

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS

PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

The Middle School Athletics program is a collaborative effort between the Palo Alto Unified School District Middle Schools and the City of Palo Alto Community Services Department. The purpose of Middle School Athletics is to provide a positive environment in which students can develop skills, friendships, and self-esteem with an emphasis on enjoyment, participation, and teamwork.

The Middle School Athletics' philosophy focuses on creating a positive culture around youth sports ~ where kids love to play the game. Participants should look forward to practices and games / meets as a time when they will have fun. Coaches will have their players focus on effort and personal improvement, rather than simply focusing on the results of the game or meet. Developing skills, teamwork and sportsmanship are emphasized for the entire team rather than winning or losing. This positive culture encourages athletes to play multiple sports and never pressures players to specialize in one sport too early in their careers.

Another part of the Middle School Athletics' philosophy is that every child should have an equal opportunity to participate. No players will be cut from the teams, although other schools in the league do this. A requirement to ensure that the players are given an equal opportunity in the games is for coaches to have each child play at least 1/3 of the game even if the game is on the line.

All athletes are required to attend practices to participate in the games / meets. We do understand that situations may arise that may cause a participant to miss a practice, game or meet - all we ask is that the coach is notified in advance if possible. If a participant has a prearranged/excused absence, the coach shall still play him/her 1/3 of the game. If the absence is unexcused, it is up to the coach's discretion to decide whether the player shall still play 1/3 of the game following the absence

MSA participants are expected to uphold all school rules while participating in the program. No action by a coach, official, player, or spectator which downgrades, embarrasses or ridicules any other player, coach, official, or spectator should be tolerated or encouraged in the league. The following behaviors are unacceptable at MSA events. Any participant committing any of the following will face consequences such as not playing in the game or participating in the meet following the incident:

1. verbally berating players, coaches, or officials;
2. obscene language or gestures directed at players, coaches, officials, or spectators; and/or
3. physical violence or the threat of physical violence directed at players, coaches, officials, or spectators.

We look forward to a fun and rewarding season! Please feel free to call 650-329-2487 if you have any comments, questions, or suggestions.

“Engage, Create, Enjoy!”