

ISLIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS



DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS HANDBOOK/GUIDELINES 2011-12

“ISLIP PRIDE”

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Islip Public School District Athletic Office and Personnel

The Athletic Office:

- Located in the High School next to the Gymnasium Entrance
- Phone number is (631) 650-8370
- Fax phone number is (631) 650-8373

The 2011-12 school year staff:

- The Athletic Director is Mr. Bob Panariello
- The Athletic Secretary is Mrs. Laura Lucas (x8370)

DIRECTIONS TO ISLIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Islip High School
2508 Union Blvd.
Islip, NY 11751

Islip Middle School
215 Main Street
Islip, NY 11751

HS and MS: L.I.E. TO EXIT 56. SOUTH ON RT 111 (ISLIP AVE) TO THE END. TURN RIGHT ON MAIN ST. GO PAST 5 TRAFFIC LIGHTS TO THE SCHOOLS. THE HIGH SCHOOL AND JUNIOR HIGH ARE ON ADJOINING PROPERTIES.

Sherwood Elementary School
301 Smith Avenue
Islip, NY 11751

SHERWOOD ELEM: AT THE ISLIP MOVIE THEATER TURN SOUTH ON SMITH AVE TO THE SCHOOL.

Games played: JV Boys' Soccer

Wing Elementary School
1 Winganhauppauge Road
Islip, NY 11751

FROM THE EAST: TAKE SUNRISE HGWY TO EXIT 45 (RT 111/ISLIP AVE). CONTINUE ON THE SERVICE RD TO 1ST TRAFFIC LIGHT. TURN LEFT ON COMMACK RD AND GO UNDER SUNRISE HGWY. TURN LEFT AT 1ST TRAFFIC LIGHT AND GO EAST ON SERVICE RD. LESS THAN ONE MILE ON THE RIGHT IS A PARTY CITY STORE - WING ELEM IS ON THE OPPOSITE CORNER. TURN RIGHT ON WINGANHAUPPAUGE RD. THE FIELD IS ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF SCHOOL.

FROM THE WEST: SUNRISE HGWY TO EXIT 45 (RT 111/ISLIP AVE). CONTINUE ON SERVICE RD PAST 1ST LIGHT. LESS THAN ONE MILE ON THE RIGHT IS A PARTY CITY STORE - WING ELEM IS ON THE OPPOSITE CORNER. TURN RIGHT ON WINGANHAUPPAUGE RD. THE FIELD IS ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF SCHOOL.

Games played: J.V. and Varsity Girls Softball

Weekly Sports Schedule
For Current Schedules Log on to Section XI Athletics
Website: www.sectionxi.org

PLEASE NOTE:

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE RELATED TO WEATHER and/or FIELD CONDITIONS

ISLIP SCHOOLS INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS MISSION STATEMENT

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Interscholastic athletes are a vital part of the secondary school educational program. They provide unique opportunities for students to achieve their full potential, as athletes, and as people, in a setting which together is both demanding and rewarding.

The Mission of the Islip Public Schools interscholastic athletic programs, in accordance with Islip School District's Mission and the New York State Department of Education's Mission, is to foster the quest for excellence by creating an educational and competitive experience within an atmosphere of sport like behavior. Successful programs develop individual and team potential by promoting high standards of character, competence, civility and citizenship.

Philosophy of the Islip Interscholastic Athletic (I.I.A.) Program

Many of the most significant lessons learned in one's life are witnessed on the field of play. The I.I.A. program provides the opportunity for student/athletes to participate in athletic activities, which are designed to meet the Goals of the Athletic Department. Athletics provide an educational opportunity in which students can learn essential life lessons beyond those that can be learned in an academic classroom.

Athletic participation is a privilege, not a right, at any grade level

Student/athletes must demonstrate appropriate desired behaviors to earn and sustain their privilege to represent their school and community in this arena. Accepting this responsibility means they will continually attend to the concerns of their team and school as they pursue success and excellence. They will also agree to adhere to the rules and regulations inherent to the I.I.A. Program.

This reflects our belief that the essential requirement for teamwork, the mental and physical challenges of training and competition and the experience of winning and losing graciously and respectfully are important life lessons in every student's developmental experience. These lessons will serve students well in their future.

