

INTEREST DECLARATION FORM

8th Grade Participation on High School Athletic Teams



SUBMISSION DEADLINE: This form must be submitted to the Activities Office at least three (3) months prior to the official start date of the high school season (unless otherwise specified).

Student-Athlete & Sport Information

Student
Name:

Date:

Sport
Requested:

Birthdate:

Overview: Each year, current 8th-grade students and families have the opportunity to express interest in being considered for high school athletic team participation. The district makes every reasonable effort to provide meaningful opportunities while balancing overall program needs.

Section 1: Student Welfare & Readiness Acknowledgments

Participation at the high school level places significantly increased physical, emotional, academic, and time demands on student-athletes. By signing this document, the family asserts that they believe the student is completely prepared across these domains. Per **Iowa Code**, a current athletic physical must be on file with the district prior to participation. Once a student participates in a high school competition, they establish official high school athletic eligibility in that sport.

Section 2: Policy & Program Terms

Please review and initial each box in the table below to verify your understanding of the framework governing 8th-grade participation:

Initials	Program Policy Statement
	No Guarantees: Submitting this interest form does not guarantee an evaluation, selection, roster placement, or team participation.
	Single-Setting Rule: Students may only participate in the designated sport within the 8th-grade setting OR the high school setting. Dual participation in both settings during the same season is strictly prohibited.
	Subjection to Rules: High school participation is continuously subject to all team rules/expectations, academic eligibility requirements, coaching decisions (regarding practice, play, and placement), and district athletic codes of conduct.
	Middle School Team Impact: Allowing 8th graders to play up may alter middle school structures. Sports may field combined middle school teams (7th/8th) rather than separate grade teams, meaning students may not always play exclusively alongside grade-level peers.
	Discontinuation Rights: The district reserves the right to deny or discontinue participation if placement is deemed not in the student's best interest, or if safety, academic, behavioral, maturity, or team dynamic concerns arise.

Section 3: Evaluation, Selection, and Sport Capacity Provisions

Depending on the nature of the sport (total opportunities and roster sizes), an evaluation process may apply. Final decisions are made at the absolute discretion of the coaching staff and administration, and are considered final. Criteria include current 9-12 roster numbers, overall program participation, competitive balance, safety considerations, team needs, long-term program planning, and individual student readiness.

Special Capacity Rule (Golf & Tennis): The district reserves the right to pause, modify, or discontinue 8th-grade opportunities in golf and tennis if participation numbers in grades 9-12 create constraints regarding roster sizes, facility/court availability, coaching capacity, or high school student opportunities. This determination is made by the Activities Director and administration in collaboration with the head coach.

Section 4: Required Signatures

By signing below, we certify that we have read, fully understood, and agree to all compliance terms, rules, and conditions outlined in this declaration framework.

Student-Athlete Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Print Student Name

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Date

Date

FOR DISTRICT & ACTIVITIES OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Form Received:

Athletic Physical
Filed?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Review Decision:

- ☐ Approved for High School Evaluation/Roster Consideration
☐ Denied / Maintain Middle School Placement

Administrative Notes:

Activities Director
Signature:

Date: