

BNL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Athletic Placement Process (APP) Procedures

The BNL athletic department believes that student-athletes should participate in their grade-level classification whenever possible. For the limited number of students who demonstrate exceptional readiness, the Athletic Placement Process (APP) provides an opportunity to participate safely at a higher level of interscholastic competition.

The APP is a New York State Education Department process used to determine whether a student is prepared to compete at a level outside of their normal grade classification. Student readiness is evaluated based on:

- Personal and social responsibility
- Sport-specific skill development
- Knowledge of the game
- Physical fitness

The purpose of APP is to provide a safe and equitable process that allows highly qualified student-athletes to participate at an appropriate competitive level based on readiness rather than age or grade placement.

Participation in APP is a privilege, not a right. Approval to participate in the APP does not guarantee placement on a team.

Advanced Placement Process Deadlines for the 2026-27 school year:

- All Fall requests due by August 1
- All Winter requests due by November 1
- All Spring requests due by March 1
- Applications received after established deadlines may not be considered.

APP Process

Students must successfully complete each step before advancing to the next stage. If a student does not meet the requirements at any stage of the process, the family will be notified by email.

APP Process Steps

Students must pass each stage of the APP before proceeding to the next stage, and pass all stages in order to meet the requirements of the APP. If at any stage in the process it is determined not appropriate a notification letter will be emailed home.

All students must be recommended by a BNL Coaching Staff Member to start this process.

Step 1: Athletic Director Invitation

In accordance with NYSED regulations, students in grades 7 and 8 may participate in the APP only by invitation of the District Athletic Director or Physical Education Director.

Recommendations may be submitted by coaches, teachers, parents, or students; however, recommendations do not constitute an invitation. The decision to issue an APP invitation rests solely with the Athletic Director or Physical Education Director.

All students must be recommended by a BNL Coaching Staff Member to the Director of Health, PE and Athletics to start this process.

Step 2: Parent/Guardian Consent

The parent or legal guardian must provide informed consent before the APP evaluation process may begin. Consent will be completed through an email or hard copy document sent from the Athletic Director and returned to the Athletic Director.

Step 3: Health Examination Requirements

Students must complete online sign ups through Family I.D. and have a present physical on file indicating approval for athletic participation. This is required by The NYSED.

The health examination must:

- Be completed prior to participation in tryouts.
- Be valid within the previous 12 months.

- Include an updated health history if the examination was completed more than 30 days before the start of the sports season.

Health forms may be:

- Uploaded to Arbiter Sports, or Family I.D.or
- Submitted to either Berlin/New Lebanon School Health Offices.

The District Medical Director may, after consultation with the student's healthcare provider, restrict participation if a severe medical condition presents a health or safety concern.

Step 4 ArbiterSports Registration

Students who successfully complete the APP process must complete all required Arbiter Sports registration requirements before participating in team tryouts.

Completion of the APP permits the student to try out for the approved Freshman, Junior Varsity, or Varsity team. It does not guarantee team selection.

Step 5: Readiness Evaluation/Tryout Evaluation

Students participating in APP must demonstrate sufficient readiness in the following areas:

- Personal and social responsibility
- Sport-specific skill development
- Knowledge of the game
- Physical fitness

Evaluations shall be conducted using the same standards and team-selection criteria applied to all students trying out for that team. No separate or modified standards shall be used for APP candidates.

Team Selection

The selection of APP candidates shall be based upon the same criteria used for all other students trying out for the team. The program is intended for extremely talented and gifted athletes. The selection of such athletes affects not only the individual athlete but also other athletes. High School athletes may be cut from a team or have their playing time reduced to make room for Middle School athletes. Therefore, the impact of the Athletic Placement Process each year has long-term consequences. It is important that Athletic Placement Process candidates and their parents understand their responsibility and commitment when considering this privilege. We will only keep a student on a Freshman, JV or Varsity team if it appears that the athlete will get a substantial amount of playing time. If this athlete is displacing one or more high school students who are being cut, this athlete must clearly have superior potential to any athlete they are displacing.

