

INSTRUCTION

ATHLETIC COMPETITION

The Governing Board recognizes that the district's athletic program constitutes an integral component of the educational program and helps to build a positive school climate. The athletic program also promotes the physical, social, and emotional well-being and character development of participating students. The athletic program shall be designed to meet students' interests and abilities and shall be varied in scope to attract wide participation.

All athletic teams shall be supervised by qualified coaches to ensure that student athletes receive appropriate instruction and guidance related to safety, health, sports skills, and sportsmanship. Athletic events shall be officiated by qualified personnel.

The Board encourages business and community support for district athletic programs, subject to applicable district policies and regulations governing advertisements and donations.

**Nondiscrimination and Equivalent Opportunities in the Athletic Program**

The district's athletic program shall be free from discrimination and discriminatory practices prohibited by state and federal law. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that equivalent athletic opportunities are provided for males and females.

Any complaint regarding the district's athletic program shall be filed in accordance with the district's uniform complaint procedures.

**California Interscholastic Federation**

The Board maintains membership in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) and requires that interscholastic athletic activities be conducted in accordance with Board policy, administrative regulations, and CIF bylaws and rules. The Superintendent or designee shall have responsibility for the district's interscholastic athletic program, while the principal or designee at each participating school shall be responsible for site-level decisions, as appropriate.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board shall annually designate an employee from each high school to serve as a representative to the local CIF league. Appointees shall represent the district in performing all duties required by the CIF league. In making this selection, the Board shall consider the employee's understanding of the district's goals for student learning and interscholastic and extracurricular activities, knowledge of the athletic programs, awareness of the implications of league decisions for the school and the district, and individual interpersonal communication and leadership skills.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district representatives to CIF report regularly to the Board on league, section, and statewide issues, as well as activities and prospective actions related to athletic programs.

### **Student Eligibility**

Eligibility requirements for participation in the district's interscholastic athletic program, including requirements pertaining to academic achievement and residency, shall be the same as those set by the district for participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities.

CIF bylaws specify eligibility criteria for participating student athletes, including criteria related to age, grade, attendance, scholastic achievement, residence, transfers, and discipline. In addition, in accordance with CIF bylaws, students in home schooling or home study/independent study programs are not eligible for CIF interscholastic competition unless they are enrolled in a program under the jurisdiction of a CIF member school district (i.e., a program in which the district approves the curriculum, administers the program, and evaluates the student).

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students participating in interscholastic athletics governed by CIF satisfy CIF eligibility requirements.

Students shall not be charged a fee to participate in an athletic program.

### **Sportsmanship**

The Board values the quality and integrity of the athletic program and the character development of student athletes. Student athletes, coaches, parents/guardians, spectators, and others are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play during all athletic competitions. They shall also abide by the core principles of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship and the Codes of Conduct adopted by CIF.

Students and staff may be subject to disciplinary action for improper conduct.

### **Health and Safety**

The Board desires to give student health and safety the highest consideration in planning and conducting athletic activities.

Students shall have a medical clearance before participating in interscholastic athletic programs. Care shall be taken to ensure that all athletic trainings and competitions are conducted in a manner that will not overtax the physical capabilities of the participants. When appropriate, protective equipment shall be used to prevent or minimize injuries.

Coaches and appropriate district employees shall take every possible precaution to ensure that athletic equipment is kept in safe and serviceable condition. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all athletic equipment is cleaned and inspected for safety before the beginning of each school year.

Education Code 49475 requires that an athlete at any grade level who is suspected of sustaining a concussion shall be immediately removed from the athletic event and not returned until a licensed health care provider provides a sufficient written clearance. As outlined in Education Code 35179.5 and 49475, any student suspected of sustaining a concussion must sit-out a minimum of seven calendar days of athletic related activity and complete the required “return to play” protocol before being allowed to resume participation in athletic related activities.

In the event that an injury occurs, the coach or other appropriate district employee shall observe universal precautions and shall remove the student athlete from the activity and/or seek medical treatment for the student as appropriate.

Legal References: Education Codes 200-262.4; 270-271; 17578; 17580-17581; 32221.5; 33353-33353.5; 33354; 35160.5; 35179; 35179.5; 48850; 48900; 48930-48938; 49020-49023; 49030-49034; 49458; 49475; 49700-49701; 51242; Code of Regulations, Title 5, 4900-4965; 4920-4922; 5531; 5590-5596

Adopted: June 16, 2015

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**Nondiscrimination and Equivalent Opportunities in the Athletic Program**

No student shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be denied equivalent opportunity in, or otherwise be discriminated against in interscholastic, intramural, or club athletics on the basis of actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, ethnic group identification, race, ancestry, national origin, religion, color, mental or physical disability, or any other basis specified in law.

