



Ruben S. Ayala High School

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Home of the Bulldogs

DIANA YARBOI *Principal* **Joe Duarte,** *Assistant Principal* **Tracy Gutierrez** *Assistant Principal* **Kyle Shuler,** *Assistant Principal*

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student-Athlete:

Over the past few years it has come to our attention that some parents and students have some serious misconceptions regarding the high school competitive athletic program. Please take a few moments to read this letter. Hopefully, this will help you understand how a competitive program is conducted and what comprises our expectations and philosophy.

1. In each program, a coach and/or coaches are hired by the school district to be responsible for team selection. Criterion for selection is established by the head coach, possibly with input from the entire coaching staff. This may be a highly subjective process. Team selection, practices and decisions regarding game situations are the responsibility of the coaching staff.

If you have questions regarding the process, please feel free to address these questions directly to the head coach. Please call the coach to make an appointment outside of school, practice or game time. If you have further questions the coach has not been able to answer, please contact the athletic director.

2. The Ayala High School athletic program has become highly competitive. Due to large schools and limited opportunities, we are not able to place every child on a team who wishes to participate. While this is not our desire, it is reality. The hardest thing our coaches have to do is to tell young people they will not be on a team.

Please be sure when your child tries out for a team, both you and they understand there is a very real possibility they may not be selected. If selected, both you and your child should be prepared to accept placement at any team level, i.e., 9th grade, reserve, junior varsity or varsity. It is disturbing to have a student try out for a team and then quit because they were not placed where they think they should be. By doing this, they have taken away someone else's opportunity to be on a team.

Normally, coaches have a very short amount of time to make team selections. They try to do the very best they can in keeping the most talented athletes, filling positions for play, and appropriately placing them on the proper team. They are under a good deal of pressure to assemble the most competitive team possible. Any one of us might select different athletes for the team. We believe it is the coaches' responsibility and right to select the team with whom they will work for the entire season.

3. Our experience in athletics reveals there are many "select teams" sponsored by many different organizations. Each coach looks for something different in his or her players. Participation on a "select team" does not guarantee any player a spot on another "select team" or any high school team. While we believe players can gain valuable experience outside of the school athletic program, neither parents nor students should count on this type of participation to "guarantee" a spot on a high school team.
4. In order to make a varsity team as a senior, a player must be outstanding and also play a position the team needs. Underclass student-athletes possessing these qualities have the same opportunity to make a team as the senior does. Our team structure (9th grade, reserve, junior varsity, and varsity) dictates there will always be more underclass players than upper class in the total program. At selection time, it will be the coaches' decision.
5. A main goal of a competitive athletic program is to put the most talented members of the team in competition to win the contest. Starting positions and playing time are not guaranteed to seniors making a team, or anyone else for that matter. Each member of a team is very valuable to the team's overall progress. Some members may play a great deal of time in a contest while others may not see what a parent would consider "significant" playing time. Each student should have a personal improvement as one of his or her goals.

By being a member of a team, regardless of time spent in actual competition, a person can learn many valuable lessons. Among them are the following: citizenship, sportsmanship, appreciating good play by an opponent, working together to meet team goals, responsibility and commitment to team and school, loyalty, placing team above self, learning to accept instruction and criticism, respect for others, winning and losing with dignity, self-control, and being responsible for one's own actions.

We sincerely hope this helps you to understand the goals and philosophies of the competitive athletic program at Ayala High School. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding any aspect of the athletic program.