We also understand that participation on an athletic team or teams demands a commitment that involves both dedication and sacrifice. This is required of not only student athletes, but also the coaches and parents.

General Douglas MacArthur understood this when he spoke to a West Point graduating class in the middle of the 20th century and said: "On the fields of friendly strife are sown the seeds which on other days and other fields will bear the fruits of victory."

The staff and Administration will provide the resources and support essential to an enjoyable and successful experience for all associated with the I.I.A. Program. They believe that participation in athletic programs is an important and valuable component of the student's complete education, and are committed to implementing the associated aspects to allow student/athletes opportunities to join and compete.

The varsity, junior varsity and modified teams have distinct differences relative to the level of competition, maturity of the participant and other factors. These differences are noted in the following statements:

LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION

VARSIITY:

Varsity teams represent the highest level of athletics offered by the schools. While team and individual sports may vary somewhat in their specific desired goals; players selected to the Varsity teams must demonstrate the highest level of sport specific skill and commitment to the team goals, in order to be successful. Competing first to be selected on the roster, and then together to defeat their opponents in contest, is the ultimate form of Varsity High School Interscholastic Athletics. Student/athletes are selected from the candidates who are eligible to try-out and can meet the extreme demands and pressures inherent to performing at this level. Varsity players should know the expectations to be selected to play and then perform effectively to continue in this assignment. Skills, strategies, and other aspects of the sport are more advanced and evolved throughout the season as the team assimilates these concepts into their repertoire. Those who may not demonstrate initial abilities to “start” should continue to work to reach that level and continue to support the team in their efforts to compete against their opponents.

For most, this is the highest level of competition they have encountered to date. There are some athletes who have experienced outside of school “select” teams or other programs where top players from neighboring schools combine to form teams to provide extensive specialized training and competition. (These may include Summer Empire games, University games, etc.) Regardless of their experience, the I.I.A. Varsity level requires all team members to appreciate their teammate’s strengths and weaknesses to be a successful team. They must dedicate themselves to strive in all activities to accomplish this most difficult task; even if it means sacrificing some of their personal interests occasionally to meet team needs first.

Winning is recognized as a significant measure of the success of the Varsity program, as it is a specific objective when considering the advancement of teams or individuals in progressive playoffs or championship events. Winning is not however the only measure of determining the success of a team, and many other aspects are identified as indicators of the level achieved throughout the season. Performances are exciting and rewarding, whether resulting in victory or defeat. Participation is worthwhile and is an excellent venue to learn the joys of accomplishments as well as how to handle the disappointments of failures. I.I.A. Varsity team members earn and share the pride and sense of achievements as the best athletes in our school in their particular sport.

Discipline and respect for coaches and teammates will be expected from every member of each team.

Preparation for participation at every level will include being on the field, with all needed equipment, on time. Scheduling of appointments (medical, dental, etc.), whenever possible, should not conflict with practice or game schedules.

Throughout the school year athletes will be expected to participate and perform in their classes, as well as in the field of play to the best of their ability.

JUNIOR VARSITY:

The Junior Varsity teams are the final school developmental stages for our future Varsity performers. Junior Varsity team members are essentially preparing for the rigors of the Varsity level in all aspects, as they enjoy their own season, however without the same pressures of “win-to-advance” concept. Playing time will be relative to meeting the expectations set by the coach, as well as ability to perform. Team records, while always of interest, are not the measure of success or the focus of this level. There is no Junior Varsity “championship” at stake, as the NYSHSAA Handbook and Section XI/Suffolk County do not endorse, advocate, or permit such. Many of the players at this level may be somewhat immature physically and unable to consistently perform effectively. This creates a variable degree of outcomes; as they continue to develop toward more competent abilities throughout the season. Skills and strategies are more advanced than those expected at the modified level, yet somewhat lesser than the Varsity.

It is important to recognize these developmental difficulties while still pursuing the critical cognitive and affective concerns essential to a well-rounded athlete. The Junior Varsity athlete is learning to become a complete team member and must also be attentive to matters where the individuals interact to form a cohesive team, supportive and focused on common goals. The greatest satisfactions received at this level may be in learning that they have developed and are qualified to advance to the varsity program in the next season. They should believe in themselves and anxiously look forward to the next step in their I.I.A. career.