The district will not use APP to:

- Fill roster vacancies
- Provide additional playing opportunities
- Replace a modified athletic program
- Reward student-athletes

Students must earn a roster position through the team selection process.

Additional Information

A student who successfully completes the APP and is selected for a higher-level team may not return to a modified team in that sport during the same season. Students not selected for the higher-level team may participate on the modified team, provided they otherwise meet all eligibility requirements. Participation in a Freshman, Junior Varsity, or Varsity program subjects the student-athlete to all New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), Section II, Wasaren League or league sport participates in, and either Berlin/New Lebanon School Districts' rules, regulations, and eligibility requirements. Families should recognize that participation at a higher level may expose student-athletes to increased competitive, academic, social, and personal responsibilities commonly associated with older students.



ATHLETIC PLACEMENT PROCESS

PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION and INVITATION FOR APP

Dear Parent/Guardian:

There is a New York State Education Department (NYSED) program that permits physically and emotionally appropriate students to try out for an athletic team that is outside of their grade placement. It is called the Athletic Placement Process (APP). Your child (name): _____ has been invited to APP in the sport of _____ outside of his or her normal grade level. In order to establish the appropriate eligibility, we must have your permission to begin the APP. Students participating in APP must demonstrate sufficient readiness in the following areas:

- Personal and social responsibility
- Sport-specific skill development
- Knowledge of the game
- Physical fitness

PARENT/GUARDIAN STATEMENT I have read the attached letter and I understand the purpose and eligibility implications of the Athletic Placement Process. My son/daughter (name): _____ has my permission to undergo the evaluation process and to participate in this program. I understand that passing the evaluation process does not guarantee my child a position on a team, but only permits them to try out.

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Please sign below and return to mreynolds@berlincentral.org or return to the head coach.

COACHES EVALUATION SHEET TO BE COMPLETED

PRIOR TO INVITATION FOR APP

ATHLETIC PLACEMENT PROCESS COACH'S SPORT SKILL EVALUATION **INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE COACH**

Coach _____ Sport & Level _____ / _____

Student's Name _____ Gender: M F Age _____

The above-named student has been invited for evaluation through the Athletic Placement Process. As the coach of the team for which they want to try out, your complete assessment of his/her skill level is an important factor in this process. Please complete and return this form as soon as possible to the Director of Physical Education and /or Athletic Director.

NOTE: The number of students who are allowed to compete outside of their grade levels should be few and far between. The program is intended only for the athlete who has the physical maturity, physical fitness, and sport skills to be placed with other athletes outside of his/her grade level.

There are many potential physical and social/emotional pitfalls that must be avoided, and once a student is elevated, the decision is irreversible. Please keep in mind that, until you are notified by the director of physical education's office that the student has successfully completed the entire Interscholastic Athletic Placement Process, that student may not attend any practices.

Please write an evaluation of his/her skill level on the back of this sheet. Supporting information would be helpful in determining proper placement, so be specific. Which level team is the student trying out for?

Junior Varsity Varsity

Which level of play would you recommend for this student?

Junior Varsity Varsity

Compare this student's skills relative to other members of the team that the student is trying out for.

Below Average Average Above Average Superior

What percentage of playing time would you estimate he/she would receive at that level?
_____ %

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Coach's Signature _____ Date _____

POST EVALUATION FORM TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD COACH

HEAD COACH: _____

SPORT: _____

LEVEL: _____

STUDENT-ATHLETE: _____

LIST TRY-OUT CRITERIA THAT WAS USED BELOW:

AFTER THE TRY-OUT PERIOD PLEASE COMPLETE BELOW FOR PLACEMENT

Junior Varsity

Varsity

Compare this student's skills relative to other members of the team that the student is trying out for.

Below Average

Average

Above Average

Superior

What percentage of playing time would you estimate he/she would receive at that level?

_____ %