



POLICY 123 -- INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

1. Purpose

The Board recognizes the value of a program of interscholastic athletics as an integral part of the total school experience to all students of the district and to the community.

2. Definition

For purposes of this policy, the program of interscholastic athletics shall include all activities relating to competitive sport contests, game or events, or sport exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students of this district when such events occur between separate schools within this district or with any schools outside this district.

3. Authority

It shall be the policy of the Board to offer opportunities for participation in interschool athletic programs to male and female students on as equal a basis as is practicable and in accordance with State regulations.

The Board shall approve a program of interscholastic athletics and shall require that all facilities utilized in that program, whether or not the property of this Board, properly safeguard both players and spectators and are kept free from hazardous conditions.

The Board adopts those eligibility standards set by the Constitution of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association.

4. Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent shall prepare rules for the conduct of students participating in interscholastic athletics. Such rules shall be in conformity with the rules of the State Board of Education, the P.I.A.A., and the conference.

5. Guidelines

A. Participation

Students who are absent from school are not permitted to participate in after-school or evening activities.

Jaguars Virtual Academy students or out-of-district cyber or charter school students who are absent from their respective schools are not permitted to participate in after-school or evening activities.

Policy 123 – Interscholastic Athletics (continued)

Students must be in attendance by the end of Period 4 to be eligible for participation in practice sessions, athletic events, or any school-sponsored activity scheduled after the regular school day ends.

Jaguars Virtual Academy students or students in out-of-district cyber or charter schools must be in attendance by 11:00 AM to be eligible for participation in practice sessions, athletic events, or any school-sponsored activity scheduled after the regular school day ends.

The individual student is obligated to comply with the academic, athletic, and conduct guidelines and procedures set by the district.

College appointments and emergency situations may be excepted if prior approval is obtained from an administrator.

B. Hazing

Hazing activities which are humiliating and/or detrimental to the health or welfare of a student are not permitted under any circumstances by a school-sponsored activity group including athletic teams.

C. Teacher Coaching

Each coach who has a teaching assignment at the end of the day shall remain in that assignment until the last instructional period ends on the days of all home events when possible. Thus, the schedule for said home events will be adjusted accordingly: there may be no change indicated if the game is covered by the head coach. The Athletic Director will make the required decision as needed.

The Athletic Director shall consult all schools with an early starting time and request that a starting time be agreed to that will allow personnel to complete their teaching assignments prior to reporting for coaching duties.

The Athletic Director shall maintain a list of those schools who are willing or able to cooperate so that appropriate contracts can be made to try to move that school to a time more acceptable to our district.

D. Coaches Attending Clinics

The head coach of any particular sport will coordinate requests to attend clinics with the Athletic Director.

Where advisable in terms of clinic content, needs of coaches, and budget limitations, the Athletic Director will recommend attendance to the respective school principal. Where possible, this should be done at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of the clinic.

Budgets for clinic expenses for any sport should take into account the following factors:

1. Scope and magnitude of the sport program
2. Number of students participating in the sport

Policy 123 – Interscholastic Athletics (continued)

3. Number of coaches on the staff
4. Demands upon the coaching staff in regards to hours and coaching responsibilities
5. Degree of community emphasis placed on the program
6. Financial contribution to the athletic budget.

No more than two (2) coaches from any one sport may attend clinics that require coverage for their teaching responsibilities by substitutes. Recommendations as to who attends will be made by the head coach of each sport. This is to be based upon need, rotation, etc.

Recommendations for participation at clinics shall be limited by the budget allotted budget allotted for each sport. More than two (2) coaches may be permitted to attend clinics when loss of school time or teaching responsibility is not required, provided the cost does not exceed the budget.

E. Student Travel

All athletes/athletic teams participating in events or exhibitions sanctioned by the School District may travel to such locations as are necessary to compete. Such travel must be approved by the Athletic Director and Principal.

F. Team Awards

Upon winning a WPIAL championship, the West Jefferson Hills School District will provide for a team photo (including coaches and managers) to be taken and displayed in the appropriate display area.

Upon winning a PIAA championship, the West Jefferson Hills School District will provide each team member, coach, and manager a contribution towards a further award (i.e. plaque, ring, etc.) not to exceed \$50.00 in amount for each.

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