

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY MANUAL

SECTION: **5000**
CATEGORY: **Students**
POLICY CODE: **5150/Interscholastic Athletics**

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Trumbull Board of Education and the mission of the Trumbull Public Schools' Interscholastic Athletic Program in conjunction with the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) to provide foundations necessary for promoting positive personal growth and experiences, stimulating academic performance, and empowering students to develop their highest potential at a highly competitive level. The implementation of a well-rounded interscholastic athletic program fosters advanced physical skills, good sportsmanship, growth, and commitment. Comparable interscholastic athletic opportunities for students of both sexes will be offered.

It is the policy of the Trumbull Board of Education to encourage students to participate in the Trumbull Public Schools' athletic programs. Coaches will consider as many students as possible for a team without compromising the safety of their sports. Coaches must consider time, space, facilities, equipment, and other factors that will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport.

It is the policy of the Trumbull Board of Education to formally recognize Trumbull High School state championship athletic teams and athletes who achieve the distinction of being named state champions in individual sports.

Athletic participation is considered a privilege and not a right.

Adopted: 3/11/1997
Revised: 4/3/2001, 8/5/2003,
5/18/2004, 6/3/2008, 4/9/2013,
1/6/2015, 8/28/2018

References

- Connecticut General Statutes §§ 10-204a, 10-206

- *CIAC Handbook*, Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference

- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 0521: Non-Discrimination
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 3541.44: Use of Privately-Owned Vehicles
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 5113: High School Attendance / Loss of Credit
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 5113.1: Attendance Grades K-8
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 5125.11: Health/Medical Records
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 5131: Student Standard of Conduct
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 5131.6: Student Use and Possession of Smoking Products, Tobacco Products, Drugs, and Alcohol
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 5131.91: Hazing

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- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 5131.911: Bullying and Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Intervention
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 5138: Pay to Participate
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 5141.21: Administration of Medication by School Personnel
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 5141.3: Health Assessments and Immunizations
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 5141.7: Concussions
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 5145.5: Sexual Harassment of Students
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 6121: Non-Discrimination in Instruction/Classroom
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 6161.2: Care of Instructional Materials

Regulations

I. Organizational Structure

A. Board of Education

The Board of Education, responsible to the people, is the ruling agency for the Trumbull Public Schools. It is responsible for interpreting the needs of the community and the requirements of the interscholastic athletic program.

B. Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent and/or his/her designee is responsible for administering the schools according to adopted policies of the Board of Education, rules and regulations of the State Department of Education, the CIAC, and the Fairfield County Interscholastic Athletic Conference (FCIAC), and in accordance with State statutes. It is his/her duty to establish a definitive school interscholastic athletic policy and to have an understanding of that policy. The Superintendent and/or his/her designee shall represent the school district in its dealings with other school systems, social institutions, and businesses. Delegation of his/her authority is made through the school principal to the Athletic Director.

C. School Principal

The school principal is the official school representative in matters dealing with the Trumbull Public Schools Athletic Department, the CIAC, and the FCIAC. The principal is solely responsible for any official action taken by his/her school. He/she also coordinates the school athletic program with other school activities.

D. Athletic Director

The Athletic Director is directly responsible to the Superintendent and/or his/her designee. The primary responsibility of the Athletic Director is the administration and supervision of the interscholastic athletic program in the Trumbull Public Schools, which includes enforcement of Board of Education policies. The Athletic Director's duties will be those included in, but not limited to, his/her job description. Establishing safety measures for athletic activities and events and the participants of these activities and events is part of his/her primary responsibility.

E. Coaching Staff

All coaches shall be responsible to the Athletic Director for the total operation of their respective interscholastic sports programs. Coaches shall act as official representatives of the school as they carry out their interscholastic athletic responsibilities. Coaches will be responsible for the normal duties required of interscholastic competition as described in, but not limited to, the coaches' job description, and/or any duties delegated by the Athletic Director, including the guidance and supervision of students in their charge.

II. Eligibility

All student athletes must abide by the CIAC Rules of Eligibility, an updated copy of which shall be maintained on the TPS Athletics Department website (www.trumbullathletics.com). Before becoming a Trumbull Public Schools' interscholastic athlete participant, each interested student and his/her parent/guardian must register online.

