

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The Patchogue-Medford School District will adhere to the rules, regulations, and philosophy of sports promulgated by the Commissioner of Education and by the athletic associations to which it belongs -- the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) and Section XI (Suffolk County) of the NYSPHSAA.

I. Types of Sports and Levels of Participation

The Regulations of the Commissioner of Education provide for a board of education to permit pupils in grades no lower than seventh grade to compete on interscholastic athletic teams organized for high school pupils, or senior high school pupils to compete on interscholastic athletic teams organized for pupils in the seventh and eighth grades. These pupils are allowed to compete at levels that are appropriate to their physical maturity, physical fitness, and sport skills in relationship other pupils in accordance with the standards established by the Commissioner of Education. The Patchogue-Medford School District provides interscholastic athletics at the following levels: varsity, junior varsity, and grades 7-8.

The State Education Department issues the competition standards for pupils to compete under a program called the Athletic Placement Process.

The Patchogue-Medford School District shall permit pupils in grade 7 or 8 to compete at the high school level after successfully completing the **Athletic Placement Process** for the requested sport and level pursuant to the NYSED Commissioner's Regulation Section 135.4(c)(7)(ii)(a)(4)

LINK: [ATHLETIC PLACEMENT PROCESS](#)

II. Coaches

Personnel engaged to coach in the interscholastic athletic program will meet the certification requirements of the Commissioner of Education.

III. Student Participation

Students participating in the interscholastic athletic program will be subject to the following regulations:

- A. Meet the Bona Fide Student rule pursuant to Commissioner's Regulations which includes that, *a contestant must be a bona fide student of the high school represented and must be taking at least four subjects including Physical Education.* Students must be enrolled during the first 15 school days of the semester, is registered in the equivalent of three regular courses, is meeting the physical education requirement, and has been in regular attendance 80 percent of the school time, bona fide absence caused by personal illness excepted. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to preclude consideration of a request for an accommodation on behalf of an otherwise qualified student with a disability

Interscholastic Athletics (Continued)
Student Participation (Continued)

who is not registered in the equivalent of three regular courses as a result of his or her education plan approved under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Nomination by the coach of the sport based on generally accepted standards for that sport.

- B. Maintenance of an acceptable level of good conduct at all times.
- C. Maintenance of a level of scholarship consistent with ability and demonstration of leadership in physical education classes.
- D. Maintenance of regular school attendance. A student absent from school on the day of an athletic contest may not play or participate that day. A suspended student may not participate in athletics during the period of exclusion.
- E. Meeting the eligibility and disciplinary requirements set forth by the Board of Education and Patchogue-Medford School District.

IV. Mixed Competition on Interscholastic Athletic Teams

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of equal opportunity to participate in interscholastic competition. Separate teams or mixed competition on the same team, shall be provided to male and female students, except as enumerated in Commissioner's Regulations and as indicated below. Where separate competition is not provided for male and female students in a specific sport, no student shall be excluded from such competition solely by reason of biological sex, except in accordance with Commissioner's Regulation, Section 135.4 (c) (7) (ii) (c).

Pursuant to the Commissioner's regulations and the rules of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), students involved in mixed competition will be placed on teams at appropriate levels of competition based upon the individual's medical history, maturity, physical data, fitness scores and skills. These guidelines are to be used for individuals participating in interscholastic sports.

- A. If a team is organized primarily for one sex and members of the opposite sex are also members, the team should still be classified as either a male or female team and continue playing in the same type league.

