

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

No: 123.3

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: Sportsmanship

ADOPTED: March 28, 2019

REVISED:

123.3 SPORTSMANSHIP

Purpose

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of ensuring the positive experience of students participating in the District's athletic programs. This policy has been developed to provide guidance for sportsmanship, leadership, and character development by students while participating in an athletic activity. [1][2]

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the terms below are defined as followed:

Sportsmanship shall mean that a sport or activity will be enjoyed for its own sake, with proper consideration for fairness, ethics, respect, and a sense of fellowship with one's competitors. All activities within the District's athletic programs shall be conducted within the Sportsmanship guidelines set forth, at all times.

Athletic activity shall mean all of the following:

1. Interscholastic athletics.
2. An athletic contest or competition, other than interscholastic athletics, that is sponsored by or associated with a school, including cheerleading, club-sponsored sports activities and sports activities sponsored by school-affiliated organizations.
3. Noncompetitive cheerleading that is sponsored by or associated with a school.
4. Practices, interschool practices and scrimmages for all athletic activities.

Delegation of Responsibility

Per Philadelphia Public League (PPL) rules, all student-athletes, coaches and sports administrators must adhere to the league code, promoting our core values of teamwork, sportsmanship, leadership, and character. [2]

Each school year, prior to participation in an athletic activity, every student-athlete and his/her parent/guardian shall sign and return the acknowledgment of receipt and review of the Philadelphia Public League Student-Athlete Code of Conduct. [2]

The Superintendent is authorized to delegate the creation of administrative procedures to implement this policy, which shall include protocols for the promotion of our core values of Teamwork, Sportsmanship, Leadership, Character Development through participation in an athletic activity, and shall prohibit unsportsmanlike conduct, bullying hazing and other inappropriate behavior.

Mandatory Regulatory Procedures

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

The Board of Education prohibits unsportsmanlike conduct in connection with any athletic activity, regardless of whether the conduct occurs on or off school property or outside of school hours. [1][2]

In addition to posting this policy on the District's website, the District shall annually inform students, coaches, sport administrators, parents/guardians, volunteers and District employees that unsportsmanlike conduct are prohibited, by means of distribution of written policy, publication in handbooks, verbal instructions by the coach at the start of the season and/or posting of notice/signs. All Philadelphia Public League member coaches will be required to annually complete the Sportsmanship online coursework through the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHSLearn).

Bullying, Hazing & Inappropriate Behaviors

The Board of Education prohibits bullying, hazing and inappropriate behaviors in connection with any athletic activity, regardless of whether the conduct occurs on or off school property or outside of school hours. [3][4][5]

In addition to posting this policy on the District's website, the District shall annually inform students, coaches, sport administrators, parents/guardians, volunteers and District employees that bullying, hazing and inappropriate behaviors are prohibited, by means of distribution of written policy, publication in handbooks, verbal instructions by the coach at the start of the season and/or posting of notice/signs. All Philadelphia Public League member coaches will be required to annually complete the Bullying, Hazing & Inappropriate Behaviors online coursework through the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHSLearn).

This policy, along with Policy 247 (Hazing), and Policy 249 (Bullying), procedures and Codes of Conduct, shall be provided to all school athletic coaches and volunteers affiliated with any athletic activity annually, prior to coaching an athletic activity or serving as a responsible adult supervising, advising, assisting or otherwise participating in an athletic activity.

Legal References

[1] 24 P.S. § 510

[2] Philadelphia Public League (PPL) By-Laws

[2] 24 P.S. § 5352

[3] 24 P. S. § 13-1302.1-A

[4] Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

Related Information:

Policy 247 (Hazing), and

Policy 249 (Bullying) procedures and

Student Codes of Conduct

National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHSLearn)