# INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Participation by students in athletic competition is a privilege subject to Board policies and regulations. While the Board takes great pride in winning, it emphasizes and requires good sportsmanship and a positive mental attitude as prerequisites to participation.

The Superintendent and administrative staff schedule frequent conferences with all physical education instructors, coaches and athletic directors to develop a constructive approach to physical education and athletics throughout the District and to maintain a program that is an educational activity.

Interscholastic athletic programs are subject to approval by the Board. The building principal is responsible for the administration of the interscholastic athletic program within his/her school. In discharging this responsibility, the principal consults with the athletic directors, coaches and physical education instructors on various aspects of the interscholastic athletic program. It is the responsibility of the principal and his/her staff to ensure the proper management of all athletic and physical education programs and the safety of students and the public.

The Board may require that students pay reasonable fees to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Coaches are required to complete all approved course work as specified by State law, the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and the Ohio Department of Education in order to qualify to serve as coaches.

In the conduct of interscholastic athletic programs, the rules, regulations and limitations outlined by the OHSAA and State law must be followed. It is the responsibility of the District's voting delegate to OHSAA to advise the management team of all pending changes in OHSAA's regulations.

Eligibility requirements for participating in athletic programs must conform to regulations of the OHSAA. They include the requirements that a student have the written permission of his/her parent(s) and shall have been determined as physically fit for the chosen sport by a licensed physician.

All students participating in interscholastic athletics must be covered by insurance.

As character building is one of the major objectives of interscholastic athletics, the athlete assumes responsibility for regulating his/her personal life in such ways as to make him/her a worthy representative of his/her school.

Any student may be suspended from an athletic team practice and competition for a period of time, designated by the principal, for infractions of school rules and regulations or for any other unacceptable conduct in or out of school.

Students in grades 9-12 are ineligible for athletics for the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests in the sports the student participated in during the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer, until the one-year anniversary date of enrollment in the school the student transferred to. If the transfer takes place during the sport season in which a student has participated in a regular season interscholastic contest, the student is ineligible for the remainder of that sport's season. Exceptions to the ineligibility provisions are outlined in the OHSAA Bylaws.

Resident students enrolled in community schools are permitted to participate in the District's interscholastic athletics program at the school to which the student would be assigned. Students must be of the appropriate age and grade level as determined by the Superintendent, and must fulfill the same academic, nonacademic and financial requirements as any other participant.

Resident students attending STEM schools are permitted to participate in the District's interscholastic athletics program at the school to which the student would be assigned. Students must be of the appropriate age and grade level as determined by the Superintendent, and must fulfill the same academic, nonacademic and financial requirements as any other participant.

Resident students attending a nonpublic school are permitted to participate in the District's interscholastic athletic programs at the school to which the student would be assigned if the nonpublic school the student is enrolled in does not offer the activity. Students must be of the appropriate age and grade level as determined by the Superintendent and must fulfill the same academic, nonacademic and financial requirements as any other participant.

Resident students receiving home instruction in accordance with State law are permitted to participate in the District's interscholastic athletic programs at the school to which the student would be assigned. Students must be of the appropriate age and grade level as determined by the Superintendent and must fulfill the same academic, nonacademic and financial requirements as any other participant.

Foreign exchange students enrolled in a recognized visitor exchange program may be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics in accordance with OHSAA Bylaws.

[Adoption date: August 15, 1991]
[Re-adoption date: September 15, 1994]
[Re-adoption date: June 18, 1998]
[Re-adoption date: July 17, 2003]
[Re-adoption date: October 17, 2013]
[Re-adoption date: August 21, 2014]
[Re-adoption date: June 18, 2015]

*NOTE:* *Districts are required to allow resident students enrolled in community schools (House Bill (HB) 487 (2014)) and STEM schools to participate in the district's extracurricular activities.*

*HB 59, effective September 29, 2013, requires districts to allow resident students who are receiving home instruction to participate in extracurricular activities at the school to which they would be assigned. Districts are also required to allow resident students attending a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school to participate in extracurricular activities in the school to which the student would be assigned if the activity is one that the nonpublic school they are enrolled in does not offer. Students participating under these provisions must be of the appropriate grade and age level as determined by the superintendent and must meet the same academic, nonacademic and financial requirements as any other student. Districts are prohibited from imposing additional rules or fees on a student participating under these provisions that are not applied to other students participating in the same program.*

*Districts may allow nonpublic, community, and STEM school students who are not eligible to enroll in the district the opportunity to participate in an extracurricular activity operated by a school of the district if the activity is one the school the student is enrolled in does not offer, and the activity is not interscholastic athletics or interscholastic competitions in music, drama or forensics. The superintendent may also allow a homeschool student not eligible to enroll in the district to participate in an extracurricular activity offered by one of the schools if it is an activity the district in which they are eligible to enroll does not offer.*

*Concussion Management*

*HB 143 (effective April 23, 2012) added requirements to State law for concussion management in athletics. The specific requirements are outlined in Ohio Revised Code Section (RC) 3313.539. The law states that if districts are subject to the rules of an interscholastic athletic conference, they will be in compliance if the rules of the organization are substantially similar to that of State law. Districts who are part of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) should already be implementing procedures that are similar to what is now in State law. If your district is not a member of OHSAA, or has sports that are not recognized as OHSAA sports, check with your regulatory organization to ensure compliance with State law."*

*OHSAA has already made a concerted effort to provide educational resources to member schools on concussion management. This information is outlined in the OHSAA Bylaws and sports regulations.*

*Specifically, OHSAA has adopted the following sports regulation:*

*"Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared with written authorization by an appropriate health care professional." HB 487 (2014) amended the requirements for who can clear a student to return to practice or play, after the student was removed for exhibiting signs or symptoms of a concussion. The requirements are outlined in RC 3313.539.*

*OHSAA has further defined parameters to guide OHSAA licensed officials, medical personnel and member schools in implementing these guidelines. Information is provided by OHSAA on recognizing signs and symptoms consistent with a concussion. Specific guidelines and expectations for coaches, officials, and students for concussion management are outlined in the OHSAA general sports regulations. Details are additionally outlined in these regulations for when athletes can be returned to play and who is able to decide whether a student is fit to return to practice or competition.*

*HB 143 amended the requirements for the issuing or renewal of a pupil-activity program permit to coach interscholastic athletics. These permits are issued by the Ohio Department of Education. To receive a first time permit, each individual must successfully complete a training program that is specifically focused on brain trauma and brain injury management. To renew a permit, individuals must present evidence that they have successfully completed a training program in recognizing the symptoms of concussions and head injuries within the previous three years.*

*OHSAA has a Web page dedicated to sports safety, which includes links to concussion resources. Visit www.ohsaa.org/medicine/sportssafety.htm for more information.*

*Requirements for coverage by insurance and for physical examinations might be part of such a policy or these could be dealt with under Student Insurance Program and Physical Examinations of Students and cross-referenced from this page. Another source of information would be the student handbook.*