Athletic Competition

Adopted: 12/08/1998 **| Last Revised**: 09/01/2026 **| Last Reviewed**: 09/01/2026

The Board of Education recognizes that the district's athletic program constitutes an integral component of the educational program and helps build a positive school climate. The athletic program also promotes the physical, social and emotional well-being, and character development of participating students. The district's athletic program shall be designed to meet students' interests and abilities and shall be varied in scope to attract wide participation.

All athletic teams shall be supervised by qualified coaches to ensure that student athletes receive appropriate instruction and guidance related to safety, health, sports skills, and sportsmanship. Athletic events shall be officiated by qualified personnel.

The Board encourages business and community support for district athletic programs, subject to applicable district policies and regulations.

Nondiscrimination and Equivalent Opportunities in the Athletic Program

The district's athletic program shall be free from discrimination and discriminatory practices prohibited by state and federal law, including, but not limited to, the use of any racially derogatory or discriminatory school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname in accordance with state and federal law.

Derogatory Native American terms, including Apaches, Big Reds, Braves, Chiefs, Chieftains, Chippewa, Comanches, Indians, Redskins, Savages, Squaw, and Tribe, shall not be used for any school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname, unless permitted in accordance with Education Code 221.3. Any district school using or in which any such derogatory term is being used, shall complete the implementation of a new school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname before the start of the 2028-2029 school year.

If a school selects a new school or athletic team name due to this prohibition, then any purchases or replacements of materials or fixtures due required by the implementation of the new name shall be completed before the start of the 2028-2029 school year.

Any complaint alleging discrimination in the district's athletic program shall be filed in accordance with appropriate complaint procedures.

The district shall post on its website the California Department of Education's (CDE) standardized incident form to track racial discrimination, harassment, or hazing that occurs at high school sporting games or events, including information on how to submit a completed incident form.

California Interscholastic Federation

Any district school that participates in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) shall conduct its athletic activities in accordance with CIF bylaws and rules and any applicable district policy and regulations. The Superintendent or designee shall have responsibility for the district's interscholastic athletic program, while the principal or designee at each participating school shall be responsible for site-level decisions, as appropriate.

The Board shall annually designate a representative to the local CIF league from each school that participates in CIF sports. The Superintendent or designee shall recommend a candidate for the position who

demonstrates an understanding of the district's goals for student learning and interscholastic activities, knowledge of the athletic programs, awareness of the implications of league decisions for the school and the district, and individual interpersonal communication and leadership skills.

The designated representative(s) shall vote on issues that impact interscholastic athletics at the league and section levels, perform any other duties required by the CIF league, and report regularly to the Board on league, section, and statewide issues related to athletic programs.

Student Eligibility
Eligibility requirements for participation in the district's interscholastic athletic program, including requirements pertaining to academic achievement, shall be the same as those set by the district for participation in extracurricular and cocurricular activities.

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students participating in interscholastic athletics governed by CIF satisfy CIF eligibility requirements.

Students shall not be charged a fee to participate in an athletic program, including, but not limited to, a fee to cover the cost of uniforms, locks, lockers, or athletic equipment.

Sportsmanship
The Board of Education values the quality and integrity of the athletic program and the character development of student athletes. Student athletes, coaches, parents/guardians, spectators, and others are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play during all athletic competitions. They shall also teach, enforce, advocate, and model the core principles of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship and abide by the applicable Code of Conduct adopted by CIF.

Students and staff may be subject to disciplinary action for improper conduct.

All athletic teams shall be supervised by qualified coaches to ensure that student athletes receive appropriate instruction and guidance related to safety, health, training, and preparation for competition. Athletic events shall be officiated by qualified personnel.

Health and Safety
The Board desires to give student health and safety the highest consideration in planning and conducting interscholastic activities.

Students shall have a medical clearance before participating in interscholastic athletic programs. Care shall be taken to ensure that all athletic training and competitions are conducted in a manner that will not overtax the physical capabilities of the participants. When appropriate, protective equipment shall be used to prevent or minimize injuries.

Coaches and appropriate district employees shall take every possible precaution to ensure that athletic equipment is kept in safe and serviceable condition. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all athletic equipment is cleaned and inspected for safety before the beginning of each school year.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a written emergency action plan that describes the location of emergency medical equipment, including automated external defibrillator(s), and procedures to be followed in the event of sudden cardiac arrest or other medical emergency related to the athletic program's activities or events, including concussion and heat illness. The plan shall include a description of the manner and

frequency at which the procedures to be followed in the event of medical emergencies will be rehearsed, based on coaches training requirements specified in Education Code 35179.1. The plan shall be posted in accordance with guidelines of the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Coaches and/or athletic trainers shall comply with any training required by law and in accordance with the accompanying Board Rule 4127- Temporary Athletic Team Coaches.

