

INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES

The Board recognizes the value of a program of interscholastic activities as an integral part of the total school experience to all students of the District and to the community. The program of interscholastic activities will include all activities relating to competitive sport contests, games, events, or exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students of this District when such events occur between separate schools within this District or with any schools outside this District. The program includes all athletic teams, including managers, statisticians, and student trainers; cheer, dance, and drill teams; and all clubs, organizations, and activities that compete or perform interscholastically. This policy applies to all interscholastic activities of the District except where otherwise stated.

The superintendent or designee will annually prepare, approve, and present to the Board for its consideration a program of interscholastic activities for the school year.

I. Interscholastic Athletic Activities

The expectations in this section apply only to interscholastic athletic activities:

A. General Expectations.

1. All interscholastic athletic activities and events will be in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA), where applicable. The schools of the District will not participate in any out-of-season athletics or activities that are not sanctioned by the WIAA.
2. The District will not be responsible or liable for non-school-sponsored programs or for programs that are organized, promoted, or participated in by staff members without school approval. The District will not be responsible for or control and incur liability for summer and/or out-of-season activities unless specifically sponsored by the District. The superintendent will establish rules defining the circumstances under which school facilities may be used and under which announcements of summer sports leagues and/or clinics may be channeled to students.

B. Athletic Coaches.

1. An athletic coach must be properly trained and qualified for an assignment as described in the coach's job description.
2. A job description which outlines the skills, techniques, and safety measures associated with a coaching assignment will be distributed to each coach. A coach must secure permission in advance if the coach proposes to deviate from the job description.

3. Coaching stipends will be established by the board. Any compensation offered to a coach by a booster club, parent organization, or other third party in connection with the coach's District position will be paid to the District and disbursed through District payroll, and will require prior board approval when the aggregate from all sources exceeds five-hundred dollars (\$500.00) in a school year. Each coach will annually disclose to the athletic director all compensation, gifts, and in-kind benefits received in connection with the coaching position, regardless of value, in the form and on the schedule established by the superintendent or designee. In addition, gifts to a coach by a student, parent or guardian, or student's family exceeding \$100, individually or in the aggregate, during an athletics season, must be approved by the Board of Directors. Nothing in this section authorizes acceptance of a gift or reward prohibited by RCW 42.23.070.
4. Training opportunities will be afforded each coach, including volunteer coaches, so that the coach is trained to attend to the first aid needs of participants.
5. Prior to a sports season, the coach will prepare a plan for handling medical emergencies at practice sessions and games (home and away).

C. Facilities and Equipment.

1. Participants will be issued equipment that has been properly maintained and fitted.
2. All facilities and equipment utilized in the interscholastic athletic activity, whether or not the property of the District, will be inspected on a regular basis.

D. Medications.

1. Nonprescribed medications, including such items as analgesic balms, vitamins, and salt tablets, must be approved by the superintendent or designee before they may be available for use by coaches and/or athletic trainers. After athletic training medications have been approved, the coach and/or trainer must secure authorization from the parent and the student's doctor before the medications may be used during the athletic season. If such release is not on file, the nonprescribed medications may not be used. This provision does not preclude the coach and/or trainer from using approved first aid items. A sign will be posted in each school that operates interscholastic athletic activities, and participants will be advised in the code of conduct, that eligibility to participate may be denied if anabolic steroids and/or any performance enhancing substances are used for the purpose of enhancing athletic ability.

- E. Acknowledgment of Risks.** The Board recognizes that certain risks are associated with participation in interscholastic athletic activities. While the District will strive to prevent injuries and accidents to students, each participant and the participant's parents/guardians will be required to sign a statement indicating that the parents/guardians and the student acknowledge the risks of injuries resulting from such participation and giving assurance that the student will follow the instructions of the coach.

