haven. In doing, so our coaches aim to teach commitment, accountability, and teamwork through our organized sports programs. Most importantly, our objective is to create well-rounded student-athletes.

### **Medical Clearance**

It is required that all student-athletes interested in registering/participating for a sport, each have all of the following completed prior to trying out/playing:

- An updated copy of his or her physical examination, prior to participating.
  - o Physicals are eligible for 13 months. Ex: 11/1/2016 is good until 12/1/2017
- Student-Athletes/Parents/Guardians, complete all registration information on the New Haven Middle School Athletics "FormReleaf" website:  
<https://formreleaf.com/organizations/new-haven-middle-schools>
- Any other additional documentation a coach provides necessary for participation.

## Seasons and Sports

### Fall Season

**Dates:** September through November

**Sports:** Football (co-ed), Soccer (co-ed), Cross Country (co-ed), Volleyball (female)

### Winter Season

**Dates:** December through March

**Sports:** Basketball-Male, Basketball-Female

### Spring Season

**Dates:** March through June

**Sports:** Baseball-Male, Softball-Female

## Team Selection Process

Many of the MS teams can accommodate the large number of students who try out. However, this does not guarantee that every student who tries out for a team will be placed on a team. Student-athletes must demonstrate a strong commitment to both team and player development before being placed on a team.

Furthermore, once a player is selected for a team, it is his/her responsibility to maintain that commitment for continued team and individual improvement

## Philosophy

The philosophy the New Haven Athletics Middle School program is to promote well-rounded student-athletes, who will learn commitment, time-management, competition, social skills and team work, while representing his or her school and community in a positive manner.

### **Playing Time**

There is no mandate on playing time. Playing time is awarded through the coach's decision. A coach determines playing time is determined from the following:

- A student-athlete must be a member in good standing of the school community.
- A student- athlete must attend practice in order to work and improve his/her ability of the particular sport.
- A student-athlete must be a team player and execute the specific roles and procedures assigned to him/her by the coach.
- A student-athlete must demonstrate a commitment to fair-play and sportsmanship at all times.

### **Eligibility requirements**

Participation in athletics, even at the middle school level, requires a substantial commitment by those involved, i.e., athletes, coaches, and parents. An athlete is declared eligible by meeting the following criteria: 1. Enrolled in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade at a New Haven Public School, 2. Meets all medical requirements (Up to date Physical, "FormReleaf"), 3. Has a grade point average of a 2.0 or better.

Student-athletes must be up-to-date with their academic requirements and performing at an acceptable level for their abilities in order to participate in an New Haven Athletics program.

In addition to the following 3 eligibility requirement, the athlete must play with in the pre-determined zone set by the New Haven Athletics Department.

New Haven Athletics has the following "Zone Policy": Zones are set for promote adequate participation and competitive balance amongst each school/team, fairness and accessibility for daily practice/competition. Each coach is required to follow the STRICT "Zone Policy" set for each season. A failure to adhere to the "Zone Policy", could result in a suspension for player and coach, forfeit of games and season, in addition to any just punishment set forth by the New Haven Athletic Department.

Zones are reviewed and set each school year, only the New Haven Athletics Department has ability to modify or make exception to the "Zone Policy". For no reason should a coach, administrator, school personnel, parent or player determine where a student-athlete participates for any sport.

**Contact Information**

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