

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

No. 123

Section: 100 Programs

Title: Interscholastic
Athletics

Adopted: January 19, 2017

Revised: January 26, 2023

123 INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Purpose

The Board of Education (“Board”) recognizes the value of a program of interscholastic athletics as an integral part of providing a well-rounded school experience to all School District of Philadelphia (“District”) students and as a conduit for community involvement. Therefore, the purpose of this Policy is to offer opportunities for participation in interscholastic athletic programs to District students.

Authority

In conformity with Pennsylvania and Federal law, the District shall offer opportunities for participation in interscholastic athletic programs to all students on an equal basis as is practicable and without discrimination. [1][2][3][4][5]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Board directs the Superintendent or their designee, through the Office of Athletics, to maintain a program of interscholastic athletics with appropriate and suitable equipment, practice sites, and competition sites. The Office of Athletics shall publish schedules of interscholastic athletics events publicly.

The Office of Athletics shall define the standards of eligibility to be met by all students participating in an interscholastic athletics program that complies with Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) requirements. Such standards shall require that each student, before participating in any interscholastic athletics activity, be covered by student accident insurance; be free of injury; and undergo a PIAA Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation by a licensed physician.

No student may participate in interscholastic athletics who has not met all of the requirements for eligibility.[6][7]

The Superintendent or their designee shall disseminate rules for the conduct of students participation in interscholastic athletics. Such rules shall be in conformity with regulations of the State Board of Education, the PIAA, and the District.

Mandatory Regulatory Procedures

Similar athletic programs shall be offered to both sexes in proportion to the District's enrollment.[2][3]

Interscholastic athletics shall be open to all eligible students and all students shall be fully informed of the opportunities available to them.[8][9]

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.

Each school year, prior to participation in an interscholastic athletic activity, every student athlete and their parent/guardian shall sign and return the acknowledgement of receipt and review of the following:[10][11][12][13]

1. Concussion and Traumatic Brain Injury Information Sheet
2. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Symptoms and Warning Signs Information Sheet

Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Student Participation

Students participating in interscholastic athletics may participate on the team of the gender with which they identify. All students and employees must adhere to Policy 252 - Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students.[14]

Bullying and Hazing

Bullying, hazing, and harassment are antithetical to competitive sports. All students and employees must adhere to Policy 247 - Hazing, Policy 249 - Bullying/Cyberbullying, Policy 123.3 - Sportsmanship, and the Student Code of Conduct.[15][16][17][18]

Legal References:

1. [24 P.S. §16-1601-C, et seq.](#)
2. [22 Pa. Code §4.27](#)
3. [34 CFR §106.41](#)
4. Policy 103 - Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices
5. Policy 103.1 - Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students with Disabilities/Protected Handicapped Students
6. Policy 204 - Attendance
7. Policy 218 - Student Conduct and Discipline
8. [22 Pa. Code §12.1](#)

9. [22 Pa. Code §12.4](#)
10. Policy 123.1 - Concussion Management and Sudden Cardiac Arrest
11. [24 P.S. §5323](#)
12. [24 P.S. §14-1425](#)
13. [24 P.S. §5321, et seq.](#)
14. Policy 252 - Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students
15. Policy 247 - Hazing
16. Policy 249 - Bullying/Cyberbullying
17. Policy 123.3 - Sportsmanship
18. Student Code of Conduct

Related Information:

[Administrative Procedures for Interscholastic Athletics](#)