

Students

Extracurricular Athletics 1

Student participation in school-sponsored extracurricular athletic activities is contingent upon the following:

1. The student must meet the academic criteria set forth in the School Board policy on school sponsored extracurricular activities. ²
2. The parent(s)/guardian(s) must provide written permission for the student's participation, giving the District full waiver of responsibility of the risks involved.
3. The student must present a certificate of physical fitness issued by a licensed physician, an advanced practice nurse, or a physician assistant who assures that the student's health status allows for active athletic participation. ³
4. The student must show proof of accident insurance coverage either by a policy purchased through the District-approved insurance plan or a parent(s)/guardian(s) written statement that the student is covered under a family insurance plan. ⁴
5. The student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) must provide written consent to random drug and alcohol testing pursuant to the Extracurricular Drug and Alcohol Testing Program. ⁵

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content.

² A comprehensive Student Handbook can provide notice to parents and students of the school's conduct rules, extracurricular and athletic participation requirements, and other important information. The building principal usually develops the Handbook, subject to review and approval by the superintendent and board.

Each board in a district that maintains any of grades 9 through 12 must have a *no pass-no play* policy (105 ILCS 5/10-20.30). See policy 6:190, *Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities*, for complete details.

For purposes of clarity, the IASB uses a curricular-extracurricular dichotomy. All classes are included in the category "curricular" as well as what was formally known as *co-curricular*, e.g., band and choral performances that are a required part of the class. The category "extracurricular" includes all school-sponsored activities that are not a part of a student's educational program as reflected in the student's class schedule. Examples include football, cheerleading, French club, Key Club, and student government. Note that extracurricular activities may be curriculum-related or non-curriculum-related for purposes of determining access to school facilities under the federal Equal Access Act. See sample IASB policy 7:330, *Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access*.

³ Students participating in interscholastic athletics must have an annual physical exam (23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.530(b)). The Illinois High School Association, by-law 2.140, requires schools to have on file for each student participating in interscholastic athletics a certificate of physical fitness issued by a licensed physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner.

⁴ Item #4 ensures that students are covered by insurance for medical expenses up to \$50,000 (before the district's catastrophic accident insurance kicks-in) and that students who are not covered by the district's catastrophic insurance are otherwise covered by insurance.

105 ILCS 5/22-15, amended by P.A. 98-166, requires (with limited exceptions) each school district having grades 9-12 to maintain catastrophic insurance coverage for student athletes who sustain an accidental injury while participating in interscholastic athletic events sanctioned by IHSA that results in medical expenses in excess of \$50,000. A district maintaining grades K-8 may, but is not required to, provide accident and/or health insurance on a group or individual basis for students injured while participating in any school-sponsored athletic activity. For more information, see 4:100, *Insurance Management*.

⁵ Optional, but must be consistent with policy 7:240, *Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities*. The Seventh Circuit upheld the constitutionality of a high school's random drug testing program for students involved in extracurricular activities in Todd v. Rush County Schools, 133 F.3d 984 (7th Cir. 1998).

6. The student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) must complete forms required by the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) concerning its performance-enhancing substance testing program, implemented in accordance with State law, before the student may participate in an athletic competition sponsored or sanctioned by IHSA. 6

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain the necessary records to ensure student compliance with this policy.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.30, and 25/2.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.530(b).

CROSS REF.: 4:100 (Insurance Management), 4:170 (Safety), 6:190 (Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities), 7:240 (Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities), 7:330 (Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access), 7:340 (Student Records)

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6 105 ILCS 25/2. See IHSA policy #24, *Performance Enhancing Drug Testing Policy* for its requirements, www.ihsa.org/org/policy/2009-10/policies.pdf.

State law requires the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) to: (1) prohibit a student from participating in an athletic competition sponsored or sanctioned by IHSA unless the student has agreed not to use any performance-enhancing substances on IHSA's current banned drug list, and (2) require that the student's parent/guardian, if the student is in high school, sign a statement acknowledging that the student may be subject to performance-enhancing substance testing, that State law regulates the use of such substances, and that a violation of State law is a crime. IHSA, with oversight from the Illinois Department of Public Health, administers a performance-enhancing substance testing program under which high school students participating in athletic competition sponsored or sanctioned by IHSA are tested at multiple times throughout the athletic season for the presence of performance-enhancing substances on the IHSA's most current banned drug list in the students' bodies.

Important student records note: Several State and federal statutes prohibit schools from releasing student information without appropriately issued consents to disclosures; consult the board attorney about these issues.