Discipline and respect for coaches and teammates will be expected from every member of each team.

Preparation for participation at every level will include being on the field, with all needed equipment, on time. Scheduling of appointments (medical, dental, etc.), whenever possible, should not conflict with practice or games schedules.

Throughout the school year athletes will be expected to participate and perform in their classes, as well as in the field of play to the best of their ability.

MODIFIED (7th and 8th GRADES):

The first school-based developmental stage, Modified teams, is also reflective of the Varsity and Junior Varsity levels; however there are significant differences, which must be acknowledged. The obvious rule changes are intended to keep the contests from becoming too complicated, and/or one-sided. The wide range of physical, emotional and cognitive maturity of the participants is also considered and given special attention to help those who are participating in the sport for the first time or who are in early development of their skills to continue to be successful and encouraged as they grow and learn the game.

Another important aspect of this level is the wide range of experience athletes may have had prior to when they join these squads. Some have as many as five (5) or more seasons in “organized” sports before they tryout for the Modified team. They may often have competed outside of school with “varsity” rules, and even have been pressure in “win-to-advance” games or playoffs.

While the previous experiences may surely be valuable and productive; they may also have been somewhat contrary to the I.I.A. Modified philosophy and goals as well as those of NYSPHSAA and Section XI/Suffolk County, which govern our events. Communication to address any conflicts should be provided early and often so all participants understand the differences. All coaches will primarily gear teams at this level toward development of fundamentals as well as providing significant participation. Often the non-dominant players at

this age become much more involved later in their career and the opportunities provided here are essential to keeping the interest of those “late-bloomers”. Players on the Modified team need to be aware of the commitment and be able to develop time-management skills to keep all of their schoolwork and activities properly prioritized. As with the Junior Varsity, modified players should be anxious to move up when they complete this level of play as they should believe they were successful and have prepared themselves well, while enjoying this experience and their teammates.

Discipline and respect for coaches and teammates will be expected from every member of each team.

Preparation for participation at every level will include being on the field, with all needed equipment, on time. Scheduling of appointment (medical, dental, etc.), whenever possible, should not conflict with practice or game schedules.

Throughout the school year, athletes will be expected to participate and perform in their classes, as well as in the field of play to the best of their ability.

ATHLETIC SELECTION/CLASSIFICATION

Policy #348.63

The Selection/Classification Program is a process for screening students to determine their readiness to compete in interscholastic athletic competition by evaluating their physical maturity, fitness, and skill. The intent of this program is to provide for students in grades 7 through 12 to safely participate at an appropriate level of competition based upon readiness rather than age and grade. Students do not mature at the same rate and there can be a tremendous range of developmental differences between students of the same age. This program has been designed to assess a student’s physical maturation, physical fitness and skill, so the student may be placed at a level of competition which should result in increased opportunity, a fairer competitive environment, reduced injury, and greater personal satisfaction.

The Selection/Classification Program was designed for mature and exceptionally skilled students to advance to an upper level. It is aimed at the few select students who can benefit from such placement because of their level of readiness. It will also be fairer to the other students on the modified teams.

Normally, a student is eligible for senior high athletic competition in a sport during each of four consecutive seasons commencing with the youngster’s entry into the ninth grade. However, by satisfying the requirements of the Selection/Classification Program, a student may receive extended eligibility to permit:

- a) Participation during five consecutive seasons in the approved sport after entry into the eighth grade; or
- b) Participation during six consecutive seasons in the approved sport after entry into the seventh grade.

