

Instruction

Interscholastic Competition

The Board of Education recognizes that the interscholastic athletic program constitutes an integral component of the educational program. Within the district's financial and personnel constraints, the interscholastic program shall be geared to students' interests and abilities and varied in scope to ensure wide participation. In accordance with law, the district shall provide equivalent opportunities to both sexes and shall maintain control over all aspects of the program. The Board encourages business and community support for district athletic programs, subject to applicable district policies and regulations governing advertisements and donations.

Student Eligibility

Participation in the district interscholastic program is limited to those students who meet the district's eligibility requirements. Students shall not be charged a fee to participate in an athletic program.

The first priority of student athletes shall be a commitment to their education and academic achievement.

Eligibility requirements for participation in the district's interscholastic athletic program, including eligibility for a child in foster care or a child of a military family, are the same as those set by the district for participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities.

Health and Safety

The Board desires to give student health and safety the highest consideration in planning and conducting interscholastic activities. In the event that an injury occurs, the coach or other appropriate district employee shall remove the student athlete from the activity and/or seek medical treatment for the student as appropriate. Universal precautions shall be observed when injuries occur and when handling bloody dressings, mouth guards and other articles containing body fluids.

All athletic teams shall be supervised by qualified coaches. Athletic events shall be officiated by qualified licensed personnel.

Special care shall be taken to ensure that all interscholastic training and competition is conducted in a manner which will not overtax the physical capabilities of the participants. Students shall have a medical examination before participating in the

interscholastic program. Protective equipment shall be used to prevent or minimize injuries.

Coaches and appropriate district employees shall take every possible precaution to ensure that athletic equipment is kept in safe and serviceable condition. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all athletic equipment is cleaned and inspected for safety before the beginning of each school year.

Nondiscrimination and Equivalent Opportunities in the Athletic Program

The District's athletic program shall be free from discrimination and discriminatory practices in accordance with state and federal law. The Superintendent or designee shall insure that equivalent opportunities are provided for both genders. Any complaint regarding the district's athletic program shall be filed in accordance with Board Policy/Rule 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

Open Participation

The Board recognizes that participation in athletic competition promotes a positive school climate. The Board encourages all students to try out for athletic teams.

Sportsmanship

The Board of Education values the quality and integrity of the athletic program and the ethical well-being and character development of student athletes. Student athletes, coaches, parents/guardians, spectators, and others are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play during all athletic competitions. They shall also abide by the core principles of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship and the Codes of Conduct adopted by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF).

Students and staff may be subject to disciplinary action for improper conduct.

California Interscholastic Federation

The Board maintains membership in the CIF and requires that interscholastic athletic activities be conducted in accordance with Board policy, administrative regulation, and CIF bylaws and rules. The Superintendent or designee shall have responsibility for the district's interscholastic athletic program, while the principal or designee at each participating school shall be responsible for site-level decisions, as appropriate.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board shall annually designate an employee from each high school to serve as a representative to the local CIF league. Appointees shall represent the district in performing all duties required by the CIF

league. In making this selection, the Board shall consider the employee's understanding of the district's goals for interscholastic and extracurricular activities, knowledge of the athletic programs, awareness of the implications of league decisions for the school and the district, and individual interpersonal communication and leadership skills.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district representatives to the CIF report regularly to the Board on league, section, and statewide issues, as well as activities and prospective actions related to athletics.

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students participating in interscholastic athletics governed by the CIF satisfy CIF eligibility requirements.

Supervision

All athletic teams shall be supervised by qualified coaches to ensure that student athletes receive appropriate instruction and guidance related to safety, health, training, and preparation for competition. Athletic events shall be officiated by qualified personnel.

Legal References: Education Code
40 Prohibited sex discrimination
41 School sponsored athletic programs; prohibited sex
discrimination
200-261 Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex
33353 California Interscholastic Federation; implementation of
policies
33353.5 California Interscholastic Federation; insurance
program
33354 Authority over interscholastic athletics
35160.5 District policies; rules and regulations
35179 Interscholastic athletics
39617 Football equipment
48930-48938 Student organizations
49020 Athletic programs: Legislative intent
49021 Equal opportunity for male and female students
49022 Apportionment of funds for athletic programs
49023 Expenditure of public funds; prohibited sex discrimination
Code of Regulations, Title 5
4900-4962 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary
education programs receiving state financial assistance
5531 Supervision of extracurricular activities of pupils
5590-5596 Employment of non-certificated coaches
Hartzell v. Connell (1984) 35 Cal 3d 889

Policy
adopted: 12/08/98
revised: 04/04/06
revised: 05/01/07

Policy 6145.2

Page 4

revised: 09/07/10

revised: 09/18/12

revised: 06/19/15 (technical revision)