

POLICY

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

File Code: 6145.1/
6145.2

INTRAMURAL COMPETITION; INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION

The board 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 and artistic expression can provide pupils with valuable experiences and opportunities. In this district, the emphasis in any competition or artistic expression--intramural or interscholastic--shall be on providing such experiences and opportunities rather than on producing winning teams or providing entertainment. Practice for or performance in any competitive event shall not interfere with the regular educational program.

The board shall approve all proposed interscholastic competition, either as a schedule or as a discrete event, whichever is appropriate. The board must approve membership in any leagues, associations and conferences, and any agreements with other schools for a series of games or events. Contests of any kind between and among the schools of the district shall be approved by the chief school administrator.

The board shall appoint coaches, advisors, physicians and other necessary supervisory personnel upon recommendation of the chief school administrator.

The chief school administrator 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 pupils officially represent the district, and district expenditure to provide facilities and coaches.

Parental Consent

No pupil may participate in a school-sponsored physical or artistic 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

Academic standards for eligibility shall be those established by policy 6145 Extracurricular activities.

Attendance Standards

Attendance standards shall be those set in policy 5113 Absences and excuses. In particular, a pupil 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 board policies 5114 Suspension and expulsion and 5131 Conduct/discipline. Pupils on disciplinary probation or serving a detention or suspension may not practice, perform or compete. The chief school administrator and the building principal shall decide at the end of a probation or suspension whether the pupil may return to practice and competition.

Special Education Pupils

To participate in interscholastic competition, special education pupils must meet the same requirements listed above in conformity with IEPs and the physical eligibility requirements. Reasonable modifications must be provided to each qualified student seeking to participate in an extra-curricular activity. However, a modification may be denied if, based on an individualized assessment, the modification presents an objective health or safety risk to the student or to others, or where the modification would result in a fundamental alteration to the nature of the program. A fundamental alteration is a modification that provides an objective advantage or disadvantage or requires a change in the rules of competition.

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 pupils 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 file code 5141.3 Health examinations and immunizations. Families who meet financial guidelines may participate in New Jersey Family Care for physicals. 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 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 pupil's physical fitness to participate in athletics as required per N.J.A.C. 6A:16 Subchapter 2. The reason for the physician's disapproval of the pupil'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 chief school administrator 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 pupil 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 pupil to participate in athletics shall follow mandates required by the State of New Jersey as per N.J.A.C. 6A:16 Subchapter 2 to include the following:

- A. A medical history questionnaire, completed by the parent/guardian of the pupil to determine if the pupil:
 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 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.

Insurance

Students participating in the athletic program must provide a medical release and evidence of medical insurance. Athletes must be covered by a health insurance policy for the duration of the activity. If the family does not have insurance, it must be obtained through the school insurance policy before any child may participate. The school has Bollinger private medical coverage available that parents may purchase. Parents/ guardians shall be strongly encouraged to participate in the Bollinger supplemental pupil accident insurance program.

Pamphlet on Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Once each school year, the chief school administrator 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 acknowledgement of the receipt of the fact sheet by the student-athlete or cheerleader and his/her parent 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 manner 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 district and that poor sportsmanship will be disciplined.

Parents/guardians and other 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, 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 chief school administrator shall prepare regulations on good sportsmanship and ensure their dissemination to students, parents/guardians and the community.

Imposition of Fees

In order to provide athletic programs, the Franklin Township Board of Education reserves the right to recover all, part or none of the costs associated with these programs from the participants in these programs.

As such, fees for participation in interscholastic sports may be instituted on a per sport, or multisport basis if a student participates in more than one sport. Fees will be closely aligned to the exact costs for any coaching, uniforms, referees, and/or transportation to the specific sport. The BOE may also choose to not provide or collect fees for any of the above and those costs will become the responsibility of the participant. All costs covered by the participation fee as well as any implicit costs to be borne by the participant, will be laid out explicitly prior to participation in the program,. This may include participant bearing costs of uniforms, equipment and providing of personal transportation.

While it is the intent to keep the fees closely aligned to the specific sport, overall fees and funds will be seen as providing for the overall athletic program in Franklin Township. Any excess funds acquired through this process may be applied for equipment and/or uniform replacement for the specific program or other programs offered in the district. The BOE is not obligated to provide any excess fees back to the participants in that program.

Allocation of costs and fees is at the discretion of the District Athletic Director and Superintendent as long as they remain within the confines of this policy. Any major deviation from this policy requires approval of the full Board. The BOE reserves the right to review and request updates at any point in time.

THE PARTICIPATION FEE DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE PARTICIPANT PLAYING TIME IN ANY CONTEST NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THE PARTICIPANT OR HIS/HER PARENT (S) CONTROL OVER ANY CONDITIONS OF THE TEAM OR ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT.

Payment

Payment of any fee is required prior to participation. Uniforms may not be distributed until payment has been received or a payment plan has been established. Payment procedures will be defined by the Coach, Athletic Director and/or Administration.

Refund Guidelines

Refunds will not be made for the following reasons once the season has started. The season is defined as the commencement of any posted practices of the official season. Student athlete:

1. Drops out of a sport before the season has ended.
2. Is suspended from a sport because of a rule violation.
3. Becomes academically ineligible.

Refunds will be made for the following reasons prior to the halfway point of the season. The refund will be 50% of the participation fee. The season is defined as the commencement of any posted practices in preparation of the official season. Student athlete:

1. Is injured and unable to compete.
2. Moves out of the district.

Economic Help

While the district may need to impose fees due to budgetary limitations, it is not the intention of the Board of Education to create a barrier for students to participate in athletics. If the participation fee proves to be a financial hardship for a student who wishes to participate, that student should complete the Sports Fee Waiver Form available from the Superintendent or the athletic director. The guidelines for determining that a student will have the participation fee waived will be determined by guidelines similar to those of the district's free and reduced lunch program. The Superintendent has full and final discretion in these decisions.

Transportation

If transportation is not provided by the school, parents are required to make arrangements for their child to attend sporting events independent of the school.

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