

## 2431 ATHLETIC COMPETITION (M)

### M

The Board of Education recognizes the value of athletic competition 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 purposes of this policy, programs of athletic competition include all activities relating to competitive sport contests, games, events, or sports exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students when such events occur between schools within this district, 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.

Since athletics form an integral part of the total educational program of this district, all coaches directing athletic activities shall hold a teaching certificate (standard or substitute), and shall have adequate knowledge in their coaching field, their activities shall be coordinated under the direction of the Athletic Director.

The Board of Education shall insure adequate financial support for a program of athletics so that a Board interscholastic athletic program shall not be solely dependent upon gate receipts for its financial support.

### Eligibility Standards

A student who wishes to participate in a program of 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 a program or athletic competition athletics will include an acknowledgment of the physical hazards that may be encountered in the activity.

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

1. 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.



In order to be eligible to participate in co-curricular activities, at the start of the first semester of the school year, a student must have earned a total of thirty or more credits the prior school year. In order to be eligible to participate in co-curricular activities at the start of the second semester, in grades nine through twelve, a student must have earned passing grades for the first semester in courses with a value equivalent to thirty or more credits (credits for full year courses shall be equated at one half their total value to determine credits earned during the first semester.)

Newly placed ninth grade students are automatically eligible during the first semester. Continued eligibility is based on the provisions of this policy. A student becomes ineligible for athletics after the completion of eight semesters following a student's entrance into the ninth grade. A student eligible to represent his/her school in winter sports on December 1 may continue to do so until the end of that season. (NJSIAA Policy)

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

2. A student in grades 7 through 8 is eligible for participation in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition if he/she passed all courses required for promotion or graduation in the preceding semester.

Home schooled children in grades 7 through 8 are not eligible to participate in school district sponsored programs or athletic competition of this district.

3. A student in any grade who fails to observe school rules for student conduct may forfeit his/her eligibility for participation in school district sponsored programs or athletic competition.

Notice of the school district's eligibility requirements shall be available to students.

#### Athletic Participation:

In addition to the aforementioned eligibility requirements, students participating in the interscholastic athletic program must meet all of the requirements established by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association. Those guidelines/bylaws shall be made available by the Athletic Director and school Principal.



The provisions of the following paragraphs apply to all co-curricular activities - including attendance at athletic events, dances, and similar activities.

Any student who does not report to school within two hours after the official start of the school day, or who leaves school prior to the end of the school day, will not be permitted to participate in activities for that day. Exceptions will be made if the lateness to school or the early dismissal from school is excused (determined by the district's approved attendance policy).

Additionally, students who are suspended from school are ineligible to attend or participate in any school activity for the duration of that suspension. Moreover, continued attendance/participation is subject to the provisions set forth in the exclusionary section of the Discipline Guidelines.

In summary, eligibility may be affected by:

1. Graduation credits earned;
2. Attendance in school;
3. Suspension;
4. Obligations to other coaches, uniforms and/or equipment not handed in (see Equipment Section);
5. Age restrictions:
  - a. Students in seventh or eighth grades who will reach age sixteen prior to September 1 may request a waiver of the Bylaws, Article V, Section 4.1, Pre-High School Student, to have an opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics for four years prior to becoming ineligible.
  - b. Classified students who will reach age nineteen prior to September 1 of the school year may request a waiver to participate in non-contact sports.
6. Drug Screening;
7. Transfer rules;



8. Recruitment rules;
9. Maintain amateur status;
10. A signed Parent/Student-Athlete Handbook form.

#### Required Examinations – Interscholastic or Intramural Team or Squad

Students enrolled in grades seven 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.

The examination shall be conducted within 365 days prior to the first day of official practice in an athletic season 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 a 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 this medical examination. The medical examination required prior to participation shall be in accordance with the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)1 and Regulation 2431.2 and shall be documented using the Pre-participation Physical Evaluation form 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:40-41.3., 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. 25:5C-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 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 as Board Policy and shall review such rules on a regular basis 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 interscholastic athletics that includes a complete schedule of athletic events and may inform the Board of changes in that schedule.

N.J.S.A. 2C:21-11

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3 et seq.; 18A:40-41; 18A:40-41.10

N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7(d); 6A:16-1.34; 6A:16-2 et seq.

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