



Horseheads Central School District 2024 Spring Sports Season – Athletic Placement Process (APP)

What is the Athletic Placement Process?

The APP process is to ensure that student-athletes get the opportunity to participate at the appropriate level that safely benefits the student, the team members involved, and the overall program. In an effort to properly place students where they can maximize the benefits, the district has chosen to participate in the athletic placement process (APP). program that allows students in grades 7-8 to play up (Modified to JV/Varsity Level) and students in grades 9-12 to play down (JV/Varsity to Modified) if all requirements of the evaluation process are completed successfully.

Is the Athletic Placement Process required by school districts?

No. NYSED created guidelines for school districts to follow if they choose to participate. Horseheads Central School District is currently choosing to participate in the APP process using NYSED guidance.

How does the Process Start for my Student?

The process starts with only the *Varsity head coach providing a recommendation* to the athletic director. Any other person within the program does not have the authority to make such recommendations including parents. The athletic director then considers all recommendations and makes final approval for head coaches to invite students to voluntarily participate in the program by communicating the parents.

Why would my child be recommended to participate in the APP process?

Your child would be recommended if the Varsity Head Coach has observed your child participating in the specific sport and feels they are exceptional skill wise. Coaches also take into consideration physical maturity level, size, social and emotional readiness.

Does my child have to participate in the process?

This program is **optional/voluntary** and is only intended for students with the appropriate physical maturity level, size, social and emotional readiness, and whose athletic abilities are outside of those of their age-related peers. Students who choose to participate will be put through the evaluation process.

What happens if they successfully complete the APP?

Upon successful completion, the student is granted a tryout, not automatically placed on a team. During the tryout, if it is not determined that the student will compete in at least 50% of the games, the student is sent back down to the age-specific level.

How and why will the district evaluate recommended students?

Using the guidelines from the NYSED (New York State Education Department), the district will evaluate the maturity level of each student as well as their overall fitness. Other aspects included in the evaluation are the social and emotional readiness of each student.

Area of Evaluation	The “Why”?	Methods Used:
Maturity	This evaluation is to determine if the child has reached a stage of physical development that will lessen the likelihood of a student being injured by participating in the level and sport desired.	Physical Evaluation Tanner Scale Height/Weight
Fitness	Each student must meet the requirements, by age, for 4 out of 5 physical fitness components taken from the President’s Physical Fitness Test. This shows they have the physical ability to compete at the desired level.	President’s Physical Fitness Test
Social and Emotional Readiness	Playing a sport with non-peers can be a challenging situation and an environment that goes against the expected benefits or eliminates the benefits all together. The social and emotional readiness evaluation helps to ensure a student can withstand the longer seasons, the peer interactions, and any other situations they may not encounter at their same-age level.	Athletic Director/Coach/Medical Director/Designee Conversation and Observation

Why does the district make the final determination?

As a school district, the safety of our students is a top priority. We take every recommendation, evaluation, and decision seriously as they are all meaningful and impactful to a student’s safety. By completing the thorough evaluation, the district has final determination in passing/failing the APP process. This is to ensure that to our fullest extent, the district protects the safety of the student. This is also per the NYSED guidelines.

Who is responsible for the completion of the program paperwork?

The paperwork required to begin this process starts with the Varsity head coaches and the Athletic Director. After proper communication, the parents are responsible for giving permission for their child to participate in the program and for returning the paperwork by the deadline. Once returned, all paperwork is used for recording and reporting results to the appropriate stakeholders.

Note: *It is up to the student’s parent/guardian to pick up the APP packet for their student at the AD’s Office, review it with their student, and provide required permissions for the APP process to move forward. Completed permission forms must be delivered to the middle school nurse’s office by the deadline established for the season. Failure to meet this permission form submittal deadline will end the APP consideration for the student.*

The complete process and timeline is on the following page.

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Step	Description	Responsible Party	Completion Date/Deadline
1	Varsity Coach Sport Skill Evaluation, AD discussion, and Athlete Consideration	Varsity Coach and Athletic Director	January 20, 2024
2	Athletic Director approval of student athlete to proceed	Athletic Director	January 26, 2024
3	Athletic Director sends student APP list to District Medical Director/designee	Athletic Director	January 26, 2024
4	Varsity Coach will invite student and parent/guardian to voluntarily participate in the APP program	Varsity Coach	February 2, 2024
5	Varsity Coach will communicate to AD's Office via email, the parents' intent to allow/not allow their student to participate in the APP program	Varsity Coach	February 5, 2024
6	Athletic Director office will prepare student specific APP packets for distribution	Athletic Director	February 6, 2024
7	APP packets will be picked up, by parent/guardian, in the HS AD's office.	Students' Parent/Guardian	February 7-9, 2024
8	The parent/guardian reviews the APP packet and its requirements with student	Students' Parent/Guardian	February 7-16, 2024
9	APP packets permission form is signed by parent/guardian and turned in to the middle school nurse's office by deadline	Students' Parent/Guardian	February 16, 2024 <i>APP ends if no permission form</i>
10	District Medical Director/designee will establish physical maturity evaluation date and time schedule for each identified APP student	School Medical Director/designee	February 26, 2024 Scheduled by District Medical Director/designee
11	District Medical Director/designee will notify all parent/guardians of their students' physical maturity evaluation date and time, as well as confirm the parents/guardian's intent on being present or not for the appointment per their submitted APP permission form	School Medical Director/designee	February 27, 2024 Confirmations of appointment date, time, and parents' intent to be present obtained by MS Nurse
12	District Medical Director/designee will conduct physical maturity evaluation in nurses' office and make final APP determination on medical clearance for student. <i>(Any determination will be sent via email to parent/guardian)</i>	School Medical Director/designee	March 4, 2024 Scheduled appointment in the MS Nurses Office <i>APP ends if not medically cleared</i>
	District Medical Director/designee will send, via email, a list of medically cleared student APP candidates	School Medical Director/designee	March 4, 2024
13	Athletic Director will send to medically cleared student athlete's parent/guardian, via email, the requirements of the APP Physical Fitness Testing program, as well as the date, time, and location of the testing.	Athletic Director	March 5, 2024
14	Athletic Director will conduct APP Physical Fitness Test program	Athletic Director	March 7, 2024
15	Varsity and Junior Varsity Sport Try Outs (all 9 th -12 th and approved 7 th -8 th APP Athletes)	Varsity Coach	Starting March 11, 2024
16	Athletic Director completes districts APP program records information sheet	Athletic Director	March 18, 2024
17	Athletic Director completes APP program completers notifications to Section IV office.	Athletic Director	March 18, 2024