A. Medical

1. To promote the safety and well-being of all students participating in interscholastic sports, all students must pass a physical examination provided by a physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or local health agency within the past thirteen months before they are allowed to try out for an interscholastic athletic team. Ninth-graders can use the State of Connecticut Department of Education Health Assessment Record Form. All other students must submit the Trumbull Public Schools Department of Interscholastic Athletics Physical Examination Form, which can be found on the TPS Athletics Department website (www.trumbullathletics.com). Students must submit physical examination results to the school nurse. Each student's physical examination results will be reviewed by the school nurse and maintained in the student's health file in the nurse's office.
2. The medical recommendation of the school nurse is required for a student to participate in an interscholastic sport. In the event that the medical provider performing the physical examination determines the presence of an abnormal physical condition, which shall be defined as any condition detected during a sports examination which would tend to cause or produce any physical or emotional problem during school athletic practices or competitions, the student may be disqualified from participation in interscholastic athletics; the student may be allowed to participate if the medical provider, in consultation with the Athletic Director and the school nurse, determines that the condition is asymptomatic or controlled, whether by medication or otherwise.
3. All students participating in interscholastic athletics must have on file a signed Permission Slip providing permission from the parent/guardian for the school to obtain medical care for the student in the event of illness or injury.
4. All students must submit completed Emergency Cards to the school nurse before they are allowed to try out for an interscholastic athletic team. The nurse will complete his/her portion of each student's Emergency Card and submit it directly to the Athletic Director. A copy of each student's Emergency Card will be kept in the medicine kit and travel with the team.
5. During the sport season, should a student sustain an injury or develop an illness requiring the care of a physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or local health agency, that student shall be required to provide a signed medical release from the medical provider in order to return to the sport for the remainder of the season. The medical release will be reviewed by the school nurse, the athletic trainer, and the Athletic Director, who will determine whether, in their discretion, the student may return to the sport for the remainder of the sport season, or to another sport for the following season. The Trumbull Public Schools Department

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of Interscholastic Athletics Return to Play Form can be found on the TPS Athletics Department website (www.trumbullathletics.com).

6. Questions regarding eligibility should be directed to the Athletic Director.

B. Academic

1. All students wishing to participate in interscholastic athletics must maintain strict compliance with the “Scholarship” rules of eligibility of the CIAC, an updated copy of which shall be maintained on the TPS Athletics Department website (www.trumbullathletics.com).
2. In addition, a student will be ineligible for interscholastic athletics if he/she receives a failing grade in a wellness (physical education or health) course.
3. Questions regarding eligibility should be directed to the Athletic Director.

C. Other

1. As part of the registration process for interscholastic athletics, parents/guardians must read and accept the Waiver of Liability for Students Participating in All Interscholastic Athletic Activities and Certificate of Insurance Coverage forms. Copies of these forms can be found on the TPS Athletics Department website (www.trumbullathletics.com). Insurance to protect interscholastic athletes is secondary to a student’s primary health insurance, and students participating in interscholastic athletics must be covered by primary health insurance. Questions regarding this regulation should be directed to the Athletic Director and/or to the TPS Business Administrator.
2. As part of the registration process for interscholastic athletics, students and their parents/guardians must comply with the provisions of Board of Education Policy 5141.7, “Concussions.” Continued compliance with Policy 5141.7 is required for ongoing participation in interscholastic athletics.

III. Tryouts

- A. Tryouts will be open and available to all students who comply with the Eligibility Regulations of this policy.
- B. Tryout guidelines and evaluation criteria will be formulated by the sport’s head coach in consultation with assistant coaches.

The coach shall provide the following information to all candidates for the team and to the Athletic Director:

- length of tryout period;
- practice commitments should a student make the team;
- game commitments;
- eligibility regulations; and
- extracurricular participation policy.

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- C. A student is not permitted to participate in tryouts while serving an out-of-school suspension or expulsion.
- D. Tryouts should be structured so that they are fair and equitable for all candidates.
- E. A minimum evaluation period of three sessions is required. Team selections will be made after this evaluation period.
- F. Team selection is based on criteria formulated by the head coach in consultation with assistant coaches and the Athletic Director; criteria will include but not be limited to:
 - sport-specific skills;
 - athletic abilities; and
 - attitude.
- G. If a student is going to miss scheduled tryouts due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., religious reasons, extended sports season, sickness, injury, or another compelling reason), he or she must have prior approval of the coach and the Athletic Director to try out at another time.
- H. With approval of the Athletic Director, the results of tryouts must be announced in a timely fashion to all prospective team members. Empathy should be shown to all candidates; cut lists will not be posted. Coaches must communicate that they are available to meet with student athletes and/or parents/guardians to discuss the results of tryouts.
- I. If a coach foresees or experiences difficulties as a result of squad cuts, he/she must discuss the situation with the Athletic Director.

