

Guidelines for De Smet Junior High Sports

According to the South Dakota High School Activities Association, Constitution & By-Laws, Section 3 states rules regarding **SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE CONTESTANTS**. It states that member schools may use seventh and eighth grade students on high school teams for high school contests provided they meet scholastic standards fully equivalent to those required for students in grades 9-12 by the Association.

The De Smet School District and the school board will take the following stance on junior high sports and their participants.

1. With the exception of football and **with the approval of the athletic director and coach**, 8th-grade students **will** be permitted to participate on the junior varsity and varsity teams when:
 - a. The high school team has low participation numbers, and to fill a team, 8th-grade students must participate.
 - b. When an exceptionally gifted 8th-grade student can assist our high school program; this will be on a case-by-case basis by the athletic director and coach.
2. Seventh-grade students **will not** be allowed to participate in any high school **team** sports, including football, volleyball, and basketball.
3. Seventh-grade and eighth-grade students **will** be allowed to participate in high school **individual** sports, including cross country, wrestling, and track.
4. High school cheer will consist only of 9th – 12th-grade students.
5. Although golf is considered an **individual** sport, due to the high volume of high school participants and limited practice space, seventh and eighth grade students will not compete with varsity unless Rule 1 applies with low participation or an approved exceptionally gifted athlete.
6. If a junior high student is elevated and participates in a high school competition, they shall have the opportunity to also participate in the junior high competitions as decided by the coaching staff.
7. The goal of our youth sport programs in De Smet is for parents to facilitate teams that encompass the K-6th grade students. These programs do not fall under De Smet authority in any way except for coordination of facility usage.
8. With the approval of the athletic director and coach, space permitting, when there is no youth program available in the sport of volleyball and basketball, the 6th-grade students may participate with the JH team, and only with the JH team.