

Policy 123                      Interscholastic Athletics

Adopted                         June 14, 2017

Last Revised                 July 18, 2018

Last Reviewed               July 18, 2018

### Purpose

The Board recognizes the value of a program of interscholastic athletics as an integral part of the total school experience for all district students and as a conduit for community involvement.

The program fosters the growth of school loyalty within the student body as a whole and stimulates community interest.

The game activities and practice sessions provide opportunities to teach the values of competition, sportsmanship, and teamwork.

### Definition

For purposes of this policy, the program of interscholastic athletics shall include all activities relating to competitive or exhibition sport contests, games or events involving individual students or teams of students when such events occur between schools within this district or outside this district.

### Authority

It shall be the policy of the Board to offer opportunities for participation in interscholastic athletic programs to male and female students on as equal a basis as is practicable and without discrimination, in accordance with law and regulations.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)

The Board shall annually approve a program of interscholastic athletics and 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.[\[6\]](#)

The Board shall determine the standards of eligibility to be met by all students participating in an interscholastic program. Such standards shall require that each student, before participating in any interscholastic activity, be covered by student accident insurance; be free of injury; and undergo a physical examination by a licensed physician.[\[6\]](#)

The Board further adopts those eligibility standards set by the Constitution of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, and shall review such standards annually to ascertain that they continue to be in conformity with the objectives of this district.

The Board directs that no student may participate in interscholastic athletics who has not:[\[6\]](#)

1. Met the requirements for academic eligibility.
2. Attended school regularly.[\[7\]](#)
3. Been in attendance on the day of the athletic event or practice for the hours required.
4. Returned all school athletic equipment previously used.
5. Adhered to applicable discipline standards.[\[8\]](#)

### Off-Campus Activities

This policy shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property and would otherwise violate the Student Discipline Code if any of the following circumstances exist:[\[8\]](#)

1. The conduct occurs during the time the student is traveling to and from school or traveling to and from school-sponsored activities, whether or not via school district furnished transportation.
2. The student is a member of an extracurricular activity and has been notified that particular off-campus conduct could result in exclusion from such activities.
3. Student expression or conduct materially and substantially disrupts the operations of the school, or the administration reasonably anticipates that the expression or conduct is likely to materially and substantially disrupt the operations of the school.
4. The conduct has a direct nexus to attendance at school or a school-sponsored activity, for example, a transaction conducted outside of school pursuant to an agreement made in school, that would violate the Student Discipline Code if conducted in school.
5. The conduct involves the theft or vandalism of school property.
6. There is otherwise a nexus between the proximity or timing of the conduct in relation to the student's attendance at school or school-sponsored activities.

### Delegation of Responsibility

Each school year, prior to participation in an interscholastic athletic activity, every student athlete and his/her parent/guardian shall sign and return the acknowledgement of receipt and review of the following:[\[16\]](#)[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)

1. Concussion and Traumatic Brain Injury Information Sheet.
2. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Symptoms and Warning Signs Information Sheet.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually prepare, approve and present to the Board for its consideration a program of interscholastic athletics, which shall include a complete schedule of events.

S/He shall inform the Board of changes in that schedule as they occur.

The Superintendent or designee shall disseminate rules for the conduct of students participating in interscholastic athletics. Such rules shall be in conformity with regulations of the State Board of Education, the P.I.A.A., the student handbook, and the school district.

Athletic coaches shall be required to pay a fine for nonattendance at the P.I.A.A. mandatory rules meeting each year.

The Superintendent shall ensure that similar athletic programs are offered to both sexes in proportion to the district's enrollment.

The Superintendent shall ensure that interscholastic athletics are open to all eligible students and that all students are fully informed of the opportunities available to them.[\[13\]](#)[\[14\]](#)

### Guidelines

#### Eligibility

The Board recognizes the importance of participation in interscholastic athletics, but not at the expense of academic achievement.

**Students participating in interscholastic athletics will be required to maintain the eligibility requirements established by the district of at least 70% in all core subjects in full credit courses and any other requirements, which shall be disseminated in student handbooks.**

The Superintendent shall establish and chair a committee in order to:

1. Hear appeals of extenuating circumstances.
2. Establish criteria for exemption from this policy.
3. Determine that the needs of the students are being served.
4. Determine that increasing academic requirements each year is a positive factor, and at what level the requirements may become a negative force.

The building principal shall establish and maintain eligibility lists of all students involved in interscholastic athletics, provide each teacher with eligibility lists by activity, and inform the Athletic Director and coaches of all deficiencies.

The Athletic Director shall inform coaches of deficiencies and determine that eligibility guidelines are being honored by all parties involved.

The coaches shall provide the office with a listing of all activity participants, inform participants of eligibility criteria, stress the importance of academic achievement, and check eligibility lists for students.

Teachers shall report any student not maintaining a passing grade.

Students shall display a desire to excel academically in lieu of time demands of activities.

### Guidelines

#### Male/Female Athletic Opportunities Report

By October 15 of each year, on the designated disclosure form, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the PA Department of Education the interscholastic athletic opportunities and treatment for male and female secondary school students for the preceding school year.[\[15\]](#)

By November 1 of each year, the completed disclosure form shall be made available for public inspection during regular business hours and posted on the district's website. [\[15\]](#)

The availability of the completed disclosure form shall be announced by posting a notice on school bulletin boards, in the school newspaper, on any electronic mailing list or list serve, and by any other reasonable means.[\[15\]](#)