- F. Physical Fitness.** Each participant will be required to furnish evidence of physical fitness prior to becoming a member of an interscholastic athletics team. A written report will be completed when a student is injured while participating in a school-supervised activity. A participant will be free of injury and will have fully recovered from illness before participating in any activity. Each participant, and the participant's parent or guardian, will also satisfy the concussion, head injury, and sudden cardiac arrest requirements of Policy 3422 and Procedure 3422P before the participant's first practice.
- G. Medical Insurance.** Each student participating in interscholastic athletic activities is required to have or obtain medical insurance for expenses incurred as a result of injuries sustained while participating in the activity. Students will provide evidence of coverage with a minimum limit of \$25,000 in medical expenses or will obtain such coverage through the insurance plan offered to all students participating in activities in the District. No student will be denied the ability to participate solely because the student's family, by reason of low income, is unable to pay the entire amount of the premium for such insurance. The superintendent or designee may approve partial or full waiver of premiums to permit all students to obtain the required medical insurance.
- H. Facilities, Locker Rooms, and Supervision.** The District will provide separate facilities, such as showers, toilets, and training rooms, for male and female students, or will schedule the facilities equitably for separate use. Use of those facilities is subject to the supervision protocols established under this policy. The superintendent will establish written protocols for the supervision of locker rooms, team rooms, changing areas, and comparable spaces used in connection with interscholastic athletic activities and physical education. The protocols will be developed in consultation with building administrators, athletic directors, coaches, and other affected staff; tailored to the configuration of each facility, the age of the participants, and the requirements of individual programs; and balance the supervision of students against their reasonable expectations of privacy. The protocols will address restrictions on student access to locker rooms on a time and needs basis, the securing of secluded or interior spaces when not in use or supervised, control of lighting, and the conduct expected of students while in those spaces. The protocols will be in writing and will be reviewed annually. Nothing in this policy establishes a requirement that an adult be continuously present within a locker room or changing area while students are using it.

II. All Interscholastic Activities

The remaining sections of this policy apply to all interscholastic activities of the District, including interscholastic athletic activities.

A. Student Code of Conduct.

The superintendent will implement a code of conduct governing participants in all interscholastic activities. The code will be written so that it is directly understandable by the students to whom it applies. Each participant and the participant's parent or guardian will sign the code before the participant's first practice or activity. The coach or advisor will review the code verbally with participants at a pre-season meeting and will make the code available to parents and guardians.

The code will address, at a minimum: harassment, intimidation, bullying, and cyberbullying; sexual harassment; hazing; retaliation; the conduct of participants who observe, encourage, or record prohibited conduct; unwanted physical contact; conduct in locker rooms and changing areas; use of personal electronic devices; the reporting of misconduct; use or possession of alcohol, cannabis, tobacco, nicotine, vapor products, controlled substances, opiates, anabolic steroids, and other performance-enhancing substances not prescribed by a licensed health care provider; unsportsmanlike conduct; absence from practice; gambling; and conduct constituting a criminal offense.

B. Hazing Prevention Program.

The District will implement a program to prevent hazing in interscholastic activities. The program will recognize that hazing is distinct from harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB), which is prohibited by Policy 3207 and Procedure 3207P. Hazing is directed at a student's initiation into or continued inclusion in a group, and it may occur notwithstanding the apparent willingness of the affected student to participate. The program will include a definition of hazing in the code of conduct; age-appropriate education of participants; training of coaches, advisors, athletic directors, and building administrators in recognizing and responding to reports of hazing; and the development of student leadership.

C. Duty to Report Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect

No provision of the interscholastic activities program, including any code of conduct, team rule, or disciplinary process, relieves a mandatory reporter of the obligation to report suspected child abuse, neglect, or exploitation under RCW 26.44.030 and Policy 3421, or to refer a report of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment to the District's Title IX Coordinator under Policy 3205. An internal athletic or activity process will not delay or substitute for either obligation.

D. Staff Training

The superintendent will ensure that administrators, athletic directors, coaches, and advisors receive appropriate training on the code of conduct for interscholastic activities, locker room supervision protocols, hazing recognition and response, child abuse reporting, and the referral of sexual harassment reports to the Title IX Coordinator.

E. Nondiscrimination

The District will not exclude any person from participation in the interscholastic activities program, deny any person the benefits of such a program, or otherwise discriminate against any person in any interscholastic program on the basis of the categories identified in the Washington Law Against Discrimination (WLAD), Chapter 49.60 RCW, and Policy 3210, which is the District's nondiscrimination policy. Rules of conduct, and the consequences for violating them, will be applied uniformly across programs, sports, and teams.

III. Equal Athletic Opportunity

The following provisions apply to interscholastic, club, and intramural athletics and to recreational activities.

When individual students with disabilities are unable to participate in existing activities even when offered reasonable modifications and necessary accommodations, aids, or services, the District may offer opportunities for students with disabilities to participate in separate or different recreational or athletic activities. Eligibility standards apply to all participants; a student's Section 504 team or IEP team may consider individualized modifications necessary to afford the student an equal opportunity to participate but will not establish separate eligibility standards.

