

## How Teams are Formed

### Team/Coach Selection Process

As the size of the SME student body fluctuates the participation in athletics also changes. It is the policy of SME and the AAC to provide an opportunity for all students to participate in team sports. In order to assist the volunteer coaches and staff in dealing with issues with team sizes the AAC has proposed a process for dealing with the need for additional teams and coaches.

**Varsity** - Fielding a varsity team is the first priority. Varsity players are 7th and 8th graders.

If there are not enough to field a Varsity Team with SME 7th and 8th graders, two possibilities will be considered (in the order listed below):

1. SME 6th Graders will be considered if they have the interest, physical maturity and emotional maturity required for varsity competition. **In order for a 6<sup>th</sup> grader to play Varsity a special permission form must be filled out by parent and approved by the Principal.**
2. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders from other Catholic elementary schools can be considered if players are still required to form a team.

\* IMPORTANT: In regards to playing time, all SME students should be treated fairly when players from another school join a team at SME.

If there are enough interested SME students to form two varsity teams, the teams will be split:

- Creating an 8th grade varsity and 7th grade varsity team if the number of players and coaches allow.
- Creating two 7/8 Varsity Teams.

Teams can be selected by skill level forming an A and a B team.

or

Teams can be formed by coaches to be reasonably similar in skill level.

(as determined by the A.A.C.)

**Junior Varsity(JV)** - Fielding a junior varsity team is the second priority. Junior varsity players are 5th and 6th graders.

If there are not enough to field a Junior Varsity Team with SME 6th and 7th graders, two possibilities will be considered (in the order listed below):

1. SME 4th Graders will be considered if they have the interest, physical maturity and emotional maturity required for varsity competition. (as determined by the A..A.C.)
2. 5th and 6th graders from other Catholic elementary schools can be considered if players are still required to form a team.

If there are enough interested SME students to form two junior varsity teams, the teams will be split:

- Creating a 5th grade and a 6th grade team if the number of players and coaches allow.
- Creating two 5/6 Teams.

Teams will be formed by coaches to be reasonably similar in skill level.

**3rd and 4th Grade Teams** - Though not sanctioned by the Diocese of Buffalo, leagues do exist for these ages. In basketball, there are opportunities for teams with 3rd and 4th grade teams to be combined or play separately.

If there are enough interested SME students to form teams, the teams will be split:

- Creating a 3rd grade and a 4th grade team if the number of players and coaches allow.
- Creating two 3/4 grade teams.

Teams will be formed by coaches to be reasonably similar in skill level.

**If there are enough athletes and willing coaches to have two teams at any grade level, teams will be formed as follows:**

3rd-6th grade: Teams will be formed by coaches to be reasonably similar in skill level.

7th-8th grade: Teams can be selected by skill level forming an A and a B team.

Or

Teams will be formed by coaches to be reasonably similar in skill level.

(to be determined by the A.A.C.)

**Recommended Roster Sizes:**

Sport	Grade Level	Minimum
Baseball	5-8	10
Basketball	3-8	7
Volleyball	5-8	10
Softball	5-8	11
Swimming	K-8	15
Soccer	K-2 (7 v. 7)	9 (minimum of 3 girls)
Soccer	3-4 (9 v. 9)	11 (minimum of 3 girls)
Soccer	5-6 (11 v. 11)	13 (minimum of 3 girls)
Soccer	7-8 (11 v. 11)	13 (minimum of 3 girls)

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