

Questions & Answers about the Athletic Program

Q What are the general qualifications of coaches and assistant coaches?

A Every coach is required to have a Coaching License, which may be “permanent” (for a three-year period) or temporary. S/he must be certified in first aid skills and knowledge (minimum of 12 hours of training) and in CPR and the operation of the Automatic External Defibrillators (AED — minimum of 4 hours of training). Except for certified physical education teachers, certified teachers who coach must complete additional courses of study. These include:

- An approved course in philosophy, principles and organization of athletics in education
- A course on health sciences applied to coaching
- A course on theory and techniques of coaching the sport or sports for which s/he is employed

A non-teacher may be employed as a Temporary Coach, licensed through BOCES, only if there are no certified teachers available with the experience and qualifications to coach the team. The non-teacher must meet all the same certification and course requirements for coaching listed above. In general, both certified teachers (except physical education teachers) and non-teachers have two to three years to complete the required courses. Both paid and unpaid coaches must meet the criteria and must be approved by the Board of Education.

Q What is the selection/classification procedure for student athletes, and how is it used in our school district?

A Chautauqua Lake Central School follows NYS guidelines for student participation in each sport. Every student athlete is required to have an annual physical; this may be performed by the student’s own physician or by the school physician. Student athletes in grades 7 and 8 who wish to compete on high school teams must have parental permission and the school physician’s approval. Then they must be evaluated and tested by the middle grades physical education teachers for the skills and performance specific to the sport. The physical education or athletics director may request special approval from the State Education Department. Once all these evaluations and approvals have been met, the student may participate in tryouts for the higher level team.

Q What factors contribute to determining the teams we play and the sports schedules we follow?

A The athletics schedule for all area schools is established by the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Athletic Association. Except for football – which is a federated sport and is therefore organized by sections within the state – official enrollment is used to designate leagues of similar-sized schools. Non-league competitions are set up by athletic directors from individual schools. NYS guidelines limit each sport to a maximum number of competitions each school year; this number varies from sport to sport.

Q How is the district advancing the athletic program?

A As the district seeks out continuous improvement in all areas, we are currently gathering input and ideas from coaches in all sports in all seasons to help the district advance its athletic program. There has already been an initial meeting with coaches to discuss a plan of action that will include surveying various coaches, developing a Coaches' Council, and evaluating options to implement a year-long strength and conditioning program for students. A plan of activities for the 2007-08 school year will also be developed. Using the information from the survey and coaches’ meetings, the district will develop a consistent district-wide philosophy that drives programs and activities. Ultimately, the information from this process will be presented to the Board of Education for review and approval.

Q What considerations and guidelines are used when scheduling use of various outdoor sport fields?

A Teams have first consideration for using the outdoor sports fields. In order to have a quality field at game time, the use of competition fields for practice is limited. The use of field lighting is limited to scheduled games and the practice before each night game. Any other use of field lighting must be approved through the regular facility use process; requests for use of school facilities may be filed in the District Office at least one week before the planned event. The district is responsible for mowing, watering and other maintenance schedules; these activities are coordinated with the sports program manager.

*In upcoming Navigators we will answer questions about the **transportation, cafeteria services, use of school facilities, and other topics**; we invite readers to submit questions — email to community@clake.org, or deliver or mail questions to the CLCS Community Relations Office, 100 N. Erie St., Mayville, NY 14757. According to district practice your questions must include the writer’s full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We will publish as many questions and answers as space allows.*