

Staples first Co-ed interscholastic sport – FriSbee

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The newest of Staples Interscholastic sports is also one of its first to go co-educational as the FRISBEE team looks forward to their first match against the Weston High School team on April 5th at Staples.

Frisbee has become one of the country's biggest crazes, one that outshadows even the hoola-hoop, and in Maplewood, New Jersey, it is a serious sport. Columbia High School of Maplewood, New Jersey, owns the patent on the game "Ultimate" frisbee, the rules of which have been the basis of thirteen interscholastic teams that have been formed throughout New Jersey to date, and the rules (with some minor variations) that Staples plays under.

The Frisbee team began as a club two years ago, and now is an official team that obtains equipment (4 frisbees) from the athletic department, and has a school approved coach, Alan Jolley, a teacher at Staples. The team has attracted over thirty students including a small number of the opposite sex. The team is in the process of making "official" outfits which will consist of frisbee shirts and blue jeans (according to Jolley, "they're more durable").

In case you attend the matches, the "modern" Staples rules read somewhat like this:

Object of the game – to score more goals in the 60 min. playing time than the other team does. A goal is scored when a member of one team successfully passes the Frisbee to another player on the same team standing (or running) on the far side of the goal which that team is currently attacking. The games will go into sudden death overtime.

Throw Off – The play begins with the Throw-Off. The captains of the 2 teams determine which team will elect to throw or receive by the flip of a coin (once again a Frisbee can be flipped). The other team chooses which goal they are to defend at the start. After everyone is ready, one player of the throwing team stands behind the goal his team is defending and throws the Frisbee toward the opposite end of the field. No player on the throwing team may touch the Frisbee until it is touched by a member on the receiving team. The receiving team may do one of two things with the Frisbee flying towards them: a) allow it to fall to the ground without touching it, or b) catch it. If the Frisbee is caught the team has possession where it was caught. If it falls to the ground untouched the receiving team gets possession of the Frisbee where it stops. If the Frisbee touches any part of any member of the

receiving team and then falls to the ground, the team that threw the Frisbee gains possession where it stops. Play continues immediately upon either team establishing possession of the Frisbee after the Throw-Off.

The Play – The team that has the Frisbee attempts to move the Frisbee downfield so that they may score by passing the Frisbee thru the goal to another team member. The Frisbee may be moved in only one way: it must be thrown. A player cannot run or walk with the Frisbee. If someone does, then the Frisbee goes over the opposing team. If a player is running when he catches the Frisbee he may have to take a few steps in order to stop. This is permissible. If the Frisbee hits the ground the team that threw the Frisbee loses possession and the other team gets the Frisbee where it lands. The Frisbee may not be handed from one person to another. A team may gain possession a) by intercepting or b) by knocking a pass to the ground after the other team has thrown it. When a player has the Frisbee no one can touch his/her hands. A defender must stay at least 3 feet from the player with the Frisbee. Play continues until a goal is scored. At that time the teams switch goals and the team that scored throws-off to the other team. Anytime a team gains possession of the Frisbee behind the goal they are defending, they may if they wish, walk up to the goal line and continue play from there. No player may strike another in an attempt to get the Frisbee. A certain amount of contact must be expected when opposing players jump for a high throw.

The first game will be on April 5th at 3:00 p.m. at Staples.

UNOFFICIAL captain, Bob Lacy, models the top of the Staples Frisbee team's shirt as he watches the team preparing for action against Weston next week. The pattern highlights the "S" for Staples. (photo by Krein)