

INTRAMURAL/INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION

The Board considers all competitive extracurricular activities academic, artistic and athletic an integral part of the total educational program. Competitive activities shall be under the same administration and control as the rest of the school program and closely articulated with it.

Competitive activities can provide students with valuable experiences and opportunities. In this District, the emphasis in any interscholastic competition shall be on providing such experiences and opportunities rather than on producing winning teams or providing entertainment. Practice for or performance in any competitive event shall not interfere with the regular educational program.

The Board shall approve all proposed intramural and interscholastic competition, either as a schedule or as a discrete event, whichever is appropriate. The Board must approve membership in any leagues, associations and conferences, and any agreements with other schools for a series of games or events.

The Board shall appoint coaches, advisors, physicians and other necessary supervisory personnel upon recommendation of the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall also ensure that training programs/regulations are developed for all extracurricular athletic activities and that all physical facilities involved in any competition in which District schools take part shall be adequate, safe and sanitary.

Public recognition shall be given to participants in academic or artistic competitions in the same measure as to athletic competitors. The District's affirmative action resolution and plan for equity in school and classroom practices shall apply to determining eligibility for competition, approval of each competitive activity in which students officially represent the District, and District expenditure to provide facilities and coaches.

Parental Consent

No student may participate in a school sponsored physical activity outside the regular physical education curriculum without a signed consent form from a parent/guardian naming the activity and acknowledging that the activity may be hazardous.

Academic Eligibility

Academic standards for eligibility shall be those established by policy and regulation 6145 Extracurricular Activities.

Attendance Standards

Attendance standards shall be those set in policy and regulation 5113 Absences and Excuses. In particular, a student shall not participate in a performance, exhibition, practice or athletic event unless he/she has been present in school that day or has been absent for an excused reason other than for sickness.

Disciplinary Standards

Disciplinary standards are based on Board policies and regulations 5114 Suspension and Expulsion and 5131 Conduct/Discipline. Students on disciplinary probation or serving a

INTRAMURAL/INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION (continued)Disciplinary Standards (continued)

detention or suspension may not practice, perform or compete. The Superintendent and the Building Principal shall determine at the end of a probation or suspension whether the student may return to practice and competition.

Special Education Students

A. Each school district shall:

Ensure that a student with a disability has an equal opportunity to try out for and, if selected, participate in athletic programs in an integrated manner to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of the student;

B. Ensure the provision of reasonable modifications or aids or services necessary to provide a student with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in athletic programs in an integrated manner to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of the student.

C. An exception to these requirements may be made when the inclusion of a student with a disability:

1. Presents an objective health or safety risk to the student or to others, based on an individualized assessment of the student;
2. Fundamentally alters the nature of the athletic program

To participate in intramural or interscholastic competition, special education students must meet the same requirements listed above in conformity with IEPs.

Physical Eligibility

All students in grades six (6) through eight (8) participating in intramural or interscholastic athletics must be given a medical examination within 365 days prior to the first practice session, with a health history update if the examination was completed more than 60 days prior to the first practice session of the first sport participated in. The medical examination shall be given at the student's medical home, as defined in file code 5141.3 Health Examinations and Immunizations. If a student does not have a medical home, the school physician shall conduct the medical examination. Examinations shall be made available throughout the school year consistent with the District athletic schedule. The examination shall be documented on the New Jersey Department of Education Athletic Pre-Participation Physical Examination Form and shall include, as a minimum, the components listed in the administrative code. In the event a private physician is used, the medical examination shall not be at the expense of the Board of Education.

The parents/guardians shall be sent written notification signed by the examining physician testifying to the student's physical fitness to participate in athletics. The reason for the physician's disapproval of the student's participation shall be included in the notification. The health findings of the medical examination for participation in athletics shall be made part of the general health examination record.

