

591 ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to define the activities program of Dover-Eyota Public Schools.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Activities Program of the Dover-Eyota High School is a vital part of our educational system. This program is intended to enrich students' learning and development through activities which foster emotional, intellectual, and physical growth. Development of character and life skills (dedication, sacrifice, hard work, discipline, putting the team above self, time management, accepting victory and defeat gracefully, the need to set priorities) are included as integral parts of all levels of participation. In addition to the individual enjoyment and fulfillment of the student, the program's primary purpose is to assist students in growing and maturing into responsible members of society.

III. PLAYING TIME GUIDELINES

The Dover-Eyota School District encourages all students to participate in any extra-curricular program offered by the district. The district will do all it can to provide staff, equipment, and facilities for these programs. Students and parents must understand that there can sometimes be limitations and restrictions to the amount and level of participation that can be made available to the student.

Playing time is always a concern for players and parents. Our coaches recognize the value of game experience in the development of a player, and will make efforts to provide that experience. In order for a student to learn the values of hard work, cooperation and teamwork, the playing time of a participant will be based on many factors as listed below, and assuming that all other team rules are being followed. Playing time is recognized as a coach's decision, being based on a player's:

- * attendance at practice
- * performance at practices and in competitive situations
- * attitude
- * effort
- * commitment to the team
- * the given event situation
- * player match-ups

7th and 8th grade: This is the age where exploration of the activity occurs, and fundamental skills are emphasized. While playing time will be provided for every participant, practice also plays a very significant role in the overall development of the player. For some activities where the number of students deems it necessary, there may be split squad teams. Our district and others in our conference split squads, and add additional quarters to games, to help accommodate the need to have all students play. Skill development, introduction to competition, and teamwork are the emphasis, while winning is a secondary goal.

9th grade: Participation and individual development for all students remain the focus of the activity, but now winning will not necessarily be sacrificed so that everyone can have playing time. The coach is now charged with

the beginning stages of developing those who have worked hard, shown exceptional skill, and have dedicated themselves to that activity. However, the coach will still see that everyone gets some meaningful playing time throughout the course of the season. Skill development, fundamentals, sport concepts, and teamwork are emphasized.

B Squad/Junior Varsity: Consisting of a wide range of grade levels, the main objective of participation here is to continue development of those participants who have worked to improve their skills, while providing student athletes with opportunities to achieve success at the varsity level. While all members of the team will continue to be seen as “developing”, and continue to receive some playing time, the amount of playing time at this level will be weighted toward those who are more skilled and developed as deemed by the coaching staff in accordance with the Playing Time Guidelines above. Teamwork and skill development continue to be the emphasis.

Varsity: The goal of the varsity squad is to provide the most competitive team possible to represent Dover-Eyota High School, while adhering to principles of sportsmanship, teamwork and cooperation. This will consistently mean playing the best available athletes within roles designed by the coach to produce the most success possible for the team. Playing time will be given to those who will most help the team attain these objectives. In situations where an individual may not understand why playing time is limited, the coach is expected to explain, upon request, what will be necessary in order for playing time to increase. Everyone must remember that this is competitive interscholastic athletics and that the amount of playing time will not be guaranteed.

Problem Resolution Procedure:

1. Student – coach
 2. Student – parent – coach
 3. Student – parent – coach – Athletics/Activities Director
- Student is always present during discussion/meetings.
 - After the game is not an appropriate time to speak to the coach. Set up a time in which you can visit the issue in a better environment
 - You can discuss issues regarding your child. Game management and coaching decisions are not to be discussed.

Varsity Team Rosters: While it is the preference of Dover-Eyota High School that all interested students be allowed to participate at the varsity level, that may not always be possible. When participation numbers exceed the MSHSL tournament roster limit, it may be necessary for varsity coaches to enact a system to reduce the size of the squad to those roster limits. If a varsity coach chooses to take steps to reduce the team’s roster to the MSHSL tournament roster limit at any time, the following steps shall be taken:

1. A letter sent to parents prior to try-outs defining factors that limit the final squad number.
2. An outline of the sport-specific skills to be observed, and grading manner defined, for the athlete.
3. Try-out sessions will be held at a time of the season determined by the coach.
4. A personal conversation with each player not making the team in lieu of a publicly posted list.

Beginning in the 2008-09 school year, Community Education will develop separate intra-mural programs for any boys and/or girls in grades 9-12 who wish to participate and are not a part of that season’s 9-12 grade teams.

Cross References:

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