

POLICY

Students

SUBJECT: Sports and the Athletic Program

Athletics are an integral part of a well-balanced educational program. Therefore, the Board supports a broad sports program with equal access for both males and females, with emphasis on maximum participation, through interscholastic and intramural activity.

The interscholastic athletic program shall conform to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education as well as the established rules of the New York State Public High Schools Athletic Association and the State Education Department.

Eligibility for interscholastic athletic competition requires that the students:

- a) provide written parental/legal guardian consent;
- b) pass satisfactorily the medical examination approved by the school physician; and
- c) meet the requirements for interscholastic competition as set forth by the Commissioner's Regulations and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.
- d) meet district academic eligibility requirements.

Selection/Classification Process

The Board approves the use of the New York State selection/classification program in which students in grades no lower than seventh grade are permitted to compete on interscholastic athletic teams organized for high school pupils. Consideration for and granting of this privilege is to be given only to those exceptional student athletes who meet and continue to meet all the requirements developed under the direction of the Superintendent.

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These students are to be placed at levels of competition appropriate to their physiological maturity, physical fitness and skills in relationship to other students in accordance with the standards established by the Commissioner of Education. Any negative impact resulting from the placement of middle school students on high school teams, such as the displacement of high school players will be minimized to the greatest extent possible.

Selection/classification is limited to rare gifted athletes in the sport requested. Seventh grade students may be considered for placement on a junior varsity or varsity squad only if the requested sport is not offered at the modified level. Eighth grade students may be considered for placement on junior varsity and varsity squads in all sports that are offered. Candidates must be students who have met the following criteria:

- demonstrated through prior competition that they are exceptionally skilled in the sport requested and can perform at an advanced level;
- have sufficient social and emotional maturity;
- have shown adequate academic progress;
- have a positive behavior record.

The Board requires that any middle school student playing on a high school team maintains academic eligibility as specified by athletic regulations.

The athletic director will provide an annual report to the Board on the prior year's selection/classification program including the number of requests for consideration, number of students participating in specific sports and the impact of participation on individuals and teams.

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Student Athletic Injuries

No student should be allowed to practice or play in an athletic contest if he/she is suffering from an injury. The diagnosis of and prescription of treatment for injuries is strictly a medical matter and should, under no circumstances, be considered within the province of the coach. A coach's responsibility is to see that injured players are given prompt and competent medical attention, and that all details of a doctor's instructions concerning the student's functioning as a team member are carried out. No student will be allowed to practice or compete if there is a question whether he/she is in adequate physical condition.

A physician's certificate may be required before an athlete is permitted to return to practice or competition.

Athletic Program – Safety

The District will take reasonable steps to see that physical risks to students participating in the interscholastic athletic program shall be kept at a minimum by:

- a) requiring medical examinations of participants;
- b) obtaining certificated personnel to coach all varsity, junior varsity, and modified games;
- c) ensuring that equipment is both safe and operative within approved guidelines.

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Athletic Program – Supervision of Students

- a) Coaches will maintain supervision over the dressing rooms by personally being present during the dressing periods. In situations where male coaches are supervising female teams, or female coaches are supervising male teams, the coach must remain in the immediate vicinity outside the locker room area so as to be available immediately in case of emergency.
- b) Coaches are responsible for the supervision of their athletes at the end of practice. This may entail bus duty or making sure students have transportation home. Students participating in any athletic activity must be supervised at all times by a teacher/coach.
- c) Teachers and/or assigned school personnel in the elementary grades will be responsible for the playground supervision of all children under their jurisdiction during the recess periods and before the regular afternoon sessions. The principal will distribute the responsibility so that the playground situation will be properly controlled.

8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR)
Section 135

Adopted: 8/7/95
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