

## Selection Classification Frequently Asked Questions

**1. If my middle school child is interested in playing up, how should he/she start the process?**

*The process should be started by having the student-athlete and/or parent approach the coach and/or athletic director. If the coach/athletic director feel the student meets the athletic performance abilities and athletic skills in relationship to the other student-athletes at the specific participation level they will guide the student-athlete and the parents in the proper procedures to follow throughout the Selection Classification Process.*

*The process may also be started by a coach observing and/or approaching a student-athlete and recommending his/her involvement in a sport.*

**2. Are there any deadlines or important dates I should know about?**

*The dates the tests are given are determined by the athletic director. They are usually given 1-3 weeks prior to the start of the specific sports season.*

**3. Is the selection classification process open to all students?**

*No, students elevated to the advanced levels of competition by this process should be few and far between. The program is intended only for the unusually gifted athlete who has the physical maturity and athletic skills to be placed beyond other youngsters in his/her chronological age bracket.*

**4. How is it decided whether a middle school student is an unusually gifted athlete?**

*By observing and testing to see if he/she possess the physical maturity, athletic skills or knowledge of the sport to participate at a high school level.*

**5. What is the physical fitness assessment?**

*It is a 4-6 component (agility, explosiveness, arm and shoulder strength and endurance, abdomen, speed and cardiovascular endurance) athletic performance test administered by a physical educator aimed for a few select students who can benefit from placement because of their level of readiness.*

*The selection classification process also includes medical approval by a doctor which includes a developmental screening and exam.*

- 6. Under the Selection Classification program must a student pass all the components of the physical fitness test prior to participating in a try out for a varsity or JV team?**

*Yes, under the guidelines of the NYS Education Department regulation a student must meet all the required standards in the Selection Classification program before they can participate in a try out. This includes parental permission, developmental screening, and the athletic performance components.*

- 7. Does passing the selection classification test guarantee the student-athlete a position on the team?**

*Passing the selection/classification test does not guarantee a position on any high school team. The selection classification procedure only qualifies the student-athlete to tryout for a high school team. After the selection classification process is completed the student-athlete may try out for the team and the coach then assesses his/her skills in relation to other students trying out to determine who makes the team.*

- 8. If my middle school child is on a high school team is unhappy, is he/she able to return to the modified level?**

*No. Once a student is elevated to the JV or varsity level, the decision is irreversible. The program is intended only for the unusually gifted athlete who has the physical maturity and athletic skills to be placed beyond his/her peers. It is also important to remember that the student-athlete will be exposed to the social atmosphere that is inherent to older students and the high school environment.*

- 9. A seventh grade athlete was selectively classified and placed on the high school team. This is her third year on the team. She is still an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, as she had to repeat the year. Once she enters 9<sup>th</sup> grade doesn't she have four years of eligibility?**

*Once a student has been placed on high school team through the selection classification process, the "clock" starts counting consecutive years of eligibility. A seventh grade student receives six years of eligibility; an eighth grade student receives 5 years. The years of eligibility are counted consecutively from the year of the original approval. In this situation, she has used 3 of her 6 consecutive years of eligibility. She would not be eligible for her senior year.*

- 10. The NYSPHSAA standard which permits a student to tryout at the high school level without jeopardizing participation at the modified level has recently been changed. What is meant by "may not return to the modified level until the tryout is over"?**

*The tryout is over when the appropriate participation has been decided. The student does not have to participate in a tryout for the entire length of time but may return to the modified level after their evaluation period is over. A student may not exceed the maximum number of tryout days.*

**11. We have nearly completed our junior varsity baseball season. For the last few games we would like to move two modified program players up to the JV level. May we do this?**

*Modified program competitors may not be moved up to a high school level of play after completion of fifty percent of their modified schedule. If the modified baseball program consists of 14 games, the two players would be ineligible to be moved to the JV if their team has competed in seven or more games.*