

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Interscholastic athletics is an integral and desirable part of the District's secondary school educational program. Individual and team sports shall build upon the District's comprehensive physical education instruction and provide opportunities for students to develop sports skills, physical fitness, teamwork, sportsmanship, and respect for others that will prepare them for success in their adult life. Lifetime or carry-over sports are to be particularly encouraged and supported. The District will seek broad participation in interscholastic athletics from all eligible secondary students. Equity in the number and kind of sports activities is a clear objective of the District.

The Superintendent of Schools and/or his/her/their designee is hereby authorized to develop and implement any necessary regulations, procedures, and/or protocols necessary to implement this policy.

Eligibility for Interscholastic Athletics

In accordance with the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, a pupil shall be eligible for interschool competition or inclusive athletic activities in a sport during a semester provided that the pupil is a bona fide student enrolled in a Yonkers secondary school, is enrolled during the first fifteen (15) school days of the applicable semester, is registered in the equivalent of three regular courses, and is meeting the physical education requirement.

The following is also required for participation on interscholastic teams:

1. authorization by the school physician indicating the sport or activity in which the student may participate;
2. a health status review performed by the school nurse which shall include an interview to update the student's health history unless a full medical examination has been given within the preceding thirty (30) days, and may include a pre-physical and/or complete physical if required.
3. a signed parent and/or guardian consent form for each sport which contains information on mild traumatic brain injury (TBI) in accordance with New York State Education laws, regulations, and rules;
4. approval by the athletic director in accordance with established New York State Education laws, regulations, and rules, appropriate league rules, policies, and/or procedures, and the District's policies, regulations, and/or procedures; and
5. academic eligibility, as described below.

Academic Eligibility

To participate in interscholastic athletics, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. a seventy percent (70%) average on his/her/their report card for the previous marking period;
2. eighty percent (80%) attendance in all classes, exclusive of bona fide absence(s) caused by illness;
3. adherence to the District's Code of Conduct; and
4. a passing grade in physical education.

Failure to meet the above criteria will result in probation, suspension, and/or elimination from

participation in interscholastic athletics in accordance with District protocol.

A student who has not attained a seventy percent (70%) on his/her/their report card for the previous marking period shall be placed on probation in accordance with District protocol. Thereafter, the building principal and/or athletic director and/or his/her/their designee shall conduct a review of the student's academic eligibility every two weeks to determine participation status. In accordance with District protocol, continued academic probation will result in the student's inability to participate in athletic competition and/or removal from the team.

Attendance

The District strives to have its student athletes maintain 100% daily attendance in school. Any students absent from school may not practice or participate in athletics on that day. Absences, cutting, and lateness to class can result in the student being dropped from the team in accordance with District protocol.

Practice Sessions

All student-athletes must participate in the New York State Public High School Athletic Association's (NYSPHSAA) required number of practices for that sport to be able to play in any athletic contest. Coaches are responsible for reviewing practice rules and for conducting practice sessions five or six days per week excluding game days.

Transportation

Where the District has provided transportation for students to an athletic activity and/or event, it shall provide transportation back to the point of departure for all students unless the parent and/or guardian of a student has provided the District with written notice, in accordance with District policy, authorizing an alternative form of return for such student. Alternatively, a parent and/or guardian of a student may pick up their child from said athletic activity and/or event. In such instances, a student may only be released to a parent and/or guardian upon the District's confirmation of his/her/their identity.

Medical Disqualification

If a student is medically disqualified for participation in a given sport or activity, the examining physician must indicate the reasons for disqualification on the student's Physical Examination Card.

Athletic Placement Process

In accordance with the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, the Board permits students in grades no lower than seventh to compete on any senior high school team and permits senior high school students to compete on any teams in grades no lower than seventh, provided the students are placed at levels of competition appropriate to their physiological maturity, physical fitness, and skills in relationship to other students on those teams. Such student who wishes to and is recommended by a coach to try out for and/or participate on an athletic team outside his/her/their grade placement must successfully complete the entire New York State Athletic Placement Process (APP). The APP will assess the student's physical and emotional maturity, athletic ability, physical fitness, and sport-specific skills in relation to other student athletes, so that the student may be placed at a level of competition that should result in increased opportunity, a fairer

competitive environment, minimized risk, and greater personal satisfaction.

Course Credit

In accordance with the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education and as filed with the Division of Physical Education, Fitness, Health, Nutrition and Safety Services and approved by the Commissioner, the Board of Education permits students in grades eleven (11) and twelve (12) to receive credit towards high school graduation equivalent to physical education for participation in inter-scholastic athletics. Such credit will, in addition to other requirements, be contingent upon demonstrated acceptable levels of physical fitness, physical skills, and knowledge of physical education activities. Standards for such fitness and competency shall be in accordance with District procedures as well as all applicable laws and regulations.

Safety

Although the District will take reasonable care to protect student athletes, students may still sustain injuries. In order to most effectively ensure student safety, open communication between students, parents, and coaches about the child's medical condition is critical. Coaches, and other appropriate staff, will receive guidance and training regarding recognition of injury and removal of the student athlete from play in the event of injury. Parents and/or students are expected to report injuries so that student health can be protected.

Any student who has sustained or who is believed to have sustained a mild traumatic brain injury (also referred to as a "concussion") shall be immediately removed from athletic activities. No such student shall resume athletic activity until the student has been symptom free for at least twenty-four (24) hours, received written clearance from a licensed physician, and obtained approval from the school physician to begin the return to play process. The Superintendent, in consultation with appropriate District staff, including the school physician, shall be authorized to develop regulations and/or procedures to guide the process of return to play.

Cross-ref: 5420, Student Health Services

Ref: Education Law §§305 (42); 1709 (8-a); 3001-b
8 NYCRR §§135.4; 136.5

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