

## **510.6 ADDITION/ELIMINATION OF ACTIVITIES**

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### **I. PURPOSE**

To provide guidelines for the addition and elimination of activities.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The Willmar School Board recognizes the value and importance of activity programs as an extension of an excellent educational program. Participation in these programs is a valuable part of the overall school experience and contributes to the mental and physical well-being of our students.

The Board recognizes that student interest and participation change over time and those student offerings must change in response to interest. In addition, the Board supports the goal of gender equity in athletic competition.

Therefore, proposals to add or eliminate an activity will be presented by the Administration for Board approval. The proposals will be based on student interest and if appropriate, gender equity considerations. The proposals will include a programmatic and financial analysis.

### **III. STUDENT INTEREST SURVEY**

Every attempt is made to offer as many activities as possible to ensure a variety of opportunities and interests are available to a wide range of students. Middle school and senior high students will be surveyed at least every other year to determine interest in activity offerings. The information collected through student surveys will be used to identify potential additions or eliminations. Students also may initiate consideration of program changes through petitions directed to the building Activity Director demonstrating substantial student interest in a particular activity.

### **IV. NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC OFFERINGS**

Offerings may change annually based on student interest and the availability of space and resources. Building discretion is used to determine whether a non-interscholastic activity is offered or discontinued from year to year in light of these considerations. The Activity Director consults with the building Principal to make a final decision.

### **V. PROCESS FOR ADDING AN INTERSCHOLASTIC OR ACTIVITY**

- A. Based on survey results or student petitions, if there appears to be sufficient interest in an activity, the Activity Director researches the following:
  - a. Assess the ability to sustain a viable program, as determined by the District.
  - b. Following Title IX guidelines, determine whether it will substantially address an imbalance in participation rates by males and females (gender equity). It will not create an imbalance in participation rates by males and females.
  - c. Determine if the sport or activity is sponsored by the Minnesota High School League (MSHSL) or if there is a reasonable expectation that it soon will be.
  - d. Assess the availability of appropriate facilities as determined by the District.
  - e. Assess the availability of qualified coaches or advisors as determined by the District.
  - f. Determine whether there are resources available to implement and sustain the cost as determined by the District.
  - g. Activities director will coordinate with HR and the Appendix C committee to determine appropriate compensation.
- B. Based on his or her findings, if the Activity Director(s) deems the addition to be

appropriate, he or she will prepare a recommendation.

- C. Based on the analysis, if the recommendation is to add a program, the Activity Director is responsible for forwarding the requests to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will review the request. If the Superintendent is in agreement with adding the activity, the Superintendent will forward it with a recommendation and supporting data to the School Board for action.

## **VI. PROCESS FOR ELIMINATING AN INTERSCHOLASTIC OR ACTIVITY**

### **A. Conditions**

Any of the following conditions may call for a Building or the District to consider eliminating or temporarily suspending an interscholastic sport or activity:

- a. Lack of student interest, diminishing participation, or overall viability of a program.
- b. Downward trend in the sport or activity in the Conference and/or in members of the MSHSL.
- c. Sport or activity is not sponsored by the MSHSL or the Conference (high school level).
- d. Sport or activity is not linked to a high school program (middle school level).
- e. Facility overuse or capacity is challenged.
- f. Lack of qualified coaching/advising candidates or applicants.
- g. Cost of the sport or activity exceeds the available resources to support the program.
- h. The sport or activity is available to students in the community in a non-school sponsored program.

### **B. Process**

- a. Activity Director(s) conducts an inventory of current programs.
- b. Activity Director(s) conducts a financial audit of the program with the District Director of Business Services.
- c. Activity Director(s) determines whether deleting the sport or activity will create an imbalance in offerings for boys/girls as required by Title IX laws.
- d. Activity Director prepares a recommendation, which may include combining activities with another school or district.

### **C. Recommendation**

- a. The Activity Director will forward a recommendation to the Superintendent.
- b. If the recommendation is to eliminate or temporarily suspend an interscholastic sport, the Superintendent will review the request and forward it with a recommendation and supporting data to the School Board for action.