

INTRAMURAL COMPETITION; INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION

The Passaic Board of Education considers all competitive extracurricular activities, academic, artistic and athletic, an integral part of the total educational program. Competitive activities shall be under the same administration and control as the rest of the school program and closely articulated with it.

Competitive activities can provide students with valuable experiences and opportunities. Practice for or performance in any competitive event shall not interfere with the regular educational program.

The board shall appoint coaches, advisors, physicians and other necessary supervisory personnel upon recommendation of the superintendent. The superintendent shall also ensure that training programs/regulations are developed for all extracurricular athletic activities and that all physical facilities involved in any competition in which district schools take part shall be adequate, safe and sanitary.

Public recognition shall be given to participants in academic or artistic competitions in the same measure as to athletic competitors. The district's affirmative action resolution and plan for equity in school and classroom practices shall apply to determining eligibility for competition, approval of each competitive activity in which students officially represent the district, and district expenditure to provide facilities and coaches.

Parental Consent

No student may participate in a school-sponsored physical activity outside the regular physical education curriculum without a signed consent form from a parent/guardian naming the activity and acknowledging that the activity may be hazardous.

Academic Eligibility

Students will be allowed to participate in Passaic High School athletic teams appropriate for their age or grade level providing the student is in compliance with the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) credit requirement or has not had extracurricular privileges revoked by the school administrator. If privileges have been revoked or the student is not in compliance with the NJSIAA credit requirement, a notification will be sent home to the parent/guardian stating why the privileges were revoked.

Attendance Standards

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Attendance standards shall be those set in the Attendance, Absences and Excuses Policy No. 5113. In particular, a student shall not participate in a performance, exhibition, practice or athletic event unless he/she has been present in school that day or has been absent for an excused reason other than for sickness.

Disciplinary Standards

Disciplinary standards are based on the Suspension and Expulsion and Code of Student Conduct policies and regulations. Students on disciplinary probation or serving a detention or suspension may not practice, perform or compete. The superintendent and the building principal shall decide at the end of a probation or suspension whether the student may return to practice and competition.

Special Education Students

To participate in interscholastic competition, special education students must meet the same requirements listed above in conformity with IEPs.

Equality and Equity in Athletic Programs

The district athletic programs shall be operated equitably with regard to the male and female teams including:

- A. Relatively equal numbers of varsity and sub-varsity teams for male and female students;
- B. Equitable scheduling of night games, practice times, locations and number of games for male and female teams;
- C. Equitable treatment that includes staff salaries, purchase and maintenance of equipment and supplies;
- D. Comparable facilities for male and female teams.

Physical Eligibility

All students in grades six through 12 participating in intramural or interscholastic athletics must be given a medical examination within 365 days prior to the first practice session, with a health history update if the examination was completed more than 60 days prior to the first practice session of the first sport participated in. The medical examination shall be given at the student's medical home, as defined in the Health Examinations and Immunizations board policy. If a student does not have a medical home, the school physician shall conduct the medical examination. Examinations shall be made available throughout the school year consistent with the district athletic schedule. The examination shall be documented on the form approved by the commissioner of education and include, as a minimum, the components listed in the administrative code. In the event a private

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physician is used, the medical examination shall not be at the expense of the board of education.

The parents/guardians shall be sent written notification signed by the examining physician testifying to the student's physical fitness to participate in athletics. The reason for the physician's disapproval of the student's participation shall be included in the notification. The health findings of the medical examination for participation in athletics shall be made part of the general health examination record.

The superintendent shall present to the board for adoption procedures for administration of the required medical examination. The procedures for the medical examination to determine the fitness of a student to participate in athletics shall include a form for a medical history to be filled out and returned by a parent/ guardian and a form to be filled out by the examining physician.

The medical examination to determine the fitness of a student to participate in athletics shall include, as a minimum, the following:

- A. A medical history questionnaire, completed by the parent/guardian of the student, to determine if the student:
 - 1. Has been medically advised not to participate in any sport, and the reason for such advice;
 - 2. Is under a physician's care and the reasons for such care;
 - 3. Has experienced loss of consciousness after an injury;
 - 4. Has experienced a fracture or dislocation;
 - 5. Has undergone any surgery;
 - 6. Takes any medication on a regular basis, the names of such medication and the reasons for such medication;
 - 7. Has allergies including hives, asthma and reaction to bee stings;
 - 8. Has experienced frequent chest pains or palpitations;
 - 9. Has a recent history of fatigue and undue tiredness;
 - 10. Has a history of fainting with exercise;
 - 11. Has a history of family members dying suddenly.

- B. A physical examination which shall include, as a minimum, no less than:
 - 1. Measurement of weight, height, and blood pressure;
 - 2. Examination of the skin to determine the presence of infection, scars of previous surgery or trauma, jaundice, and purpura;
 - 3. Examination of the eyes to determine visual acuity, use of eyeglasses or contact lenses, and examination of the sclera for the presence of jaundice;
 - 4. Examination of the ears to determine the presence of acute or chronic infection, perforation of the eardrum and gross hearing loss;
 - 5. Examination of the nose to assess the presence of deformity which may affect endurance;
 - 6. Assessment of the neck to determine range of motion and the presence of pain associated

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with such motion;

7. Examination of chest contour;
8. Auscultation and percussion of the lungs;
9. Assessment of the heart with attention to the presence of murmurs, noting rhythm and rate;
10. Assessment of the abdomen with attention to the possible presence of hepatomegaly, splenomegaly, or abnormal masses;
11. Assessment of the back to determine range of motion and abnormal curvature of the spine;
12. Examination of extremities to determine abnormal mobility or immobility, deformity, instability, muscle weakness or atrophy, surgical scars and varicosities;
13. Examination of the testes to determine the presence and descent of both testes, abnormal masses or configurations, or hernia;
14. Assessment of physiological maturation;
15. Neurological examination to assess balance and coordination and the presence of abnormal reflexes.