The Superintendent or designee may provide single-sex teams when selection for the teams is based on competitive skills.

Each student shall be allowed to participate in any single-sex athletic program or activity consistent with his/her gender identity and for which he/she is otherwise eligible to participate, irrespective of the gender listed on the student's records.

When a school provides only one team in a particular sport for members of one sex, but provides no team in the same sport for members of the other sex, and athletic opportunities in the total program for that sex have been previously limited, members of the excluded sex shall be allowed to try out and compete with the team. The same standards for eligibility shall be applied to every student trying out for the team, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or other protected group status.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that equivalent opportunities are available to both sexes in athletic programs by considering, among other factors:

1. Whether the offered selection of sports and levels of competition effectively accommodate the interests and abilities of both sexes

The athletic program may be found to effectively accommodate the interests and abilities of both sexes using any one of the following tests:

- a. Whether the interscholastic-level participation opportunities for male and female students are provided in numbers substantially proportionate to their respective enrollments
- b. Where the members of one sex have been and are underrepresented among interscholastic athletes, whether the district can show a history and a continuing practice of program expansion that is demonstrably responsive to the developing interests and abilities of the members of that sex

c. Where the members of one sex are underrepresented among interscholastic athletes and the district cannot show a history and continuing practice of program expansion as required in item #b above, whether the district can demonstrate that the interests and abilities of the members of that sex have been fully and effectively accommodated by the present program

2. The provision and maintenance of equipment and supplies
3. Scheduling of games and practice times, selection of the season for a sport, and location of the games and practices
4. Travel and per diem allowances
5. Opportunities to receive coaching and academic tutoring
6. Assignment and compensation of coaches and tutors
7. Provision of locker rooms, practice facilities, and competitive facilities
8. Provision of medical and training facilities and services
9. Provision of housing and dining facilities and services
10. Publicity
11. Provision of necessary funds

Beginning with the 2015-16 school year and every year thereafter, each school that offers competitive athletics shall post the following information on its school web site, or on the district web site if the school does not have a web site, at the end of the school year:

1. The total enrollment of the school, classified by gender
2. The number of students enrolled at the school who participate in competitive athletics, classified by gender
3. The number of boys' and girls' teams, classified by sport and by competition level

The data reported for items #1-3 above shall reflect the total number of players on a team roster on the official first day of competition. The materials used to compile this information shall be retained by the school for at least three years after the information is posted on the web site.

**Health and Safety**

The Superintendent or designee shall annually distribute to student athletes and their parents/guardians an information sheet on concussions and head injuries. The student and parent/guardian shall sign and return the information sheet before the student's initiating practice or competition.

If a student athlete is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in an athletic activity, he/she shall be immediately removed from the activity for the remainder of the day. The student shall not be permitted to return to the activity until he/she is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the management of concussions and receives the health care provider's written clearance to return to the activity. If the health care provider determines that the athlete sustained a concussion or a head injury, the athlete shall also complete a graduated return-to-play protocol of no less than seven days in duration under the supervision of a licensed health care provider.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the student's parent/guardian of the date, time, and extent of any injury suffered by the student and any actions taken to treat the student.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training to coaches and/or athletic trainers regarding concussion symptoms, prevention, and appropriate response.

A middle school or high school football team shall not hold a full-contact practice during the off-season and shall not conduct more than two full-contact practices per week during the preseason and regular season (from 30 days before the commencement of the regular season until the completion of the final interscholastic football game of that season). In addition, the full-contact portion of a practice shall not exceed 90 minutes in any single day. For these purposes, full-contact practice means a practice where drills or live action is conducted that involves collisions at game speed, where players execute tackles and other activity that is typical of an actual tackle football game.

**Parental Notifications**

Before a student participates in interscholastic athletic activities, the Superintendent or designee shall send a notice to the student's parents/guardians which:

1. Contains information about the procedures for filing a discrimination complaint that arises out of an interscholastic athletic activity, including the name of the district's Title IX Coordinator
2. Includes a copy of the Athletes' Bill of Rights pursuant to Education Code 271

3. Explains that there is an element of risk associated with all athletic competitions and that the district cannot guarantee that students will not be injured, despite a commitment to every participant's health and welfare
4. Provides information about insurance protection pursuant to Education Code 32221.5
5. Requests parental permission for the student to participate in the program and, if appropriate, be transported by the district to and from competitions
6. States the district's expectation that students adhere strictly to all safety rules, regulations, and instructions, as well as rules and guidelines related to conduct and sportsmanship
7. Includes a copy of the local California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) league rules
8. Includes information about the CIF bylaw and district policy requiring any student athlete and his/her parent/guardian to sign a statement that the student will not use steroids or dietary supplements banned by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency

Administrative Regulation Dated: June 16, 2015