

### **INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**

The Board of Education will provide high school and middle school students interscholastic athletic competition in a variety of sports as deemed appropriate. Students shall be allowed to participate in individual sports on the basis of their physical condition and desire. Qualified personnel shall be provided for coaching and supervising individual sports. In addition, the Board will provide intramural athletic activities as an outgrowth of class instruction in physical education and commensurate with the grade level of the students involved. The athletic program should encourage participation by as many boys and girls as possible and should be carried on with the best interests of the participants as the first consideration.

#### **Policy Conditions**

- A. Participation in interscholastic athletics is limited to students in grades 9-12 with participation of properly supervised teams from grades 7 and 8 also permitted in a limited program within their own grade levels with other schools.
- B. The athletic program is an integral part of the high school curriculum and comes under the authority of the principal to the same degree as do all other phases of the curriculum.
- C. Those individuals having direct responsibility for the conduct of the athletic program of the school are required to conform in all ways to the general education program as laid down by the Board and administration, including such matters as schedules, financial expenditures, relationships with other schools, and health and safety regulations.
- D. Those programs governed by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) will adhere firmly to the rules and regulations of that body and to the philosophy of sports which OHSAA encourages. The eligibility of students to participate in the athletic program is determined in accordance with OHSAA regulations and the policies of the Board.
- E. No student may start practice for any athletic team until he or she has been examined and approved by a medical doctor and until written consent has been obtained from the parent.
- F. Expenditures for the athletic program are incorporated as part of the general budget of the Board. Coaches of each sport will submit their budgetary needs to the athletic director for the next school year, and the latter will present the total athletic budget request to the principal for approval and inclusion in the general budget. No expenditures for athletic purposes may be made in excess of those listed in the budget without approval of the Superintendent.

- G. District participation in interscholastic athletics will be subject to approval by the Board of Education. This shall include approval of membership in any leagues, associations, or conferences, and of rules for student participation.
- H. Proof of insurance against accident or injury must be provided by the parents for students engaging in interscholastic athletics.
- I. An attempt will be made to have immediate medical supervision or CPR trained personnel at all athletic competition and practice sessions at all levels of competition. Any student who incurs an injury requiring a physician's care is to have the written approval of the physician prior to his/her return to participation.

In order to minimize health and safety risks to student-athletes and maintain ethical standards, school personnel, coaches, athletic trainers, and lay coaches shall not dispense, supply, recommend, or permit the use of any drug, medication, or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes.

Further, participants, athletes, fans, and coaches/advisors shall encourage, promote, and practice good sportsmanship by respecting the officials and each other, as well as refraining from using profane/indecent or derogatory language.