

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. 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.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Prior to the start of each athletic season, a school may hold an informational meeting for students, parents, guardians, other persons having care or charge of a student, physicians, pediatric cardiologists, athletic trainers, and any other persons regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest for all ages of students.

No student shall participate in an athletic activity until the student has submitted to a designated school official a form signed by the student and the parent, guardian, or other person having care or charge of the student stating that the student and the parent, guardian, or other person having care or charge of the student have received and reviewed a copy of the information developed by the Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Department of Education and posted on their respective internet web sites. A completed form shall be submitted each school year in which the student participates in an athletic activity.

No individual shall coach an athletic activity unless the individual has completed, on an annual basis, the sudden cardiac arrest training course approved by the Ohio Department of Health.

A student shall not be allowed to participate in an athletic activity if either of the following is the case:

1. The student's biological parent, biological sibling, or biological child has previously experienced sudden cardiac arrest, and the student has not been evaluated and cleared for participation in an athletic activity by a physician authorized under Chapter 4731 of the Ohio Revised Code to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery.

2. The student is known to have exhibited syncope or fainting at any time prior to or following an athletic activity and has not been evaluated and cleared for return after exhibiting syncope or fainting.

A student shall be removed by the student's coach from participation in an athletic activity if the student exhibits syncope or fainting.

If a student is not allowed to participate in or is removed from participation in an athletic activity under this Policy, the student shall not be allowed to return to participation until the student is evaluated and cleared for return, in writing, by any of the following:

1. A physician authorized under Chapter 4731 of the Ohio Revised Code to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery, including a physician who specializes in cardiology;
2. A certified nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or certified nurse-midwife who holds a certificate of authority issued under Chapter 4723 of the Ohio Revised Code;
3. A physician assistant licensed under Chapter 4730 of the Ohio Revised Code;
4. An athletic trainer licensed under Chapter 4755 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The licensed health care providers specified above may consult with any other licensed or certified health care providers in order to determine whether a student is ready to return to participation.

A coach who violates any of the provisions of this Policy with respect to Sudden Cardiac Arrest may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

The District, a member of the Board, or a District employee or volunteer, including a coach, is not liable in damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property allegedly arising from providing services or performing duties under this Policy, unless the act or omission constitutes willful or wanton misconduct. This Policy does not eliminate, limit, or reduce any other immunity or defense that the District, a member of the Board, or District employee or volunteer, including a coach, may be entitled to under Chapter 2744 or any other provision of the Ohio Revised Code or under Ohio common law.

LEGAL REF: O.R.C. §3313.5310

Adopted: November 21, 2016
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