

2431 ATHLETIC COMPETITION

The Board of Education recognizes the value of a program of athletic competition for both boys and girls as an integral part of the total school experience. Game activities and practice sessions provide opportunities to learn the values of competition and good sportsmanship. Programs of athletic competition, both intrascholastic and interscholastic, offer pupils the opportunity to exercise and test their athletic abilities in a context greater and more varied than that offered by the class or school or school district alone, and an opportunity for career and educational development.

For purposes of this policy, the program of athletic competition includes all activities relating to competitive sports contests, games, or events or sports exhibitions involving individual pupils or teams of pupils of this district when such events occur within or between separate schools within this district or with any schools outside this district.

Eligibility Standards

A pupil who wishes to participate in athletic competition must submit, on a form provided by the district, the signed consent of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The consent of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a pupil who wishes to participate in interscholastic athletics must include an acknowledgment of the physical hazards that may be encountered in the sport.

Health Requirements

Good physical condition, freedom from injury, and full recovery from illness are prerequisites to participation in athletic competition and practice for such competition. HIV status shall not be screened as a part of athletic physicals or reported in school health records.

An examination of each candidate for a school athletic squad or team shall be conducted within 365 days prior to the first practice session with examinations being conducted at the medical home of the pupil. The "medical home" is defined as a health care provider and that provider's practice site chosen by the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for the provision of health care. Since the school physician is a "health care provider", the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may chose either the school physician or their own private physician to provide the medical examination.

The medical examination shall be conducted in accordance with N.J.S.A 6A:16-2.2(h)1 and 2 and Regulation 2431.2. The medical report shall include a determination concerning the pupil's participation on an athletic team or squad from the examining physician, nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist, or physician's assistant. The medical report shall be provided to the school physician if the school physician did not provide the medical examination.

If the pupil's medical examination was completed more than sixty days prior to the first practice session, the pupil must provide a health history update of medical problems experienced since the last medical examination in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)4. This health

history must be completed and signed by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

The school district will provide written notification to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), signed by the school physician, stating approval of the pupil's participation in the athletics, based solely on the medical report, or the written reasons for the school physician's disapproval of the pupil's participation. The school physician's signature on the notification indicates the medical report complies with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)5.

The health findings of this medical examination shall be maintained as part of the pupil's health record.

The medical examination conducted to determine the fitness of a candidate for athletic competition and the health history update must include, as a minimum, the respective medical history information and physical assessments set forth in rules of the State Board of Education and incorporated in their entirety in regulations implementing this policy.

Emergency Procedures

Athletic coaches shall be trained in first aid and in the identification of pupil athletes who are injured or disabled in the course of any athletic activity.

The Superintendent shall prepare and present to the Board for its approval procedures for the emergency treatment of injuries and disabilities that occur in the course of any athletic activity. Emergency procedures shall be reviewed by the Board not less than once in each school year and shall be disseminated to appropriate staff members.

The Superintendent shall annually prepare, approve, and present to the Board for its consideration a program of interscholastic athletics that includes a complete schedule of athletic events and practices and shall inform the Board of changes in that schedule as they occur.

The Superintendent shall prepare rules for the conduct of pupils participating in athletics.

N.J.S.A. 2C:21-11;
N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6:4-1.5; 6A:16-1.4;6A:16-2 et seq.

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