IV. Disqualifications and Penalties

School administrators, the Athletic Director, and the Superintendent and/or his/her designee retain the right and responsibility to enforce all rules and regulations, including rendering final decisions on all matters pertaining to student participation, eligibility, awards, and any other matters pertaining to interscholastic athletics, including suspension or termination of the participation privilege.

A. Disqualifications

All interscholastic athletes must comply with Board of Education Policy 5131, "Student Standard of Conduct," for the entire school year from the onset of the first preseason practice/activity to the final activity of the school year. For any infractions, including conduct on or off school property, interscholastic athletes may be subject to disciplinary action by the Athletic Department in addition to disciplinary action by school administrators. Out-of-season infractions may affect in-season participation. In addition, infractions during summer months and other school vacations may affect in-season participation. Interscholastic athletes shall be subject to athletic sanctions, up to and including dismissal from participation in interscholastic athletics, for negative or inappropriate behavior at any time during a calendar year.

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It is virtually impossible to anticipate every type of infraction; however, the following are specific infractions that may be considered sufficient for disqualification or suspension from athletic participation.

- Doing unsatisfactory scholastic work through lack of effort, failure to be attentive in class, poor attendance in class, or disrespect shown to faculty or staff.
- Excessive absences from school (according to Board of Education Policy 5113, “High School Attendance / Loss of Credit” or Policy 5113.1, “Attendance Grades K-8”) or excessive tardiness during the season of a sport for other than legitimate medical reasons. Fatigue following athletic contests is not considered a legitimate excuse.
- Failure to submit valid reasons for absence or tardiness to the head coach. This applies to both games and practice sessions.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct or discourtesy toward opponents, officials or fellow students/coaches at home or away.
- Bullying and/or hazing of others at any time.
- Any destruction of school property, such as but not limited to locker rooms, showers, athletic equipment, etc.
- The use and/or possession of smoking products, tobacco products, drugs, and alcohol.
- The use and/or possession of a firearm, deadly weapon, dangerous instrument, or martial arts weapon.
- Concealing illness or injuries sustained in practice or games, or delaying the report of such injuries for treatment.
- Failure to respect the property rights of another by taking or misusing what belongs to him/her without his/her permission.
- Failure to wear appropriate attire at school as determined by the coach on game day or day prior to the game.
- Failure to observe training regulations stipulated by the head coach and/or Athletic Director, including improper diet or rest conditions.

B. Factors to be Considered in Determining Penalties for Infractions

1. Factors pertinent to determining penalties for infractions may include, but are not limited to: the student’s prior record of, and response to, misconduct; the student’s consent to and compliance with appropriate therapeutic/behavioral intervention(s); and the proximity of the misconduct to the athletic season.
2. Potential penalties for infractions may include, but are not limited to:
 - suspension from a single game

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- suspension from 20% of the games remaining in the regular season schedule
 - suspension from the team for the remainder of the season
 - suspension from all teams for the remainder of the school year
3. Athletic suspension may include: the student's inability to practice or travel with the team; the student's inability to participation in competition/performance; and/or the student's loss of awards for the season.
 4. Athletic suspension may be carried over to the next school year.
 5. Penalties for infractions may include, but are not limited to: required meeting of the student, parent/guardian, coach, Athletic Director, and/or school administrators; required apology of the student to his/her team in the presence of the coaching staff; and/or required meeting of the student with school counseling staff.

C. Procedures for Athletic Suspension

1. The Athletic Director shall have the authority to invoke an athletic suspension for violations of Board of Education Policy 5131, "Student Standard of Conduct," or of this policy, in accordance with the procedures outlined below.
2. The Athletic Director shall have the authority to immediately suspend any student when an emergency exists, "emergency" defined as a situation under which the continued presence of the student in the playing arena or school imposes such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption to the activity involved that a hearing may be delayed until a time as soon after the exclusion of such student as possible.
3. Except in the case of an emergency as defined above, a student will be given the opportunity to meet with the Athletic Director and to deny the stated charges prior to the effectuation of any period of athletic suspension. If, at such a meeting, the student denies the stated charges, he/she may at that time present his/her version of the incident(s) upon which the proposed athletic suspension is based. The Athletic Director shall then determine whether an athletic suspension is warranted. In determining the length of the athletic suspension, the Athletic Director may receive and consider evidence of past academic or disciplinary problems that have led to the student's removal from a classroom, in-school suspension, athletic suspension, or expulsion.
4. In the case of any athletic suspension, the Athletic Director shall notify the student's parent/guardian, the school administration, and the Superintendent of Schools within twenty-four (24) hours of the suspension as to the name of the student who has been suspended and the reason therefore.
5. A student who has been suspended from interscholastic athletics may appeal the decision in writing to the Athletic Director and school administration. A final appeal of a suspension from interscholastic athletics may be made in writing to the Superintendent of Schools and his/her designee.

