**HEWLETT-WOODMERE PUBLIC SCHOOLS** **Policy 5280**

# INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The Board of Education supports the provision of an interscholastic athletic program for students in grades seven through twelve. Students will have the opportunity to participate in activities which help to improve their mental, physical and social well- being. All guidelines for participation on interscholastic teams and within interscholastic competition are based upon established minimum eligibility standards of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association and the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. Moreover, a student's eligibility for participation on the District's interscholastic teams shall be conditioned upon authorization by the District's physician and receipt of express consent of either the student's parent or guardian. The Superintendent or his/her designee will create regulations that provide for students' participation in the interscholastic athletic program.

Although the District will take reasonable care to protect student athletes, students still may sustain injuries. In order to most effectively ensure student safety, open communication between students, parents, and coaches about the child's medical condition is necessary. Coaches, and other appropriate staff, will receive guidance and training regarding recognition of injury and removal of the student athlete from play in the event of injury. Parents and/or students are expected to report injuries so that student health can be protected.

In order to resume participation following injury, the student needs to receive medical clearance. The Superintendent or his/her designee will also create regulations and procedures to guide the process of return to play.

Legal Reference:
Education Law 1709
Regulations of the Commissioner of Education 135.4

Policy Adopted:
April 18, 1991
Amended 1-13-2000; 12-21-2011

# INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS REGULATION

Generally students will participate on teams with students of like grades. Thus, seventh and eighth grade students will participate with students from seventh and eighth grades while students in grades nine through twelve will compete with students at that level.

Exceptions may be made for students to participate on the high school level while in the middle school in accordance with the following procedure:

1. Requests for consideration of advanced athletic placement must be made in writing to the Director of Athletics at least 6 weeks prior to the start of the season.
2. The New York State Selection/Classification criteria will be used as they apply to a student's readiness, fitness and maturation levels to move up.
3. If the sport for which a middle school student is requesting participation is offered at the middle school, the request will be considered only if:
    A. There is available space on the high school varsity team without displacement of any high school player. Middle school student-athletes cannot participate on high school JV teams
4. If all the terms and conditions are properly met by the middle school player, he/she will become a viable member of that particular team, with no limitations or sanctions placed upon his/her practice or playing time.
5. The decision of the Director of Athletics shall be final, except that a parent may request review by the High School Principal. Such request for review shall be made in writing by the parent(s) and shall set forth all pertinent facts and the reason(s) upon which the request for review is/are based.

Regulation Adopted:
April 18, 1991
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