The District will provide necessary funds for recreational and athletic activities for both sexes, although the aggregate expenditures are not required to be equal for members of each sex, and expenditures for separate male and female teams are not required to be equal.

The District may operate or sponsor separate teams for members of each sex where selection for such teams is based upon competitive skill or the activity involved is a contact sport. However, when the District operates or sponsors a team in a particular sport for members of one sex but not the other, and athletic opportunities for members of the other sex have previously been limited, members of the excluded sex will be allowed to try out for the team offered. For the purposes of this policy, contact sports include boxing, wrestling, rugby, ice hockey, football, basketball, and other sports in which the major activity involves bodily contact.

The District will provide equal athletic opportunities for both sexes within each school for interscholastic, club, or intramural athletics. In determining whether equal athletic opportunities for both sexes are being provided, the District will consider the following factors:

- Whether the selection of sports and levels of competition effectively accommodate the interests and abilities of members of both sexes;
- Provision of equipment and supplies;
- Scheduling of games and practice time, including the use of playfields, courts, gyms, and pools;
- Travel and per diem allowances, if any;
- Opportunity to receive coaching and academic tutoring;
- Assignment and compensation of coaches, tutors, and game officials;
- Provision of locker rooms and practice and competitive facilities;
- Provision of medical and training facilities and services, including the availability of insurance;
- Provision of housing and dining facilities and services, if any; and
- Publicity and awards.

The District will evaluate its intramural and interscholastic program in each school at least once each year to ensure that equal opportunities are available to members of both sexes with respect to participation in interscholastic and/or intramural programs. The evaluation will include consideration of the factors listed in the preceding paragraphs.

Every three (3) years, the District will administer, in each school that operates interscholastic, intramural, and other athletics, the survey developed by the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to determine male and female student interest in participation in specific sports. The District will consider the survey results when planning and developing recreational and athletic activities offered by the District and when determining whether equal opportunities are available to members of both sexes.

Legal References:

RCW 28A.400.350 Liability, life, health, health care, accident, disability, and salary insurance authorized — Premiums

RCW 28A.600.200 Interscholastic athletic and other extra-curricular activities for students, regulation of — Delegation, conditions

RCW 69.41.330 Public Warnings — School districts

RCW 69.41.340 Student athletics — Violations — Penalty

RCW 26.44.030 Reports—Duty and authority to make—Duty of receiving agency—Duty to notify—Case planning and consultation—Penalty for unauthorized exchange of information—Filing dependency petitions—Investigations—Interviews of children—Records—Risk assessment process

RCW 28A.600.190 Youth sports—Concussion and head injury guidelines—Injured athlete restrictions—Short title

RCW 28A.600.195 Sudden cardiac arrest in youth athletes—Online pamphlet—Online prevention program for coaches

RCW 28A.600.477 Prohibition of harassment, intimidation, and bullying

RCW 28A.640.020 Regulations, guidelines to eliminate discrimination—Scope—Sexual harassment policies

WAC 392-190-025 Recreational and athletic activities

Chapter 392-400 WAC Student discipline

20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.*; 34 C.F.R. Part 106 Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

29 U.S.C. § 794; 34 C.F.R. § 104.37 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Cross References:

Policy 2121 Substance Abuse Program
Policy 3413 Student Immunization and Life-Threatening Health Conditions
Policy 3414 Infectious Diseases
Policy 3416 Medication at School
Policy 3418 Anaphylaxis Prevention
Policy 4260 Use of School Facilities
Policy/Procedure 3205 Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment of Students Prohibited
Policy/Procedure 3207 Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying of Students
Policy 3210 Nondiscrimination
Policy/Procedure 3240 Student Conduct, Expectations, and Reasonable Sanctions
Policy 3245 Students and Telecommunication Devices
Policy/Procedure 3421 Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Prevention
Policy/Procedure 3422 Student Sports — Concussion, Head Injuries and Sudden Cardiac Arrest
Policy/Procedure 5253 Maintaining Professional Staff/Student Boundaries

Management Resources:

Policy News, October 2007 Elimination of Outdated and Obsolete Policies
Policy Alert, January 2015 Interscholastic Activities
Policy News, December 2014 Interscholastic Activities
Policy News, April 2013 Interscholastic Activities
WIAA Handbook

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