Varsity Letters

A student enrolled in grades 9-12 who participates in any school-sponsored, interscholastic extracurricular activity that includes competitions in which the student competes against students enrolled in schools outside of the district may be eligible to earn a varsity letter awarded by the district. The activity leader or athletic coach may as he or she deems appropriate, submit criteria for awarding varsity letters to the chief school administrator or his or her designee for approval. The chief school administrator or his or her designee shall approve the criteria for each school-sponsored, interscholastic extracurricular activity that includes competitions prior to varsity letters being awarded.

The activity leader or the athletic coach shall be responsible for development of the criteria for determining outstanding performance that qualifies a student to earn a varsity letter in the activity. The criteria shall apply to all participants in the activity and may include but are not limited to:

- A. The number of participants in the activity;
- B. The length of time the student has participated;
- C. The percentage of competitions the student has participated in;
- D. Attendance at practices and competitions;
- E. Indicators of outstanding effort, performance and teamwork.

The district shall not be required to award a varsity letter or to establish any school-sponsored, interscholastic extracurricular activity.

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Insurance

The board will cover each participant in an interscholastic sport with insurance coverage as recommended by the current insurance carrier.

Parents/guardians shall be strongly encouraged to participate in the supplemental student accident insurance program offered by the board.

Pamphlet on Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Once each school year, the superintendent or designee shall distribute to parents/guardians of students participating in school sports, the New Jersey Department of Education's pamphlet on sudden cardiac death. The pamphlet includes a description of early warning signs and privately available screening options.

Fact Sheet on the Use and Misuse of Opioid Drugs

Once each school year, the chief school administrator or designee shall distribute to parents/guardians of students participating in the interscholastic sports program or cheerleading program the educational fact sheet developed by the Commissioner of Education in consultation with the Commissioner of Health that provides information concerning the use and misuse of opioid drugs in the event that a student-athlete or cheerleader is prescribed an opioid for a sports-related injury. The district shall obtain a signed acknowledgment of the receipt of the fact sheet by the student-athlete or cheerleader and his/her parent or guardian.

Good Sportsmanship

The board believes that instilling habits of good sportsmanship should be one of the primary goals of athletic endeavors and that all district employees should model good behaviors in this area.

It is especially important that the athletic director and coaches accept the responsibility for encouraging young athletes to handle themselves in a sportsmanlike way and be models of self-control and dignity for players and spectators. Coaches shall include discussions on courtesy and sportsmanlike behavior as part of pre-game activities. Student fans shall be reminded that their conduct reflects on the schools of this district and that poor sportsmanship will be disciplined.

Parents/guardians and other adult spectators shall also be encouraged to act as models for young people by demonstrating self-control and dignity at all athletic events.

Unsportsmanlike behavior as exhibited through verbal abuse, rude gestures, taunts, obscenities,

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thrown objects, etc., shall not be tolerated in students, staff or any persons in attendance at district athletic competitions. Discipline may include, but not be limited to, eviction from the competition and prevention from attending further competitions.

The superintendent shall prepare regulations on good sportsmanship and ensure their dissemination to students, parents/guardians and the community.

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Key Words

Extracurricular Activities, Cocurricular Activities, Competition, Intramural Competition, Interscholastic Competition

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq. Law Against Discrimination
N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3 Voluntary associations regulating conduct of student activities; membership; rules and regulations; appeals
N.J.S.A. 18A:19-14 Funds derived from pupil activities
N.J.S.A. 18A:35-20 Participation in courses in which verbalization unessential to understanding of subject matter; location of and children in bilingual programs
N.J.S.A. 18A:42-5, -6 Certain student organizations declared harmful
N.J.S.A. 34:13A-1 et seq. New Jersey Employer-Employee Relations Act
N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1 et seq. Managing for Equality and Equity in Education
N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.2 Career education and counseling
N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.16 Athletics personnel
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2 Required health services
N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.1 et seq. Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts
N.J.A.C. 6A:32-9.1 et seq. Athletics Procedures

20 U.S.C.A. 4071-4074 - Equal Access Act

20 U.S.C.A. 1681 et seq. - Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

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Krupp v. Bd. of Ed. of Union County Reg. H.S. Dist. #1, 278 N.J. Super. 31(App. Div. 1994) cert. den. 140 N.J. 277 (1994)

Good News Club v. Milford Central School, 121 U.S. 2093 (2001)

The Comprehensive Equity Plan, New Jersey Department of Education

NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations

Possible

<u>Cross References:</u>	1210	Community organizations
	1320	Participation in out of school community activities
	*1322	Contests for pupils
	*2224	Nondiscrimination/affirmative action
	*3453	School activity funds
	4143	Extra pay for extra work
	*5113	Absences and excuses
	*5126	Awards for achievement
	*5131	Conduct/discipline
	*5136	Fund-raising activities
	5143	Insurance
	*5145.4	Equal educational opportunity
	*6010	Goals and objectives
	*6142	Subject fields
	6142.5	Travel and exchange programs
	*6142.12	Career education
	*6145.1/6145.2	Intramural competition; interscholastic competition
	6145.4	Public performances and exhibitions
	6145.5	Student organizations
	6145.7	Social events/meetings
	*6146	Graduation requirements
	*6153	Field trips

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.