

## **ADDING OR DROPPING A SPORT IN THE WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS' INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAM**

The Weston Public Schools' Interscholastic Athletic Program is an integral part of the school system's total educational program. Participation on sports teams in the Interscholastic Athletic Program offers students healthy educational activities that challenge each student to excel, helps each student discover her/his physical potential and mental challenges, helps each student develop her/his physical skills, and requires each student to learn to work cooperatively as members of groups. While winning contests is a natural goal of sports teams in an interscholastic athletic program, the principles of good sportsmanship and enjoyment of competition are expected to take precedence at all times and to enhance the educational value of sports contests.

### **GUIDELINES FOR ADDING OR DROPPING A SPORT**

Adding or dropping a sport (as opposed to adding or dropping a team below the varsity level in a sport) from the Interscholastic Athletic Program will effect the athletic and/or total educational program. Thus, if a sport is to be added or dropped from the Interscholastic Athletic Program, the following questions must be carefully considered:

1. Does the sport meet the goals and philosophy of the educational and athletic program?
2.
  - a) Does the sport encourage broad participation?
  - b) Does the sport contribute to the maintenance of a balance within the athletic program with respect to gender equity issues?
  - c) Is the sport coed?
3.
  - a) Is there a sufficient (or insufficient) number of students demonstrating a commitment or interest in the sport?
  - b) Will the sport have long term viability (10 years and beyond) in the athletic program?
4.
  - a) If the sport is dropped, what is the likelihood the participants will commit to another sport in the athletic program?
  - b) If the sport is added, what is the likelihood the participants will be drawn away from one or more existing sport(s)? If likely, do you eliminate an existing sport(s) or add the sport to the program to test the viability of both sports?
5. Does the sport encourage participation in this sport only or does it encourage connectivity with other sports (e.g. field hockey with lacrosse, football with wrestling)?
6. If the sport is added, what is the likelihood that a coach(es) can be hired?
7. Are the school facilities needed to conduct the sport adequate, sufficient, and appropriate? If the facilities are off-site or not in Weston, are they safe and properly maintained? What are the transportation issues associated with conducting the sport? Are the facilities reasonably available and accessible to the sport team and to interested spectators?

8. If the sport is added, what will be the start-up and continuing costs of offering the sport? What will be the financial consequences on the athletic program of adding or dropping the sport?
9. Is the sport offered by other schools in the league to which Weston belongs?

An individual or group within the Weston school community who proposes to add or drop a sport from the Interscholastic Athletic Program shall enlist the help of the Director of Athletics in gathering data and information toward developing a written proposal that addresses the considerations listed above. A standing committee composed of the Director of Athletics (Chair), Intramural Director, the middle and/or high school Principal, a Student Council designee, and a member of the Booster Club will review the proposal. If the proposal is approved, then the Director of Athletics will forward the proposal to the Superintendent for her/his and the School Committee's approval or disapproval. If the proposal is not approved, then the individual or group presenting the proposal may seek the advice of the Superintendent and/or School Committee regarding resolution of the matter. However, in all circumstances, the following conditions must be met before a sport becomes part of the Interscholastic Athletic Program:

- a. A new sport must be conducted as a fee-based, club sport (activity) for at least one full school year prior to inclusion in the Interscholastic Athletic Program.
- b. A new sport team must participate for at least two consecutive years on the sub-varsity level prior to inclusion at the varsity level. If no sub-varsity level exists in a given sport, then varsity play may be approved after a one year club status.

(Note: Exceptions to a. and b. above will only be made with the approval of the School Committee.)

Adopted: November 21, 2011