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2431 - INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The Board of Education recognizes the value of a program of interscholastic athletics for both boys and girls as an integral part of the total school experience to the students of the District and to the community.

For purposes of this policy, the program of interscholastic athletics shall include all activities relating to competitive sport contests, games, events, or sport exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students of this District when such events occur between separate schools within this District or with any schools outside this District.

The Board shall determine the standards of eligibility to be met by all students participating in the interscholastic program. Such standards shall require that each student be in good physical condition, be free of injury, and have fully recovered from illness before participating in any interscholastic athletic event.

No student may practice or compete in interscholastic athletics until the student submits a form signed by the student's his/her parent or guardian, or by a person having care or charge of the student, affirming that each has received a concussion and head injury information sheet as prepared by the Ohio Department of Health. See Form 2431 F1 and Form 2431 F2.

In addition to the eligibility requirements established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, to be eligible for any interscholastic extra-curricular activity, a student must have passed at least 5 classes for the grading period prior to the grading period in which the student s/he wishes to participate.

Students educated at home or enrolled in a nonpublic school who are permitted to participate on a District interscholastic team must fulfill the same academic, nonacademic, and financial requirements as any other participant. See Policy 9270.

Restoration of an "Incomplete" Grade

If a student's failure to meet the academic eligibility requirements is due to an "incomplete" grade given in one or more courses which the student was taking during the grading period in question, the student may have their his/her eligibility restored once the "incomplete" has been changed to a passing letter grade provided:

- A. the failure to complete the required coursework during the grading period was due to calamity day(s), family tragedy, or illness or accident as verified by a physician; and
- B. the "incomplete" was given in accordance with Board of Education grading policies and procedures and is applicable to all students in the school; and
- C. the previously scheduled work and/or exams is/are completed within the time period provided in Board policy for completing work required to convert an "incomplete" into a letter grade; and
- D. there is no evidence that the "incomplete" was given in order to afford the student extended time in order to provide the student tutoring or other educational services simply to avoid a failing grade.

Specific documentation of criteria listed above (Items A-D) must be submitted to the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) (See AG 2431) in order to be considered by the Executive Director for such a ruling.

Students identified as disabled under R.C. 3323 and the IDEA are subject to the eligibility standards established by this policy unless specifically exempted by the express terms of their individualized education program (IEP). An IEP can specify the criteria by which a

grade will be determined for (a) course(s), given the student's individualized disability.

Since the primary purpose of the athletic program is to enhance the education of participating students as indicated in this policy, the Board places top priority on maximum student participation and the values of good sportsmanship and fair play.

The Board further adopts those eligibility standards set by the Constitution of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSA) that are consistent with State and Federal law, and shall review such standards annually to ascertain that they continue to be in conformity with the objectives of this Board.

No student shall be excused from a class or supervised study for an extended period of time for participation in interscholastic athletics.

The Board further directs that only those students may participate in the program of interscholastic athletics who have:

- A. maintained a record of academic proficiency sufficient to ensure that participation in interscholastic athletic activities will not interfere with his/her instructional program;
- B. attended school regularly;
- C. demonstrated good citizenship and responsibility;
- D. returned all school and athletic equipment.

The Superintendent shall annually prepare, approve and present to the Board for its consideration, a program of interscholastic athletics which shall include a complete schedule of events and shall inform the Board of changes in that schedule as they occur, and shall secure Board approval before making any changes in the said schedule.

In order to minimize health and safety risks to student-athletes and maintain ethical standards, school personnel, coaches, athletic trainers, and lay coaches shall not dispense, supply, recommend, or permit the use of any drug, medication, or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes. The Superintendent shall cause to be posted in all locker rooms in buildings that include students in any grade higher than the sixth grade, the following:

"Warning: Improper use of anabolic steroids may cause serious or fatal health problems, such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, growth deformities, infertility, personality changes, severe acne, and baldness. Possession, sale, or use of anabolic steroids without a valid prescription is a crime punishable by a fine and imprisonment."

The Superintendent shall develop appropriate administrative guidelines for the operation of the Athletic Program and a Code of Conduct for those who participate. Such guidelines should provide for the following safeguards:

- A. Prior to enrolling in the sport:
 - 1. each participant shall submit to a thorough physical examination by a District-approved physician;
 - 2. parents shall report any past or current health problems along with a physician's statement that any such problems have or are being treated and pose no threat to the student's participation.
- B. Any student who is found to have a health condition which may be life-threatening to self or others shall not be allowed to participate until the situation has been analyzed by a medical review panel that has determined the conditions under which the student may participate. The District shall assume no liability for any student with a health condition who has been authorized to play by the parents and their physician but not by the District.
- C. Any student who incurs an injury requiring a physician's care is to have a new physical examination by a District- approved physician prior to the student's return to participation.

The Superintendent is also to develop guidelines for ensuring that sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity characterize the manner in which the athletic program is conducted and the actions of students who participate. Such guidelines should include:

- A. criteria for judging these important qualities;
- B. procedures by which these values will be communicated to students, parents, and supporters;
- C. means for monitoring the behavior of each of these groups to ensure their behavior reflects high standards.

Students will be further informed that participation in interscholastic sports is a privilege and not a right, and that they may be prohibited from all or part of their participation in such activities by authorized school personnel without further notice, hearing

and/or appeal rights (See Policy 5610.05 - Prohibition From Extra-Curricular Activities).

No student will be denied the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics offered by a school in the District because the student has or is participating in college credit plus program as long as the student fulfills all academic, nonacademic and financial requirements.

No student will be limited from wearing religious apparel while participating in interscholastic or non-interscholastic extra-curricular activities unless such apparel poses a legitimate danger to participants. If such danger is identified, the student will be offered reasonable accommodations available for the participant wearing religious apparel.

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Ohio High School Athletic Association

Last Modified by Regina Jutz on September 16, 2022