Athletics are a part of the regular school program and are under the control of the Superintendent, with final decision by the Board of Education. The Director of Physical Education, Health, and Athletics will be responsible for implementing Islip’s Selection/Classification Program.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

- (A) In compliance with Board of Education policy, a student will be considered for the Selection/Classification Program when a request is made by the student, parent, coach, physical education teacher or Athletic Director.
- (B) The evaluation process, will consist of the following steps which must be completed in sequence:
- 1) The parent/guardian must submit written permission for their child to participate in the evaluation process to the Director of Athletics.
 - 2) The Middle School Principal, after consultation with guidance counselor/teachers, must certify that the student possesses appropriate social and emotional maturity and that his/her academic performance is up to potential.
 - 3) The school or personal physician must give a special physical examination to the student and rate his/her physiological maturity according to the Selection/Classification chart. The confidentiality of the child shall be protected and arrangements regarding the exam will be as inconspicuous and discrete as possible. (See attachments D and E)
 - 4) The receiving coach (varsity, jv) will fill out the Sport Skill Evaluation sheet.
 - 5) The Athletic Performance Test will be administered by the Athletic Director or their designee who is not a coach in the specific program for which the student is being evaluated.
 - 6) All the coaches in the specific sport program will evaluate the candidate during the allowable three day tryout (eight days for football) to verify that the student exhibits exceptional skills.
 - 7) The Director of Physical Education/Athletics will approve the candidate if all of the steps have been successfully completed and if there is consensus among the evaluating coaches that the student is exceptional. If there is not consensus, or if the Director believes that the intent of the program is being misconstrued, the Director will meet with the coaches involved, after which the Director will make a decision regarding the candidate's participation. The decision may be appealed to the Superintendent or his/her designee for review.
 - 8) The District will take the appropriate steps to notify Section XI and keep a permanent file for each student who qualifies in the Director's office.

PROGRAMS AND TEAMS OFFERED
BY THE ISLIP INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAM

FALL

Football – Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Modified
Boys and Girls Soccer – Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Modified
Boys and Girls Cross Country – Varsity
Cheerleading – Varsity, Junior Varsity and Modified
Girls Volleyball – Varsity and Junior Varsity
Girl Tennis – Varsity and Junior Varsity

WINTER

Boys and Girls Basketball – Varsity, Junior Varsity and Modified
Wrestling – Varsity, Junior Varsity and Modified
Boys and Girls Bowling – Varsity
Girls Winter Track – Varsity
Boys Winter Track - Varsity
Cheerleading – Varsity, Junior Varsity and Modified
Girls Volleyball – Modified

SPRING

Baseball – Varsity, Junior Varsity and Modified
Softball – Varsity, Junior Varsity and Modified
Boys and Girls Track – Varsity
Boys and Girls Lacrosse – Varsity, Junior Varsity and Modified
Boys Tennis – Varsity
Boys Golf –Varsity

***Please Note:** Although Cheerleading is presently not acknowledged by NYSPHSAA, or Section XI, the Islip Public School District does recognize cheerleading under this Interscholastic Athletic Sports Program.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT COACHES – FALL 2011

SPORT

COACH

Cheerleading Vars. Head
JV
MS

Kristen D'Attoma (Mercado)
Rebecca Ramsey
Jodi Villanti

Boys X-Ctry Head
Girls X-Ctry Head

Marc Rosado
Dave Claps

Football Head
Vars. Asst.
Vars. Asst.
JV Head
JV Asst.
MS
MS Asst.
MS Asst.

Jamie Lynch
Nick DeLapi
Keith Scheidel
Jason Orlick
Lee Dwyer
Jason Vitale
James Coyne
Collin Smith

Boys Soccer Vars. Head
JV
MS

Mike Argenziano
Greg Dini
Brian Bauernfeind

Girls Soccer Vars. Head
JV
MS

Mike Reilly
Kevin Sheehy
Megan Wilson (Schierhorst)

Girls Tennis Vars. Head
JV

Steve Arey
Jamie Stickney

Girls Volleyball Vars. Head
JV

Trisha Tramaglino
Chris Basso

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT COACHES – WINTER 2011-12

SPORT

COACH

Boys Basketball Vars. Head
JV
MS

Jamie Lynch
Kevin Sheehy
James Coyne

Girls Basketball Vars. Head
JV
MS

Dave Goodman
Collin Smith
James Coyne

Boys Bowling Vars. Head

Michael Pace

Girls Bowling Vars. Head

Jeff Atlas

Cheerleading Vars. Head
JV
MS

Kristen Mercado
Rebecca Ramsey
Jodi Villanti

Girls Volleyball MS

Chris Basso

Boys Winter Track Vars. Head
Boys Winter Track Asst.

Marc Rosado
Ted Blanchard

Girls Winter Track Vars. Head
Girls Winter Track Asst.

