

Students

SUBJECT: SPORTS AND THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Athletics are an integral part of a well-balanced educational program, and the athletic program expects the partnership of parents, community members, administrators, teachers, coaches, and student athletes to accomplish the following goals:

- a) Provide a fulfilling and positive experience for all students that promotes a growth mindset;
- b) Foster physical, social and emotional growth and development;
- c) Cultivate academic and athletic achievement through the development of attitudes and values that motivate students to pursue excellence;
- d) Develop increased knowledge of skills needed to achieve individual and team success through consistency and hard work;
- e) Develop respect for teammates, opponents, coaches and officials by developing emotional control and cooperation;
- f) Stress the importance of physical fitness, proper conditioning, health and safety; and
- g) Provide opportunities for students to identify and explore diverse athletic experiences and apply their learning in a variety of settings in athletics.

General Principles and Eligibility for Participation in Athletics

The District's interscholastic athletic program will conform with the Commissioner's regulations, as well as the established rules of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) and the State Education Department.

Athletic eligibility requires that the student:

- a) Provide written parental or guardian consent. The consent form must contain information regarding mild traumatic brain injuries (concussions) as specified in the Commissioner's regulations;
- b) Obtain medical clearance from the school physician or nurse practitioner or the student's personal physician. The school physician or nurse practitioner retains final approval on any physicals performed by a student's personal physician;
- c) Meet the requirements for interscholastic competition as set forth by the Commissioner's regulations and the NYSPHSAA; and
- d) Comply with the District *Code of Conduct* and meet the academic eligibility requirements established by the District.

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Title IX Compliance

The District will comply with the requirements of Title IX, which ensures that access to all federally funded educational opportunities, including athletics, are free from discrimination based on sex. The Board supports equal athletic opportunities for members of both sexes through interscholastic and intramural activities. To ensure equal athletic opportunities for its students, the District will consider:

- a) Its accommodation of athletic interests and abilities (the nature and extent of sports offered, including levels of competition, team competition, and team performance);
- b) Equipment and supplies;
- c) Scheduling of games and practice time;
- d) Travel costs and opportunities for travel;
- e) Assignment and compensation of coaches;
- f) Locker rooms, practice, and competitive facilities;
- g) Available medical and training facilities and services; and
- h) The nature and extent of support, publicity, and promotion.

The District may consider other pertinent factors as well. Each of the factors will be assessed by comparing availability, quality, type of benefits, kind of opportunities, and form of treatment. Identical benefits, opportunities, or treatment are not required.

The District's Civil Rights Compliance Officer will coordinate the District's efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX. This person will be appropriately trained and possess comprehensive knowledge about applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and policies. To the extent possible, the District will not designate an employee whose other job duties may create a conflict of interest, such as the Director of Physical Education, Health & Athletics.

Booster Clubs

Booster clubs play a vital role in supporting extracurricular athletic programs. While they are separate entities from the District, booster clubs are expected to work in partnership with the Director of Physical Education, Health & Athletics and the head coach of the relevant sport to determine fundraising priorities and to obtain permission for fundraising activities that involve student athletes.

In order to be recognized by the District and fundraise using the name of a District team or sport, booster clubs must:

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- a) Register as a 501(c)(3) and file financial records as required by New York State;
- b) Develop and maintain bylaws that specify the organization and operations of the booster club;
- c) Determine the composition of the booster club executive board, as described in the bylaws;
- d) Purchase and maintain director and officer insurance for the booster club; and
- e) Establish and follow written procedures related to:
 1. Fundraising
 2. Cash controls and reporting
 3. Cash disbursements
 4. Financial reporting

The District has a responsibility under Title IX to ensure that boys' and girls' programs are provided with equivalent benefits, treatment, services, and opportunities regardless of their source. When determining equivalency, therefore, benefits, services, and opportunities attained through private funds—including donations, fundraising, and booster clubs—must be considered in combination with all benefits, services, and opportunities.

Athletic Placement Process for Interscholastic Athletic Programs (APP)*

The APP is a method for evaluating students who want to participate in sports at higher or lower levels, consistent with their physical and emotional maturity, size, fitness level, and skills. The Board approves the use of the APP for all secondary school interscholastic team members. Consistent with the rules established by the Commissioner of Education and/or the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, the Superintendent will implement procedures for the APP, and will direct the Director of Physical Education, Health & Athletics to maintain records of students who have successfully completed the APP.

Athletic Program Safety

The District will take reasonable steps to minimize physical risks posed to students participating in the interscholastic athletic program by:

- a) Requiring timely medical examinations of participants and prohibiting students from participation unless/until required proof of medical examinations is provided;
- b) Employing certified or licensed staff to coach all varsity, junior varsity, freshman, and modified practices and games;

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- c) Providing or requiring certified or licensed officials to officiate all competitions;
- d) Ensuring that its players' equipment is safe and operates within the applicable manufacturers' guidelines;
- e) Maintaining all home fields, courts, pools, tracks, and other areas where athletes practice, warm-up, or compete so that they are safe and appropriate for use; and
- f) Providing professional development and training opportunities for all coaching staff.

Student Athletic Injuries

No injured student will be allowed to practice or play in an athletic contest unless they have been evaluated by the Athletic Trainer and/or cleared for participation by a physician. The coach should ensure that any player injured while under his or her care receives prompt and appropriate medical attention, and that all of the medical professional's treatment instructions are followed. The injured student has an obligation to promptly inform his or her coach of all injuries. No student will be allowed to practice or compete if there is a question whether or not he or she is in adequate physical condition. A physician's certification may be required before an athlete is permitted to return to practice or competition. The District's physician shall have the final authority to determine if a student may return to play following an injury.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 USC § 1681 et seq.
45 CFR Part 86
8 NYCRR §§ 135 and 136

NOTE: Refer also to Policies #3420 -- Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the District
#7520 -- Accidents and Medical Emergencies
#7522 -- Concussion Management

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