



SECTION: PROGRAMS

POLICY: 122.4

**TITLE: INTERSCHOLASTIC
ATHLETICS FOR THE HIGH
SCHOOL**

ORIGINAL: July 21, 1997

CURRENT REVISION: February 1,
2021

**LAST REVIEWED BY THE
COMMITTEE:**

I. PURPOSE

- A. The Board 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.
- B. Participation in interscholastic athletics offers students significant lifetime learning experiences that are not duplicated in other areas of the total educational program and provides opportunities to foster school loyalty and the values of competition, sportsmanship, and teamwork.

II. DEFINITIONS

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 events occur between schools within this District or outside this District.

III. POLICY

- A. The Board shall approve annually a program of interscholastic athletics and shall require that all facilities utilized in that program whether or not the property of this Board properly safeguard both players and spectators and are kept free from hazardous conditions.
- B. The opportunity provided by Wissahickon School District for high school students to represent their school and community through participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege.
- C. Each student, before participating in any interscholastic activity, must be covered by student accident insurance; be free of injury; and undergo and pass a physical examination by a licensed physician.
- D. The Board further adopts those eligibility standards set by the Constitution of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association.
- E. The Board directs that no student may participate in interscholastic athletics who has not:
 - a. Met the requirement for academic eligibility;
 - b. Complied with the requirements of the Handbook for Student-Athletes and Parents of Student-Athletes;
 - c. Complied with the requirements of the Athletic Responsibility Acknowledgment form and Board policies and administrative regulations related to student discipline;
 - d. Attended school regularly;
 - e. Been in attendance on the day of the athletic event or practice for the hours required;

- f. Returned all school athletic equipment previously used; and
 - g. Adhered to applicable discipline standards.
- F. The head coach of any sport has the sole responsibility to select the members of a team in the varsity or junior varsity programs, and to assign a player to a position on a team.
- G. Varsity/Junior Varsity/Freshman Programs
 - a. Varsity programs are meant to be competitive in nature, while all other athletic programs are considered to be developmental and serve as a feeder for varsity-level programs. There shall be at least one coach per varsity team.
 - b. Junior varsity teams are determined on the basis of the need of the individual total program, number of participants, and available opponents.
 - c. Freshman teams are determined on the basis of the need of the individual program, number of participants, and available opponents. In the absence of a freshman program, an additional junior varsity coach will be considered.
 - d. The minimum number of participants needed to compete in a particular athletic contest shall be required to maintain a varsity, junior varsity, and/or freshman team. The Board retains the discretion to discontinue or suspend the operation of an interscholastic program regardless of participation
- H. Athletic Opportunities Equity
 - a. It shall be the policy of the Board 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.
 - b. 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 of male and female secondary school students for the preceding school year.
 - c. 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.
 - d. The availability of the completed disclosure form shall be announced by posting a notice on school bulletin boards, in the school newspaper, by email mailing list or electronic alert, and by another other reasonable means deemed advantageous by the Superintendent or designee.
- I. Coaches, Assignment/Conduct
 - a. The assignment of coaches shall be recommended by the Director of Athletics to the Superintendent and by the Board.
 - b. A coach representing the District shall conduct her/himself before, during, and after a contest in a manner consistent with the highest standards of sportsmanship and ethics.
 - c. Each team's head coach has the duty to control and direct the personal conduct of any participant on that varsity, junior varsity, or freshman team during a contest, training, or practice for the sport.
 - d. The Director of Athletics shall provide proper notification to all varsity head coaches of the date, time, and place of the annual P.I.A.A. Mandatory Rules Interpretation Meeting. Any varsity head coach who, having received such proper notification, fails to attend such meeting is responsible for and shall promptly pay any fine or fines assessed against the School District for their failure to attend.
- J. Role of Athletic Trainer

- a. All injuries to athletes or abnormal physical conditions of athletes shall be reported immediately by the head coach to the Athletic Trainer. The injured player shall be examined as soon as possible by the Athletic Trainer.
- b. The Athletic Trainer shall then notify the injured player's parents who shall thereafter be responsible for determining what further medical attention, if any, will be given. School personnel shall not advise parents of where to take their injured child for treatment.
- c. At the beginning of each season, the coach is required to tell all athletes to report any interscholastic activity-related injuries immediately to the coach or Athletic Trainer.
- d. The decision of whether an injured player shall be allowed to practice or play is in the sole discretion of the Athletic Trainer.
- e. The Athletic Trainer is responsible to give a written report to the Director of Athletics on every injury in an end of the year report. The Director of Athletics will file the reports with the senior high school nurse via the end of the year report.
- f. Each athletic program will be re-examined and coaches evaluated annually. The District's overall athletic program will be adjusted and revised based on the needs of individual teams.

IV. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

- A. The Superintendent or designee shall annually prepare and present to the Board for its consideration a program of interscholastic athletics, which shall include a complete schedule of events, and shall inform the Board of changes in that schedule as they occur.
- B. The Superintendent or designee shall prepare 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 PIAA, and the District.
- C. Each school year, prior to participation in an interscholastic athletic activity, every student athlete and their parent/guardian shall sign and return the Athletic Responsibility Acknowledgement form, required PIAA permission forms, and the PIAA Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation form.

V. REFERENCES

22 PA Code 4.27
 34 CFR 106.41
 Pol. 103
 Pol. 123
 24 P.S. 511
 Pol. 204
 Pol. 218
 9. Pol. 123.2
 24 P.S. 5323
 24 P.S. 1603-C
 22 PA Code 12.1
 22 PA Code 12.4
 24 P.S. 5321 et seq
 24 P.S. 1601-C et seq