

Policy

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
GENEVA COMMUNITY UNIT
SCHOOL DISTRICT #304**

PROGRAM
2431/page 1 of 2

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The Board of Education recognizes the value to the District and to the community of a program of interscholastic athletics for as many students as feasible.

The program of interscholastic athletics should provide students the opportunity to exercise and test their athletic abilities in a context greater and more varied than that which can be offered by a school or the School District alone.

The program should foster the growth of school loyalty within the student body as a whole and stimulate community interest in athletics.

Game activities and practice sessions should provide many opportunities to teach the values of competition and good sportsmanship.

The Board believes that it is the purpose of an interscholastic program to provide the benefits of an athletic experience to as large a number of students as feasible within the District.

The Board further adopts those eligibility standards set by the Constitution of the Illinois High School Athletics Association (IHSA^A) and shall review such standards annually to ascertain that they continue to be in conformity with the objectives of this Board.

In the case of a student being educated under an IEP, the IEP Team shall determine whether or not the student has met eligibility standards appropriate for participation in an athletic activity.

Since the primary purpose of the athletic program is to enhance the education of participating students as indicated in this policy, the Board places top priority on maximum student participation and the values of good sportsmanship, team play, and fair competition, rather than on winning, particularly at sub-varsity levels.

The Superintendent shall develop appropriate administrative guidelines for the operation of the Athletic Program and a Code of Conduct for those who participate. ***All students who participate must submit a signed Student Handbook acceptance form.*** Such guidelines should provide for the following safeguards:

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PROGRAM
2431/page 2 of 2

- A. Prior to enrolling in the sport, each participant shall submit to a thorough physical examination by a physician licensed in Illinois to practice medicine and surgery in all its branches or a District-approved physician and parents shall report any past or current health problems along with a physician's statement that any such problems have or are being treated and pose no threat to the student's participation.
- B. Any student who is found to have a health condition which may be life-threatening to self or others shall not be allowed to participate until the situation has been analyzed by a medical review panel that has determined the conditions under which the student may participate.
- C. Any student who incurs an injury requiring a physician's care is to have written approval by a physician prior to the student's return to participation.
- D. Any student-athlete who suffers a concussion or head injury or is suspected of suffering a concussion or head injury must be cleared to return to play, as set forth in Policy 2431.01**

In order to minimize health and safety risks to student-athletes and maintain ethical standards, school personnel, coaches, athletic trainers, and lay coaches should never dispense, supply, recommend or permit the use of any drug, medication, or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes.

105 ILCS 5/24-24, 5/10-20.30

Adopted 9/25/2006
Reviewed/Revised Oberg & O'Neil 5/7/2012
To Policy Committee 6/25/2012