

Students

**SUBJECT: SPORTS AND THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM**

**General Principles and Eligibility**

Athletics are an integral part of a well-balanced educational program. The District's interscholastic athletic program will conform with the Commissioner's regulations, as well as the established rules of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) and the State Education Department.

Athletic eligibility requires that the student:

- a) Provide written parental or guardian consent. The consent form must contain information regarding mild traumatic brain injuries (concussions) as specified in the Commissioner's regulations.
- b) Obtain medical clearance from the school physician or nurse practitioner or the student's personal physician. The school physician or nurse practitioner retains final approval on any physicals performed by a student's personal physician.
- c) Meet the requirements for interscholastic competition as set forth by the Commissioner's regulations and the NYSPHSAA.
- d) Comply with all District rules, codes, and standards applicable to athletic participation.

**Title IX Compliance**

The Board supports equal athletic opportunities for all students through interscholastic and intramural activities. To ensure equal athletic opportunities for its students, the District will consider:

- a) Its accommodation of athletic interests and abilities (the nature and extent of sports offered, including levels of competition, team competition, and team performance);
- b) Equipment and supplies;
- c) Scheduling of games and practice time;
- d) Travel costs and opportunities for travel;
- e) Assignment and compensation of coaches;
- f) Locker rooms, practice, and competitive facilities;
- g) Available medical and training facilities and services; and
- h) The nature and extent of support, publicity, and promotion.

The District may consider other pertinent factors as well. Each of the factors will be assessed by comparing availability, quality, type of benefits, kind of opportunities, and form of treatment. Identical benefits, opportunities, or treatment are not required.

(Continued)

Students

**SUBJECT: SPORTS AND THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM (Cont'd.)**

The District's Title IX Coordinator(s) will coordinate the District's efforts to comply with its responsibilities under Title IX. This person will be appropriately trained and possess comprehensive knowledge about applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and policies. To the extent possible, the District will not designate an employee whose other job duties may create a conflict of interest, such as the athletic director.

**Booster Clubs**

The District has a responsibility under Title IX to ensure programs are provided with equivalent benefits, treatment, services, and opportunities regardless of their source. When determining equivalency, therefore, benefits, services, and opportunities attained through private funds—including donations, fundraising, and booster clubs—must be considered in combination with all benefits, services, and opportunities.

**Athletic Placement Process for Interschool Athletic Programs (APP) \***

The Board recognizes that the New York State Education Department (NYSED)/ New York Public High School Athletic Association's (NYSPHSAA) Athletic Placement Process was designed for mature and exceptionally skilled students to advance to a higher level of competition. The program is not to be used to fill positions on teams. It is aimed at the very few select students who can benefit from such placement because of their level of Physical and Emotional readiness and expertise. Only the exceptional athlete is permitted for classification to a higher level of competition. Based on this purpose the district's policy for eligibility to advance to a higher level of competition is as follows:

1. Students in seventh grade may not classify up to a high school team at any time if a Modified Program is offered in a given sport. Eighth graders who have successfully completed a year in a modified sport may attempt to classify up to JV in that same sport.
2. If no JV level is offered only then may students attempt to qualify for the Varsity level.
3. Requests for the Athletic Placement Process may be generated from one or more of the following: Director of Athletics, Physical Education teacher, coach or member of the family in question.
4. In order to be eligible for advanced level of competition students must:
  - a. Be in good academic standing
  - b. Pass all components of the fitness and maturity assessment.
5. Students who satisfy the requirements of the Athletic Placement Process in a particular sport may have to satisfy additional physical skills testing and/or maturity level ratings if they elect to participate in the Athletic Placement Process for another sport. Physical skills testing and maturity level are Athletic Placement Process sport specific. Athletic Placement results are valid for the duration of a student's enrollment in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade for that particular sport.
6. A student who does not meet the criteria as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader to selectively classify to a higher level may try again as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader for that particular sport. A student who does not qualify as a 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader may still try out for any of these teams when he/she reaches 9<sup>th</sup> grade, the age/grade appropriate level for Junior Varsity (JV) and Varsity, without taking the Athletic Placement Test.
7. A student may attempt to classify for one sport per season, Fall, Winter, Spring. Inability to qualify during one season does not preclude attempting to qualify during a subsequent season.

Students

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8. The Board directs the Superintendent to implement the procedures and maintain a file of those students deemed eligible as a result of the Athletic Placement Process and procedures.

**Student Athletic Injuries**

No injured student will be allowed to practice or play in an athletic contest. An appropriate medical professional should diagnose and treat an athlete's injuries. The coach should ensure that any player injured while under his or her care receives prompt and appropriate medical attention, and that all of the medical professional's treatment instructions are followed. The injured student has an obligation to promptly inform his or her coach of all injuries. No student will be allowed to practice or compete if there is a question whether they are in adequate physical condition. A physician's certification may be required before an athlete is permitted to return to practice or competition.

**Athletic Program-Safety**

The District will take reasonable steps to minimize physical risks posed to students participating in the interscholastic athletic program by:

- a) Requiring timely medical examinations of participants;
- b) Employing certified or licensed staff to coach all varsity, junior varsity, and modified practices and games;
- c) Providing or requiring certified or licensed officials to officiate all competitions;
- d) Ensuring that its players' equipment is safe and operates within the applicable manufacturers' guidelines;
- e) Ensuring that all home fields, courts, pools, tracks, and other areas where athletes practice, warm-up, or compete are safe and appropriate for use; and
- f) Providing professional development and training opportunities for all coaching staff.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 USC § 1681 et seq.

45 CFR Part 86

8 NYCRR §§ 135 and 136

NOTE: Refer also to Policies #3420 -- Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the District

#3421 -- Title IX and Sex Discrimination

#7520 -- Accidents and Medical Emergencies

#7522 -- Concussion Management