

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: Interscholastic Athletics

ADOPTED:

REVISED: January 19, 2017

123. INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES

Purpose

The School Reform Commission recognizes the value of a program of interscholastic athletics as an integral part of the total school experience for all district students and as a conduit for community involvement. The program fosters the growth of school loyalty within the student body as a whole and stimulates community interest. The game activities and practice sessions provide opportunities to teach the values of competition, sportsmanship, and teamwork.

Definition

For purposes of this policy, the program of interscholastic athletics shall include all activities relating to competitive or exhibition sport contests, games or events involving individual students or teams of students when such activities occur between schools within this district or outside this district.

Authority

It shall be the policy of the SRC to offer opportunities for participation in interscholastic athletic programs to male and female students on as equal a basis as is practicable and without discrimination, in accordance with law and regulations. [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)

The SRC shall approve a program of interscholastic athletics and require that all facilities utilized in that program properly safeguard both players and spectators and are kept free from hazardous conditions.

The SRC shall determine the standards of eligibility to be met by all students participating in an interscholastic program. Such standards shall require that each student, before participating in any interscholastic activity, be covered by student accident insurance; be free of injury; and undergo a Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (P.I.A.A.) Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation by a licensed physician.

The SRC further adopts those eligibility standards set by the Constitution of the P.I.A.A.

The SRC directs that no student may participate in interscholastic athletics who has not:

1. Met the requirements for academic eligibility.
2. Adhered to applicable attendance and discipline standards of the district.[6][7]

Transgender Participation

Keeping in accordance with the SRC Policy 252 (Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming students), the principal will serve as the primary point of contact for any questions or concerns regarding Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) matters. All students and employees must adhere to SRC policy.[15]

Bullying and Hazing

All students and employees must adhere to SRC Policy 247 (Hazing) and SRC Policy 249 (Bullying/Cyberbullying).[16][17]

Off-Campus Activities

This policy shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property and would otherwise violate the Code of Student Conduct if any of the following circumstances exist:[7]

1. The conduct occurs during the time the student is traveling to and from school or traveling to and from school-sponsored activities, whether or not via school district furnished transportation.
2. The student is a member of an extracurricular activity and has been notified that particular off-campus conduct could result in exclusion from such activities.
3. Student expression or conduct materially and substantially disrupts the operations of the school, or the administration reasonably anticipates that the expression or conduct is likely to materially and substantially disrupt the operations of the school.
4. The conduct has a direct nexus to attendance at school or a school-sponsored activity, for example, a transaction conducted outside of school pursuant to an agreement made in school, that would violate the Code of Student Conduct if conducted in school.
5. The conduct involves the theft or vandalism of school property.
6. There is otherwise a nexus between the proximity or timing of the conduct in relation to the student's attendance at school or school-sponsored activities.

Delegation of Responsibility

Per Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) rules, all student athletes must have their PIAA CIPPE Form filled out by a physician, and signed by both the student-athlete and his/her parent/guardian.

Each school year, prior to participation in an interscholastic athletic activity, every student athlete and his/her parent/guardian shall sign and return the acknowledgement of receipt and review of the following:[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)

1. Concussion and Traumatic Brain Injury Information Sheet.

2. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Symptoms and Warning Signs Information Sheet.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually prepare, approve and present to the SRC for its consideration a program of interscholastic athletics, which shall include a complete schedule of events. S/He shall inform the SRC of changes in that schedule as they occur.

Interscholastic athletic activities shall not be scheduled to conflict with any educational activity necessary for meeting the requirements of the approved curriculum, nor scheduled to begin for at least two (2) hours after the completion of the College Entrance Examinations.

A coach, faculty member, or district representative from each school involved shall be present at each game or contest and shall remain with his/her group or team until it leaves the building or grounds where the event is held.

The direct control of athletics in each school may be delegated to authorized staff within the school in accordance with procedures established by the Superintendent or designee.

The Superintendent or designee shall disseminate rules for the conduct of students participating in interscholastic athletics. Such rules shall be in conformity with regulations of the State Board of Education, the P.I.A.A. and the school district.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that similar athletic programs are offered to both sexes in proportion to the district's enrollment.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that interscholastic athletics are open to all eligible students and that all students are fully informed of the opportunities available to them.[\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)

Guidelines

Male/Female Athletic Opportunities Report

By October 15 of each year, on the designated disclosure form, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the PA Department of Education the interscholastic athletic opportunities and treatment for male and female secondary school students for the preceding school year.[\[14\]](#)

By November 1 of each year, the completed disclosure form shall be made available for public inspection during regular business hours and posted on the district's website.[\[14\]](#)

The availability of the completed disclosure form shall be announced by posting a notice on school bulletin boards, in the school newspaper, on any electronic mailing list or list serve, and by any other reasonable means.[\[14\]](#)

Legal References

1. 24 P.S. 1601-C et seq

2. 22 PA Code 4.27

3. 34 CFR 106.41

4. Pol. 103

5. Pol. 103.1

6. Pol. 204

7. Pol. 218

8. 24 P.S. 5323

9. 24 P.S. 5333

10. Pol. 123.1

11. Pol. 123.2

12. 22 PA Code 12.1

13. 22 PA Code 12.4

14. 24 P.S. 1603-C

24 P.S. 511

24 P.S. 5321 et seq

24 P.S. 5331 et seq

Philadelphia Home Rule Charter - 12-300

PIAA Constitution and Bylaws

Pol. 211

15. Pol. 252

16. Pol. 247

17. Pol. 249