

Athletic Competition

The Governing Board recognizes that the athletic program constitutes an integral component of the educational program and helps to build a positive school climate. The athletic program also promotes the physical, social, and emotional well-being and character development of participating students. The athletic program shall be designed to meet students' interests and abilities and be varied in scope to attract wide participation.

(cf. 3541.1 - Transportation for School-Related Trips)
(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)
(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education)
(cf. 7110 - Facilities Master Plan)

Nondiscrimination and Equivalent Opportunities in the Athletic Program

The district's athletic program shall be free from discrimination and discriminatory practices in accordance with state and federal law. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that equivalent athletic opportunities are provided for both sexes.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)
(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

Any complaint regarding the district's athletic program shall be filed in accordance with the district's uniform complaint procedures.

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

Sportsmanship

The Board values the quality and integrity of the athletic program and the ethical well-being and character development of the student athletes. Student athletes, coaches, parents/guardians, spectators, and others are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play during all athletic competitions. They shall also abide by the core principles of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship and the Codes of Conduct, as adopted by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) in its publication "Pursuing Victory with Honor."

Students and staff may be subject to disciplinary action for improper conduct.

(cf. 3515.2 - Disruptions)
(cf. 4118 - Suspension/Disciplinary Action)
(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)
(cf. 5131.4 - Student Disturbances)

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(cf. 5144 - Discipline)
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

California Interscholastic Federation

The Board maintains membership in the CIF and requires that interscholastic athletic activities be conducted in accordance with Board policy, administrative regulation, and CIF bylaws and rules. The Superintendent or designee shall have responsibility for the district's interscholastic athletic program, while the principal or designee at each participating school shall be responsible for the site-level decisions, as appropriate.

The Board shall annually designate an employee from each high school to serve as a representative to the local CIF league. Appointees shall represent the district in performing all duties required by the CIF league. In making this selection, the Board shall consider the employee's understanding of the district's goals for interscholastic and extracurricular activities, knowledge of the athletic programs, awareness of the implications of league decisions for the school and the district, and individual interpersonal communication and leadership skills.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district representatives to the CIF report regularly to the Board on league, section, and statewide issues, as well as activities and prospective actions related to athletics.

Student Eligibility

The first priority of student athletes shall be a commitment to their education and performing well in the classroom.

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

Eligibility requirements for participation in the district's interscholastic athletic program are the same as those set by the district for participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities.

(cf. 3530 - Risk Management/Insurance)
(cf. 5111.1 - District Residency)
(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)
(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)
(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)
(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students participating interscholastic athletic governed by the CIF satisfy CIF eligibility requirements.

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Health and Safety

The Board desires to give student health and safety the highest consideration in planning and conducting athletic activities. Universal precautions shall be observed when injuries occur.

- (cf. 4119.42/4219.42/4319.42 - Exposure Control Plan for Bloodborne Pathogens)
- (cf. 4119.43/4219.43/4319.43 - Universal Precautions)
- (cf. 5141 - Health Care and Emergencies)
- (cf. 5141.21 - Administering Medication and Monitoring Health Conditions)
- (cf. 5141.22 - Infectious Diseases)

Students shall have a medical clearance before participating in the interscholastic athletic program. Care shall be taken to ensure that all athletic trainings and competitions are conducted in a manner that will not overtax the physical capabilities of the participants. When appropriate, protective equipment shall be used to prevent or minimize injuries.

- (cf. 5131.61 - Drug Testing)
- (cf. 5131.63 - Steroids)
- (cf. 5141.3 - Health Examinations)
- (cf. 5143 - Insurance)

Coaches and appropriate district employees shall take every possible precaution to ensure that athletic equipment is kept in safe and serviceable condition.

Supervision

All athletic teams shall be supervised by qualified coaches to ensure that student athletes receive appropriate instruction and guidance related to safety, health, training, and preparation for competition. Athletic events shall be officiated by qualified personnel.

- (cf. 4127/4227/4327 - Temporary Athletic Team Coaches)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex

270-271 Athletes' Bill of Rights

17580-17581 Football equipment

32221.5 Required insurance for athletic activities

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33353-33353.5 California Interscholastic Federation; implementation of policies, insurance program
33354 CDE authority over interscholastic athletics
35160.5 District policies; rules and regulations
35161 Powers and duties generally
35179 Interscholastic athletics
48900 Grounds for suspension and expulsion
48930-48938 Student organizations
49020-49023 Athletic programs; legislative intent, equal opportunity
49030-49034 Performance-enhancing substances
60850-60859 High school exit examination
PENAL CODE
245.6 Hazing
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
4900-4965 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs
5531 Supervision of extracurricular activities of students
5590-5596 Employment of non-certificated coaches
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
1681-1688 Discrimination based on sex or blindness, Title IX
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34
106.31-106.42 Discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities prohibited
COURT DECISIONS
Kahn v. East Side Union High School District, (2004) 31 Cal.4th 990t
Hartzell v. Connell, (1984) 35 Cal. 3d 899

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

A School Board Member's Guide to CIF and Interscholastic Sports, 1997
CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION PUBLICATIONS
A Guide to Equity (Equity Handbook)
Pursuing Victory with Honor, 1999
California Interscholastic Federation Constitution and Bylaws, 1996-97

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>
California Department of Education, Equal Opportunity and Access:
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/di/eo>
California Interscholastic Federation: <http://www.cifstate.org>
National Federation of State High School Associations: <http://www.nfhs.org>
National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment:
<http://www.nocsae.org>