

# FERNDALE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: INTERSCHOLASTIC  
ATHLETICS

ADOPTED: SEPTEMBER 21, 2005

REVISED: JUNE 13, 2007  
JULY 1, 2009

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 for all district students and as a conduit for community involvement.
2. Definition	For purposes of this policy, the program of interscholastic athletics shall include all activities relating to competitive or exhibition sport contests, games or events involving individual students or teams of students when such events occur between schools within this district or outside this district.
3. Authority Title 22 Sec. 4.27 34 CFR 106.41 Pol. 103  SC 511	<p>It shall be the policy of the Board to offer opportunities for participation in interscholastic athletic programs to male and female students on as equal a basis as is practicable and without discrimination, and in accordance with law and regulations.</p> <p>The Board shall approve a program of interscholastic athletics and 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.</p> <p>The Board shall direct the administration to determine the standards of eligibility to be met by all students participating in an interscholastic program. Such standards shall require that each student, before participating in any interscholastic activity, be covered by student accident insurance; be in good physical condition; be free of injury and recovered from illness, as determined by the district or a personal physician; and be enrolled in this district as a student in good standing.</p> <p>The Board further adopts those eligibility standards set by the Constitution of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, and shall review such standards annually to ascertain that they continue to be in conformity with the objectives of this district.</p>

<p>4. Guidelines</p>	<p>Unless serving as a coach, assistant coach, or approved volunteer or assistant, the Board prohibits any non-high school student from scrimmaging/practicing with a student involved in interscholastic athletics.</p> <p>The Board directs that no student may participate in interscholastic athletics who has not:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Met the requirements for academic eligibility, as established.</li><li>2. <b>Met the requirements for attendance, as established.</b></li><li>3. <b>Met the requirements for code of conduct, as established.</b></li><li>4. <b>Met other established requirements of student athletes, as established.</b></li></ol> <p><u>Eligibility – Academic Requirements</u></p> <p>To be eligible for an interscholastic competition, a student must pursue a curriculum defined and approved by the building principal as a full-time curriculum.</p> <p>The student must maintain passing grades in such an approved curriculum, as certified by the building principal. <b>Student athletes may not be failing more than one class weekly to be eligible to participate in competition the following week (Sunday – Saturday).</b> Eligibility shall be cumulative from the beginning of a grading period and shall be reported on a weekly basis.</p> <p>In addition, to be eligible for interscholastic athletics, a student must have passed at least four (4) full credit subjects, or the equivalent, during the previous grading period.</p> <p>In cases where student’s work in any preceding grading period does not meet these standards, the student shall be ineligible to participate in that sport for fifteen (15) consecutive school days of the next grading period. While ineligible, a student must attend remediation <b>sessions</b>.</p> <p>Each <b>Friday</b> teachers must submit to the building principal (<b>or designee</b>) a list of students involved in interscholastic athletics who are failing any of their courses. The principal shall meet and discuss the grade with those students to inform them of their ineligibility status. <b>The principal will inform coaches and the athletic director of ineligible students.</b></p>
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<p>Pol. 116</p>	<p>The Board recognizes the importance of providing a comprehensive educational program for all students. Students in academic difficulty should seek out additional individual teacher assistance. In this respect, the district shall make an effort to provide tutorial assistance, if requested.</p> <p>Interscholastic athletic coaches shall make reasonable rules and regulations governing the membership and awards of their organizations. Such rules and regulations shall be in writing. A copy of a coach’s rules and regulations must be approved by the building principal prior to distribution to each student member. Any subsequent amendments must also be reviewed and approved by the principal prior to distribution.</p> <p><b><u>Eligibility - Attendance Requirements</u></b></p> <p><b>The student athlete must be in school within 15 minutes of the start of the school day, and in attendance all day to participate in a game or practice that day. If a game or practice occurs over the weekend, the athlete must be in school on time and all day Friday. Additionally, the athlete must be in school within 15 minutes of the start of the school day and in attendance all day on the school day following an after school athletic event. Exceptions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- attendance at a school-approved activity.</li> <li>- athlete presents a doctor’s excuse to the office and coach for the time absent that day (If the absence is at the end of the school day, the excuse can be presented the next school day to the office, if presented to the coach prior to participating in the game that day).</li> <li>- Principal excused absence due to a funeral/family death.</li> <li>- other Principal excused absence for an emergency situation which, in his/her opinion, would warrant the waiver.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Eligibility - Code of Conduct Requirements</u></b></p> <p><b>Student athletes are held to the highest level of good behavior and should act as civic role models for the student body at large. Punishment for discipline code infractions may carry a more stringent consequence, as related to athletic eligibility.</b></p> <p><b><u>Tobacco Use Violations</u></b></p>
<p>Pol. 222</p>	<p>Any use or possession of tobacco shall be prohibited, as outlined in Board Policy, including but not limited to Board Policy 227.</p> <p>The following additional penalties shall be prescribed for students participating in extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletics who violate this policy:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. First offense - One (1) week suspension from the team/activity, if in season. - One (1) week suspension from the team/activity for next year's season, if out of season.</li> <li>2. Second offense - Dismissal from the team/activity, if in season. - Exclusion from the team/activity for one (1) season, if out of season.</li> <li>3. Third offense - Will result in a one (1) year suspension from all extracurricular activities/interscholastic athletics and referral to the Student Assistance Team for counseling.</li> </ol>
<p>Pol. 227</p>	<p><u>Controlled Substance Violations</u></p> <p>A student participating in extracurricular activities and/or interscholastic athletics who violates Board policy on controlled substance abuse will immediately be suspended from all extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletics for one (1) year. However, successful completion of a SAP Team recommended program may be considered to reduce the suspension to not less than four (4) weeks in length. A second offense will result in loss of all extracurricular privileges, including attendance to any school-sponsored activities for one calendar year.</p>
<p>Pol. 218</p>	<p><u>Off-Campus Activities</u></p> <p>This policy shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property and would violate the Discipline Code if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a nexus between the proximity or timing of the conduct in relation to the student's attendance at school or school-sponsored activities.</li> <li>2. The student is a member of an interscholastic athletic activity and has been notified that particular off-campus conduct could result in exclusion from such activities.</li> <li>3. Student expression or conduct materially and substantially disrupts the operations of the school, or the administration reasonably anticipates that the expression or conduct is likely to materially and substantially disrupt the operations of the school.</li> <li>4. The conduct has a direct nexus to attendance <b>or code of conduct</b> at school or a school-sponsored activity.</li> <li>5. The conduct involves the theft or vandalism of school property.</li> </ol>

