

## **7, 8, & 9 Modified Programs**

### **Things to consider.....**

**Scheduling:** Schools can schedule the maximum number of games allowed under the modified rules (ex. Basketball – 14 games) plus up to 3 scrimmages, following the scrimmage guidelines for the sport. That is a total of 17 competitive opportunities in the sport of basketball. High School programs are allowed a maximum of 18 games in the sport of basketball and unlimited scrimmages.

Modified programs can schedule up to 50% of their scheduled games as scrimmages following the NYSPHSAA guidelines. If a soccer team has 10 games scheduled, they can convert 5 of those scheduled contests to scrimmages leaving 5 contests. On top of those 10 competitive opportunities, the school could add 3 more scrimmages for a total of 13 competitive opportunities. **Note:** Soccer scrimmages can be a total of 100 minutes, while regular contests last 60 minutes.

**Try-outs:** Once they have completed the Selection Classification Process, students in grades 7 and 8 can try-out for the high school program for 3 out of the first 5 practices from the start of the High School season for most sports (refer to the Handbook for exceptions in other sports). Students in 9<sup>th</sup> grade do not have to complete the Selection Classification Process but are under the same time frame for the try-out period. Students that practice for a 4<sup>th</sup> time against a high school program will be promoted and cannot return to the modified program.

**Promotion:** Students in grades 7, 8, or 9 can be promoted to the high school program if they have completed the Selection Classification process (excluding 9<sup>th</sup> graders) prior to completion of 50% of their scheduled contests. **Note:** If a school converts contests into scrimmages, the scrimmages are counted as part of the 50%. If a school does not have a JV program, only the 9<sup>th</sup> graders can be promoted following the completion of the modified season for post season competition at the high school program. They are not eligible for the end of the regular season.

**Transportation:** Modified programs can share transportation with high school programs. Schools may want to consider the maturity level of the two programs before deciding to share transportation to away games. Another option for a school is to consider having modified level programs traveling together (male/female) and high school level programs traveling together (male/female).

**Facility Usage:** Modified and high school programs can use the same facility simultaneously, as long as there is no practicing or competing against the two levels (Promotion Rule). Schools may schedule modified and high school programs back to back. Schools can consider moving up the start times of Varsity games to accommodate the start times for the modified team.

**Time:** Schools, with section and league approval, may use extended time periods if they have the minimum of players required (refer to Handbook). Modified programs may only play on one night's rest three times per season for rescheduling purposes only. A modified team may never play three days in a row. Baseball and softball are only allowed to play two games in a day twice during the season.

**Competition:** Schools may only practice or compete against other schools that use similar criteria to organize the modified program. The criteria can be age, grade, or ability.