Interscholastic Athletics (Continued)
Mixed Competition on Interscholastic Athletic Teams (Continued)

- B. If a team was formed originally for one sex but is composed of a significant number of students of the opposite sex, it is recommended that separate teams be formed for that sport. This would allow for the greatest number of students to participate and not limit opportunities or have a disproportionate effect on any one sex.
- C. When there are separate teams for each sex in a specific sport, a male may not tryout for a female team. The Superintendent of Schools may permit a female to tryout for a male team. In the sports of baseball, basketball, boxing, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, speedball, team handball, power volleyball where the height of the net is set at less than eight (8) feet, and wrestling, the fitness of a given student to participate in mixed competition is subject to the review and approval of a panel as specified in item (E) of this regulation. Where separate teams are provided, a female who wishes to tryout for a male team in these sports must have the approval of the Superintendent and the review panel. This type of crossover should be based upon that female's athletic ability to compete successfully.
- D. The sport of boxing is identified in Commissioner's Regulations because it appears in the Title IX Federal Regulations. It is not an indication that the State Education Department considers boxing a desirable sport for secondary students.
- E. Mixed competition in a sport identified in item (C) of this regulation is subject to review and approval by a panel. This panel must include the school physician and a physical education teacher appointed by the principal and may include a physician chosen by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s). This panel is responsible for determining the readiness of the student in terms of the medical health, maturity, fitness, and skill of the individual in relationship to other members of the team. The intent of the Commissioner's Regulations is to match the student's readiness with an appropriate placement, as well as to provide the student with a successful competitive opportunity. When the physical abilities of the individual are deemed by the panel to be short of or exceed the physical abilities of other team members, thereby creating a hazardous condition or unfair advantage for that student or other members of the team, denial of participation would be appropriate.

These guidelines apply only to a student's eligibility to tryout for a team of the opposite sex. The coach must decide if the student is to remain on the team or be dropped from the team in the same manner as all other students trying out for the team. If a coach has a "no cut" policy, the student of the opposite sex must be allowed to remain on the team the same as other students.

LINK: [MIXED COMPETITION REGULATIONS AND FORMS](#)

Interscholastic Athletics (Continued)

V. Spectators at Interscholastic Athletics

Athletes traditionally compete before spectators and respond to the enthusiasm exhibited by spectators. Spectators are expected to observe the rules and regulations of conduct which allow both Patchogue-Medford athletes and their competitors to participate in a stressless, uninhibited sports event.

A. Varsity and Junior Varsity Events

Spectators at all events are encouraged. It is the responsibility of the building principal to plan and implement procedures to provide a safe environment for teams and spectators before, during, and after an event until the building and grounds are secured.

To the extent possible, these procedures will be consistent with the Recommended Guidelines for Crowd Control at Athletic Events prepared by Section XI of the NYSPHSAA.

B. Middle School Events

Limited spectator attendance is permitted at middle school contests.

- Parents, relatives, friends, and some students are permitted at middle school contests. No attempt to enlist large scale attendance is authorized.
- Organizing spectator attendance at contests held at other schools is not authorized.
- The building principal is responsible for a safe environment, free of spectator interference and unsportsmanlike conduct, at sports events.

VI. Transportation

Student athletes traveling to and from games, scrimmages, or contests will observe school district policies governing transportation ~~for field trips~~. When public transportation is provided, students traveling to athletic events must be transported in school district-owned vehicles or by buses supplied by firms under contract with the Board of Education. Travel in vehicles owned by students, by staff, or by any other private party is strictly forbidden when public transportation is provided.

Student athletes may be transported by school employees only when public transportation is not provided by the district. The employee must complete a written form provided by the school principal when transporting students with the permission of the school principal. A copy of the form is annexed to this policy as **Schedule A**.

Interscholastic Athletics (Continued)
Transportation (Continued)

Persons acting in parental authority may provide transportation for their own children to and from athletic events or practice sessions with approval by the principal, and/or the Director of Athletics upon completion and approval using the Athletic Contest Parental Transportation Request Form. A copy of this form is annexed to this policy as Schedule C. Persons acting in parental authority may permit their children to be driven to and from an athletic event or practice session by another person provided that the parents submit a written request to the school principal using the form annexed to this policy as **Schedule B**.

Students who are excused from physical education classes or who receive special transportation to and from school due to a disability shall be permitted to travel to and from an athletic event only when accompanied by a person having parental authority.

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