

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Interscholastic athletics for boys and girls is an integral and desirable part of the district's secondary school educational program. Individual and team sports shall be based upon comprehensive physical education instruction and intramural activities, seeking broad participation from all eligible secondary 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 a clear objective of the district.

Student eligibility for participation on interscholastic teams shall include:

1. authorization by the school physician;
2. endorsement by the Building Principal based on established rules and various league and State Education Department regulations.

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.

In the case of a suspected or actual head injury, a student must be removed from play immediately. In order to resume participation following injury, including head injury, the student needs to receive medical clearance. The Superintendent, in consultation with appropriate district staff, including the school physician, will develop regulations and procedures to guide the process of return to play.

In recognition of the importance of appropriately managing head injuries, the Board authorizes the creation of a Concussion Management Team (CMT). The CMT will be comprised of: the athletic director, a school nurse, the school physician, a coach of an interscholastic team, a parent member and other appropriate personnel designated by the Superintendent. The CMT is charged with overseeing compliance with state training requirements, developing guidelines for use by coaches and physical education teachers and developing information for distribution to parents and students.

Policy 5280

Athletic Placement Process (formerly Selection/Classification)

The Board permits students in grades 7 and 8 who wish to play at the freshman, junior varsity or varsity level in all sports to do so provided they can complete the entire Athletic Placement Process (APP). A description of the APP is available from the district's Athletic Director.

The Board permits students grades 9-12 who wish to play at the lower level such as modified or freshman level in all sports such as "non-contact" or to do so provided they can demonstrate it is an appropriate level based on physical and emotional maturity, in conformance with the APP.

Course Credit

In accordance with existing Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, the Board of Education 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.

Cross-ref: 5420, Student Health Services

Ref: Education Law §§ 305(42), 1709 (8-a); 3001-b
8 NYCRR §§135.4, 136.5
Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Dist. V. Doe, 520 U.S. 290 (2000) (constitutionality of student-led prayers at interscholastic athletic activities)
Concussion Management Support Materials, www.nysphsaa.org
Athletic Placement Process for Interscholastic Athletic Programs.
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/documents/AthleticPlacementProcess2-11-15Revised.pdf>

Adoption date: 10/17/17