

POLICY

2015

7420 7520
1 of 3

Students

New

SUBJECT: SPORTS AND THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

General Principles and Eligibility

Athletics are an integral part of a well-balanced educational program. The District's interscholastic athletic program will conform with the Commissioner's regulations, as well as the established rules of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association and the State Education Department.

Athletic eligibility requires that the student:

- a) Provide written parental/guardian consent. The consent form must contain information regarding mild traumatic brain injuries (concussions) as specified in the Commissioner's regulations.
- b) Obtain medical clearance from the school physician/nurse practitioner or the student's personal physician. The school physician/nurse practitioner retains final approval on any physicals performed by a student's personal physician.
- 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.
- d) Comply with all District rules, codes, and standards applicable to athletic participation.

Title IX Compliance

The Board supports equal athletic opportunities for members of both sexes through interscholastic and intramural activities. To ensure equal athletic opportunities for its students, the District will consider:

- a) Its accommodation of athletic interests and abilities (the nature and extent of sports offered, including levels of competition, team competition, and team performance);
- b) Equipment and supplies;
- c) Scheduling of games and practice time;
- d) Travel costs and opportunities for travel;
- e) Assignment and compensation of coaches;
- f) Locker rooms, practice, and competitive facilities;
- g) Available medical and training facilities and services; and

(Continued)

POLICY

2015

Students

7420 7520
2 of 3

new

SUBJECT: SPORTS AND THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM (Cont'd.)

- h) The nature and extent of support, publicity, and promotion, including cheerleading, bands, programs distributed at games, and booster club activities.

The District may consider other pertinent factors as well. Each of the factors will be assessed by comparing availability, quality, type of benefits, kind of opportunities, and form of treatment. Identical benefits, opportunities, or treatment are not required.

The District's Civil Rights Compliance Officer will coordinate the District's efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX. This person will be appropriately trained and possess comprehensive knowledge about applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and policies. To the extent possible, the District will not designate an employee whose other job duties may create a conflict of interest, such as the athletic director.

Booster Clubs

The District has a responsibility under Title IX to ensure that boys' and girls' programs are provided with equivalent benefits, treatment, services, and opportunities regardless of their source. When determining equivalency, therefore, benefits, services, and opportunities attained through private funds-including donations, fundraising, and booster clubs-must be considered in combination with all benefits, services, and opportunities.

Athletic Placement Process for Interschool Athletic Programs (APP)*

The APP is a method for evaluating students who want to participate in sports at higher or lower levels, consistent with their physical and emotional maturity, size, fitness level, and skills. The Board approves the use of the APP for all secondary school interscholastic team members. The Superintendent will implement procedures for the APP, and will direct the athletic director to maintain records of students who have successfully completed the APP.

Student Athletic Injuries

No injured student will be allowed to practice or play in an athletic contest. An appropriate medical professional should diagnose and treat an athlete's injuries. The coach should ensure that any player injured while under his or her care receives prompt and appropriate medical attention, and that all of the medical professional's treatment instructions are followed. The injured student has an obligation to promptly inform his or her coach of all injuries. 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 certification may be required before an athlete is permitted to return to practice or competition.

~~*District Option -- to adopt a policy that allows 7th and 8th grade students to try out for a high school team, or that allows high school students to play at the modified level~~

(Continued)

POLICY

2015

Students

7420
3 of 3 7520

New

SUBJECT: SPORTS AND THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM (Cont'd.)

Athletic Program-Safety

The District will take reasonable steps to minimize physical risks posed to students participating in the interscholastic athletic program by:

- a) Requiring timely medical examinations of participants;
- b) Employing certified or licensed staff to coach all varsity, junior varsity, and modified practices and games;
- c) Providing or requiring certified or licensed officials to officiate all competitions;
- d) Ensuring that its players' equipment is safe and operates within the applicable manufacturers' guidelines;
- e) Ensuring that all home fields, courts, pools, tracks, and other areas where athletes practice, warm-up, or compete are safe and appropriate for use; and
- f) Providing professional development and training opportunities for all coaching staff.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 USC Section 1681 et seq.
45 CFR Part 86
8 NYCRR Sections 135 and 136

NOTE: Refer also to Policies #3420 -- Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the School District
#7522 -- Concussion Management

Adoption Date



ATHLETIC PLACEMENT PROCESS
PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION

(Page 1 of 2)

Dear Parent/Guardian:

There is a New York State Education Department (NYSED) program that permits physically and emotionally appropriate students to try out for an athletic team that is outside of their grade placement. It is called the Athletic Placement Process (APP).

