

Indian Creek Middle School and the 2-Sport Athlete

Indian Creek Middle School has a comprehensive athletic program with high standards and high expectations. For example, we expect our coaches to model appropriate behavior, to use words that build players up, not tear them down, and to display patience while dealing with athletes of various abilities. We expect our athletes to follow a code of conduct as written in our school athletic policy. We think so highly of our student-athletes that we have instituted a "no-cut" policy. In other words, if you come out for a team and fulfill team rules and obligations, you will be a member of that team.

Our athletic program for all grade levels (6th through 8th) includes baseball, softball, soccer, volleyball and track. Basketball is limited to 7th and 8th grade only. However, our district usually has a fundamental basketball program aimed at 5th and 6th graders during the months of January and February. Our school offers more athletic choices than any other school in our conference.

Eligibility for participation is maintained if the athlete maintains a "C" grade or better in their classes. An "F" in a subject disqualifies an athlete for a minimum of one week, or until the athlete can raise the grade. A "D" in a subject places the athlete on academic probation. They are eligible to participate, but are given two weeks to raise the grade to a "C" or better. Otherwise, they become ineligible until they can reach, at least, to the "C" level.

IMCS has a unique situation where we offer several athletic choices to athletes during the first quarter of the school year. Softball and baseball typically begin near the end of July. Soccer and volleyball may begin around the third week in August. ICMS, and likewise, ICHS, allows athletes to participate in 2 sports simultaneously. Athletes choosing to participate in 2 sports (i.e. softball and volleyball) during similar seasons must conform to the following rules.

1. Training for your sport is important, and each coach, not the player, will determine the readiness of the athlete for the sport.
2. All of our athletes are given the opportunity to participate in 2 sports during similar seasons. Hence, they must put in more training over time than a one-sport athlete. Two-sport athletes should be graciously welcomed by their second team.
3. Whenever a conflict occurs (i.e. a game in one sport and a practice in the other), the game shall take precedent. If both sports have games on the same day, the athlete's first sport (baseball or softball) shall take precedence. These conflicts otherwise may be changed by coaches agreement.

4. The 2-sport athlete should always go to a practice or game with one team if the other team does not have practice or have a game that particular day.
5. The 2-sport athlete should take the responsibility to declare their intentions early to all involved coaches so that accommodations may be made.

To Summarize:

It is important that the athlete realizes that playing in two sports is a privilege that should be taken seriously. They must be accountable to come to practice or a game whenever they are available. They, along with all their teammates, must realize that playing time is earned.

A gap must be bridged during the time an athlete is in two sports. It is essential that he/she earns the respect of their fellow teammates, and is readily accepted as part of the team, sharing in its common goals. This can be done by being with the second team whenever possible.

Based upon past history, this policy of playing for two teams in similar seasons, has affected approximately 5-8 athletes per school year.