



January 5, 2010

Happy New Year!

As the 7th & 8th grade representative to the Southwest District Athletic Board as well as the Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors, I wanted to take this opportunity to provide an update to issues pertaining to 7th & 8th grade interscholastic athletics.

A state-wide committee has been formed to discuss and review current issues relative to 7th & 8th grade. The committee has met twice in the fall, with one more meeting scheduled for March.

Discussions have focused on a number of issues, but the following have moved to the forefront (in no particular order):

- An information pamphlet of FAQ relating to 7th & 8th grade athletics. Topics could include:
 - Non-interscholastic participation regulations
 - Academic eligibility
 - Sportsmanship expectations
 - Sport starting dates
- Developing a general-use agenda to be used in a parent-student informational meeting for incoming 7th graders. The committee agrees that all schools should conduct such a meeting as a service to their school community.
- Academic eligibility requirements, specifically an incoming 9th grader use of summer school to restore eligibility. The Board of Directors addressed this issue at the December 2009 meeting. The Board voted to put before the membership the following referendum (to be voted by 7/8 principals): 7th & 8th grade students (including incoming 9th graders) athletic eligibility would be determined by passing of 5 courses the previous grading period. This referendum, if passed, would replace the current requirement of passing 75% of courses in order to be eligible.
- The committee has had a great deal of discussion in regards to various “state” tournaments for 7th & 8th grade student-athletes. The OHSAA membership has been informed that the Middle School Athletic Association (MSAA) and the Ohio Athletic Committee (OAC) are NOT affiliated with the OHSAA. Participation in any events sponsored by these organizations must conform to OHSAA by-laws and regulations.
- Relative to the above topic, the committee discussed the idea of conducting 7th & 8th grade district and/or state tournaments. Sports being considered are: cross country, wrestling, and track & field. Recent discussion considered conducting district championships simultaneously with high school events. Potential state competitions, again, would be held in conjunction with the high school state championships.

7th & Grade Interscholastic Athletics

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Hopefully, I have provided useful information in regards to 7th & 8th grade interscholastic athletics. I am honored to have the privilege of representing 7th & 8th grade schools in southwest Ohio. I look forward to your comments and feedback.

Yours in Sport,

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