

MILFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
Milford, Delaware 19963

POLICY

5110

EIGHTH GRADE HIGH SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS PARTICIPATION

PILOT POLICY

In accordance with Delaware Interscholastic Athletics Association (DIAA) regulations and approval, rising eighth graders who have been in regular attendance at Milford Central Academy for at least one full school year immediately prior to the eighth grade are eligible to represent Milford High School in high school interscholastic athletics in all Milford High School sports except football (eighth graders are not eligible to try out for or participate in high school football). Further clarification of eighth grade eligibility includes the following DIAA provisions:

- Students who transfer into Milford Central Academy for the eighth grade are ineligible to represent the Milford High School at any level in any interscholastic sport.
- An eighth grade student who participates in a junior varsity or varsity contest at the high school level shall be ineligible to participate at the middle school level (Milford Central Academy) in the same sport during the same season.
- This policy does not preclude an eighth grade student from participating in a tryout at Milford High School while still retaining middle school eligibility.
- Sixth and seventh grade students shall not be permitted to participate on Milford High School interscholastic teams.
- Eighth grade students who are enrolled in Milford Central Academy and are eligible to participate at Milford High School begin their five years of eligibility for high school participation the first year they enter eighth grade.

This policy is intended to increase student participation in interscholastic athletics throughout the district, as well as facilitate the development of Milford School District student-athletes in interscholastic athletics and the development of Milford School District interscholastic athletics programs across the middle school and high school levels. The following is guidance for eighth grade participation in Milford High School interscholastic athletics:

- The premise of this policy is to provide advanced interscholastic athletics opportunities for eighth grade students who are able to be competitive at the high school level. Students who participate on high school sports teams should have the athletic ability and maturity to be competitive at the high school level.

- Prior to each sports season, the Athletic Director will host a parent/guardian informational meeting for parents/guardians of Milford Central Academy eighth grade students interested in participating on a Milford High School sports team during that season. This meeting will include Milford High School coaches for that sports season.
- Interested eighth graders should attend the tryout dates for the high school sports teams and be evaluated by the coaches for their ability to be able to make the team and compete at the high school level.
- Eighth graders who try out for a high school sports team are not guaranteed to make the high school team for which they try out. Eighth graders who do not make the high school team, are still eligible to try out for the Milford Central Academy team in that same sport. Eighth graders who do not make the high school team are not guaranteed selection to the Milford Central Academy team in that same sport.
- In situations where Milford High School sports teams have low numbers in the program or may not be able to fill out junior varsity and varsity teams, the Milford High School head coach may consult with the Milford Central Academy head coach, Athletic Director and Milford Central Academy principal in regards to whether there are any eighth graders with the ability and maturity to compete at the high school level. If there are any identified eighth graders, then the Athletic Director must consult with the parent/guardian and receive the parent/guardian's permission for the student to participate on the high school sports team.

This policy is to be evaluated in March 2022 for its effectiveness and possible continuation.

ADOPTED: 2/24/20

REVISED: 9/20/21