

## 2431 ATHLETIC COMPETITION

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. Game activities and practice sessions provide opportunities to learn the values of competition and good sportsmanship. Programs of athletic competition, both intrascholastic and interscholastic, offer pupils 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 program of athletic competition includes all activities relating to competitive sports contests, games, or events or sports exhibitions involving individual pupils or teams of pupils 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. 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 pupil who wishes to participate in athletic competition must submit, on a form provided by the district, the signed consent of his or her parent or legal guardian. The consent of the parent or legal guardian of a pupil who wishes to participate in interscholastic athletics must include an acknowledgment of the physical hazards that may be encountered in the 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.

Pupil participation in athletic competition shall be governed by the following eligibility standards:

For School Districts with High School Pupils

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 pupils 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 are not~~ eligible to participate in ~~the~~ high school interscholastic athletic programs, provided that they comply with all N.J.S.I.A.A. policies and guidelines, as well as all -of this dDistrict 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.-

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 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.

For Schools with Elementary and Middle School Pupils

2. A pupil 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 pupils.

#### 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 pupil. 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 pupil'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 provided to the school physician if the school physician did not provide the medical examination.

If the pupil's medical examination was completed more than sixty (60) days prior to the first practice session, the pupil 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).

The school district will provide written notification to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), signed by the school physician, stating approval of the pupil's participation in the athletics, based solely on the medical report, or the written reasons for the school physician's disapproval of the pupil'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.

The health findings of this medical examination shall be maintained as part of the pupil's health record.

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.

#### Emergency Procedures

All athletic coaches engaged in any activity defined in the introductory paragraphs of this policy shall be trained in first aid and in the identification of pupil athletes who are injured or disabled in the course of any athletic activity.

The Superintendent shall 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.

#### 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 pupils 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/REFERENCES/11-12ConstitutionByLaw.pdf>) 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.

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.

Cross References: 2425, 5310, 5450, 5512, 6630, 8441, Student Handbooks

Initial Adoption: November 3, 2003

| Subsequent Adoptions: July 18, 2011 & May 14, 2012

| First Reading: March 16, 2015 ~~April 23, 2012~~

| Second Reading: ~~May 14, 2012~~

| Latest Adoption: ~~May 14, 2012~~