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POLICY #2431 ATHLETIC COMPETITION

The Board of Education recognizes the value of a program 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. Programs of athletic competition, both intrascholastic and interscholastic, offer pupils the opportunity to exercise and test their athletic abilities in a context greater and more varied than that offered by the class or school or school district alone and an opportunity for career and educational development.

For purposes of this policy, the program of athletic competition includes all activities relating to competitive sports contests, games, or events or sports exhibitions involving individual pupils or teams of pupils of this district when such events occur within or between separate schools within this district or with any schools outside this district.

Eligibility standards

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

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

1. A pupil in grade 10, 11, or 12 who in the previous school year earned twenty-five percent of the total number of credits required by the State for graduation is eligible for participation in sports in the fall and winter seasons. A pupil in grade 9, 10, 11, or 12 who in the fall semester earned twelve and one-half percent of the total number of credits required by the State for graduation is eligible for participation in sports in the spring season. A pupil who is eligible at the start of a sports season remains eligible for that entire sports season regardless of his or her grades at the end of a marking period.
2. A pupil in any grade who fails to demonstrate good citizenship or observe school rules for pupil conduct may forfeit his or her eligibility for participation in athletic competition.

Notice of these eligibility requirements shall be given to pupils.

Health requirements

Good physical condition, freedom from injury, and full recovery from illness are prerequisites to participation in athletic competition and practice for such competition. A

candidate for a place on an athletic team or squad must receive a medical examination conducted once in each school year by the school medical inspector or the designated team doctor, if any, not more than three hundred sixty five days prior to the first practice session. The school medical inspector may accept the report, on a form provided by the district, of a medical examination conducted, at no expense to the Board, by the pupil's personal physician. Each candidate whose medical examination was completed more than sixty days prior to the first practice session must submit a health history update completed by the pupil's parent.

The medical examination conducted to determine the fitness of a candidate for athletic competition and the health history update must include, as a minimum, the respective medical history information and physical assessments set forth in rules of the State Board of Education and incorporated in their entirety in regulations implementing this policy.

The school medical inspector or the designated team doctor shall approve or disapprove the pupil's participation in athletics based on the medical examination. Written notification of that determination, signed by the school medical inspector or team doctor, shall be given to the pupil's parent or guardian and shall include the reasons for disapproval of the pupil's participation. The health findings of the medical examination shall be filed in the pupil's health examination record, subject to Board policy on pupil records.

Emergency procedures

Athletic coaches shall be trained in first aid and in the identification of pupil athletes who are injured or disabled in the course of any athletic activity.

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 activity. Emergency procedures shall be reviewed by the Board 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 as Board policy the 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 interscholastic athletics that includes a complete schedule of

athletic events and practices and shall inform the Board of changes in that schedule as they occur.

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

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

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6:4-1.5; 6:29-1.3; 6:29-3.1 et seq.

Adopted: 11 June 1997