

NEW ATHLETIC TEAMS

The Gilford School Board encourages its students to participate in co-curricular activities. Interscholastic athletics sanctioned by the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) are an integral part of high school programs throughout the State. However, school size and economic conditions can have a direct impact on the nature and number of athletic teams that any one school may be able to sponsor. It is the intent of the Gilford School District to provide opportunities for its student athletes that are commensurate with other New Hampshire high schools with similar enrollments.

New Athletic Teams

Recognizing the desire of parents and students to add additional athletic teams and the increased competition for limited budgetary resources, the guidelines for adding a new team shall be as follows:

1. New athletic teams must have the recommendation of the Principal, Athletic Director and the Superintendent of Schools. The request may then be brought to the School Board for action. The administration will gather information about each of the elements for consideration of the proposal for approval or disapproval. The following elements are considered in the approval of a new sport:
 - a) liability and safety;
 - b) compatibility with Gilford School District policies and regulations;
 - c) compliance with Title IX and other applicable laws;
 - d) availability of practice and game space including integrity of field;
 - e) availability of same-level competition locally;
 - f) demonstrated need/interest in the new activity;
 - g) timeliness of the request in relation to the Gilford School District budget cycle (August/Sept of prior year);
 - h) Availability of trained and certified staff (including sponsors, coaches, trainers);
 - i) availability of adequate administration supervision;
 - j) sustainability over time;
 - k) availability of transportation;
 - l) cost considerations for the Athletic and District Budget.

2. All new teams which are approved shall be placed on a 5-year probationary status to determine the level of student interest and the impact on the school.
3. During the probationary period, all expenses (with the exception of transportation) must be funded with resources that are not part of the regular school budget.
4. At the end of the 5-year period the Athletic Director will prepare a written evaluation of the team and make a recommendation for its continuance or termination. The evaluation shall address cost, participation and impact on the students and the school.
5. The recommendation, along with recommendations from the Principal and Superintendent, shall be brought to the School Board for determination of the continuation or termination of the sport/team.
6. If approved, District funding of the program will be phased in as follows pending School District Budget approval:
 - a. 25% - year 6
 - b. 50% - year 7
 - c. 75% - year 8
 - d. 100% – year 9 and thereafter
7. The School Board reserves the right to amend funding to any organization due to budgetary constraints.

When a fee system is employed to support the financing of a new sport, it is the intent of the School Board that no student-athlete is barred from playing on a team because he/she cannot afford to pay. Conversely, the Board also expects that students who can afford to pay must do so in order to be eligible to participate. The sponsors of new teams, working in conjunction with the Athletic Department, must develop a system by which either scholarship money or earned money (job based) is available for needy students. The criteria that applies to free and reduced lunch support shall serve as a basis for determining a student's level of need.

The Principal shall be responsible for determining whether a student-athlete has a financial need and will review the reasonableness of the options made available to support a student. Any disagreements between the student, her/his parents and the team sponsor regarding either the

level of need or the designated source of the funding (as approved by the Principal) may be appealed to the Superintendent of Schools, whose determination shall be final.

This policy shall place currently approved and privately funded sports on the adoption of a new athletic team cycle according to their year of inception.

Existing Athletic Teams

Every athletic team shall receive a written review every 5-years by the Athletic Director. The evaluation shall place teams on a cycle such that 1/5th of them are reviewed each year. Consideration shall be given to the level of participation, comparability in other similar sized schools, cost and the impact on the culture of the school. When a sport is no longer serving the interest of the school and community, it will be eliminated and the funds that supported it will be removed from Budget.

Any sport that ceases to be active for more than three (3) successive years will be treated as a new sport if it again becomes active.

Cooperative Teams

The Gilford School District will only fund Gilford's share of the cooperative team as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding.

(Adopted: 1/09/17)