

POLICY

SOUTH ORANGE MAPLEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Program
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ATHLETIC COMPETITION (M)

2431 ATHLETIC COMPETITION (M)

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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. ~~Sports and other Game athletic activities and practice sessions~~ provide opportunities to learn the values of competition and good sportsmanship. ~~Programs of athletic competition, both intrascholastic and interscholastic, offer students 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 programs of athletic competition includes all activities relating to competitive sports contests, games, ~~or events,~~ or sports exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students ~~of this district~~ when such events occur within ~~a single school or between separate 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, intramural athletic programs within a school or among schools in the district, and any cheerleading program or activity in the school district.~~ Such activities are not restricted to those sports regulated by the N.J.S.I.A.A., but include all physical activities in which the possibility of accident or injury may be anticipated, including, but not limited to, cheerleading.

Eligibility Standards

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~~ their parent/ ~~or legal~~ guardian. The consent of the parent/ ~~or legal~~ guardian of a student who wishes to participate in a program of athletic competition will ~~interscholastic athletics must~~ 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). ~~sport. In addition, students and parents/legal guardians shall sign a statement attesting that they have read and will abide by Policy 5512 Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying & Hazing.~~

Student participation in a program of athletic competition shall be governed by the following eligibility standards:

[For School Districts with High School Students and NJSIAA Athletics

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1. 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 School Options for High School Students and NJSIAA Athletics~~

~~Home schooled children are not eligible to participate in the high school interscholastic athletic program of this district.~~

Home schooled children and **children in out of district placements** are eligible to participate in the high school interscholastic athletic program of this district only if the school district, the parent/guardian, and the home schooled child comply with the Guidelines, Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of NJSIAA, and the policies and regulations of the Board of Education.

~~[Options for School Districts with Elementary and Middle School Students~~

- ~~2. A student in grades _____ through _____ is eligible for participation in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition if he/she passed all courses required for promotion or graduation in the preceding (semester, marking period, or other).~~

~~A student in grades _____ through _____ is eligible for participation in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition if he/she _____.~~

~~Home schooled children in grades _____ through _____ are (_____ eligible _____ not eligible) to participate in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition of this district.]~~

[Options for All Students

3. A student in any grade must maintain a satisfactory record of attendance to be eligible for participation in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition. An attendance record is unsatisfactory if the number of unexcused absences exceed 10 school days in the **current** school year, _____ marking period _____ semester _____ other during an athletic season, (i.e., Fall, Winter, or Spring) may be in danger of being removed

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~~from the athletic program and/or subject to a corrective action plan, prior to the student commencing participation in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition.~~

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~~A student who is absent (~~with an excused absence~~ with an unexcused absence) for a school day may not participate in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition the afternoon or evening of that school day.~~

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~~XX A student who is serving an (~~in school~~ out-of-school ~~in school~~ or out-of-school) suspension may not participate in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition while serving the suspension. Upon their return, their participation in competition would not take place until the coaching staff, along with the athletic trainer, determine that the student is fit to participate.~~

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- ~~4. A student in any grade who fails to observe school rules for student conduct may forfeit his/her eligibility for participation in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition.~~

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~~Notice of the school district's eligibility requirements shall be available to students.~~

- ~~1. 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 shall be eligible to participate in high school interscholastic athletic programs, provided that they comply with all N.J.S.I.A.A. policies and guidelines, as well as all District requirements, including but not limited to residence, academic, physical examination, insurance, age, and other requirements for participation as required of all students at the high school. The homeschooled student must adhere to the same standards of behavior, responsibilities, sportsmanship, and performance as other members of the team.~~

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~~Any student who withdraws from a public school program to enroll in a homeschool program, and who is ineligible for athletic competition at the time of the~~



