



Book	Policy Manual
Section	BOARD POLICIES UNDER CONSIDERATION
Title	Copy of INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS
Code	po2431
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2431 - **INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**

The Board of Education recognizes the value to the students of the District and to the community of a program of interscholastic athletics for students as an integral part of the total school experience.

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

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

For purposes of this policy, the program of interscholastic athletics shall include all activities relating to competitive sport contests, games, events, or sport exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students of this District with those of another district.

The Board shall determine the standards of eligibility to be met by all students participating in the interscholastic program. Such standards shall require that each student be in good physical condition, be free of injury, and have fully recovered from illness before participating in any interscholastic athletic event.

Prior to the start of each athletic season, each school operated by the District that offers athletic programs shall hold an informational meeting for students, parents, guardians, other individuals having care or charge of a student, physicians, pediatric cardiologists, athletic trainers, and any other individuals who participate in athletic programs regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest for all ages of students.

No student may practice or compete in interscholastic athletics until the student submits a form signed by the student's parent or guardian, or by a person having care or charge of the student, affirming that each has received a sudden cardiac arrest, concussion, and head injury information sheet as prepared by the Ohio Department of Health and Department of Education and Workforce. See Form 2431 F1 and Form 2431 F2.

~~In addition to the eligibility requirements established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, to be eligible for any interscholastic extra-curricular activity, a student must have maintained at least a 1.50 grade-point average and must be passing five (5), one (1) credit classes.~~

Students educated at home or enrolled in a nonpublic school who are permitted to participate on a District interscholastic team must fulfill the same academic, nonacademic, and financial requirements as any other participant. See Policy 9270. An exception may be made by the principal if the student has been participating in an intervention program and has shown satisfactory progress toward achieving the minimum grade-point average.

Restoration of an "Incomplete" Grade

If a student's failure to meet the academic eligibility requirements is due to an "incomplete" grade given in one or more courses which the student was taking during the grading period in question, the student may have their eligibility restored once the "incomplete" has been changed to a passing letter grade provided:

- A. the failure to complete the required coursework during the grading period was due to calamity day(s), family tragedy, or illness or accident as verified by a physician; and
- B. the "incomplete" was given in accordance with Board of Education grading policies and procedures and is applicable to all students in the school; and
- C. the previously scheduled work and/or exams is/are completed within the time period provided in Board policy for completing work required to convert an "incomplete" into a letter grade; and
- D. there is no evidence that the "incomplete" was given in order to afford the student extended time in order to provide the student tutoring or other educational services simply to avoid a failing grade.

Specific documentation of criteria listed above (Items A-D) must be submitted to the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) (See AG 2431) in order to be considered by the Executive Director for such a ruling.

These same eligibility standards shall apply to all other co-curricular and extra-curricular activities sponsored by the District. (See Policy 2430).

Students identified as disabled under R.C. 3323 and the IDEA are subject to the eligibility standards established by this policy unless specifically exempted by the express terms of their individualized education program (IEP). An IEP can specify the criteria by which a grade will be determined for (a) course(s), given the student's individualized disability.

Since the primary purpose of the athletic program is to enhance the education of participating students as indicated in this policy, the Board places priority on student participation and the values of good sportsmanship and fair play. The Board further adopts those eligibility standards set by the Constitution of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) that are consistent with State and Federal law, and shall review such standards annually to ascertain that they continue to be in conformity with the objectives of this Board.

No student shall be excused from a class or supervised study for an extended period of time to participate in interscholastic athletics.

The Superintendent shall annually prepare, approve, and present to the Board for its consideration a program of interscholastic athletics and shall inform the Board of changes in that schedule as they occur.

The Superintendent shall develop appropriate administrative guidelines for the operation of the Athletic Program and a Code of Conduct for those who participate. Such guidelines should provide for the following safeguards:

- A. Prior to enrolling in the sport 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. The District shall assume no liability for any student with a health condition who has been authorized to play by the parents and their physician but not by the District.
- C. Any student who incurs an injury requiring a physician's care is to have the written approval of a physician prior to the student's return to participation.
- D. Any student practicing for or competing in an interscholastic event who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury shall be removed from the practice or competition by the student's coach (and/or the referee serving during the practice or competition). Any student who has been removed from practice or competition by a coach or referee because the student has exhibited signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury shall not be permitted to return to any practice or competition for which the coach or referee is

responsible until both of the following occur:

1. The student's condition is assessed by a physician or other health care provider authorized by the Board, in accordance with requirements set forth in R.C. 3313.539(E)(2), to assess such a student.
2. The student receives written clearance that it is safe to return to practice or competition from a physician in accordance with requirements set forth in R.C. 3313.539(E)(2), to grant such a clearance.

The Superintendent is also to develop guidelines for ensuring that sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity characterize the manner in which the athletic program is conducted and the actions of students who participate.

The guidelines should also provide a set of behavioral expectations for each type of participant as well as a Sportsmanship Code of Conduct which each type of participant is to follow. The Superintendent is authorized to implement suitable disciplinary procedures against those who violate this Sportsmanship Code.

In order to minimize health and safety risks to student-athletes and maintain ethical standards, school personnel, coaches, athletic trainers, and lay coaches shall not dispense, supply, recommend, or permit the use of any drug, medication, or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes. The Superintendent shall cause to be posted in all locker rooms in buildings that include students in any grade higher than the sixth grade, the following:

"Warning: Improper use of anabolic steroids may cause serious or fatal health problems, such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, growth deformities, infertility, personality changes, severe acne, and baldness. Possession, sale, or use of anabolic steroids without a valid prescription is a crime punishable by a fine and imprisonment."

Students will be further informed that participation in interscholastic sports is a privilege and not a right, and that they may be prohibited from all or part of their participation in such activities by authorized school personnel without further notice, hearing and/or appeal rights (See Policy 5610.05 - Prohibition From Extra-Curricular Activities).

In order to support the High School Athletic Association's program to strengthen sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity, the Board commits itself to:

- A. adopt policies (upon recommendation of the administration) which reflect the District's educational objectives and promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity;
- B. establish standards for athletic participation which reinforce the concept that athletic activities are a privilege, not a right;
- C. attend and enjoy school athletic activities, serving as a positive role model and expecting the same from parents, fans, participants, coaches, and other school personnel;
- D. support and recognize participants, coaches, school administrators, and fans who display good sportsmanship;
- E. recognize the value of school athletic activities as a vital part of education.

No student will be denied the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics offered by a school in the District because the student has or is participating in a College Credit Plus Program as long as the student fulfills all academic, nonacademic and financial requirements.

No student will be limited from wearing religious apparel while participating in interscholastic or non-interscholastic extra-curricular activities unless such apparel poses a legitimate danger to participants. If such danger is identified, the student will be offered reasonable accommodations available for the participant wearing religious apparel.

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Legal

R.C. 2305.23, 2305.231, 3313.53, 3313.535, 3313.539, 3313.752

R.C. 3313.5311, 3313.5312, 3313.5314, 3313.5317, 3315.062

Ohio High School Athletic Association