In the event of a serious injury or a perceived imminent risk to a student's health during or immediately after an athletic activity, the coach or any other district employee who is present shall remove the student athlete from the activity, observe universal precautions in handling blood or other bodily fluid, and/or seek medical treatment for the student as appropriate.

Whenever a serious injury or illness is suffered by a student athlete, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the student's parent/guardian of the date, time, and extent of any injury or illness suffered by the student and any actions taken to treat the student.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:
These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Legal References:

STATE

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS
5 CCR 350 Fees not permitted
5 CCR 4900-4965 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary educational programs receiving state or federal financial assistance
5 CCR 4920-4922 Nondiscrimination in intramural, interscholastic, and club activities
5 CCR 5590-5596 Duties of temporary athletic team coaches

EDUCATION CODE
17578 Cleaning and sterilizing of football equipment
17580-17581 Football equipment
200-280 Prohibition of discrimination
32220-32224 Insurance for athletic teams
32221.5 Insurance for athletic team members
33315 Uniform complaint procedures
33353-33353.5 California Interscholastic Federation; implementation of policies, insurance program
33354 California Department of Education authority over interscholastic athletics
33479-33479.9 The Eric Parades Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act
35160.5 Intradistrict open enrollment
35179 Interscholastic athletics; associations or consortia
35179.1 California High School Coaching Education and Training Program
35179.4 Emergency action plan
35179.5 Interscholastic athletics; limitation on full-contact practices
35179.6 School-sponsored on-campus event in or around swimming pool
35179.8 Development of guidelines, procedures, and safety standards for prevention and management of exertional heat illness
48850 Academic achievement of students in foster care and homeless children
48900 Grounds for suspension or expulsion
48930-48938 Student organizations
49010-49013 Student fees
49020-49023 Athletic programs; legislative intent, equal opportunity
49030-49034 Performance enhancing substances

49458 Health examinations; interscholastic athletic program
49475 Health and safety; concussions and head injuries
49700-49701 Education of children of military families
51242 Exemption from physical education for athletic program participants
HEALTH & SAFETY CODE
124238-124238.5 Nevaeh Youth Sports Safety Act
1797.196 Automated external defibrillators; notification of use and locations
PENAL CODE
245.6 Hazing

FEDERAL

UNITED STATES CODE
20 USC 1681-1688 Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; discrimination based on sex
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS
34 CFR 106.31 Nondiscrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities
34 CFR 106.33 Nondiscrimination on the basis of sex; comparable facilities
34 CFR 106.41 Nondiscrimination in athletic programs

MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS
Pupil Fees, Deposits, and Other Charges, Fiscal Management Advisory 23-02, November 2023
California Interscholastic Federation Publication
Code of Conduct for Parents/Guardians
Code of Conduct for Coaches
Code of Conduct for Student-Athletes
Athletic Department Emergency Action Plan: Response Teams
Event Emergency Guidelines, 2013
California Interscholastic Federation Constitution and Bylaws
Guidelines for Gender Identity Participation
Keep Their Heart in the Game: A Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information Sheet for Athletes and Parents/Guardians
Pursuing Victory with Honor, 1999
CA Guide to Equity in Athletics
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION PUBLICATION
Acute Concussion Evaluation (ACE) Care Plan, 2006
Heads Up
U.S. DOE OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATION
Intercollegiate Athletics Policy Clarification: The Three-Part Test - Part Three, Dear Colleague Letter, April 20, 2010
COURT DECISIONS
Hartzell v. Connell (1984) 35 Cal. 3d 899
Kahn v. East Side Union High School District (2003) 31 Cal. 4th 990
Mansourian v. Regents of University of California (2010) 602 F. 3d 957
McCormick v. School District of Mamaroneck (2004) 370 F.3d 275
WEBSITES
Anyone Can Save A Life
https://www.anyonecansavealife.org/implementation-and-training/emergency-action-plans
CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services https://legalservices.csba.org/
California Interscholastic Federation http://www.cifstate.org/
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Concussion Resources http://www.cdc.gov/concussion
National Federation of State High School Associations http://www.nfhs.org/
National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment http://www.nocsae.org/
U.S. Anti-Doping Agency http://www.usada.org/
U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights http://www2.ed.gov/ocr
CSBA http://www.csba.org/
California Department of Education http://www.cde.ca.gov/

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