Dave Claps
Jessica Kirsch

Wrestling Vars. Head
JV
MS
MS Assistant

Joe Patrovich
Rob Cuffie
Greg Dini
Dennis Demetres

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT COACHES – SPRING 2011-12

SPORT

COACH

Boys Baseball Vars. Head
JV
MS

Peter Blumenauer
TBD
Paul Nieves

Golf Vars. Head

Glenn Drago

Boys Lacrosse Vars. Head
Boys Lacrosse Asst.
JV
JV Asst.
MS

Keith Scheidel
Scott Mullins
Nick Apicella
Joe DeBatt
Greg Ruccia

Girls Lacrosse Vars. Head
Girls Lacrosse Asst.
JV
JV Asst.
MS

Jason Orlick
Nicole McHale
Megan Wilson (Schierhorst)
Sheryl Ackerman
Meghan Bauernfeind

Softball Vars. Head
JV
MS

Dennis Mc Sweeney
Greg Dini
Patty Whitehouse

Boys Tennis Vars. Head

Steve Arey

Boys Track Vars. Head
Boys Track Asst.

Gary Bodenbug
Lorraine Knoblauch

Girls Track Vars. Head
Girls Track Asst.

Dave Claps
Ed Dyer

Athletic Academic Eligibility Policy Guidelines
Islip High School
Information Bulletin

The Islip Board of Education has adopted a policy establishing minimum academic standards for students to participate in extracurricular activities including athletics.

The policy states that “academic learning is the first priority for all students at Islip High School”; that “participating in extra curricular activities is a privilege, not a right” and that “...any participant in co-curricular activities must maintain a minimum level of academic performance.”

The Academic Eligibility Program works as follows:

1. The academic performance of every student involved in extra curricular activities will be reviewed at the middle and end of every marking period. This enables us to check on your child’s academic progress every five weeks.
2. Any student who receives two or more comments
3. A student assigned to probation is permitted to continue to participate in all extra curricular activities during the period of probation.
4. The Academic Eligibility Program is continuous in that a student’s final average will determine the eligibility status for the following September. A student can get off of the eligibility list by passing the appropriate number of classes in summer school.
5. An appeals committee consisting of an Activity Advisor, a Guidance Counselor and a third party will hear any appeals brought by students who wish to appeal being placed on probation or removed from any activities. For further information contact the Athletic Director.
6. In order to request an appeal a student must have attended extra help sessions for the 5 week period preceding the marking period that resulted in his/her being placed on the ineligible list. Completion of summer school can be considered as extra help for the period prior to the beginning of school in September.

If a student has not met all of the requirements outlined in the appeal process, he/she cannot request an appeal unless extraordinary circumstances can be presented to the eligibility committee. A formal, written request outlining the reasons for the appeal must be submitted to the committee chairperson. The request will be reviewed by the committee and a decision on the request will be made in a timely manner.

7. This affects participation in athletics, student government, school plays, cheerleaders, flag team and all clubs of (58) “currently failing” or received two or more report card grades below 65, will be placed on probation for the next five week period.
8. At the next evaluation time (mid or end of marking period), a student who is still failing two or more subjects will become ineligible to participate in extra curricular activities and will be dropped from any activities he/she is involved in.
9. A student who at the end of five weeks probation is no longer failing two or more subjects is removed from probation.

At the middle school level, there shall be limited interscholastic competition based upon the recommendations of the State Education Department.

General Guidelines

At the high school level, activities that stress the importance of fair play and sportsmanship shall be encouraged. Participation will be on the basis of school facilities and available competition in Suffolk County. In the conduct of the interscholastic program, the regulation of the New York State Athletic Association shall apply at all times. Student eligibility for participation on interscholastic teams shall include:

- Authorization by the school physician
- Written parent or guardian consent; and
- Endorsement by the Building Principal based on established rules and various league, Section and State Education Department regulations.

Board of Education policy permits consideration of donations from Booster organizations that supplement district funding for such areas as equipment, supplies and facilities. Board policy does not permit involvement of Booster organizations in personnel matters.