Your child (name): _____ may be eligible to participate in the sport of _____ outside of his or her normal grade level. In order to establish the appropriate eligibility, we must have your permission to begin the APP.

This evaluation is a comprehensive evaluation of your child's emotional and physical maturity (including height and weight); as well as athletic abilities, physical fitness, and sport-specific athletic skill in relationship to other student athletes at that level.

Physical maturity is determined by the district medical director during a physical exam, using the Tanner Scale. The Tanner Scale requires the inspection of the entire body, including the breasts and genitals. The district does/does not accept Tanner ratings from private medical providers. The district does/does not accept a history of menarche for girls in place of a physical examination. Upon passing the medical clearance, the student may proceed to the physical fitness and skill assessments. Students must pass all levels in order to meet the requirements of the APP.

If your child successfully meets the requirements of the APP, he/she will be allowed to try out for competitive high school athletics during 7th and/or 8th grade(s), or compete at the modified level if in grades 9-12. Under normal circumstances, a student is eligible for senior high school athletic competition in a sport for only four consecutive seasons, beginning with the student's entry into the ninth grade. However, by meeting the Athletic Placement Process requirements established by NYSED, your child's eligibility can be extended to permit:

- a) participation during five consecutive seasons in the approved sport after entry into the eighth grade; or
- b) participation during six consecutive seasons in the approved sport after entry into the seventh grade.

It is important for you and your child to understand that, once the requirements are met and if he/she is accepted as a member of the team, he/she cannot return to a lower-level team (modified) in that sport in that season. Remember, at the higher level of play your child will be exposed to the social atmosphere that is common among older students in a high school environment. Therefore, it is important to take into account your child's ability to handle the additional demands.

Please feel free to contact me regarding this program or to discuss any aspect of your child's athletic placement. If you agree to allow your child's participation in this program, please sign and return the parental permission form to my office.

Sincerely,

Physical Education Director and/or Athletic Director

ATHLETIC PLACEMENT PROCESS

PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION

PARENT/GUARDIAN STATEMENT

I have read the attached letter and I understand the purpose and eligibility implications of the Athletic Placement Process.

My son/daughter (name): _____ has my permission to undergo the evaluation process and to participate in this program. I understand that the determination of physical maturity is a private examination involving inspection of breasts and genitals and will be done by a licensed school health professional, and I give my permission for the examination. Upon passing the medical clearance, he/she may proceed to the physical fitness and skill assessments. I understand that passing the evaluation process does not guarantee my child a position on a team, but only permits them to try out.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

ATHLETIC PLACEMENT PROCESS

PHYSICAL MATURITY FORM

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND/OR ATHLETIC DIRECTOR:

Student's Name _____ Grade _____

Home Address _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Age _____ Gender: Male Female

Parental/Guardian Permission Form Received: Yes Date Received _____

Desired Level: Varsity Jr. Varsity Frosh Modified

Desired Sport: _____ ***Recommended Tanner Rating for this sport and level** _____ * See Appendix H

SCREENING PROCEDURES- THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE DISTRICT MEDICAL DIRECTOR (OR BY PRIVATE MEDICAL PROVIDER FOR REVIEW BY THE DISTRICT MEDICAL DIRECTOR IF PERMITTED)

A. TANNER SCORE AND HEIGHT/WEIGHT ASSESSMENT COMPLETED BY:

District Medical Director Private Medical Provider

EXAM DATE: _____

PROVIDER NAME _____

CIRCLE THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENTAL STAGE OF THE STUDENT, USING THE TANNER SCALE:

