

## IGDJ

### INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The School Board believes individual students will benefit through opportunities to grow physically and intellectually through their experience in self-discipline and their contribution to team effort made possible through competitive interscholastic and intramural team and individual sports activities.

It is the Board's policy to provide interscholastic athletic competition in a variety of sports. Students shall be allowed to participate in school sponsored sports on the basis of their physical condition and desire. Qualified personnel should be provided for coaching and supervising such programs. In addition, it is the policy of the Board to provide intramural athletic activities as an outgrowth of class instruction in physical education and commensurate with the grade level of the students involved.

The purpose of school athletics is both educational and recreational. The athletic program should encourage participation by as many boys and girls as possible and should be carried on with the best interests of the participants as the first consideration. This should be done without unreasonable interference with other obligations in the school community.

It is recognized that a well-organized and well-conducted athletic program is a potent factor in the morale of a school student body and an important phase of good community-school relations. Too great an emphasis on winning contests or too consistent a record of losing them are both harmful to the development of good attitudes among students and the public.

#### **Policy Conditions**

1. No student may start practice for any athletic team until he or she has provided a consent form signed by a parent or guardian; and proof of physical. Note: Physicals completed **prior** to June 1<sup>st</sup> of a student's eighth grade year, are good for one year. Physicals completed **after** June 1<sup>st</sup> of a student's eighth grade year, are good for the remainder of their high school eligibility. .
2. The athletic program is an integral part of the school curriculum and comes under the authority of the Principal to the same degree as do all other phases of the curriculum.
3. Those teachers having direct responsibility for the conduct of the athletic program of the school are required to conform, in all ways, to the general education program as laid down by the Board and administration, including such matters as schedules, financial expenditures, relationships with other schools, and health and safety regulations.
4. The High School is a member of the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) and, in all athletic matters, will adhere firmly to the rules and regulations of that body and to the philosophy of sports which NHIAA encourages. The eligibility of students to participate in the athletic program is determined in accordance with NHIAA regulations.

5. Expenditures for the athletic program are incorporated as part of the general budget of the Board. Coaches of each sport will submit their budgetary needs to the athletic director for the next school year, and the latter will present the total athletic budget request to the Principal for approval and inclusion in the general budget. No expenditures for athletic purposes may be made in excess of those approved in the budget without approval of the Superintendent.
6. District participation in interscholastic athletics shall be subject to approval by the Board. This shall include approval of membership in any leagues, associations, or conferences, of rules for student participation, and of annual sports schedules.
7. Insurance against accident or injury shall be provided by the parents for students engaging in interscholastic athletics.
8. No hazing or initiation activities will be condoned or permitted by school personnel or volunteers. The general characteristics of initiation activities, for purposes of this policy, are as follows:
  - The activity is not directly related to improving the skills of the team member in the sport or in achieving other legitimate team goals such as sportsmanship, teamwork, commitment and citizenship.
  - There is potential for physical or emotional harm, or embarrassment to the individual who participates.
  - There is a feeling on the part of the student (real or perceived) that (s)he must participate in the activity in order to be a member of the team or to be accepted by other members of the team.
9. When a student athlete has been injured seriously enough to warrant medical attention and/or temporary suspension of participation in practices and competition, then the student will be required to obtain a written release from a physician or licensed trainer before returning to full participation.

**Adoption Date:** April 8, 1993  
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