

2431 ATHLETIC COMPETITION

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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 the purpose of this Policy, programs of athletic competition include all activities relating to competitive sports contests, games, events, or sports exhibitions involving individual pupils or teams of pupils when such events occur within or between schools within this district or with any schools outside this district. The programs of athletic competition shall include, but are not limited to, high school interscholastic athletic programs, middle school interscholastic athletic programs where school teams or squads play teams or squads from other school districts, ~~and/or~~ intramural athletic programs within a school or among schools in the district and any cheerleading program or activity in the school district.

Eligibility Standards

A pupil who wishes to participate in a program of athletic competition must submit, on a form provided by the district, the signed consent of his/her parent. The consent of the parent of a pupil who wishes to participate in a program of athletic competition will include an acknowledgment of the physical hazards that may be encountered in the activity.

Pupil participation in a program of athletic competition shall be governed by the following eligibility standards:

1. To be eligible for participation in the interscholastic athletic program of a New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) member school, all high school pupils must meet, at a minimum, all the eligibility requirements of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of the NJSIAA.
2. Home schooled children are not eligible to participate in the high school interscholastic athletic program of this district.



3. A pupil in grades nine through twelve is eligible for participation in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition only if he/she has met eligibility requirements of the NJSIAA.

A pupil who is absent with an unexcused absence for a school day may not participate in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition the afternoon or evening of that school day.

A pupil who is serving an in-school or out-of-school suspension may not participate in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition while serving the suspension.

4. A pupil in any grade who fails to observe school rules for pupil conduct may forfeit his/her eligibility for participation in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition.

Notice of the school district's eligibility requirements shall be available to pupils.

Required Examinations – Interscholastic or Intramural Team or Squad

Pupils enrolled in grades six to twelve must receive a medical examination, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.7, prior to participation on a school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural team or squad and any cheerleading program or activity.

The examination shall be conducted within 365 days prior to the first day of official practice in an athletic season 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 for the provision of health care **pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3**. If a pupil does not have a medical home, the school district shall provide the examination at the school physician's office or other comparably equipped facility. The parent may choose either the school physician or their own private physician to provide this medical examination. The medical examination required prior to participation shall be in accordance with the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)1 and Regulation 2431.2 and shall be documented using the Preparticipation Physical Evaluation form required by the Department of Education.

The school district shall distribute the Commissioner of Education developed sudden cardiac arrest pamphlet to a student participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.e., and the student's parent(s) shall each year and prior to participation by the student in an athletic activity comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.d.



The school district shall annually distribute the Commissioner of Education developed educational fact sheet relative to use and misuse of opioid drugs for sports related injuries to parents of students who participate in athletic activities and comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.10.

Information concerning a student's HIV/AIDS status shall not be required as part of the medical examination or health history pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:5C-1 et seq. The health findings of this medical examination shall be maintained as part of the pupil's health record.

Emergency Procedures

Athletic coaches shall be trained in first aid to include sports-related concussion and head injuries, the use of a defibrillator, the identification of pupil athletes who are injured or disabled in the course of any athletic program or activity, and any other first aid procedures or other health related trainings required by law or the Superintendent.

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 program or activity. Emergency procedures shall be reviewed not less than once in each school year and shall be disseminated to appropriate staff members.

Interscholastic Standards

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.

The Board adopts the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association as Board policy and shall review such rules on a regular basis to ascertain they continue to be in conformity with the objectives of this Board.

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 **may shall** inform the Board of changes in that schedule.

N.J.S.A. 2C:21-11



POLICY

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3 et seq.; 18A:40-41;18A:40-41.10

N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7(d); 6A:16-1.34; 6A:16-2.1 et seq.

Adopted: 26 August 2013

