



POLICY

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2431 Athletic Competition

The Board of Education recognizes the value of athletic competition as an integral part of the total 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, intramural athletic programs within a school or among schools in the district, and any cheerleading program or activity in the school district.

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/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).

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

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.
2. Home schooled children are eligible to participate in the high school interscholastic athletic program of this district only if the school district, the parent, 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.
3. A student in grades 6 through 8 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 marking period.
4. Home schooled children in grades 6 through 12 are eligible to participate in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition of this district.



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5. A student in school by 9:30 a.m. and remains there for four hours is eligible to participate in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition the afternoon or evening of that school day. The principal has discretion based on the nature of doctor notes and funerals etc.
6. A student who is serving either in-school or out-of-school suspension may not participate in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition while serving the suspension.
7. 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.

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

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 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.



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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

Athletic coaches shall be trained in first aid to include sports-related concussion and head injuries, the use of a defibrillator, the identification of student-athletes 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 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 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 ; 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



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Adopted: 9/17/2013

BOE Revised Date: 11/19/2020
BOE Approved Date: 9/27/2018



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R 2431.1 EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR SPORTS AND OTHER ATHLETIC ACTIVITY

A. Definitions

1. “Athletic Activity” means interscholastic athletics; an athletic contest or competition, other than interscholastic athletics, that is sponsored by or associated with a school district or nonpublic school, including cheerleading and club-sponsored sports activities; and any practice or interschool practice or scrimmage for those activities
2. “Health personnel” means the school nurse, the school medical inspector, the designated team doctor, a licensed physician, the licensed athletic trainer and members of the first aid squad or ambulance team.
3. “Parent” means the natural parent(s) or adoptive parent(s), legal guardian(s), foster parent(s) or parent surrogate(s) of a student. Where parents are separated or divorced, "parent" means the person or agency who has legal custody of the student, as well as the natural or adoptive parent(s) of the student, provided such parental rights have not been terminated by a court of appropriate jurisdiction.

B. Precautions

1. All coaches, including assistant coaches, and all staff who supervise sports and other athletic activity will be trained in first aid to include sports-related concussions and head injuries, the identification of injured and disabled student athletes, and any other first aid procedures required by statute, administrative code, or by the Superintendent.
2. Athletic coaches or supervising staff members are responsible at all times for the supervision of students to whom they have been assigned. Students shall not be left unattended at any time.
3. Students who participate in athletic competition shall be trained in proper athletic procedures, in the proper use of athletic equipment, and in the proper use of protective equipment and clothing.
4. Student athletes shall be required to report promptly to the athletic coach or supervising staff member any injury occurring to the student himself/herself or to another student.
5. First aid supplies and equipment shall be readily available at all athletic activities and shall be maintained in proper condition.



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6. First aid and emergency medical procedures will utilize universal precautions in handling blood and body fluids as indicated in Policy and Regulation No. 7420 and Regulation No. 7420.1.
7. Health personnel, including but not limited to, the licensed athletic trainer, school/team physician, and ambulance/first aid squad may be present at athletic activities and events as determined by the Superintendent.

C. Emergency Action Plan and Procedures

The following procedures shall be implemented whenever a student athlete is injured or disabled in the course of an athletic practice or competition sponsored by this district.

1. The Board of a school district with any of the grades six through twelve 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. The plan shall be specific to the activity site, and shall be developed in consultation with local emergency medical services personnel in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.11.
2. The following emergency action plan shall be established and implemented whenever a student is seriously injured when participating in sports or other athletic activity. The emergency action plan shall include the following:
 - a. A list of the employees, team coaches, and licensed athletic trainers in each school who are trained in first aid or cardio-pulmonary resuscitation;
 - b. Identification of the employees, team coaches, or licensed athletic trainers in each school who will be responsible for carrying out the emergency action plan and a description of their respective responsibilities;
 - c. Identification of the activity location or venue;
 - d. Identification of the equipment and supplies that may be needed to respond to the emergency, including the location of each item; and
 - e. A description of the proper procedures to be followed after a student sustains a serious or life threatening sports-related injury including, but not limited to, responding to the injured student, summoning emergency medical care, assisting emergency responders in getting to the injured student, and documenting the actions taken during the emergency.



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3. 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.
4. The proper procedures to be followed after a student sustains a serious or life-threatening sports-related injury while participating in sports or other athletic activity shall include, but not be limited to, the following components:
 - a. The athletic coach or supervising staff member shall immediately notify the health personnel present at the activity and the health personnel shall assume responsibility for the emergency treatment of the student.
 - b. If no health personnel are present, or if none can be immediately summoned to the student's aid, the athletic coach or supervising staff member shall administer such first aid as may be necessary.
 - c. If the student's injury requires more than routine first aid, the athletic coach or supervising staff member shall:
 - (1) Summon emergency personnel by calling 911; or
 - (2) Arrange for the student's transportation to the nearest hospital or the office of the school physician.
 - d. The athletic coach or supervising staff member shall promptly notify the Building Principal, the Superintendent, and the student's parent(s) of the student's injury or disability and the condition and location of the student.
 - e. An injured or disabled student who has been transported away from school premises must be accompanied by the athletic coach or supervising staff member, a member of the athletic department, a health professional, or other responsible adult known to the athletic coach or supervising staff member.
5. These emergency procedures shall may be followed when the injured or disabled student is a member of a visiting team or district. In the event the visiting team has health personnel or staff members present, every effort shall be made to cooperate with the health personnel and/or staff of the district in which the student is enrolled.



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D. Non-Serious or Non-Life-Threatening Injuries During an Athletic Program or Activity

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 and updated as necessary and shall be disseminated to appropriate staff members.

E. Reports

1. The athletic coach or supervising staff member shall complete and file a report of every injury that occurs to a student in the course of his/her participation in sports or other athletic activity regardless of the severity of the injury. The report shall include:
 - a. The date of the incident;
 - b. The name, age, grade level, of each injured student;
 - c. The district in which the student is enrolled;
 - d. The name and district of each student involved in the incident;
 - e. A narrative account of the incident;
 - f. A detailed description of the injury;
 - g. The treatment given on school premises and the names of the health personnel, if any, who treated the student.
 - h. The place, if any, to which the student was taken and the persons who accompanied the student; and
 - i. How the notice was provided to the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
2. Copies of the report shall be filed with the school nurse and the Building Principal within twenty-four hours or by the end of the next school day after the incident.
3. The Building Principal shall report the incident to the Superintendent, who may report the incident to the Board.
4. A copy of each report of an incident of student injury that occurs in the course of the sport or other athletic activity shall be maintained by the Principal or designee, who shall analyze reports for patterns that indicate a need for revision of the



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district's safety and/or athletics program. The Principal or designee shall report the findings of his/her analysis to the Superintendent on an annual basis.

5. The parent of each injured or disabled student will be given assistance in the completion and filing of insurance claim forms.

F. Readmission to Athletic Activities

A student who sustains a serious or potentially life-threatening injury while participating in a sport or other athletic activity will be permitted to resume participation upon submission of written medical clearance from the student's medical home, which shall be subject to review by school district health personnel. Written notice of that determination, approved by the school health personnel as appropriate, shall be given to the student's parents.

The prevention and treatment of suspected sports-related concussions and head injuries shall be in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.1 et seq. and Policy and Regulation 2431.4.