1 2 3 4 5

B. ALTERNATIVE TO TANNER EXAMINATION FOR FEMALES ONLY (If accepted by district):

Onset of Menarche = Tanner Stage 5

C. HEIGHT _____ WEIGHT _____

D. CHECK APPROPRIATE BOXES BELOW AND RETURN FORM TO THE DIRECTOR OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ATHLETICS. (See Appendix H)

Student is cleared not cleared for the sport of: _____

at the following level: Modified Freshman Junior Varsity Varsity

SIGNED _____ DATE ____/____/____
District Medical Director

OLD

2015

7520
1 of 3

Students

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 an emphasis on maximum participation, through interscholastic and intramural activity. The District will comply with recommendations from the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) regarding Title IX equal opportunity for males and females in the District's total athletic program regarding any of the following factors which may be applicable:

- a) The nature and extent of the sports program to be offered (including the levels of competition, such as varsity, club, etc.);
- b) The provision of equipment and supplies;
- c) The scheduling of games and practice time;
- d) The provision of travel and per diem allowances;
- e) The nature and extent of the opportunity to receive coaching and academic tutoring;
- f) The assignment and compensation of coaches and tutors;
- g) The provision of locker rooms, practice and competitive facilities;
- h) The provision of medical and training facilities and services;
- i) The provision of housing and dining facilities and services; and
- j) The nature and extent of support, publicity and promotion including cheerleading, bands, published programs distributed at games, and booster club activities.

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. A consent form for a student's participation in interscholastic sports must contain information regarding mild traumatic brain injuries (concussions) as specified in Commissioner's Regulations;

(Continued)

Students

SUBJECT: SPORTS AND THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM (Cont'd.)

- b) Pass the medical examination administered by the school physician/nurse practitioner or the student's personal physician. The school physician/nurse practitioner 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.

Booster Clubs

The School District has a responsibility under Title IX to ensure that boys' and girls' programs are provided with equivalent benefits, treatment, services and opportunities regardless of their source. When determining equivalency, benefits, services and opportunities attained through the use of private funds (e.g., "booster clubs"), such funds are considered in combination with all benefits, services and opportunities.

Private fundraising, including student-initiated fundraising, is permissible under Title IX. Further, compliance with Title IX does not mean that teams must "share" proceeds from fundraising activities. It does, however, place a responsibility on the District to ensure that benefits, services, treatment and opportunities overall, regardless of funding sources, are equivalent for male and female athletes.

In accordance with OCR, in order for the District to be in continuing compliance with Title IX requirements, the District must assure that services, benefits and opportunities in its athletic programs are provided on an equivalent basis to both boys and girls, including those services, benefits and opportunities that are provided through the use of outside financial assistance such as donations, fundraising by coaches, and booster clubs.

Athletic Placement Process

The Board approves the use of the Athletic Placement for all secondary school interscholastic team members. Qualifying athletes are exceptional athletes as defined by coaches who recognize a compelling skill level superior to their peer group. 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

(Continued)

SUBJECT: SPORTS AND THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM (Cont'd.)

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.

Concussions

A student who has sustained or is believed to have sustained a mild traumatic brain injury (concussion) must be immediately removed from athletic activities. If there is any doubt, it shall be presumed that the student is so injured until proven otherwise. Before being permitted to return to athletic activity, a student must be symptom free for not less than twenty-four (24) hours and have been evaluated by and received written and signed authorization from a licensed physician. Additionally, for extra class athletic activities, a student must have received clearance from the School District Medical Director to participate in such activity.

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 staff to coach all varsity, junior varsity, and modified games, along with certified and/or licensed officials to referee all such competitions;
- c) Ensuring that equipment is both safe and operative within approved guidelines; and
- d) Providing professional development and training opportunities for all coaching staff.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 United States Code (USC) Section 1681 et seq.
45 Code of Federal Regulations Part 86
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) Sections 135 and 136

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #7522 -- Concussion Management

Adopted: 1988

Revised: 3/14/06; 12/2/08; 6/12/12; 12/10/13; 2/24/15