

PORTLAND ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICY FOR TEAM SELECTION

I. PHILOSOPHY

In accordance with the overall athletic philosophy and the desire to see as many student athletes as possible participate in the athletic program while at Portland Public Schools, coaches are encouraged to keep as many student athletes as they can without affecting or compromising the integrity of their sport. Obviously time, space, facilities, personal attention and individualized instruction necessary for team development, along with other factors, will affect squad size for any particular sport. However, when developing the individual sport policy in this area, coaches are encouraged to maximize the opportunities for our student athletes without diluting the quality of their program.

II. LIMITATION OF TEAM MEMBERSHIP POLICY

The coaches of the respective sports, along with the approval of the Athletic Director, will determine minimum and maximum team membership limits, taking into consideration the criteria listed above. In cases when the “Squad Reduction Policy” is used, the coach will keep the Athletic Director informed concerning the method and time of “cuts”.

III. SQUAD REDUCTION POLICY

A. Responsibility

1. The choice of membership for any athletic team will be the responsibility of the coach of that team. Membership will be reviewed by the Athletic Director or school administration.
2. There is no such thing as a final team cut. The athlete’s membership on any team is always subject to proper behavior as outlined in specific team guidelines.
3. Lower level coaches will follow the policies as established by the head coach in that particular program when selecting team members.
4. Prior to tryouts, the coach will provide the following information to all candidates for their team and their parents:
 - a. The cutting procedure including time lines, the specified tryout period and the criteria used to select team members.

- b. The practice commitment required of each athlete who makes the team.

B. Tryout Procedure

1. When a squad cut becomes necessary, the process should include these important elements. Each athlete should:
 - a. Have completed a minimum number of practices specified for the tryout period.
 - b. Be permitted, whenever possible, to compete in a scrimmage situation.
 - c. Be at all tryouts or provide written permission to the coach from their parents or guardian, in advance, for missing the tryout period due to extenuating circumstances.
 - d. If permission is granted for an alternate tryout, the athlete must go through the similar criteria process as other team members.
2. If an athlete is cut, the coach will inform him or her personally as to the reason for the cut and the skills or techniques that they can work on for the next season, such as strength, catching, shooting, etc. No posting of lists.
3. Coaches should take the opportunity to discuss alternative possibilities for participation in the sport.
4. If a coach foresees difficulties arising because of squad cuts, he or she should discuss the situation with the Athletic Director ahead of time.