



**Department of
Education**

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The DOE Small Schools Athletic League

Dear Principals and Athletic Directors,

The PSAL is pleased to announce a new league aside the traditional PSAL model. The name of the league is the Small Schools Athletic League (SSAL) and it will reflect the Department of Education's (DOE's) desire to cater to the diverse needs of our student population in accordance with State regulations on safety in sports. The DOE's SSAL will facilitate interscholastic sports competitions tailored to the unique needs of small schools, bringing increased access to interscholastic sports for New York City public high school students, including those who attend non-traditional schools. The SSAL will include the Developmental Division as well as the Multiple Pathways League. Schools with SSAL teams, in both the Developmental Division and the Multiple Pathways League, will have an opportunity to establish alternative eligibility requirements in consultation with the PSAL's Principal Advisory Group.

Applying for SSAL Teams

- Applications for SSAL teams are available on the PSAL website (www.psal.org) under new team requests. Applications should specify SSAL and whether SSAL Developmental or SSAL Multiple Pathways is desired.
- **Deadlines:**
 - **DOE SSAL Developmental**
 - New Team Requests for both the winter and the spring seasons are still open. All winter requests must be submitted by September 30th, 2014. All spring requested must be submitted by October 31st, 2014.
 - **Multiple Pathways League:**
 - Fall applications must be in by September 29, 2014
 - Winter applications must be in by October 10, 2014
 - Spring applications must be in by October 31, 2014

Small Schools Athletic League Developmental

- Transitional stage for new teams ensures students and schools acclimate to competitive sports.
- Special guidance and attention is given to Developmental teams.
- Starting with Winter 2014-2015, principals with teams in the SSAL Developmental may set academic eligibility standards. Principals may choose to follow PSAL's rigorous guidelines or may choose a different path.
- Enduring teams eligible for PSAL Varsity at the end of one year can join PSAL Varsity or can opt to stay in SSAL Developmental for the following school year.
- Attached are the current fall schedules of the SSAL developmental.
 - [2015 Schedule for GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL \(SSAL DEVELOPMENTAL\)](#)
 - [2015 Schedule for VARSITY SOCCER \(DEVELOPMENTAL\)](#)

The Multiple Pathways League (MPL)

- **Flexible Eligibility Standards-** To cater to students who cannot meet the academic eligibility standards of PSAL Varsity, MPL will allow principals to set the eligibility for their student-athletes.
- **Sports-** The following are the sports currently available in the MPL:
 - **Fall** - Girls Volleyball, Boys Basketball
 - **Winter-** COED Table Tennis
 - **Spring-** COED Track and Field, COED Softball, and Girls Basketball

As interest increases we will look to add more sports in future years.

If you have any questions please contact Diana Parente (dparente@schools.nyc.gov)

Sincerely,

Donald J Douglas
Executive Director

