

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Interscholastic programs are a vital component of the total educational program and shall be used as a means of developing wholesome attitudes and good human relations, as well as knowledge and skills. A well-organized and well-conducted interscholastic program is a factor in the morale of the student body and an important phase of good school-community relations.

The purpose of secondary school athletics is both educational and recreational. Students have opportunities to grow physically and intellectually through contributions to team effort. Interscholastic participation also helps students acquire self-discipline. The athletic program shall encourage all students to participate. The program's first consideration is that the program be conducted in the best interests of the participants.

The interscholastic program is the responsibility of the Director of Athletics. Coaches responsible for the conduct of the interscholastic program shall conform to the policies, regulations, and rules delineated by the Director of Athletics.

The Board of Education encourages and shall provide interscholastic competition in a variety of sports for secondary school students. Lifetime or carry-over sports are to be particularly encouraged and supported. Parity in the number and kind of sports activities for girls and boys is also clear objective of the district.

In accordance with existing Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, the Board will permit students in grades 10-12 to receive credit towards high school graduation equivalent to physical education for participation in interscholastic athletics. Such credit will, in addition to other requirements, be contingent upon proven cardiovascular and physical fitness and competency in lifetime or carry-over sports. Standards for such fitness and competency shall be developed by the administration.

All students shall be encouraged to participate in individual sports on the basis of their abilities and interests, maintaining satisfactory school records, meeting medical requirements, and having parental permission.

In the interscholastic sports program, the district shall:

1. approve school district membership in and adhere to the rules and regulations of the appropriate State and County Leagues, Associations, and Conferences (the eligibility of students to participate in interscholastic activities shall be determined in accordance with these rules and regulations);
2. have a written consent form from the student's parent or guardian on file in the athletic department; and
3. incorporate expenditures for the interscholastic program into the general school district budget.

Health Examinations

Annual examinations shall be given to candidates for interscholastic athletics and cheerleading to determine their physical fitness for these activities prior to any try-out, practice or participation. The exams may be given by the school physician or the student's family physician with review and approval by the school physician. They must include blood pressure reading and urine test for sugar and albumin.

Students who have an illness or injury during the year, which prevents him/her from attending school and/or practice for five days or more, must be re-evaluated prior to active participation.

ImPACT Assessments

Annual ImPACT assessments shall be given to all interscholastic athletes and cheerleaders for baseline data purposes. These data will be utilized to evaluate a student athlete in conjunction with a physician in the event of a head trauma injury.

Ref: Education Law 1709 (8-a); 3001-b
8 NYCRR 135.4

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