Communication with parents and the community regarding the district's athletic program shall be planned and implemented to enhance the understanding and support of the district's athletic programs. Communications should include team and parent meetings, specials bulletins from the Athletic Department and the use of the district website. Communication with parent, booster and community athletic organizations should be fostered and maintained.

Sportsmanship

Parents

Parents are encouraged to attend athletic contests and support our players and teams. All parents and spectators are asked to join with our coaches in emphasizing, encouraging and serving as a role model for sportsmanlike behavior for our student athletes. Parents should leave coaching to the coaches and should not criticize the coaches or team performances. It is not appropriate to make negative comments about individual players, opposing teams, coaches or officials at sporting events. The district's policy for parents to express their concern is the same in athletics as it is for other aspects of the district's educational program. Concerns should be brought to the coach's attention at the appropriate time. Such concerns should not be expressed during a game, immediately following a game, or in a public setting. If concerns are not resolved, they should then be brought to the attention of the Athletic Director and then the Principal.

Spectators

- Cheer positively. Profanity and/or degrading language/gestures are prohibited.
- Avoid actions which offend visiting teams, individual players, and/or officials.
- Show appreciation of good play by both teams.
- Treat all visiting teams and officials in a respectful, professional and appropriate manner.
- Abide by all rules and regulations of the game.
- Accept victory and defeat with grace and dignity.
- Recognize the improper behavior reflects negatively on yourself, your school, your team and your community.

Student Athletes

- Demonstrate self-control and respect for other athletes, officials, coaches and spectators at all times.
- Remember that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege that is not to be abused by unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Treat all opponents with respect. Shake hands after the event and congratulate them on their performance.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of the officials.
- Remember that you are a representative of your school. Improper behavior reflects negatively on yourself, your school, your family and your community.
- Understand and abide by all rules and regulation of the game.
- Accept victory and defeat with grace and dignity.
- Remember that the use and/or abuse of drugs, including tobacco and alcohol are a detriment to the game and its participants, and is therefore strictly prohibited.

School District/Schools

- Expected to share the Section XI codes of conduct with their students and spectators in an effective manner.
- Encouraged to have all coaches distribute approved, written code of conduct to all athletes and spectators.
- Are asked to post Section XI spectator codes of conduct at all athletic venues where possible. Such posting should be in areas where they are easily visible to all in attendance.
- Are encouraged to update their coaching staff on all sportsmanship rules, regulations, guidelines and procedures.
- Will be held responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches, faculty, spectators, and cheerleaders.
- Must provide adequate supervision when the visiting team buses arrive and depart.
- Should have an adequate and appropriate number of easily identifiable supervisors at contest sites. All supervisors would receive instructions at every site as to reporting procedures for any infractions which require their intervention. This should include identification of the person(s) ultimately responsible for supervision at the given site. In the event of a lack of such supervisory personnel, the coach will assume all such supervisory responsibilities.
- Will ensure that all banners and signs are positive in nature and approved by the supervisor in charge of the squad, etc. be attending an athletic contest, it is the responsibility of the school/district to provide transportation, supervision and to request a seating /performing area for all such groups. This is to be done so that that they do not interfere with the athletic contest.
- Should know that if violations occur at the athletic events, it is the responsibility of the school district (or designated employee) to report all such infractions to Section XI in accordance with established procedures.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. WHAT ARE THE PROS AND CONS OF “EQUAL-PLAYING TIME” AND AT WHAT AGE IS IT NO LONGER AN ISSUE?

Youngsters at the introductory level of sports programs get equal opportunity and approximate equal playing time.

By the time children reach the middle-school age, the equal-playing time debate should end. Some children have more natural ability and some practice more intently to develop athletic abilities. Those youngsters with superior skills are rewarded with more playing time.

There is a reason for keeping score. In the process of assessing capabilities, all students will not receive the same academic grades; all athletes will not receive an equal amount of playing time.

2. I AM UPSET WITH MY SON’S COACH BUT FEAR A CONVERSATION MIGHT RESULT IN HIM RESENTING MY SON. WHAT CAN I DO?

If your child was having academic difficulties in school, would you hesitate contacting his teacher to seek insight into the problem? If your child continued to experience tooth pain long after a visit with the dentist, would you arrange for a return visit to look into the matter? The answers to these questions are obvious.