**6. Infractions occurring when school is not in session shall incur penalties starting with the next day school is in session.**

**Eligibility Other Rules and Regulations**

All participants shall be bound by the following general rules and regulations, in addition to each sport's or organization's unique rules and regulations during the activity's season.

1. Attendance at all scheduled practices is mandatory as long as the student attends school the day practice is scheduled. Only a coach or advisor may excuse a student from practice.
2. Attendance at all games/meets/functions is mandatory. In order to participate in a scheduled game/meet/function the student **may not be more than 15 minutes late to school and must be in school all day. Exceptions include a doctor excuse, funeral, or other exception approved by the principal, which would cause the athlete to be absent part of the day.**
3. Students must use school-provided transportation to and from all functions/games/meets requiring transportation. For liability purposes, the only exception to the regulation is that a student may ride or drive home with a parent/guardian with prior approval by the administration. A written request is to be submitted to the office the morning of the event, checked for validity by the office, and a copy given to the coach.
4. Students are responsible for any and all school-issued equipment, including uniforms, that have been issued to them. Students must pay the school district the replacement cost for any equipment not returned other than equipment or uniforms that are damaged or destroyed due to ordinary wear-and-tear.

**Uniforms, Equipment And Supplies**

So that students' needs are served in an orderly, efficient and cost-effective manner, the following procedures respecting equipment, uniforms and other supplies needed to engage in sports activities shall be observed:

1. The Athletic Director shall keep a strict inventory of all uniforms, equipment and supplies on hand for each sport. This shall include the date on which team uniforms were purchased. All sports materials shall be kept in a secure area.
2. Each head coach shall be responsible for the care and custody of uniforms, supplies and equipment needed to carry on the specific activity. She/He may delegate housekeeping tasks to an assistant, but she/he shall not be relieved of this responsibility.

3. Each head coach shall check his/her inventory annually at the beginning and close of each season in concert with the Athletic Director. At the close of each season, the inventory shall be the basis for tentative budgeted equipment, materials and supplies for the following year.
4. Any student failing to return athletic equipment, uniforms or supplies assigned to him/her shall be assessed the full replacement cost of the delinquency other than equipment or uniforms that are damaged or destroyed due to ordinary wear-and-tear. The head coach of each sport shall report a list of delinquents to the high school principal no later than two (2) weeks following the last match or game of a sports season. The principal shall not process a student's grades, promotion or graduation until the delinquency is satisfied. The student cannot compete in another extra-curricular event until the delinquency is satisfied.
5. When the budget for student activities is formulated by the Athletic Director, she/he shall forward it to the principal. A master inventory detailing the current status of each sport shall accompany the budget.
6. A master inventory detailing the current status of each sport shall be maintained by the Athletic Director. Each head coach shall submit an inventory to the Athletic Director following completion of his/her sport.

Summer Practice Sessions

The Board recognizes the need for student organizations to prepare for school-related activities prior to the beginning of the fall school term, and the need for and importance of family-related summer activities.

Interscholastic sports activities and practice sessions shall be governed by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association regulations, or any other applicable governing body.

No student organization shall practice on school property or under the auspices of the district without a coach, advisor or director present.

The building principal shall retain the authority to cancel or postpone any summer practice session that will disrupt the maintenance procedures necessary to open the fall school term.

Cancellations

If the school day is cut short or cancelled entirely due to weather conditions, all practices will be cancelled. **Games**/events will be postponed to a future time, when possible.