V. Travel

Participants in interscholastic athletics events for which transportation is provided are required to travel to the event and return on school-supplied transportation. Requests for exceptions to this rule must be made in writing to the Athletic Director and may be allowed only with advance written permission from the Athletic Director, who will grant exceptions only for emergencies, extreme hardships, or other unusual, extenuating circumstances. The Trumbull Public Schools Department of Interscholastic Athletics Travel Release Form can be found on the TPS Athletics Department website (www.trumbullathletics.com).

Certain sports require that practices and home athletic contests be held at off-campus sites. For a student athlete participating in one of these sports, the Trumbull Public Schools Department of Interscholastic Athletics Private Transportation Form must be completed and signed by the student's parent/guardian prior to the start of the season. Any time there is a change in driver, a new form must be completed and submitted to the head coach prior to that individual driving to a practice or contest. Copies of this form can be found on the TPS Athletics Department website (www.trumbullathletics.com). Additional forms may be required by Board of Education Policy 3541.44, "Use of Privately-Owned Vehicles."

VI. Award System

- A. A team picture plaque will be presented from the Board of Education to each team member, coach, and manager of a state championship team.
- B. A state championship banner will be presented to a state championship team for prominent display in the school.
- C. An athlete who achieves a specific state championship in an "individual"-type sport (e.g., cross-country, track, wrestling, golf, tennis, gymnastics, swimming, diving) will be recognized by the Board of Education and will receive a plaque depicting the athlete's accomplishment.

VII. Additional Rules and Procedures

- A. Consistent with Board of Education Policy 5113, "High School Attendance / Loss of Credit," and Policy 5113.1, "Attendance Grades K-8," any student who has not reported to school or is not present for at least half of the scheduled school day is considered absent from school. Students who are considered absent from school will not be permitted to participate in any interscholastic activity. Coaches will monitor attendance to ensure compliance with this regulation. Exceptions to this policy will be considered by the Athletic Director only upon receipt of a written request from the parent/guardian and will be handled on an individual basis.
- B. If a student athlete loses equipment/uniforms, athletic awards and additional equipment may be withheld until the student's financial obligation is met.
- C. Upon return from an expulsion from school, the student's future athletic eligibility will be at the discretion of the Athletic Director and the school administration in consultation with the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee.

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- D. Students are allowed to refrain from participating in interscholastic athletics activities, without penalties, to observe religious holidays within their traditions.
- E. The Trumbull Board of Education, in principle, accepts the CIAC Board of Control approved policy on Chemical Health.
- F. An individual coach may establish additional rules and procedures for his/her team, and consequences for violating those rules and procedures, provided that such rules, procedures, and consequences do not conflict with this policy and its Regulations. Such rules and procedures, and consequences for violating them, shall be presented to the team by the coach orally and in writing at the beginning of the season, and shall be shared with the Athletic Director.

VII. Inquiry and Personal Concern Procedures

Student athletes and their parents/guardians are encouraged to discuss personal concerns about the interscholastic athletics program so that small problems and misunderstandings do not become major issues. The following procedures are meant to ease the process.

A. Student/Athlete Procedures

1. Student athletes are encouraged to discuss their personal concerns with their respective coaches during non-practice time.
2. The Athletic Director is available by appointment to discuss concerns.
3. An appointed school counselor is also available to discuss concerns.

B. Parent/Guardian Procedures

1. Parent/guardians are to call the respective coach for an appointment to discuss an inquiry during the sport's season. Discussions are held in the Athletic Department Office as opposed to fields or courts.
2. An inquiry that has not been resolved by the respective coach may be brought to the attention of the following personnel, in the order given: Athletic Director; School Principal; and the Superintendent and/or his/her designee, by making an appointment.

VIII. Commitment to Non-Discrimination

The Board affirms its commitment to non-discrimination and an environment free of harassment in all aspects of interscholastic athletics. All employees are required to comply with Board of Education Policy 0521, "Non-Discrimination," in all aspects of interscholastic athletics.