

451 Staff Participation in Student Games and Drills

Board Adopted:

To ensure the safety of students and staff, maintain professional boundaries, and uphold instructional integrity during athletic and extracurricular practices, this policy establishes clear guidelines regarding staff involvement in physical activities conducted with students.

This policy applies to all school district employees, including coaches, instructional aides, volunteers, and any adult supervising or assisting with student athletic or physical practice activities.

Staff members are prohibited from actively participating in games, scrimmages, or practice drills alongside students during official practices or team sessions. This includes:

- Acting as an opponent or teammate during student drills
- Participating in contact or non-contact games/scrimmages
- Performing physical demonstrations beyond brief, controlled instruction

Staff may provide instruction, demonstrate techniques with caution, and observe student performance, but they must not engage in full physical participation.

Rationale

- Student safety: Adult physicality may pose unintentional risks to students during drills or games.
- Staff safety: Participation increases the risk of staff injury, impacting professional responsibilities.
- Professional boundaries: Clear distinctions between staff and student roles help preserve healthy, respectful relationships.
- Instructional focus: Staff should focus on teaching, observing, and assessing student development rather than competing or engaging in physical activities.

Limited exceptions may be granted under the following conditions:

- A physical demonstration is brief, controlled, and pre-approved by the athletic director or building principal.
- Emergency interventions necessary to prevent injury or disruption.

All exceptions must be documented and reviewed post-activity

Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including removal from coaching or extracurricular responsibilities, consistent with the district's disciplinary procedures.

This policy will be reviewed biennially by the superintendent and athletic director to ensure relevance and alignment with student safety standards.