The Superintendent shall present to the Board for adoption procedures for administration of the required medical examination. The procedures for the medical examination to determine the fitness of a student to participate in athletics shall include a form for a medical history to be filled out and returned by a parent/guardian and a form to be filled out by the examining physician. The required medical history and the content of the medical examination shall conform to and be reported on the New Jersey Department of Education Athletic Pre-Participation Physical Examination Form. (See exhibit 6145.2-E)

INTRAMURAL/INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION (continued)**Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention****A. Definition of "athletic activity"**

"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.

- B. Each year, a student participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity and the student's parent/guardian shall receive, sign and return to the student's school the Commissioner's form on sudden cardiac arrest acknowledging the receipt and review of the information prior to participation by the student in an athletic activity.
- C. Students shall be evaluated for symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest by the athletic trainer if there is one on site or a game official, team coach licensed physician or other official designated by the student's school.
- D. Coaches shall hold a current verification in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation form the American Red Cross, American Heart Association or other training program recognized by the Department of Health.
- E. A student who exhibits symptoms or early warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest any time prior to, during or following an athletic activity shall be prohibited from participating in such an activity and shall not be eligible to return to the activity until he/she is evaluated and receives written clearance form a licensed physician.

Insurance

The Board of Education does not provide student accident insurance for students. However, at the beginning of each school year, the Board of Education may offer parents/guardians the opportunity to voluntarily purchase student accident insurance through a third-party insurance provider.

Other Requirements for Participating in Athletic and Sporting Events

The Old Tappan Board of Education recognizes, finds and declares that the essential elements of character-building and ethics in athletic and sporting events are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and its core principles of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of athletics and sports is achieved when competition reflects these pillars of character.

A. Voluntary Participation

1. No parent or guardian shall force their child or any other child to participate in athletic and sporting events.
2. Children may only participate in the athletic and sporting events for their own personal enjoyment or fulfillment.

B. Health

1. All parents and guardians having children participate in athletic and sporting events must inform their child's coach or instructor of any physical or mental health condition, disability, or ailment that may affect the safety or well-being of their child or the safety of others.
2. No parent, guardian, or spectator of an athletic or sporting event shall encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes or others.

INTRAMURAL/INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION (continued)

3. All persons shall refrain from the use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco at athletic and sporting events.

C. Sportsmanship

1. All participating athletes shall learn and obey the rules of the events and games in which they are participating and the policies of the league to which they are members.
2. All parents and guardians of the athletes, and the spectators of the athletic and sporting events shall obey the rules of the events and games in which the athletes are participating and the policies of the league to which the athletes are members.
3. All parents, guardians and spectators shall encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy to the athletes, coaches, officials and spectators, and by demonstrating positive support for all athletes, coaches, officials and spectators at every athletic and sporting event.
4. Unsportsmanlike conduct is prohibited at every athletic and sporting event. Unsportsmanlike conduct includes, but is not limited to booing and taunting; using profane or obscene language or gestures.
5. Parents and guardians will teach their child and other children to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
6. Parents and guardians will teach their child to treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, ethnicity, religion, color, sex, gender or ability.
7. Parents and guardians will teach their child and other children that sportsmanship and effort are more important than a winning performance.
8. No parent or guardian of any child, nor spectator of any athletic or sporting event, shall ridicule a child or other participant for their performance.
9. Parents and guardians shall emphasize the values of skill development and practice in accord with the child's personal enjoyment and fulfillment of the sport or athletic event.
10. Parents and guardians shall promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire that they may have and may have for their child and his or her team to win.
11. Parents, guardians and spectators shall respect the officials and coaches and their authority during the athletic and sporting events and will never directly question, discuss, or confront the officials or coaches during such events. Conferences may take place at a mutually agreed upon time and place
12. Parents, guardians and spectators shall refrain from coaching or officiating their child or other players during games and practices unless they are a Board of Education appointed coach or official.

D. Enforcement, Interpretation, Grievances

1. The interpretation and enforcement of the policy shall be vested in the jurisdiction of the Old Tappan Board of Education.

