

## **Clover School District Athletics Advanced Participation Guidelines**

The Clover School District believes that middle school students should participate in interscholastic athletics offered at the middle school level. However, there are circumstances where exceptions will be considered based on SCHSL participation rules for a given sport.

### **Open Try Out Sports**

1. Cross Country (B&G), Swimming (B&G), Golf (B&G) and Tennis (B&G)  
Middle School students will be allowed to try out and participate at the high school level because these sports are not offered at the middle school level.
2. Competitive Cheer  
Middle School students will be allowed to try out and participate at the high school level. **High School tryouts should take place prior to middle school tryouts so athletes that do not make the high school cheer team may still try out for middle school cheer.**

### **Advanced Participation Sports**

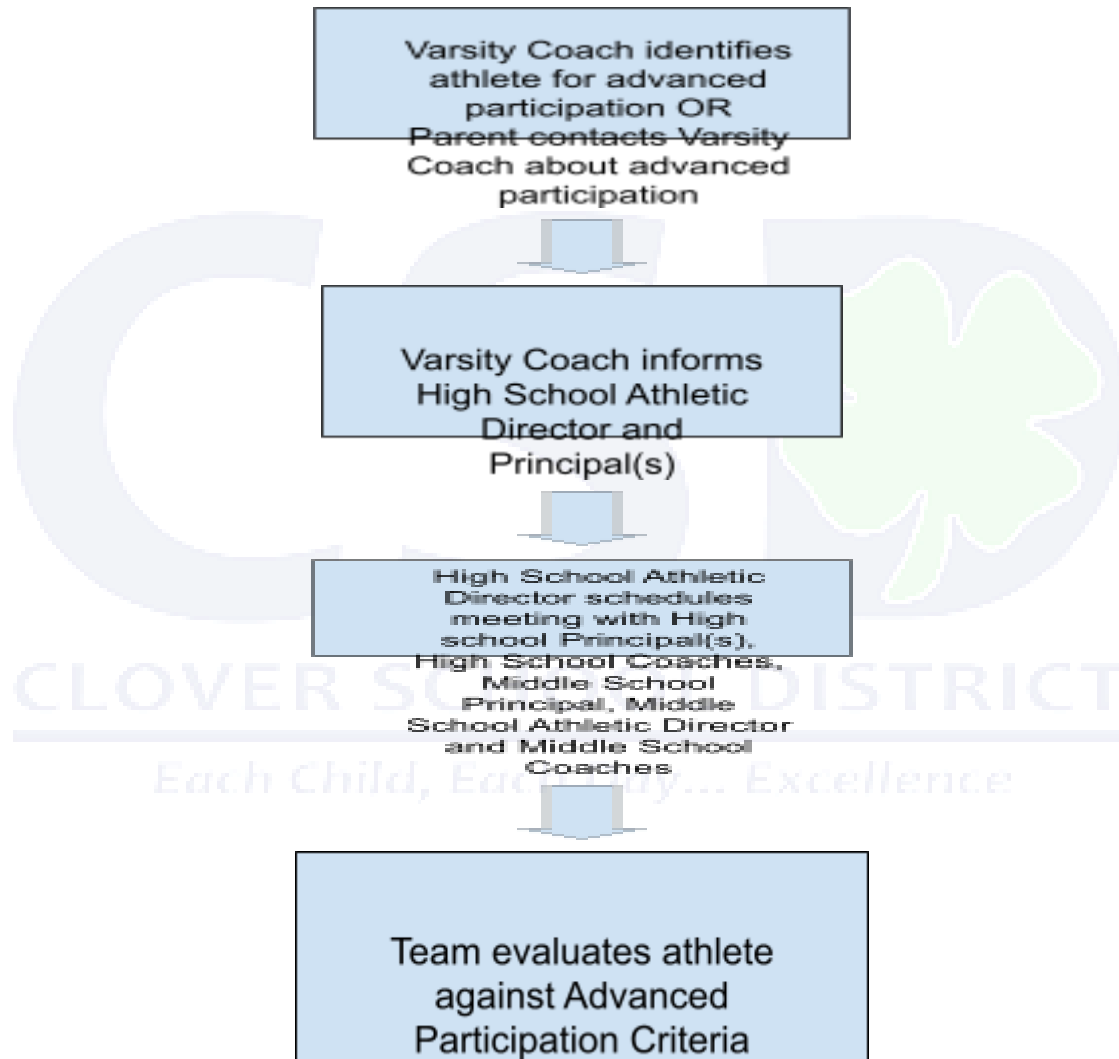
1. Volleyball (B&G), Basketball (B&G), Track (B&G), Baseball and Softball  
While exceptions in these sports would be rare, they should be considered on an individual basis using the procedures outlined for advanced participation.
2. Soccer (B&G), Lacrosse (B&G), Wrestling and Football  
While exceptions in these sports would be rare, they should be considered on an individual basis using the procedures outlined for advanced participation. **Middle school athletes are not allowed to participate in Football, Wrestling, Soccer or Lacrosse at the varsity level.**

### **General Guidelines for Advanced Participation**

1. Eligibility for advanced participation will begin in the 8th grade for those sports in the Advanced Participation category above.
2. An athlete's mental, physical, and social well-being must be considered when discussing advanced participation.
3. Athletes approved for JV level should be equal in skill and ability to a starter, and should be a projected starter.
4. Athletes approved for Varsity level should receive substantial playing time.
5. Athletes granted tryouts at the high school level will be allowed to tryout at the middle school if they do not make the high school team.
6. Athletes approved to participate in any sport are responsible for transportation to practices and other team activities. CSD will provide transportation to all competitions.

## Procedures for Advanced Participation

Advanced participation will be considered when it is the opinion of both HS and MS head coaches involved. Once the MS and HS coaches identify an athlete for advanced participation, the following process must be followed when requesting that an athlete be moved up to the high school level. **High school coaches should never actively or directly recruit middle school students for advanced participation.**



1. Criteria for advanced participation include, but are not limited to:
  - a. The athlete is in good academic, attendance and discipline standing at their respective middle school.

- b. The athlete is capable of balancing the extra time demands of a high school sports schedule with their middle school responsibilities.
  - c. The athlete is mentally prepared for the rigors of high school competition.
  - d. The athlete is socially ready to spend time with older students.
  - e. The athlete is physically competent for high school competition.
  - f. The athlete is appropriately skilled for high school competition.
  - g. Advanced Participation consideration begins in the 8th grade.
2. Minutes should be documented and signed by participants.
3. If advanced participation is approved, the coaches will contact the parent to explain and offer the opportunity. This decision should not be communicated to or through the athlete. Approval is limited to try-outs.
4. If advanced participation is denied, the coaches will contact the parent to explain the reasoning. This decision should not be communicated to or through the athlete.

