

Policy © 5-410 Interscholastic Athletics

Definitions

“AIA” means the Arizona Interscholastic Association.

“Interscholastic athletic activity” means an interscholastic extracurricular activity consisting of a sport or other athletic competition, including all practice sessions, games and other activities for interscholastic athletics.

“Interscholastic athletics” does not include dance, rhythmic gymnastics, competitions or exhibitions of academic skills or knowledge, or other forms of physical noncontact activities, civic activities, or academic activities.

Interscholastic Athletic Activities

All interscholastic athletic activities require Board approval.

No student may participate in an interscholastic athletic activity unless the District has first obtained and placed on file a consent form signed by the student and the student’s parent/legal guardian that indicates that both the student and the student’s parent/legal guardian have received information regarding: the provision of water; concussions and head injuries; heat-related illnesses; sudden cardiac death; and prescription opioid use. Written consent shall be required each school year for each interscholastic athletic activity in which the student participates. The Superintendent shall develop procedures to provide the required education and obtain the required consent forms.

Water

Student athletes shall have access to drinking water at all times.

Concussion & Head Injury

The District shall develop guidelines and materials to inform and educate coaches, student athletes, and parents/legal guardians on the dangers of concussions and head injuries and the risks of continued participation in athletics after a concussion.

Before a student athlete may participate in an athletic activity, the student athlete and his/her parent/legal guardian must sign an information form at least once each school year acknowledging their awareness of the nature and risk of concussion.

A student athlete suspected of sustaining a concussion shall be immediately removed from athletic activity with notice to the student athlete’s parent/legal guardian. Any of the following may remove a student athlete from athletic activity for a suspected concussion: coach, official/referee, health care provider, or the student athlete’s parent/legal guardian. Once removed from athletic activity, the student athlete may only

return to play once a health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and head injuries has evaluated the student athlete and provided written clearance.

A health care provider means a duly licensed physician, athletic trainer, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant.

Heat-Related Illnesses, Sudden Cardiac Death, and Prescription Opioid Use

Before a student athlete may participate in an athletic activity, the student athlete and his/her parent/legal guardian must be provided with information at least once each school year on the risks of heat-related illnesses, sudden cardiac death, and prescription opioid addiction.

Beginning August 1, 2027, the District shall ensure that at least one employee at each campus during regular school hours has successfully completed a training course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid that follows nationally recognized cardiovascular care guidelines.

Automated External Defibrillators

The District shall provide an automated external defibrillator (AED) on each school campus and at each school- sponsored athletic event, including all practices, trainings and competitions. The District shall maintain and display the AED as required by [A.R.S. §15-120.07](#). As of August 1, 2027, the District shall ensure that at least one (1) employee has successfully completed a training course in the use of AEDs that follows nationally recognized cardiovascular care standards if there is an AED at the school campus.

Interscholastic Athletic Activities

District personnel shall adhere to the following AIA policies, which are incorporated into these Procedures:

1. 43.3—Concussion Education
2. 43.4—Concussion Policy
3. 43.5—Heat Acclimatization & Exertional Heat Illness Management Policy

The incorporated AIA policies shall apply to all athletic activities directly sponsored by the District, but shall not apply to dance; rhythmic gymnastics; competitions or exhibitions of academic skills or knowledge; or other similar forms of physical noncontact activities, civic activities or academic activities, whether engaged in for the purposes of competition or recreation.

Outside Groups/Organizations

An Arizona-based group or organization that uses District property or facilities for athletic activities shall comply with the above requirements.

Permission Forms and Education

The Superintendent shall ensure that there is written consent from a parent/legal guardian on file for each student participating in an interscholastic athletic activity and that all students participating in an interscholastic athletic activity and their parents have received educational materials related to the provision of water; concussions and head injuries; heat-related illnesses; sudden cardiac death; and prescription opioid use, which information shall consist of materials developed by the AIA and any additional materials relevant to the interscholastic athletic activity as determined by the faculty sponsor, principal, or athletic director.

Designation of Teams by Sex

All athletic events shall be designated as one of the following: (1) “boys” (2) “girls” or (3) “mixed”. Teams and events for girls shall be reserved for students whose biological sex as determined at birth is female as required by [A.R.S. § 15-120.02](#).

Adopted:

Legal Authority:

[A.R.S. § 15-341](#)

[A.R.S. § 15-120.02](#)

[A.R.S. §15-120.07](#)

[Ariz. Admin. Code R7-2-808](#)