

Student Athletics

Definitions

“Interscholastic sports” are those that are funded and fully staffed by the District and compete under Rules and Regulations provided by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (“PIAA”), or other applicable governing body.

“Intramural sports” are staffed and financially supported by the District but are not governed by the PIAA.

“Club sports” may receive some support from the District whether financial and/or through use of facilities or equipment.

Guiding Principles

The Board establishes the following principles to guide the establishment and implementation of its athletic program:

1. **Course Credit** - High School students, with the exception of ninth grade students, may earn physical education credit by participating in an approved athletic activity.
2. **Equal Opportunity** - The District will operate athletic programs in compliance with all applicable Federal and State laws, including Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972.
3. **Gender Eligibility**- Any issues with respect to eligibility for a specific District team will be determined by the District in a manner that does not limit the ability of that District team to participate in competitions, including playoffs, with other teams of the District’s team’s gender designation.
4. **Management** - Since athletics are a part of the educational program designed to meet the needs of the participants, all activities shall be organized and scheduled strictly for the benefit of the participating students. Every effort shall be made to schedule athletic contests after regular class hours so that students will not have to be excused from class.
5. **Extracurricular Program Offerings** -The specific sports for men and women, and the levels offered in each sport, shall be reviewed by the principal of each building on an annual basis to ensure the overall program meets the requirements of this Policy and assures maximum educational value for the resources expended. A new sport shall normally be offered either as an intramural or club sport while student interest grows and participation develops. The same factors shall be considered when the elimination of a sport or level is contemplated.

Student Conduct & Eligibility

While participating in student athletics, students shall be subject to all school rules, Board Policies and Administrative Regulations and the provisions contained in any applicable Student

Handbook or Code of Conduct. Additionally, any applicable regulations of the Central League and PIAA, including those related to academic eligibility, shall also apply.

All extracurricular interscholastic sports are offered subject to PIAA rules and regulations whether competition is specifically regulated by the PIAA or not.

Name, Image, and Likeness

Article II, § 3(J) of the PIAA's bylaws allows student-athletes to receive both monetary and "in kind" consideration for the use of their name, image, and likeness ("NIL") in certain permissible activities, including commercial endorsements, promotional activities, social media presence, and product or service advertisements.

No District school or anyone employed by the District may solicit, arrange, or negotiate to pay for a student's use of their NIL, unless that student is an individual's own child. This includes HSAs and individual HSA members, coaches, administrators, and alumni. (A District alumnus who owns a company that enters into an NIL partnership with a student currently enrolled in the District is permitted to do so, as long as all other provisions of the accompanying regulation and PIAA rules are met.)

The Board authorizes the Superintendent or their designee to establish regulations, aligned with PIAA rules, for student NIL use and compensation.

Cross Reference:

Policy and Administrative Regulation 5311 (Eligibility for Participation in School-Related Activities)

- Adopted: November 24, 1969
- Revised: September 10, 1973
- Revised: January 24, 1983
- Revised: January 27, 1986
- Revised: December 5, 1994
- Revised: April 28, 1997
- Revised: June 16, 1997
- Revised: January 26, 1998
- Revised: June 1, 1998
- Revised: February 23, 2004
- Revised: October 27, 2014
- Revised: January 3, 2017
- Revised: November 13, 2017
- Revised: November 20, 2023