The concern you have regarding your son’s coach retaliating because of a conversation should not enter your mind. Of course, it depends upon your manner of inquiry. Like other people, coaches usually become defensive when attacked.

By all means call the coach and arrange a time to chat face to face. Make sure you’re seeking answers to questions which will ultimately enhance your child’s sport experiences. Be prepared to hear someone with a different perspective express objective opinions about your child.

3. ISN’T IT UNFAIR AND UNWISE TO PLAY A FRESHMAN OR A SOPHOMORE AHEAD OF A SENIOR ON THE VARSITY TEAM?

The selection of team members is based upon who has the skills to make the greatest contribution. It is not based upon age, social standing or parent interference.

In team sports, we must keep in mind that there are various skills needed for various roles. In individual sports the statistics dictate much in the coach’s decision.

Few observers would advocate that each year the team must be comprised of seniors. If your son were the sophomore with clearly superior skills, would you advocate that the older players get selected? The above question has been asked many times...and it is always the parent of the senior.

4. ISN’T A FAMILY OUTING OR VACATION AN ACCEPTABLE EXCUSE FOR A CHILD TO MISS SPORTS PRACTICE AND GAMES?

A case can be made for this scenario in the elementary programs. This mentality should change once the youngster becomes a team member in middle school and high school. Beginning in middle school there are usually tryouts for teams and, naturally, some youngsters don’t make the squad. It is difficult to justify allowing a member to take a vacation from his commitment when others were cut from the team and his teammates stay the course. If a number of families decided to take a vacation in the middle of a sport season, we would have a total collapse of our programs. One critical lesson in sport is that of commitment.

5. WHAT IS THE PROPER CHAIN OF COMMAND FOR BRINGING AN ISSUE OR CONCERN TO A COACH?

- ✦ Contact the coach at school to set up an appointment.
- ✦ If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Office to reach the coach at 630-8370.
- ✦ Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for both parents and coaches. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote resolution.

6. IS IT TRUE FOR ALL SPORTS THAT IF YOU MISS A PRACTICE BEFORE A GAME, YOU CANNOT PLAY IN THAT GAME?

In most cases, an absence on the day prior to competition would eliminate an athlete's chance to play the following day. There are many reasons for this including team chemistry, absence of instruction for the particular contest and of course conditioning factors. However, if there are extenuating circumstances they may be expressed directly to the coach.

7. WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A GOLD KEY?

Gold Key & Triple "T" Award

The Gold Key is the highest honor in Section XI that an athlete can receive for sports participation.

- It is awarded to athletes who letter in eight varsity seasons in grades 10 through 12.
- Section XI will present a certificate mounted on a plaque to each athlete who attains the necessary criteria to receive the award.
- Triple "T" award winners will follow the same criteria and receive the Section XI plaque.

PHYSICAL DATES

All students interested in participating in athletics must complete a sports packet. Printable sports physical forms are located on the Islip District website under the heading of Athletics, as well as being available at the Middle School and High School Health offices. Physical dates run prior to each sports season and in June for the upcoming year.

STARTING DATES OF HS AND MS SPORTS SEASONS

Fall/2011 - For specific practice times, please contact the Athletic Office at 650-8370 during the hours of 8–4 p.m.

August 18 - Tryouts begin for Varsity and JV Football **ONLY**

August 29 - Tryouts begin for all other Varsity and JV fall sports

Sept. 6 - Tryouts begin for all Modified fall sports

Winter/2011-12 – Tryouts after school.

Nov. 14 - Tryouts begin for all Modified early winter sports (boys' basketball, girls' volleyball)

Nov. 16 - Tryouts begin for Varsity and JV Winter sports

Jan. 23 - Tryouts begin for all Modified late winter sports (girls' basketball, wrestling)

Spring/2012- Tryouts after school.

Mar. 5 - Tryouts begin for Varsity and JV Spring sports

Mar. 26 - Tryouts begin for all Modified spring sports

DIRECTIONS

Directions to all away contests can be found at www.sectionxi.org.

SUMMER CAMPS

Islip offers a wide variety of programs for our athletes. Please see the link for the Islip Booster Club which can be found on the Home Page of the district website under Community Resources.