

POLICY

Board of Education

Bernards Township

File Code: M 2431
ATHLETIC COMPETITION

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 pupils 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, the program of athletic competition includes all activities related to competitive sport contests, games, or events or sport exhibitions involving individual pupils or teams of pupils of our District when such events occur within or between separate schools within our District or with any schools outside our District.

ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

A pupil who wishes to participate in athletic competition must submit, on a form provided by our District, the signed consent of his or her parent or legal guardian. The consent of the parent or legal guardian of a pupil who wishes to participate in interscholastic athletics must include an acknowledgment of the physical hazards that may be encountered in the sport.

Pupil participation in athletic competition shall be governed by the following eligibility standards:

- A pupil in grade 10, 11, or 12 who in the previous school year earned twenty-five percent of the total number of credits required by the State for graduation is eligible for participation in sports in the fall and winter seasons. A pupil in grade 9, 10, 11, or 12 who in the fall semester earned twelve and one-half percent of the total number of credits required by the State for graduation is eligible for participation in sports in the spring season. A pupil who is eligible at the start of a sports season remains eligible for that entire sports season regardless of his or her grades at the end of a marking period.
- A pupil in any grade must maintain a satisfactory record of attendance to be eligible for participation in sports. An attendance record is unsatisfactory as specified in procedures for policy #5200.
- No pupil who has been absent for a school day may participate in an athletic competition scheduled for the afternoon or evening of that school day.

Notice of these eligibility requirements shall be given to pupils.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT

All pupils participating in interscholastic athletics must be given an annual medical examination no more than 365 days prior to the first practice session. The medical examination shall be given by a licensed physician chosen by the parent(s)/guardian(s) and reported to the school physician for approval or disapproval on the NJDOE form previously adopted by the Board. The medical examination is to be done at no expense to the Board of Education. In instances of financial hardships, the school physician may conduct the medical examination at the expense of the Board. In the event a private physician is used, the medical examination shall not be at the expense of the Board of Education. A single examination will suffice for more than one sport in the same academic year unless the student has an injury or serious illness, in which case the school physician shall again examine the student.

Each candidate whose medical examination was completed more than 60 days prior to the first practice session must submit a health history update completed by the pupil's parent/guardian. As a minimum the health history should include answers to the following inquiries:

- Does the pupil take any medication on a regular basis (the names of such medication, and the reasons for such medication)?
- Does the pupil have allergies including but not limited to hives, asthma, and reaction to bee stings?
- Does the pupil have a recent history of fatigue and undue tiredness?
- Does the pupil have a history of fainting with exercise?
- Does the pupil have a history of a family member experiencing sudden death?
- Is the pupil under a physician's care (the reason(s) for such care)?
- Has the pupil been medically advised not to participate in any sport (the reason for such advice)?
- Has the pupil experienced loss of consciousness after an injury?
- Has the pupil experienced a fracture or dislocation?
- Has the pupil undergone any surgery?
- Has the pupil experienced chest pains or palpitations?

Physical examination shall include, as a minimum, no less than the following:

- Measurement of weight, height, and blood pressure;
- Examination of the skin to determine the presence of infection, scars of previous surgery or trauma, jaundice, and purpura;
- Examination of the eyes to determine visual acuity, use of eyeglasses or contact lenses, and examination of the sclera for the presence of jaundice;

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- Examination of the ears to determine the presence of acute or chronic infection, perforation of the eardrum and gross hearing loss;
- Examination of the nose to assess the presence of deformity which may affect endurance;
- Assessment of the neck to determine range of motion and the presence of pain associated with such motion;
- Examination of chest contour;
- Auscultation and percussion of the lungs;
- Assessment of the heart with attention to the presence of murmurs, noting rhythm and rate before and after exercise;
- Assessment of the abdomen with attention to the possible presence of hepatomegaly, splenomegaly, abnormal masses;
- Assessment of the back to determine range of motion and abnormal curvature of the spine;
- Examination of extremities to determine abnormal mobility or immobility, deformity, instability, muscle weakness or atrophy, surgical scars, and varicosities;
- Examination of the testes to determine the presence and descent of both testes, abnormal masses or configurations, or hernia;
- Assessment of physiological maturation;
- Neurological examination to assess balance and coordination and the presence of abnormal reflexes.

The school physician shall approve or disapprove the pupil's participation in athletics based on the medical examination. Written notification of that determination, signed by the school physician, shall be given to the pupil's parent or legal guardian and shall include the reasons for disapproval of the pupil's participation. The health findings of the medical examination shall be filed in the pupil's health examination record, subject to Board policy on pupil records.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

The coach will refer any injuries/illnesses to the District's athletic trainer.

Coaches hired after the 2005-06 school year must be certified in Sport First Aid. All coaches must be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) as required by the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association.

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 activity. Emergency procedures shall be reviewed by the Board not less than once in each school year and shall be disseminated to appropriate staff members.

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A copy of the emergency procedures approved by this Board will be available to each district that will participate in athletic competition in the facilities of our District.

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 as Board policy the rules and regulations of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association and shall review such rules annually to ascertain that 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 and shall inform the Board of changes in that schedule as they occur.

The Superintendent shall prepare rules for the conduct of pupils participating in interscholastic athletics that will conform to rules of the State Board of Education and the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association.

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: November 24, 2008