

Administrative Procedures for Interscholastic Athletics
(Attachment for Policy No. 123, 123.1, 123.3)

Purpose

These Administrative Procedures are adopted by the Division of Athletics to effectuate the mandates of Board of Education Policy 123, 123.1, and 123.3.

Definitions

Interscholastic athletics: All activities related to competitive athletic contests or competitions conducted between or among school entities as teams associated with the Philadelphia Public League (“PPL”), Middle Grades Conference (“MGC”), or Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletics Association (“PIAA”).

Athletic activity:

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

Appropriate medical professional:

1. A licensed physician who is trained in the evaluation and management of concussions;
2. A licensed or certified health care professional trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and designated by a licensed physician trained in the evaluation and management of concussions; or
3. A licensed or certified athletic trainer (ATC) who is trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.

Sportsmanship: Actions which are fair and ethical and/or not intended to demean, embarrass, intimidate, or injure opposing contestants, teams, spectators, and/or officials and that foster a sense of fellowship with one’s competitors.

Procedures

Any school sponsoring an athletic activity may hold an informational meeting prior to the start of each athletic season for all competitors regarding concussions and other head injuries, the importance of proper concussion management, the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest and information about electrocardiogram testing, bullying and hazing, and sportsmanship. In addition to the student athletes, such meetings may include parents/guardians, coaches, other appropriate school officials, physicians, neuropsychologists, athletic trainers, physical trainers, and content experts.

Each school year, prior to participation in an interscholastic athletic activity, every student-athlete and their parent/guardian shall sign and return the acknowledgment of receipt and review of the [PPL Student-Athlete Code of Conduct](#) and [PIAA CIPPE Form](#) filled out by a physician and signed appropriately. Similarly, prior to participation in an athletic activity, every student athlete and their parent/guardian shall sign and return the acknowledgement of receipt and review of the [Concussion and Traumatic Brain Injury Information Sheet](#) and the [Sudden Cardiac Arrest Symptoms and Warning Signs Information Sheet](#).

A coach, faculty member, or District representative from each school involved shall be present at each game or contest and shall remain with their 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 their designee.

Removal from Play from an Athletic Activity

A student or coach who, as determined by the game official, appropriate medical professional, appropriate school administrator, PPL, MGC, or PIAA representative, exhibits any signs of a concussion or traumatic brain injury, sudden cardiac arrest, bullying and hazing, or engages in any form of unsportsmanlike conduct while participating in an interscholastic athletic activity shall be removed from participation at that time and the emergency response system will be activated if necessary.

Any student or coach known to have exhibited signs or symptoms of concussion or traumatic brain injury, sudden cardiac arrest, bullying and hazing, or engaged in unsportsmanlike conduct prior to or following an athletic activity shall be prohibited from participating in athletic activities.

Return to Play

The appropriate school administrator shall not return a student and/or coach to participation in an athletic activity until the student and/or coach is evaluated and cleared for return to participation in writing by an appropriate medical professional or the Office of the President of the Philadelphia Public League. The Office of Athletics may designate a specific appropriate medical professional(s) to provide written clearance for return to participation. The student and/or coach may be required to complete any mandatory online training coursework through the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHSLearn - www.nfhslearn.com) prior to their return to play.

Training

All coaches shall annually, prior to coaching an athletic activity, complete the (1) Concussion in Sports; (2) Sudden Cardiac Arrest; (3) Bullying, Hazing & Inappropriate Behaviors; and the (4)

Sportsmanship certification training courses offered by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHSLearn - www.nfhslearn.com).

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 is prohibited.

Anabolic Steroids

The Board prohibits the use of anabolic steroids by students involved in school-related athletics, except for a valid medical purpose. Bodybuilding and muscle enhancement, increasing muscle bulk or strength, or the enhancement of athletic ability are not valid medical purposes. Human Growth Hormone (HGH) shall not be included as an anabolic steroid.

The Division of Athletics shall annually inform student athletes of the dangers of steroid use; that anabolic steroids are classified as controlled substances; and that their use, unauthorized possession, purchase, or sale could subject students to suspension, expulsion and/or criminal prosecution.

Penalties

A student or coach found in violation of the provisions of these Administrative Procedures related to removal from play and return to play shall be subject to the following penalties:

1. For a first violation, suspension from participation in or coaching any athletic activity for the remainder of the season;
2. For a second violation, suspension from participation in or coaching any athletic activity for the remainder of the season and for the next season;
3. For a third violation, permanent suspension from participation in or coaching any athletic activity.

Off-Campus Activities

This Policy and its Administrative Procedures shall also apply to student and employee conduct that occurs off school property and would otherwise violate the Student Code of Conduct or Employee Code of Ethics.

Maintenance Schedule

These Administrative Procedures will be reviewed upon review of the Policy, or upon the occurrence of a triggering event.