INTRAMURAL/INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION (continued)

2. All grievances with the policy or questions concerning interpretation of the policy shall be made to the Old Tappan Board of Education.
3. All participants, parents, guardians, coaches, and officials shall be furnished a copy of the policy of the policy and code of conduct agreement.
4. Signatures of parents and students and Board-appointed coaches and advisors denoting that they have read the policy are required for student participation.
5. All persons shall notify the Old Tappan Board of Education if they know or have reason to believe that any athlete, child, participant, parent, guardian, coach, official, spectator or other person is violating the policy.
6. The Board will hold children and parents responsible for any damages or mischief done to school property during sporting events and require restitution be made for any damages.

E. Penalties, Disciplinary Action

1. The Old Tappan Board of Education may issue penalties and disciplinary action for violations of the Policy to any athlete, child, participant, parent, guardian, coach, official, spectator. A penalty or disciplinary action may include:
 - a. Verbal warning by the Old Tappan Board of Education, official, head coach and/or head of league organization;
 - b. Event/game attendance suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by organizations involved;
 - c. Written warning;
 - d. Game forfeit;
 - e. Game(s) suspension;
 - f. Season(s) suspension;
 - g. Permanent attendance and/or participation expulsion.

<u>Legal References:</u>	<u>N.J.S.A. 5:17-1 et seq.</u>	Athletic code of conduct permitted; "youth sports event" defined...
	<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3</u>	Voluntary associations regulating conduct of student activities; membership; rules and regulations; appeals
	<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3.35 thru 3.7</u>	Athletic activities of students with disabilities
	<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.1 et al.</u>	Supervisory certificate required for appointment as director of athletics
	<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:36-20</u>	Discrimination; prohibition
	<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-1 et seq.</u>	Substance abuse
	<i>See particularly:</i>	
	<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-9, -10, -11</u>	
	<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:42-2</u>	School orchestra not to compete with civilian musicians; exceptions
	<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:43-1</u>	Accident insurance for students authorized
	<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.4</u>	Responsibilities of the District Board of Education
	<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7</u>	Equality in school and classroom practices
	<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:9-5.19</u>	Athletics personnel
	<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.4(a)6</u>	District policies and procedures

INTRAMURAL/INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION (continued)**Legal References: (continued)**

- N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.1 et seq. General Provisions for School Health Services
See particularly:
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)
N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.1 et seq. Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts
N.J.A.C. 6A:32-9.1(c), -9.1(d), -9.1(f)
N.J.A.C. 6A:32-14.1 Review of mandated programs and services
- 20 U.S.C.A. 1681 et seq. - Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
- 29 U.S.C.A. 794 et seq. - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Krupp v. Bd. of Ed. of Union County Reg. H.S. Dist. #1, 278 N.J. Super. 31 (App. Div. 1994) cert. den. 140 N.J. 277 (1994)
- NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations
- P.L.2013, c.209 Sudden Cardiac Arrest
- Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C.s.794.
- The Comprehensive Equity Plan, New Jersey State Department of Education 2007-2010

- Cross References:** *1322 Contests for students
1500 Relations between area, county, state, regional and national associations and the District
- *3250 Income from fees, fines, charges
*3453 School activity funds
3530 Insurance management
*3541.31 Privately owned vehicles
4143 Extra pay for extra work
*5125 Student records
*5126 Awards for achievement
*5131 Conduct/discipline
*5141.1 Accidents
*5141.3 Health examinations and immunizations
5143 Insurance
*5145.4 Equal educational opportunity
*6121 Nondiscrimination/affirmative action
*6142.4 Physical education and health
*6145 Extracurricular activities
6145.4 Public performances and exhibitions
*6146 Graduation requirements
*6147.1 Evaluation of individual student performance

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

Key Words

Extracurricular Activities, Co-curricular Activities, Competition, Interscholastic Competition, Sudden Cardiac Arrest

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