

## **2431 INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC COMPETITION**

The Westfield Board of Education believes individual pupils will benefit physically and intellectually through competitive interscholastic activities.

It is the Board's policy to provide secondary school pupils interscholastic athletic competition in a variety of team and individual sports. Pupils shall be allowed to try-out for interscholastic sports subject to rules and regulations of the district and New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) regulations. A student cannot participate in two or more sports simultaneously unless they have approval from the Supervisor of Athletics. Qualified personnel shall be provided for coaching and supervising interscholastic sports.

This policy does not pertain to intramural activities. However, the Board recognizes the value in intramural athletic activities as an outgrowth of class instruction in physical education and provides intramural activities for pupils in grades six through twelve as possible.

The purpose of secondary school athletics is to compete, display sportsmanship and foster a team atmosphere. Major emphasis is to provide a valuable learning experience for the participant during the competitive season. Emphasis is placed on self-discipline and emotional maturity gained through respect for established rules and authority, and consideration of the rights of others.

A well-organized and well-conducted athletic program is a potent factor in the morale of a student body and an important phase of good community school relations. Winning, involving the spirit of competition, is an immediate goal in all athletic contests, but it is not an end in itself. The desire to succeed and excel as a member of a team is most important.

Eligibility for interscholastic athletic competition will be governed by NJSIAA regulations.

### Participation

1. Participation in NJSIAA interscholastic athletics is limited to high school pupils in accordance with NJSIAA regulations which can be found at [www.njsiaa.org](http://www.njsiaa.org).
2. A high school pupil who has been declared initially eligible for an interscholastic activity but, who after becoming involved in the activity or team encounters academic failures or demonstrates poor performance in his/her classes, will be subject to review for continued participation in the activity or sport.

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The committee selected to review each case will be composed of the pupil's guidance counselor, the coach, the Supervisor of Athletics, a member of the Child Study Team, if necessary, and the principal or designee. Each case will be reviewed individually. The pupil may be placed on immediate probation for a period of up to two weeks. During the probationary period, the pupil can continue to participate; however, the pupil's academic progress will be monitored. If the expected improvement is judged to be insufficient (sporadic completion of homework, disciplinary problems, tardiness, papers/projects submitted late, quizzes and tests failed, and excessive absenteeism) by the committee, he/she will be removed from participation in the activity or team.

If the pupil shows satisfactory improvement, the probation will be changed to conditional participation. Conditional participation will require the pupil to continue to show satisfactory participation in all academic areas for the entire season or the duration of the activity program.

If the pupil fails to meet the standards of conditional participation, that pupil will be subject to further actions, including removal from the activity.

3. No pupil may start practice for any athletic team until he or she has completed the required district athletic registration forms including NJSIAA forms, if applicable, been examined and approved by a medical doctor and until written consent has been obtained from the parent. Good physical condition, freedom from injury, and full recovery from illness are prerequisites to participation in athletic competition and practice for such competition. Information concerning a pupil's HIV/AIDS status shall not be required as part of the medical examination or health history pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:5C-1 et seq. A candidate for a place on an athletic team or squad must receive a medical examination conducted once in each school year by the school district medical inspector or the designated team doctor, if any, not more than three hundred sixty five days prior to the first practice session. The school district medical inspector may accept the report, on a form provided by the district, of a medical examination conducted, at no expense to the Board, by the pupil's personal physician. Each candidate whose medical examination was completed more than sixty days prior to the first practice session must submit a health history update completed by the pupil's parent or legal guardian.

The medical examination conducted to determine the fitness of a candidate for athletic competition and the health history update must include, as a minimum, the respective medical history information and physical assessments set forth in rules of the State Board of Education including NJSIAA and incorporated in their entirety in regulations implementing this policy.

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The school district medical inspector or the designated team doctor shall approve or disapprove the pupil's participation in athletics based on the medical examination. Written notification of that determination, signed by the school district medical inspector or team doctor, shall be given to the pupil's parent or legal guardian and shall include the reasons for disapproval of the pupil's participation. The health findings of the medical examination shall be filed in the pupil's health examination record, subject to Board policy on pupil records.

4. Expenditures for the athletic program are incorporated as part of the general budget of the Board. No expenditures for athletic purposes may be made in excess of those listed in the budget without approval of the Superintendent.
5. District participation in interscholastic athletics shall be subject to approval by the Board. This shall include approval of membership in any leagues, associations, or conferences and annual sports schedules.
6. The Board of Education provides accident coverage for all students during school hours and at school sponsored functions at no cost to our parents. This plan acts as a secondary policy to any existing medical coverage. The district also offers a Voluntary Accident policy, which would be purchased at the parents' expense. This policy would cover students for accidents or injuries occurring 24 hours per day and while attending or participating in non-school sponsored events. This voluntary coverage would act as a secondary policy to any existing medical coverage.
7. Athletic coaches and the certified athletic trainer shall hold all state required certificates in accordance with the laws and regulations adopted by the state of New Jersey and NJSIAA, in the course of any athletic activity.
8. The Board shall approve annually 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 as Board policy the rules and regulations of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) and shall review such rules annually to ascertain that they continue to be in conformity with the objectives of this Board.

N.J.S.A. 2C:21-11  
N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3 et seq.  
N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7; 6A:16-1.4; 6A:16-2 et seq.

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