

5280-R INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The Board of Education considers participation by student athletes in interscholastic athletics an integral part of the overall educational experience which supplements the primary goal of academic achievement. Therefore, the Superintendent has established the following requirements to implement the Board's Interscholastic Athletics Policy (5280) for student participation in athletics.

Eligibility

Each athlete will participate under the eligibility requirements, rules and regulations set forth by the New York State Commissioner of Education and the New York Public High School Athletic Association, as well as the Poughkeepsie City School District Board of Education. Each student-athlete and his/her parent/guardian will be required to sign and submit to the respective coach a "Guidelines for Athletic Participation Authorization Form". The coach will then forward this form on to the athletic office. A student-athlete will not be permitted to participate until this requirement is completed. This should be done at the pre-season meeting scheduled for student-athletes and parent/guardians. No student-athletes shall be charged fees for participating in interscholastic athletics programs.

Health and Medical

1. Sports physicals are scheduled at various times during the school year. Every student-athlete must pass a physical exam and be approved by the school district physician prior to practice or participation in any interscholastic sport. The student is responsible for reporting for the physical examination at the scheduled time.
2. The athlete is to report all injuries, no matter how minor, to the coach. The coach will complete an incident report to be filed with the school nurse.
3. If a student-athlete has a physician-attended injury or is absent from attendance in school or at practice sessions due to illness for five or more consecutive days, he/she must have the approval of the school physician or a medical release from the attending physician, before participating in practice, scrimmage or a game. This release must be filed with our school nurse. If a student-athlete goes to an emergency room for care, he/she must obtain a written release statement from the attending physician before leaving the hospital.

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4. Medical expenses resulting from any athletic injury must first be submitted to the parents/guardians insurance carrier. Any remaining balance may then be submitted to the school district's insurance carrier by processing a claim form that can be obtained from the school athletic medical office. The school district's insurance provides only supplemental coverage according to a schedule of benefits.

5. A health history update, done by the school nurse, is required for each sport season of participation.
6. An athletic trainer will be available for student-athletes after school. on Tuesday and Thursday of each week. For an appointment to be seen by the athletic trainer, athletes must sign up in the athletic medical office ahead of time (am). An athletic trainer will also be at various athletic contests during each sport season.

Academic Eligibility

1. Any student failing more than two (2) subjects (e.g. 3, 4, 5, etc.) will be ineligible to participate in a sport for that marking period.
2. Any student failing two (2) subjects will be placed on probation for a two (2) week period, during which time he/she will be permitted to practice and play in games, but will be monitored on a daily tracking sheet for supervision by the coach, athletic director and/or activity advisor, as applicable.

If, after two (2) weeks the student has shown no improvement, he/she will not be allowed to practice or play in games for a period of two (2) weeks, during which time he/she will continue to be monitored on a daily tracking sheet. A student who HAS shown improvement after two (2) weeks will be allowed to practice and play in games. The student will remain on probation and will continue to be monitored on a daily tracking sheet until the next report card indicates the student has made the necessary improvement to be removed from probation.

If the student has not improved after the second trial period, he/she will be ineligible to practice or play in games until the next report card or 5 week comment report is issued and the required improvement is indicated.

A student once identified as having academic difficulty will be monitored continually throughout the school year until his/her report card shows passing grades.

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3. Any student failing more than two (2) subjects at the end of the school year will be ineligible to participate in athletics in the fall. Students may attend summer school in order to pass failed subjects and become eligible upon submission of proof of successful completion of such subjects. The student's final average at the end of the school year will be used to determine fall eligibility.
4. A student must attend school regularly and be in attendance for all classes scheduled. Students who have an illegal class absence(s) on record during a school week will have three (3) school days to clear the illegal class absence(s). If the illegal class absence is not cleared, the student will be ineligible to participate in the activity or game.
5. Any student who is given an Out-of-School Suspension may not practice and/or play in games

for the duration of the suspension. If an athlete is suspended from school, he/she must sit out at least one game. The one game suspension may be served during the student's Out-of-School Suspension if the team has a scheduled contest during that time period. If the team does not play during the student's suspension, he/she must sit out the next scheduled contest.

6. If a student has received three (3) Out-of-School Suspensions in a semester prior to or during a sports season, the student will be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for the remainder of the semester.

7. Any student who feels that his/her circumstances are extraordinary may submit an appeal, in writing, to the building Principal within five (5) school days of notification of ineligible status. During the appeal process, the student may not practice or play in games. (Added 11/19/2007: The Superintendent may make exceptions to these regulations on a case by case basis if, in his/her judgment, the student will benefit more by participating in the program than by being declared ineligible.)

Participation in Interscholastic Athletic Trips

1. Athletes are required to be transported to and from "away" athletic contests on school approved transportation. This includes school mini vans, or leased buses in accordance with the district transportation contract or vehicles rented by the District. Any request for variation in transportation arrangements must be made in writing to the Athletic Director for approval.

2. Parents/guardians of student-athletes who participate in interscholastic athletic contests must be given a copy of the schedule, including away games.

