

SUBJECT: SPORTS AND THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Athletics are an integral part of a well balanced educational program. Therefore, the Board supports within its resources a broad sports program with equal access for both males and females, with emphasis on maximum participation, through interscholastic and intramural activity.

The interscholastic athletic program shall conform to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education as well as the established rules of the New York State Public High Schools Athletic Association and the State Education Department.

Eligibility for interscholastic athletic competition requires that the students:

- a) Provide written parental/guardian consent;
- b) Pass satisfactorily the medical examination administered by the school physician/nurse practitioner or the student's personal physician. The school physician retains final approval on all physicals performed by the student's personal physician; and
- c) Meet the requirements for interscholastic competition as set forth by the Commissioner's Regulations and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

Selection/Classification Process

The Board approves the use of the selection/classification process for all secondary school interscholastic team members. The Board directs the Superintendent to implement the procedures and maintain a file of those students deemed eligible as a result of those procedures.

Student Athletic Injuries

No student should be allowed to practice or play in an athletic contest if he/she is suffering from an injury. The diagnosis of and prescription of treatment for injuries is strictly a medical matter and should under no circumstances be considered within the province of the coach. A coach's responsibility is to see that injured players are given prompt and competent medical attention, and that all details of a doctor's instructions concerning the student's functioning as a team member are carried out. No student will be allowed to practice or compete if there is a question whether he/she is in adequate physical condition.

A physician's certificate may be required before an athlete is permitted to return to practice or competition.

(Continued)

SUBJECT: SPORTS AND THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM (Cont'd.)**Athletic Program - Safety**

The District will take reasonable steps to see that physical risks to students participating in the interscholastic athletic program shall be kept at a minimum by:

- a) Requiring medical examinations of participants;
- b) Obtaining appropriately certified and/or licensed officials to coach all varsity, junior varsity, and modified games.
- c) Ensuring that equipment is both safe and operative within approved guidelines.

8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations
(NYCRR) Section 135

Students

SUBJECT: MIXED COMPETITION ON INTERSCHOOL ATHLETIC TEAMS

In accordance with Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, the Board of Education seeks to preserve the health and safety of students while assuring that students of both sexes have the opportunity to participate successfully in interschool athletic competition. Athletic opportunity in mixed competition will be allowed under the conditions set forth in Commissioner's Regulations and as enumerated in District policy and accompanying regulations.

Equal opportunity to participate in interschool competition, either on separate teams or in mixed competition on the same team, shall be provided to male and female students, except as enumerated in Commissioner's Regulations and as indicated below. Where separate competition is not provided for male and female students in a specific sport, no student shall be excluded from such competition solely by reason of sex, except in accordance with Commissioner's Regulations.

In the sports of baseball, basketball, boxing, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, softball, speedball, team handball, power volleyball where the height of the net is set at less than eight feet, and wrestling, the fitness of a given student to participate in mixed competition shall be determined by a review panel consisting of the school physician, a physical education teacher designated by the building principal, and if requested by the parents/guardians of the student, a physician selected by such parents/guardians. Such review panel shall make its determination by majority vote of the members, and in accordance with standards and criteria issued by the State Education Department.

Where separate competition is provided for male and female students in interschool athletic competition in a specific sport the Superintendent of Schools may permit females to participate on a team organized for males. However, where separate competition is provided, males may not participate on teams organized for females.

Where separate competition is not provided for male and female students in interschool athletic competition in a specific sport, the Superintendent of Schools may decline to permit males to participate on a team organized for females upon finding that such participation would have a significant adverse effect upon the opportunity of females to participate successfully in interschool competition in that sport.

In those instances where a student wishes to participate in mixed competition (e.g., a female athlete wishing to play on the male football team), the dates for filing an application shall be:

(Continued)

Students

SUBJECT: MIXED COMPETITION ON INTERSCHOOL ATHLETIC TEAMS (Cont'd.)

_____ for Fall Sports
(Date)

_____ for Winter Sports
(Date)

_____ for Spring Sports
(Date)

The above dates are established to provide sufficient time to review applications and assemble the review panel as may be necessary. The decision of the review panel shall be final.

Administrative regulations will be developed to implement the terms of this policy.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
20 United States Code (USC) Section 1681 et seq.
Executive Law Article 15 ("Human Rights Law")
Education Law Section 3201-a
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations
(NYCRR) Sections 100.2(k) and 135.4(c)(7)(ii)(c)

Adopted: 8/22/06

Students

SUBJECT: SPECIAL PROCEEDING TO DETERMINE THE PHYSICAL CAPACITY OF STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Upon the District's determination that a student will not be permitted to participate in an athletic program by reason of a physical impairment based on a medical examination conducted by the school physician, the student may commence a special proceeding in State Supreme Court to enjoin the School District from prohibiting his/her participation. Such special proceeding may be brought in the county in which the student resides or in the county in which the School District is located.

The petition shall be a verified petition of the parent or guardian of the student and the petition shall also have annexed affidavits of at least two (2) licensed physicians setting forth that, in their opinion, the student is physically capable of participating in an athletic program, that participation would be reasonably safe, and what, if any, special or preventive measures are needed to protect the student.

The court shall grant such petition if it is satisfied that it is in the best interest of the student to participate in an athletic program and that it is reasonably safe for him/her to do so. The District shall not be held liable for any injury sustained by a student granted such court order, provided that the injury is incurred during the student's actual participation in such court ordered athletic program and, further, that such injury is attributable to the physical impairment for which the court order was obtained.

Unless specifically prohibited by the court an order granted pursuant to such special proceeding shall be considered valid and sufficient for subsequent years, provided that the student has not changed athletic programs and, further, that two (2) licensed physicians set forth current affidavits that, in their opinion, the student's physical impairment has not changed since the time of the original court order.

In no event shall a successful petitioner be entitled to costs in any such special proceedings.

Further, the District shall not be responsible for providing or bearing the cost of any special or preventive measures or devices needed to protect the student unless such special or preventive measures or devices are contained in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) recommended by the Committee on Special Education and such student is determined to have a disability as defined in Education Law Section 4401.

In accordance with the applicable provision of Education Law, a physically impaired child eligible to commence such a special proceeding shall be defined as any child determined by the school physician as ineligible for participation in an athletic program on the basis of State Education Department Regulations, the American Medical Association Guide for Medical Evaluation for Candidates for School Sports, or by any standard established by the School District.

(Continued)

Students

SUBJECT: SPECIAL PROCEEDING TO DETERMINE THE PHYSICAL CAPACITY OF STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETIC PROGRAMS (Cont'd.)

In accordance with the applicable provision of Education Law, an athletic program shall include intramural activities, interschool activities, extramural activities, and organized practice as defined pursuant to Commissioner's Regulations.

Education Law Sections 3208-a, 4401 and 4402
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations
(NYCRR) Sections 100.2(k), 135.1 and 200.2(b)(1)
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973,
29 United States Code (USC) Section 794 et seq.
Americans With Disabilities Act,
42 United States Code (USC) Section 12101 et seq.
Individuals With Disabilities Education Act,
20 United States Code (USC) Section 1400 et seq.

Adopted: 8/22/06