

2431 ATHLETIC COMPETITION (M)

The Board of Education recognizes the value of a program of athletic competition for both boys and girls as an integral part of the total school experience. Game activities and practice sessions provide opportunities to learn the values of competition and good sportsmanship. Programs of athletic competition, both intrascholastic and interscholastic, offer students the opportunity to exercise and test their athletic abilities in a context greater and more varied than that offered by the class or school or school district alone, and an opportunity for career and educational development.

For purposes of this policy, programs of athletic competition includes all activities relating to competitive sports contests, games, events, or sports exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students when such events occur within or between separate schools within this district or with any schools outside this district. The programs of athletic competition shall include, but are not limited to, high school interscholastic athletic programs, cheerleading and/or intramural athletic programs.

Each student participant shall be required to pay an annual student activity fee as determined by the Board. This fee shall cover participation in all co-curricular and athletic programs for that school year. The determination of a student's inability to pay will be based upon the student's eligibility for free and reduced meals in accordance with Board Policy No. 8540.

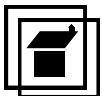
Eligibility Standards

A student who wishes to participate in a program of athletic competition must submit, on a form provided by the district, the signed consent of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The consent of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a student who wishes to participate in a program of athletic competition must include an acknowledgment of the physical hazards that may be encountered in the activity.

Student participation in a program of athletic competition shall be governed by the following eligibility standards:

Academic Eligibility

To be eligible for participation in the interscholastic athletic program of a New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) member school, all high school students must meet, at a minimum, all the eligibility requirements of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of the NJSIAA.



Home schooled students are not eligible to participate in the high school interscholastic athletic program of this district.

Attendance Standards

Attendance standards shall be those set in Board policy. In particular, a student shall not participate in a performance, exhibition, practice or athletic event unless he/she has been present in school that day or has been absent for an excused reason other than for sickness.

A student must be in school prior to 10:00 a.m. to participate in any athletic activities on that day. Students who leave school early due to illness are not permitted to participate in athletic activities.

A student who is serving an in-school or out-of-school suspension may not participate in the athletic program while serving the suspension.

Disciplinary Standards

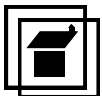
Disciplinary standards are based on Board policies. Students on disciplinary probation or serving a detention or suspension may not practice, perform or compete. The Superintendent and the Building Principal shall decide at the end of a probation or suspension whether the student may return to practice and competition.

Participation in school athletic activities is a privilege, not a right. Students granted the privilege of participation must assume responsibility of good conduct and citizenship. Therefore, students who experience serious and/or repetitive disciplinary infractions may forfeit the privilege of attending any and all school student activities and/or social events. Furthermore, those students are subject to ineligibility and/or removal from any and all school athletic activities. Additionally, students who violate codes of honor and or ethics (i.e. lying, cheating, stealing, etc.) are subject to removal from any and all athletic activities and/or leadership positions therein.

Notice of the school district's requirements shall be available to students.

Insurance

The Board provides student accident insurance for all students as a secondary policy. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must submit a claim to their primary health insurance carrier first and obtain an explanation of benefits (EOB). The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) completes a claim form at the Business Office and submits a copy of the



EOB with that form. An accident report must also be completed by the supervising staff member, signed by the school nurse, and submitted to the Business Office. The Business Office then submits the claim form, EOB, and accident report to the district's student accident insurance company. The insurance company would then make payment to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), as warranted, for any unreimbursed medical expenses associated with this claim.

Health Requirements

Good physical condition, freedom from injury, and full recovery from illness are prerequisites to participation in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition. Information concerning a pupil's HIV/AIDS status shall not be required as a part of the medical examination or health history pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:5C-1 et seq.

Students enrolled in grades nine to twelve must receive a medical examination prior to participation in school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural programs of athletic competition and cheerleading.

A medical examination is the assessment of an individual's health status. The examination shall be conducted within 365 days prior to the first practice session with examinations being conducted at the medical home of the pupil. The "medical home" is defined as a health care provider and that provider's practice site chosen by the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for the provision of health care. If a pupil does not have a medical home, the school district shall provide this examination at the school physician's office or other comparably equipped facility. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may choose either the school physician or their own private physician to provide this medical examination.

The findings of this examination shall be documented on a form that is approved by the Commissioner of Education and shall include: immunizations pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.1 through 4.16; medical history including allergies, past serious illnesses, injuries, operations, medications, and current health problems; health screenings including height, weight, hearing, blood pressure, and vision; and physical examinations. A physical examination is the examination of the body by a professional licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy or an advanced practice nurse.

The medical examination shall also include a health history questionnaire completed and signed by the parent or legal guardian. A health history is a record of a person's past health events provided by the individual, a parent or legal guardian, or health care provider.



The report of health findings of the medical examination for participation shall be documented on the Athletic Preparticipation Physical Examination Form approved by the Commissioner of Education to determine whether the pupil had or currently has any of the health conditions outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)1.ii.(1) since their last physical. The medical examination shall be conducted in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2-and Regulation 2431.2.

The medical report shall include, at a minimum, normalities as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)1.ii.(2). The medical report shall be provided to the school physician if the school physician did not conduct the medical examination. The medical report shall indicate whether the pupil is allowed or disallowed to participate in a program of athletic competition and must be completed and signed by the original examining physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician's assistant. A form that is incomplete shall be returned to the pupil's medical home for completion. A pupil that does not have a completed Athletic Preparticipation Physical Examination Form shall not be permitted to participate.

If the pupil's medical examination was completed more than 60 days prior to the first practice session, the pupil must provide a health history update of medical problems experienced since the last medical examination in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)1.iii.4. This health history update must be completed and signed by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

The school district will provide written notification to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), signed by the school physician, stating approval of the pupil's participation, based solely on the medical report, or the written reasons for the school physician's disapproval of the pupil's participation. The school physician's signature on the notification indicates the medical report complies with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)iv.

The health findings of this medical examination shall be maintained as part of the student's health record.

In addition, the Board requires the following documents be submitted with the medical examination documentation:

1. Emergency medical information
2. NJSIAA Parent/Guardian Concussion Policy Acknowledgement Form
3. NJSIAA Steroid Testing Policy and Consent to Random Testing



Emergency Procedures

Athletic coaches shall be trained in first aid to include sports-related concussion and head injuries, the use of a defibrillator, the identification of student athletes who are injured or disabled in the course of any athletic program or activity, and any other first aid procedures or other health related trainings required by law or the Superintendent.

The Superintendent shall prepare and present to the Board for its approval procedures for the emergency treatment of injuries and disabilities that occur in the course of any athletic program **or** activity. Emergency procedures shall be reviewed not less than once in each school year and shall be disseminated to appropriate staff members.

Interscholastic Standards

The Board shall approve annually a program of interscholastic athletics and shall require that all facilities utilized in that program, whether or not the property of this Board, properly safeguard both players and spectators and are kept free from hazardous conditions.

The Board adopts the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association as Board policy and shall review such rules on a regular basis to ascertain they continue to be in conformity with the objectives of this Board.

The Superintendent shall annually prepare, approve, and present to the Board for its consideration a program of interscholastic athletics that includes a complete schedule of athletic events and practices.

N.J.S.A. 2C:21-11

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7; 6A:16-1.4; 6A:16-2 et seq.

Adopted: 1 October 2008
Revised: 16 September 2009
Revised: 28 March 2012
Revised: 27 March 2013

