

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AND INTRAMURAL

Intramural and interscholastic athletics for students are integral and desirable parts of the district's secondary school educational program. Individual and team sports shall be based upon comprehensive physical education instruction and intramural activities, seeking broad participation from all eligible secondary students. Parity in the number and kind of sports activities for girls and boys is a clear objective of the district.

Student eligibility for participation on interscholastic teams shall include:

1. authorization by the school physician.
2. written parent or guardian consent (the written consent will contain information for parents on mild traumatic brain injury (TBI) and will provide a link to the State Education Department's web page on TBI); and
3. endorsement by the Building Principal based on established rules and various league and State Education Department regulations.

The maximum and minimum number of available slots on a team will be determined by the Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics, in conjunction with the athletic coordinators at each high school and the middle school, within the guidelines of applicable state and county leagues, associations and conferences. To the extent student interest permits, every interscholastic team sponsored by the district shall be a complete team, defined as one in which all the available slots are filled using the minimum numbers.

Although the district will take reasonable care to protect student-athletes, students may still sustain injuries. In order to most effectively ensure student safety, open communication between students, parents, and coaches about the child's medical condition(s) is critical. 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 the case of a suspected or actual head injury, a student must be removed from play immediately. If a student sustains a suspected or actual head injury, the district will follow its Concussion Management Plan. In order to resume participation following injury, including head injury, the student needs to receive medical clearance. The Superintendent, in consultation with appropriate district staff, including the school physician, will develop regulations and procedures to guide the process of return to play.

In recognition of the importance of appropriately managing head injuries, the Board authorizes the creation of a Concussion Management Team (CMT). The CMT will be comprised of the Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics, the Coordinator of Health Services and other appropriate personnel designated by the Superintendent. The CMT is charged with overseeing compliance with state training requirements, developing guidelines for use by coaches and physical education teachers and developing information for distribution to parents and students.

The Board of Education provides excess scheduled medical insurance for every squad member and the various practice and play equipment necessary. Each student is responsible for the care of this equipment and for its return. Students will be removed from the squad for any unnecessary abuse of equipment.

Recruiting and Hiring Coaches

In recruiting, selecting, and retaining coaches, the Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics shall seek individuals who model integrity, decency, respect, and intelligence. Coaches should have a demonstrated interest and knowledge in the sport(s) they are coaching as well as the ability to inspire young people. They should possess the capacity to be superior teachers and to build effective teams and programs. Students participating in interscholastic athletics will be committed to meeting the defined expectations of team membership.

A well-coordinated program of athletics is vital to student learning. The Board of Education encourages parents to share in their child's education by attending games and modeling positive, constructive support. Further information regarding expectations, protocol for dealing with concerns and problems, and athletic department philosophies and procedures are available in the Student-Athlete Handbook.

Athletic Placement Process

High School and Middle School

The Athletic Placement Process (APP) is a New York State Physical Education Commissioner's regulation designed with the intent to provide opportunity for the "exceptional" seventh or eighth grade athletes to participate at the Junior Varsity or Varsity level. (Section 135.4(c) (7) (ii) (a) (4))

It is not intended to be used as a means to inflate roster numbers on a particular team. The APP is not to be used to fill positions on teams, provide additional experience, provide an opportunity for middle school or junior high students when no modified program is offered, or to reward a student. Instead, it is aimed at the few select students who can benefit from such placement because of their level of readiness.

Students enrolled in the seventh and eighth grades can be considered for the Athletic Placement Process for all sports, where students demonstrate maturity, physical fitness, and ability.

All seventh and eighth grade students who are recommended by the coach of the team to try out must pass the New York State Athletic Placement Process testing procedures before they are eligible to try out for the team.

Eligibility for seventh and eighth grade students to participate in Freshman, Junior Varsity and Varsity sports will only be considered if no cuts are made to the particular team the student wishes to join.

Any advanced athletic placement that will cause the cancellation of a modified sports team must be reviewed and approved by the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent will make a determination based on the best interests of the overall sports program.

The interscholastic sports philosophy for middle school students shall be based on the premise that all students who wish to have an opportunity to participate in an interscholastic sport will be provided with that opportunity as long as there are adequate facilities to expand teams based on enrollment. The athletic department will consider the needs of the students ahead of what changes must be made in regrouping students, obtaining coaches, and developing schedules for our middle school population.

Elementary and Middle School

The district believes it is the purpose of athletics to provide the benefits of competitive experiences to as large a number of students as possible. To this end, on the elementary level, the Board endorses the practice of intramural competition only.

The district endorses an interscholastic program on the high school level but encourages a strong intramural program. While the district takes great pride in the athletic accomplishments of student-athletes, it does not condone winning above sound educational practices. Values such as sportsmanship, integrity, community representation, high academic achievement, and teamwork are more important than winning a game.

Cross-ref:

5420, Student Health Services

Ref:

Education Law §§ 305(42), 1709(8-a); 3001-b
8 NYCRR §§135.4, 136.5

Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Doe, 520 U.S. 290 (2000) (constitutionality of student-led prayers at interscholastic athletic activities)

Concussion Management Support Materials, www.nysphsaa.org

Date Adopted: 12-07-04

Date Amended: 10-24-23