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Parents/guardians also must be provided with general information about travel arrangements to and from athletic contests, and must sign a general permission form for transportation for the season.

3. Parents/guardians may not transport children to or from interscholastic contests except with the prior written approval of the Athletic Director. Under no circumstances shall a parent/guardian transport any children other than his/her own. Parent permission forms must also identify the conditions under which a student-athlete is to be released from interscholastic athletic events following the team's return to school, e.g. walk, drive own car, be picked up by parent/guardian, etc.

4. If the travel requires overnight stay, the trip must be approved by the Board of Education. The school district Trip Approval form must be completed and all procedures for submission followed. If the overnight travel is contingent upon the outcome of an athletic contest and the time for the trip approval is very short, the Athletic Director must submit a written request to the Superintendent for trip approval, citing exigent circumstances. The Trip Approval form must be presented to the Board for ratification following the trip.

Definition of Sports Levels

Modified (Grade 7 & 8)

This program is available to all students in the 7th and 8th grades between the ages of 12 and 15. A student reaching age 15 during a sport season may complete that season and must play freshman, junior varsity or varsity the next sport season. Sport activities offered are determined by existence of leagues, student interest, relationship to the high school program and board approval. This program is designed to offer students the opportunity to engage in a more highly organized competitive experience than intramural teams provide.

Junior Varsity (JV) & Freshman

This program is intended for those who display the potential of continued development into productive varsity level performers. Team membership varies according to the structure of each sport, but sophomores and freshmen occupy the majority of the roster positions. In certain situations, juniors who are expected to make contributions at the varsity level will be considered for JV participation. Also, 7th & 8th graders who have satisfied all selection classification requirements may be included.

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Varsity

The varsity level of interscholastic athletic competition is the culmination of the high school athletic program. Normally, seniors and juniors make up the majority of the roster. Gifted sophomores and sometimes freshmen may be included. It is also possible for a 7th or 8th grader, who has met the selection classification requirements to be included on a varsity roster. This occurs more in sports commonly classified as "individual" (track, swimming, golf, tennis, etc). The varsity coach is the leader of his/her sport program and is responsible for communication and system development among each level.

Selection Classification

The Selection Classification program is a process for screening student-athletes in grades 7 and 8 to determine their readiness to compete at a higher level of competition (Varsity, JV, Freshmen) than their current grade level. It is based on readiness rather than grade level. This program has been designed to assess a student-athlete's physical maturation, physical fitness and skill. Information must be collected and evaluated by the Athletic Director before a student may try out for a team. Considerations that must be met include:

1. Recommendation for inclusion in this process from the Poughkeepsie varsity coach.
2. Parental permission.
3. Medical examination and approval by the school physician with the development or maturity level determined by the school physician in accordance with established guidelines for the level of

a particular sport.

4. The six item athletic performance test must be administered by a physical education teacher selected by the Athletic Director. The athlete must meet or exceed the criteria established for the level of participation desired.

5. The individual's prior experience and skill level is judged on the demands of the sport at the level of play at which the student is seeking to qualify.

Changing Sports

A student-athlete may not change from one sport to another once a team has been selected, without permission from the Athletic Director. If he/she has been cut from one team, it is legitimate to try out for another sport.

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Practices and Contests

Each athlete is required to attend all practices and/or contests unless excused by the coach. An athlete who is injured or ill but still able to attend school is also required to attend practice even though s/he will not be actively participating.

Attendance

A student-athlete shall be in attendance in his/her regular classes in order to practice or participate in an athletic contest unless excused for a legal reason. Attendance on the day before the day of and the day after contests is considered to be especially important.

Chain of Communication

1. If a student-athlete/parent/guardian has questions or concerns about the Interscholastic Athletic program, he/she must first address the inquiry to the team coach.
2. If the team coach cannot satisfactorily resolve the question or concerns, the matter may be brought to the attention of the Athletic Director.

Dress and Grooming

Poughkeepsie team members are expected to dress presentably at all times and especially on away trips. Only uniforms issued by the athletic department should be worn for contests.

Equipment

All athletic equipment must be returned at the end of the season to the coach or athletic office. A student-athlete will not be eligible to participate in another sport until all equipment is returned. In addition, the student-athlete will be financially responsible for any unreturned equipment.

Physical Education Requirement

The wide range of activities in physical education gives the students an excellent background in physical fitness, lifetime sports and team sports. Because of the importance of physical education, all athletes will be required to participate in physical education throughout the year. The NYSPHSAA regulations state that a student must be enrolled in physical education to participate in athletics.

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Students in grades 10-12 may receive credit toward graduation for participation in interscholastic sports provided that they are also enrolled in a physical education class, complete a plan for independent study and secure approval for the independent study plan. The Building Principal, with input from the Athletic Director, will be responsible for determining the amount of credit that will be awarded.

A copy of this regulation will be distributed to all student athletes, their parents/guardians, professional staff and coaches. This regulation will be explained to student athletes prior to participation in the athletics program. Student athletes and parents/guardians must sign an acknowledgement of the receipt of the regulation and return the signed forms to the coach.

Adopted: December 12, 2007

New Adoption Date: March 25, 2009