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- ~~withdrawal from the public school program due to his/her failure to meet academic, behavioral or other eligibility standards, shall be ineligible to compete in interscholastic athletic competition.~~
- ~~The Superintendent is directed to establish procedures, to take effect for the 2015-2016 winter sports season, for home schooled children's participation in interscholastic athletics, in accord with this policy.~~
- ~~2. A student in grades 6 through 8 is eligible for participation in the school district sponsored athletic/sports program if unless he/she has been disqualified from such participation as a result of a violation of the code of student conduct.~~
- ~~Home schooled children are not eligible to participate in the school sponsored athletic/sports program of this district.~~
- ~~Notice of these eligibility requirements shall be given to students.~~
- **Health Requirements**
- ~~Good physical condition, freedom from injury, and full recovery from illness are prerequisites to participation in school district sponsored athletic/sports program and practice for such competition. HIV status shall not be screened as a part of athletic physicals or reported in school health records.~~
- ~~An examination of each candidate for a school athletic squad or team shall be conducted within 365 days prior to the first practice session. Examinations shall be conducted at the medical home of the student. A medical home is defined as the healthcare provider (physician or advanced practice nurse) and that provider's practice site chosen by the student's parent or guardian for the provision of healthcare. Because the school physician is a "health care provider," the student's parent or guardian may choose either the school physician or their own private physician to provide the medical examination.~~
- ~~All such medical examinations shall be conducted in accordance with N.J.S.A. 6A:16-2.2(h)1 and 2 and Regulation 2431.2. The medical report shall include a determination concerning the student's participation on an athletic team or squad from the examining physician, nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist, or physician's assistant. The medical report shall be~~

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- ~~provided to the school physician if the school physician did not provide the medical examination.~~
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- ~~If the student's medical examination was completed more than sixty (60) days prior to the first practice session, the student must provide a health history update of medical problems experienced since the last medical examination in accordance with N.J.A.C. 16A:16-2.2(h) 4. This health history must be completed and signed by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s).~~
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- ~~The school district will provide written notification to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), signed by the school physician, stating approval of the student's participation in the athletics, based solely on the medical report, or the written reasons for the school physician's disapproval of the student's participation. The school physician's signature on the notification form indicates that the medical report complies with the findings of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.1(h)5.~~
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- ~~The health findings of this medical examination shall be maintained as part of the student's health record.~~
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- ~~The medical examination conducted to determine the fitness of a candidate for athletic competition and the health history update must include, as a minimum, the respective medical history information and physical assessments set forth in rules of the State Board of Education and incorporated in their entirety in regulations implementing this policy.~~

Required Examinations – Interscholastic or Intramural Team or Squad

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 on a school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural team or squad and any cheerleading program or activity.

The examination 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/guardian 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/guardian may choose either the school physician or their own private physician to provide this medical examination. The medical examination required

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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)/guardian(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.

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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/guardians of students who participate in athletic activities and comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.10.

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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

All athletic coaches engaged in any activity defined in the introductory paragraphs of this policy shall be trained in first aid to include sports-related concussion and head injuries, the use of a defibrillator, and in the identification of student-athletes who are injured or disabled in the course of any athletic program activity, and any other first aid procedures or other health related trainings required by law or the Superintendent.

[Required for School Districts with any of the Grades Six through Twelve]

The Superintendent or designee shall establish and implement an emergency action plan for responding to a serious or 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.

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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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 shall require the Superintendent or designee of the Superintendent to review the athletic emergency procedures approved by each district in which students of this district will compete.~~

The Board adopts the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (<http://www.njsiaa.org>) 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.

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[For School Districts with High School Students and NJSIAA Athletics

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.]

[District may choose one of the following options if above is included:

_____ and may inform the Board of changes in that schedule.

_____ and shall request Board approval of any changes in the schedule.]

~~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.~~



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[N.J.S.A. 2C:21-11](#)
[N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3 et seq.; 18A:40-41; 18A:40-41.10; 18A:40-41.11](#)
[N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7\(d\); 6A:16-1.3; 6A:16-2.1 et seq.; 6A:32-9.1](#)

~~[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.](#)~~

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