

INTRAMURAL AND INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Intramural and interscholastic athletics for boys and girls is an integral and desirable part of the district's school educational program. Interscholastic individual and team sports shall be based upon comprehensive physical education instruction and intramural activities, seeking broad participation from all eligible secondary students. Lifetime or carry-over sports are to be particularly encouraged and supported. Parity in the number and kind of sports activities for girls and boys is a clear objective of the district.

In recruiting, selecting and retaining coaches, the Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics shall seek individuals who model integrity, decency, respect and intelligence. Coaches should have a demonstrated interest and competence in the sport(s) they are coaching as well as the ability to inspire young people. They should possess the capacity or potential to be superior teachers and to build effective teams and programs. Students participating in interscholastic athletics will be committed to meeting the defined expectations of team membership.

A well-coordinated program of athletics is vital to student learning. The board encourages parents to share in their child's education by attending games and modeling positive, constructive support. Further information regarding expectations, protocol for dealing with concerns and problems, and athletic department philosophies and procedures are available in the district's Interscholastic Guide for Parents and Athletes.

Competitiveness is an essential element of sport. A thriving interscholastic athletic program naturally attentive to wins and losses, points with pride to the qualities of character, competence, civility and citizenship demonstrated by its student athletes.

Elementary and Middle School

The Board of Education believes that it is the purpose of athletics to provide the benefits of competitive experiences to as large a number of students as possible. To this end, on the elementary level, the Board endorses the practice of intramural competition only.

Middle School

The interscholastic sports philosophy for middle school students shall be based on the premise that all students who wish to have an opportunity to participate in an interscholastic sport will be provided with that opportunity as long as there are adequate facilities to expand teams based on enrollment. The athletic department will consider the needs of the students ahead of what changes must be made in regrouping students, obtaining coaches, and developing schedules for our middle school population.

The Athletic Placement Process to allow seventh and eighth grade students to participate in high school athletics is designed so that only very talented, highly skilled and academically sound pupils will be considered for advancement. The program cannot be used

to allow students to gain experience or play because there is no middle school athletic program offered in the sport. Additionally, the program cannot be used to promote pupils to higher levels on a routine basis or for the purpose of filling positions on a team.

The Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics shall be responsible for ensuring that the intent of the Athletic Placement Process as defined by the Board of Education and State Education Department is implemented.

High School

The Board endorses an interscholastic program on the high school level, but also encourages a strong intramural program. While the Board takes great pride in the athletic accomplishments of district students, it does not condone “winning at any cost,” and frowns upon any and all pressures which would subordinate good sportsmanship and good mental health to the desire to win.

It is the express desire of the Board that the Superintendent and administrative staff schedule frequent conferences with all physical education instructors and coaches to develop a constructive approach to physical education and athletics throughout the school system, and to maintain a program which encourages challenging sequences throughout the child’s educational experience. It is also the desire to integrate physical education across all subject areas.

Student eligibility for participating on interscholastic teams shall include:

1. proof of physical examination before student may practice;
2. written parent or guardian consent (the written consent will contain information for parents on traumatic brain injury (TBI) and will provide a link to the State Education Department’s web page on TBI);
3. endorsement by the Building Principal based on established rules and various league and State Education Department regulations;
4. student may not be failing two or more subjects prior to and during the sport season (for fall sports the last marking period prior, will determine eligibility)
5. participation in fund raising is not an eligibility

requirement Athletic Practices and Games – Certain Days

The Board wishes to ensure that interscholastic contests or team practices shall not be scheduled in such a way as to conflict with the Holy Day observances of students of various religious faiths.

Consequently, on the following religious Holy Days, no contests and limited Varsity practices only may take place, excusing students for religious observances without penalty.

Rosh Hashanah
Yom Kippur
Christmas Eve
Christmas

Holy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter
First Day of Passover

In keeping with this philosophy, and to further the concept of reserving at least one day a week when parents may know that no school activities will interfere with family plans, the Board directs that no contests or practices shall take place on at least one day per week. In some situations, Sunday games and practices may be considered, but teams may not practice seven consecutive days without Board permission.

Individual Athletic Competition

In order to make it possible for individuals to compete in interscholastic competition in areas where the district does not maintain an athletic team, the following shall be in effect:

Any qualified district student who wishes to compete in an interscholastic sport in which the school does not currently maintain a team may do so as an individual competitor.

To do so the individual must meet the following requirements:

1. meet all the requirements as set forth by Section IX including those listed in the provisions of the Section IX of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Inc. handbook entitled "Individual Competitors";
2. follow all district policies for team members as to expected student conduct at any time they are representing the school district;
3. have an approved sports physical, given by a district physician, prior to seasonal competition; and
4. both parent and student sign an insurance waiver limiting the district's liability.

The school district shall, in turn, supply:

1. permission to compete as a representative of the district, so the student will be eligible for competition;
2. an appropriate warm-up and competition suit if required; and
3. appropriate team fees not to exceed \$200.00 per school year.

The district shall not be responsible for any other expenses incurred by the individual competitor including, but not limited to those for supervision, chaperoning, coaching, transportation, equipment, or personal expenses.

Combining of Athletic Sports Teams

New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) recognizes sports that are considered either individual or team sports. There are two types of combining of sports permitted between NYSPHSAA member schools called “shadowing” and “mergers.”

Shadowing: Combining of teams as a “shadow” will be considered by Kingston City School District (KCSD) in all individual sports (boys & girls swimming, golf, skiing, indoor track, gymnastics). KCSD will expect a chaperone or coach from the other/shadowing high school to accompany these shadowing athletes at all practices/contests.

Any combining of teams request as a shadow must be made by an authorized person from the requested NYSPHSAA member school to the KCSD Athletic Director. Combining of teams shadow requests must be submitted to the KCSD Athletic Director in writing at least three (3) months prior to the start of that sport’s season. All approved shadow schools will be expected to cover any and all associated costs pertaining to travel, facilities and referee fees associated with the combining of schools.

Mergers: Combining of teams as a merger will only be considered by KCSD when tryouts and “cuts” are not deemed necessary due to participation interest by KCSD students. If tryouts/cuts are not deemed necessary for a KCSD team due to limited numbers, a merger will be considered with a neighboring school. All approved merger partnership schools will be expected to evenly share costs (travel, coach, officials, BOCES fees, etc...).

Any combining of teams as a merger request must be made by an authorized person from the requested NYSPHSAA member school to the KCSD Athletic Director. Combining of teams merger requests must be submitted to the KCSD Athletic Director in writing at least ten (10) months prior to the start of that sport’s season. The KCSD Superintendent of Schools must approve all merger requests.

The Superintendent shall promulgate appropriate guidelines to implement this policy.

Cross-ref: 5420, Student Health Services
5280.1 Concussion Management

Ref: Education Law §§1709 (8-a); 3001-b
8 NYCRR §135.4
Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Dist. V. Doe, 520 U.S. 290 (2000) (constitutionality of student-led prayers at interscholastic athletic activities)
Concussion Management Support Materials, www.nysphsaa.org

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