

ADDITION OF NEW SCHOOL-SPONSORED TEAMS

Guidelines for the addition of new school-sponsored teams1. Probationary Period

Prior to being considered as a school-sponsored varsity program, a team must compete for a minimum of three (3) years as a club sport program. During this probationary period:

There will be no financial support from the school, athletic department, or athletic boosters.

Awards, uniforms, equipment, supplies, transportation, entry fees, coaches, officials, liability insurance, etc. will be the responsibility of the club program.

Arlington School District transportation resources will not be available to the club program.

Team members will not be eligible for Arlington Varsity Letters.

Coaches and players on the club team must demonstrate the ability to abide by Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and Arlington School District rules and regulations.

Club teams are not permitted to participate in state sponsored tournaments (OHSAA Bylaws).

Coaches, players, and parents must complete all forms and waivers as deemed appropriate by the Arlington School District prior to the start of practice each year.

At the conclusion of each season, a cost summary will be provided to the Arlington School Athletic Director.

2. Minimum Number of Participants

To be considered for school sponsored varsity status, the team will need to demonstrate a player roster equal to one and one-half (1 ½) times the number of student athletes necessary to field a full team for three (3) consecutive years. (Example – soccer 11 players/17 player roster; softball 9 players/14 player roster; golf 6 players/9 player roster, etc.)

Athletes who participate on a currently sponsored school team and appear on the eligibility list, who choose to participate in a club sport, will not count toward the minimum number of participants for a club sport.

The minimum number of participants must be maintained throughout the entire sport season.

A team roster must be submitted to the Arlington Athletic Director prior to the first practice day.

3. Facilities

There must be appropriate facilities available to accommodate the new team.

Club sports will be permitted to use school facilities during times that do not conflict with established school team schedules.

Requests for the use of school facilities must go through and be approved by the Arlington School Athletic Director.

Once a team is approved as a school sponsored varsity program, practice and game time will be provided on an equal basis through discussion and cooperation between the affected coaches and the athletic director.

4. Final Approval

Following three (3) consecutive seasons that a club sport showed that it has maintained the minimum number of participants, showed financial justification comparable to similar teams in the athletic program, and successfully completed all other requirements as outlined in this guideline, the team may be considered for school-sponsored varsity status.

Upon approval as a school-sponsored varsity program, the Arlington High School Athletic Director will seek a qualified coach and establish approximate budgets and schedules for the next season.

5. Addition of "JV" or "B" teams to newly created school-sponsored teams

The team will exist on a year-to-year basis.

Pending adequate numbers and available financial resources, additional teams within an existing sport program will be determined at the beginning of each season.

A minimum number of two (2) times the number of student athletes needed to compete at the "JV" or "B" level is necessary at the beginning of the season for consideration of the creation of an additional team. A team roster must be submitted to the Athletic Director prior to the first practice day.

There must be appropriate facilities available to accommodate the additional team.

Once a team is approved as an additional team to an established program, practice and game time will be provided on an equal basis through discussion and cooperation between the affected coaches and the athletic director.

The athletic department will incur no additional expenses for the additional team. Funding must fall within the established budget of the existing program or any additional expenses for uniforms, transportation, equipment, officials, etc. must be raised by the additional team through donations or similar means to cover the additional costs.

Guidelines for the elimination of an existing school-sponsored team

If an existing school-sponsored varsity program fails to maintain the required minimum of one and one-half (1 ½) the number of student athletes necessary to compete for three (3) consecutive years, the program may be discontinued as a school-sponsored sport. (Example – boys' cross country 5 runners/8 runner roster; wrestling 14 weight classes/21 player roster; basketball 5 players/8player roster; etc.)

The minimum number of student athletes for a team must be maintained for the entire sport season to prevent a team from falling into this distinction.

If a team meets and maintains the minimum number of required players in year two (2) or year (3), the team will retain full school-sponsored varsity status. A new three (3) year consecutive count would begin during the next season that the team did not maintain the required minimum number of student athletes.

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