

Baldwin-Whitehall School District

Book	Policy Manual
Section	100 Programs
Title	Interscholastic Athletics
Code	123
Status	Second Reading
Adopted	February 8, 2006
Last Revised	November 14, 2012

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.

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.

Authority

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, in accordance with law and regulations.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[7\]](#)

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.[\[3\]](#)

The Board shall 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 medical or accident insurance; be in good physical condition; and be free of injury, as determined by the district physician.

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

The Board directs that no student may participate in interscholastic athletics who has not:

1. Met the requirements for academic eligibility.
2. Attended school regularly.
3. Been in attendance, **a minimum of 4 periods**, on the day of the athletic event or practice.
4. Returned all school athletic equipment previously used.

Exceptions to school attendance include:

- 1. Obtaining professional health care or therapy service rendered by a licensed practitioner of the healing arts in any state, commonwealth or territory.[6]**
- 2. Family emergency.**
- 3. Required court attendance.**
- 4. Death in family.**
- 5. Participation in a project sponsored by a statewide or countywide 4-H, FFA or combined 4-H and FFA group, upon prior written request.[1][6]**
- 6. Observance of a religious holiday observed by bona fide religious group, upon prior written parental request.[27]**
- 7. Nonschool-sponsored educational tours or trips, if the following conditions are met (*Please reference Administrative Regulation 204-AR-2):**
 - a. The parent/guardian submits a written request for excusal prior to the absence.**
 - b. The student's participation has been approved by the Superintendent or designee.**
 - c. The adult directing and supervising the tour or trip is acceptable to the parents/guardians and the Superintendent.**
- 8. College or postsecondary institution visit, with prior approval.**
- 9. Other urgent reasons. Urgent reasons shall be strictly construed and require approval by the Superintendent or designee.**

Guidelines

Athletic Eligibility

In order to be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition, a student must pursue a curriculum defined and approved by the principal as full time curriculum. A student shall be placed on academic probation if they fail to maintain a 2.0 overall grade point average and passing grades in English, mathematics, social studies, and science (if scheduled). A student on academic probation shall have their academic progress monitored by the principal or designee on a weekly basis and shall remain on academic probation for the remainder of the season for the sport in which the student is participating.

A student will be declared academically ineligible for interscholastic athletics if they fail to maintain a minimum of passing grades in at least four full-credit subjects, or the equivalent, as of each Friday during a grading period. Additionally, any student on academic probation that is not making adequate progress as determined by the principal or designee shall also be declared ineligible as of each Friday during a grading period.

In cases where a student's cumulative work from the beginning of the grading period does not, as of any Friday, meet the above standards, the student shall be ineligible from the immediately following Sunday through the Saturday immediately following the next Friday as of which the student's cumulative work from the beginning of the grading period meets the above standards.

In cases where a student's work in any preceding grading period does not meet the above standards, the student shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for at least fifteen (15) school days of the next grading period.

At the end of the school year, the student's final grades in the student's subjects rather than the student's grades for the last grading period shall be used to determine the student's eligibility for the next grading period.

A student who is absent from school during a semester for a total of 20 or more school days shall not be eligible to participate in any athletic contest until he or she has been in attendance for a total of 45 school days following the 20th day of absence.

Transportation, Tournaments And Competitions

On occasion, the interscholastic athletic teams of the district are selected to participate in Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (P.I.A.A.) tournaments and other competitions. These activities are

related to the school program and provide educational and recreational opportunities to students who desire to attend. In some instances, these events are held at places located at great distances from the school district, thereby preventing students from attending the events. The Board believes that it is in the interest of the total educational program of the district to encourage student attendance at these championship events.

The Superintendent is authorized to provide for the transportation of students on regular school buses to and from P.I.A.A. tournaments and competitions, when, in his/her judgment, the quality of and student interest in such events warrant such arrangements. This authority is limited to state qualifying and championship events (beyond the district level) which are conducted at locations beyond the geographical boundaries of District 7 of the P.I.A.A. Nominal charges may be made to provide adult supervision on the buses.

Delegation of Responsibility

Each school year, prior to participation in an interscholastic athletic activity, every student athlete and his/her parent/guardian shall sign and return the acknowledgement of receipt and review of the following: [8][9]

1. Concussion and Traumatic Brain Injury Information Sheet.

2. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Symptoms and Warning Signs Information Sheet.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually prepare, approve and present to the Board for its consideration a program of interscholastic athletics, which shall include a complete schedule of events.

S/He shall inform the Board of changes in that schedule as they occur.

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

The Superintendent shall ensure that similar athletic programs are offered to both sexes in proportion to the district's enrollment.

The Superintendent shall ensure that interscholastic athletics are open to all eligible students and that all students are fully informed of the opportunities available to them. [4][5]

Guidelines

Male/Female Athletic Opportunities Report

By October 15 of each year, on the designated disclosure form, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the PA Department of Education the interscholastic athletic opportunities and treatment for male and female secondary school students for the preceding school year. [6]

By November 1 of each year, the completed disclosure form shall be made available for public inspection during regular business hours and posted on the district's website. [6]

The availability of the completed disclosure form shall be announced by posting a notice on school bulletin boards, in the school newspaper, on any electronic mailing list or list serve, and by any other reasonable means. [6]

The designated disclosure form for male/female athletic opportunities is not required to be prepared or submitted to the PA Department of Education until October 15, 2013 and annually thereafter.

Legal

1. 22 PA Code 4.27
2. Pol. 103
3. 24 P.S. 511
4. 22 PA Code 12.1
5. 22 PA Code 12.4
6. 24 P.S. 1603-C
7. 24 P.S. 1601-C et seq
8. 24 P.S. 5323
9. Pol. 123.1