

2431 ATHLETIC COMPETITION (M)

M

The Board of Education recognizes the value of athletic competition for all students as an integral part of the school experience. Sports and other athletic activities provide opportunities to learn the values of competition and good sportsmanship.

For the purpose of this Policy, programs of athletic competition include all activities relating to competitive sports contests, games, events, or sports exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students when such events occur within or between schools within this district or with any schools outside this district. The programs of athletic competition shall include, but are not limited to, high school interscholastic athletic programs, middle school interscholastic athletic programs where school teams or squads play teams or squads from other school districts, and/or intramural athletic programs within a school or among schools in the district.

General Eligibility Standards

1. A student who wishes to participate in a program of athletic competition must submit, on a form provided by the district, the signed consent of his/~~or~~ her parent. The consent of the parent of a student who wishes to participate in a program of athletic competition will include an acknowledgment of the physical hazards that may be encountered in the activity in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-9.1(d) and (e).
2. Home schooled children are not eligible to participate in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition.
3. A student in grades 9-12 must maintain a satisfactory record of attendance to be eligible for participation in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition. A student who is in Non-Credit Status as defined in P/R 5200 *Attendance* shall be ineligible to participate in school district-sponsored programs of athletic competition.
4. A student who is absent for reason(s) other than an administratively excused absence on a school day may not participate in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition the afternoon or evening of that school day.
5. A student who is serving a Saturday, Internal, or External suspension may not participate in school district sponsored programs of athletic



competition during the time period in which he/she is serving the suspension.

Notice of all eligibility requirements shall be available to students.

High School Academic Eligibility Standards

To be eligible for participation in the interscholastic athletic program of a New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) member school, all high school students must meet, at a minimum, all the eligibility requirements of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of the NJSIAA. Home schooled children are not eligible to participate in the high school interscholastic athletic program of this district.

High school student participation in a program of interscholastic athletic competition including interscholastic cheerleading shall be governed by the following academic eligibility standards:

A. Course Credit Requirements

1. To be eligible for the first semester of a given school year, a student must pass 30 credits (25% of the total credits required for graduation) during the previous school year.
2. To be eligible for the second semester of a school year, a student must have a passing numerical average in at least 15 credits (12.5% of the total credits required for graduation) of the first semester subjects. Credits are determined as follows:

5 credit course =	2 1/2 credits
2 1/2 credit course =	1 1/4 credits
1 credit course =	1/2 credit

B. Second Semester Eligibility

If a student is eligible at the start of a season, he/she may complete the season.

C. Eligibility Rules for Students Transferring In

Students who transfer in during the first semester must have passed 25% of the credits required for graduation by the State of New Jersey during the immediately preceding academic year.



D. Eligibility Rules of NJSIAA

As a member school of the NJSIAA, all eligibility rules and participation requirements, as outlined in the NJSIAA Constitution and Bylaws (attached) will apply to Washington Township High School student athletes.

E. Summer School

Summer school credits are applicable toward credits necessary to maintain eligibility. Summer school credits must be completed and approved by the school before the sixth school day in the fall semester.

F. Monitoring of Student Eligibility

1. The Assistant Principal of Athletics and Student Activities, in cooperation with the Counseling Office, will review the eligibility of each student athlete prior to the start of each sports season. The eligibility of students involved in yearlong extra-curricular and co-curricular activities will be reviewed first in September and then in February after recording of the first semester grades.
2. It will be the responsibility of the coach/extra-curricular advisor/co-curricular advisor, in conjunction with the Assistant Principal of Athletics and Student Activities, to monitor the grades of all students who participate in any athletic/co-curricular/extra-curricular activity while that activity is "in season". Students who are experiencing academic difficulty should be advised to seek additional help in the subject(s) where the student is in danger of failing.

G. Ineligible Athletes

The Assistant Principal of Athletics and Student Activities will notify athletes of ineligibility and a counselor who notifies students about failures and summer school will advise said student of athletic ineligibility.

Health Requirements

1. Medical Home - means a health care provider and that provider's practice site chosen by the student's parent or legal guardian for the provision of health care.
2. School Physician - means a physician with a current license to practice medicine or osteopathy from the New Jersey Board of Examiners who works under a



contract or as an employee of the school district. The physician is also referred to as the medical inspector as per N.J.S.A. 18A:40-1.

Good physical condition, freedom from injury, and full recovery from illness are prerequisites to participation in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition. Information concerning a student's HIV/AIDS status shall not be required as a part of the medical examination or health history pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:5C-1 et seq.

Students enrolled in grades six to twelve must receive a medical examination, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.7, prior to participation in school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural programs of athletic competition, and any cheerleading program or activity.

The examinations shall be conducted within 365 days prior to the first day of official practice in an athletic season with examinations being conducted at the medical home of the student. The "medical home" is defined as a health care provider and that provider's practice site chosen by the student's parent for the provision of health care pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3. If a student does not have a medical home, the school district shall provide the examination at the school physician's office or other comparably equipped facility. The parent may choose either the school physician or their own private physician to provide this medical examination. The medical examination required prior to participation shall be in accordance with the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)1 and Regulation 2431.2 and shall be documented using the Preparticipation Physical Evaluation form required by the Department of Education.

The school district shall distribute the Commissioner of Education developed sudden cardiac arrest pamphlet to a student participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.e., and the student's parent(s) shall each year and prior to participation by the student in an athletic activity comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.d.

The school district shall annually distribute the Commissioner of Education developed educational fact sheet relative to use and misuse of opioid drugs for sports related injuries to parents of students who participate in athletic activities and comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.10.

Information concerning a student's HIV/AIDS status shall not be required as part of the medical examination or health history pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:5C-1 et seq. The health findings of this medical examination shall be maintained as part of the student's health record.



Emergency Procedures

Athletic coaches shall be trained in first aid, to include sports-related concussion and head injuries, the use of a defibrillator, the identification of studentathletes who are injured or disabled in the course of any athletic program or activity, and any other first aid procedures or other health-related trainings required by law or the Superintendent.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish and implement an emergency action plan for responding to a serious or potentially life-threatening sports-related injury in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.11. The plan shall document the proper procedures to be followed when a student sustains a serious injury while participating in sports or other athletic activity in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.11.

The emergency action plan shall be reviewed annually and updated as necessary. The plan shall be rehearsed annually in each school by the individuals who will be responsible for executing the plan in an emergency pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.11.

The Superintendent or designee shall prepare procedures for responding to a non-serious or non-life-threatening injury sustained by a student while participating in sports or other athletic activity. These procedures shall be reviewed annually, updated as necessary, and disseminated to appropriate staff members.

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 the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association as Board policy and shall review such rules on a regular basis 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 may inform the Board of changes in that schedule.

N.J.S.A. 2C:21-11

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3 et seq. 18A:40-41; 18A:40-41.10



POLICY

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7 (d); 6A:16-1.4; 6A:16-2.1 et seq.

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