

2431 ATHLETIC COMPETITION (M)

The Board of Education recognizes the value of athletic competition for both boys and girls as an integral part of the total school experience. Game activities and practice sessions provide opportunities to learn the values of competition and good sportsmanship.

For the purpose of this Policy, programs of athletic competition include all activities relating to competitive sports contests, games, events, or sports exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students when such events occur within or between schools within this district or with any schools outside this district. The programs of athletic competition shall include, but are not limited to, high school interscholastic athletic programs, middle school interscholastic athletic programs where school teams or squads play teams or squads from other school districts, intramural athletic programs within a school or among schools in the district, and any cheerleading program or activity in the school district.

The Board shall make school facilities, supplies, and equipment available and assign staff members for the support of a program of athletic activities for students in grades 7 through 12. The Board shall provide transportation for all regular season away interscholastic games. Students may be required to provide supplies and students may be required to assume all of the costs of travel and attendance at other athletic events and trips. If any additional costs are to be assumed by the Board of Education, they will be supplemental to those funds raised by the athletic group and will not be derived from any taxpayer monies (i.e., may come from student activity funds or vending proceeds). The Board of Education may assist in funding fees and registration costs or travel for local competitions. ~~However, the Board will not subsidize any out of State overnight travel associated with athletic competitions.~~

Eligibility Standards

A student who wishes to participate in athletic competition must submit, on a form provided by the district, the signed consent of his/her parent. The consent of the parent of a student who wishes to participate in interscholastic or intramural athletics must include an acknowledgment of the physical hazards that may be encountered in the activity.

Student participation in a program of athletic competition shall be governed by the following eligibility standards:

In accordance with NJSIAA regulations, no student who reaches the age of 19 prior to September 1 of a school year will be eligible for interscholastic sports and competition during that school year.

The Board will not allow students who reside in this district and who are not enrolled in the public school to participate in competitive activities.

Student participation in athletic competition shall be governed by the following eligibility standards:

To be eligible for participation in the interscholastic athletic program of a New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) member school, all high school students must meet, at a minimum, all the eligibility requirements of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of the NJSIAA.

Home schooled children are not eligible to participate in the high school interscholastic athletic program of this district.

Secondary grades only:

1. A student in grade 10, 11, or 12 who in the previous school year (including make-up credits from summer school) earned twenty-five percent (30 credits) of the total number of credits required by the State for graduation is eligible for participation in sports in the fall and winter seasons. There are no academic requirements, per state guidelines, for 9th grade students who wish to participate in fall and winter sports. However, a 9th grade student who wishes to participate in spring sports must conform to the academic standards beginning with the spring season.. A student in grade 9, 10, 11, or 12 who in the fall semester earned twelve and one-half percent (15 credits) of the total number of credits required by the State for graduation is eligible for participation in sports in the spring season. A student who is eligible at the start of a sports season remains eligible for that entire sports season regardless of his/her grades at the end of a marking period.
2. A student who is absent for a school day may not participate in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition the afternoon or evening of that school day.

3. A student who is serving an in-school or out-of-school suspension may not participate in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition while serving the suspension.
4. A student in any grade who fails to demonstrate good citizenship or observe school rules for student conduct may forfeit his/her eligibility for participation in athletic competition.
5. All other eligibility requirement for participation shall be in accordance with the school handbook.

Notice of these eligibility requirements shall be given to students.

Required Examinations – Interscholastic or Intramural Team or Squad

Students enrolled in grades six to twelve must receive a medical examination, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.7, prior to participation on a school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural team or squad and any cheerleading program or activity.

An examination of each candidate for a school athletic squad or team shall be conducted within 365 days prior to the first practice session with examinations being conducted at the medical home of the student. The “medical home” is defined as a health care provider and that provider’s practice site chosen by the student’s parent for the provision of health care pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3. If the student does not have a medical home, the school district shall provide the examination at the school physician’s office or other comparably equipped facility. The parent may choose either the school physician or their own private physician to provide the medical examination. The medical examination shall be conducted in accordance with N.J.S.A 6A:16-2.2(h)1 and 2. The medical required prior to participation shall be in accordance with the requirements outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)-1 and regulation 2431.2 and shall be documented using the Preparticipation Physical Evaluation for required by the Department of Education.

The school district shall distribute the Commissioner of Education developed sudden cardiac arrest pamphlet to a student participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.e., and the student’s parent(s) shall each year and prior to participation by the student in an athletic activity comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.d.

The school district shall annually distribute the Commissioner of Education developed educational fact sheet relative to use and misuse of opioid drugs for sports related injuries to parents of students who participate in athletic activities and comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.10.

Information concerning a student's HIV/AIDS status shall not be required as part of the medical examination or health history pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:5C-1 et seq. The health findings of this medical examination shall be maintained as part of the student's health record.

Emergency Procedures

Athletic coaches shall be trained in first aid to include sports-related concussion and head injuries, the use of a defibrillator, the identification of student-athletes who are injured or disabled in the course of any athletic program or activity, and any other first aid procedures or other health related trainings required by law or the Superintendent.

The Superintendent shall prepare and present to the Board for its approval procedures for the emergency treatment of injuries and disabilities that occur in the course of any athletic program or activity. Emergency procedures shall be reviewed not less than once in each school year and shall be disseminated to appropriate staff members.

Interscholastic Standards

The Board shall approve annually a program of interscholastic athletics and shall require that all facilities utilized in that program, whether or not the property of this Board, properly safeguard both players and spectators and are kept free from hazardous conditions.

The Board adopts the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association and shall review such rules annually to ascertain that they continue to be in conformity with the objectives of this Board.

The Superintendent shall annually prepare, approve, and present to the Board for its consideration a program of intramural and interscholastic athletics. A complete schedule of all practices and competitions shall be maintained on the district's web site.

The Superintendent shall prepare rules for the conduct of students participating in interscholastic athletics that will conform to rules of the State Board of Education and the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association.

This entire policy shall be in accordance with NJSIAA regulations.

All individuals attending competitions shall be held to Policy #9150 – School Visitors and Policy # 9160 – Public Attendance at School Events. The District does not authorize live streaming within the schools or at school events without the prior approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Adopted: March 22, 2010

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Revised: