

Section I: Instructional Goals and Objectives	Knox County Board of Education Policy		
	Interscholastic Athletics	Descriptor Code:	Issued:
		I-171	7/95
		Reviewed:	Revised:
		7/26	8/26

Interscholastic athletics shall be administered as a part of the regular school program and shall be the principal's responsibility. The principal or the principal's designee must accompany an athletic team on trips.

For the purposes of this policy, "interscholastic athletics" shall refer to an organized, athletic program formally affiliated with Knox County Schools through the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA), the TSSAA-Middle School Division, or identification as a district-affiliated sport within this policy.

Interscholastic athletics shall be conducted in accordance with applicable law, Board policy, district procedures, and—when applicable—any bylaws or regulations of the relevant sanctioning organization.

ELIGIBILITY

Any Knox County Schools student who meets the applicable eligibility requirements shall have the opportunity to try out for and, if selected, participate in an interscholastic athletic program available through the student's school of enrollment or an approved cooperative athletic agreement at the student's school of enrollment.

KCS Virtual School Students¹

Students enrolled in the Knox County Virtual School and who meet the applicable eligibility requirements shall have the opportunity to try out for an interscholastic athletic program at their zoned school and, if selected, participate in that program.

Home School Students²

Students enrolled in a home school program and who meet the applicable eligibility requirements shall have the opportunity to try out for an interscholastic athletic program at their zoned school and, if selected, participate in that program.

Private School Students³

Students in grades 9-12 enrolled in a private school that is not a member of TSSAA and does not serve more than 200 students for grades 9-12 may try out for an interscholastic program at their zoned school and, if selected, participate in that program, provided they meet all applicable eligibility requirements.

Students in grades 6-8 enrolled in a private school that is not a member of TMSAA and does not serve more than 200 students for grades 6-8 may try out for an interscholastic program at their zoned school and, if selected, participate in that program, provided they meet all applicable eligibility requirements.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements shall apply to all interscholastic athletics participants:

- Annual Physical - There shall be an annual physical examination of every student prior to his participation in interscholastic athletic practice.⁴ Cost of the examination shall be borne by the parent or legal guardian of the student. These records shall be on file.
- Fees - Students selected for participation in an interscholastic athletic program will be subject to payment of any applicable program fees.
- Insurance Coverage - Every participant in athletics shall purchase insurance through participation in the Knox County Schools Athletic Insurance Program. In the event that Knox County Schools' insurance provider does not extend coverage to an athlete, the athlete must provide proof of independently secured catastrophic coverage and liability coverage, with the district as a named insured, of no less than the limits set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated § 29-20-403.
- Gender Identification - A student's gender for purposes of participation in middle or high school athletics is determined by the student's sex at the time of the student's birth. A valid original birth certificate must be provided for this purpose. At the principal's discretion, if there are any issues regarding the birth certificate, the student and the student's parent/legal guardian must provide other satisfactory evidence of the student's sex at birth.⁵

TSSAA/TMSAA ATHLETICS

The Bylaws of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) shall regulate the operation and control of secondary athletics sanctioned through their organization.

TSSAA athletics shall be coached only by persons on contract to the Board of Education and approved by the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association.

Knox County Schools also recognizes and offers middle school basketball, track and field, and cheer as TMSAA-sanctioned sports. As such, these programs shall be regulated according to the bylaws of the TSSAA-Middle School Division.

DISTRICT-AFFILIATED SPORTS

In addition to programs sanctioned by the TSSAA and TMSAA, Knox County Schools also recognizes the programs specified in Administrative Procedure AP-I-171, "Interscholastic Athletics" as district-affiliated sports.

SCHEDULING OF ATHLETIC CONTESTS

There shall be no practice or organized school athletics schedules within the school day without approval of the Superintendent.⁶

Each school may play two home athletic events during the school day without requesting permission from the Board of Education.

A. District/regional games shall be scheduled first.

B. No contract shall be signed until the following process is complete:

(1) Complete the schedule and submit to the principal for approval.

(2) Upon approval by the principal, submit to the Superintendent's office for final approval.

C. If an adequate schedule is not obtained by each school, a rescheduling meeting shall be designated by the Superintendent's office to resolve existing problems.

D. No contracts are to be signed prior to the Superintendent's approval of the schedule.

ADMISSION TO AND CONDUCT AT ATHLETICS EVENTS

The conduct of players, spectators, or school personnel reflects directly upon the school system as a whole. Therefore, conduct of players, spectators, or school personnel that does not exemplify the best sportsmanship may result in that school's program, players, spectators, or school personnel being suspended from attendance or participation in the sport concerned with the infraction. The Board of Education or its designee will determine the duration of the suspension.

Maximum admission prices to all athletic events shall be approved by the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Director of Schools.

Legal References:

1. T.C.A. § 49-16-216.
2. T.C.A. § 49-6-3050.
3. Public Chapter 893.
4. TRR/MS § 0520-1-3-.08(2)(b).
5. T.C.A. § 49-6-310.
6. T.C.A. § 49-6-1002(a).

Cross Reference:

- Knox County Board of Education Policy E-200 Insurance Management.
- Bylaws, Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association. Article II, Section 25.