

2431.1 INITIATION OF HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

The Board recognizes that, from time to time, there may be interest in initiating a new athletic program, but will approve no more than one new program per year.

Proponents may petition the Board to initiate a new State-sanctioned athletic program where none currently exists. Those proponents must submit a complete proposal of a new athletic program for review by the Supervisor of Athletics and Principal. This proposal must be submitted at least six (6) months prior to the start of team activity as established by NJSIAA regulations. A complete proposal will contain information about the proposed athletic program that includes:

- The authorized designee who will be the official spokesperson for the proponents for a three year probationary period;
- The level of student interest and how it was assessed;
- Projections of student participation for four years, and the coaching positions required to oversee student participation safely and effectively;
- NJSIAA and conference requirements for the team and participants;
- A listing of projected opponent schools and a sample schedule;
- Projected budgets for four years of operation that encompass all required aspects of the program;
- Resources required to support the program including, but not limited to:

Facility use	Conference fees
Transportation	Officiating fees
Coaching salaries	Uniforms
Equipment	Supplies
Utility costs	
- An acknowledgement that the approved program will be operated by the school district, using donated funds as set for herein;
- An acknowledgement that the program will be under the supervision of district-hired coaches who meet NJSIAA requirements;
- An acknowledgement that no student in need as determined by qualification for participation in the free/reduced lunch program will be excluded from participation due to the inability to pay a required participation fee.

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The Supervisor of Athletics and Principal(s) will review the proposal for a new athletic program and meet with the Superintendent. The Supervisor of Athletics, Principal and Superintendent will review the proposal and will make a recommendation to the Board. The proposal may be returned to proponents for modification at any time by the Supervisor of Athletics and Principal(s), Superintendent, or the Board of Education prior to approval by the Board. Should the Board approve the proposal, the program shall proceed for a 3-year probationary period under the following terms:

Year 1:

Programs in the first year of operation will not receive funding from the school district budget. The Supervisor of Athletics and Principal(s) will review the program annually in accordance with existing procedures. Programs that demonstrate sufficient progress in achieving the goals for participation and program success through one year of operation as judged by the school district administration will be recommended for continuation in Year 2, subject to budgetary considerations.

Year 2:

Programs in the second year of operation will receive \$10,000 support in the school district budget. Programs that demonstrate sufficient progress in achieving the goals for participation and program success through two years of operations as judged by the school district administration will be recommended for continuation in Year 3, subject to budgetary considerations.

A comprehensive evaluation will be made at the end of the second year of the program's operation and before the initiation of the third year of operation by the Supervisor of Athletics, Principal(s) and Superintendent, in cooperation with the authorized designee of the sponsor. This review will examine participation rates; program outcomes (positive and negative) as identified by participants, parents, and school staff; budgetary expenditures; and contain a prognosis for continued viability of the program. This review may result in a recommendation to the Board to continue the program past the three-year probationary period. The Board will consider this information and make a final determination on the fourth year of program continuity through formal action at a public Board meeting.

Year 3:

Programs in the third year of operation will receive support in the school district budget up to \$20,000. Each succeeding year in which the program demonstrates continuing viability, the proposed funding for the athletic program will receive an additional allocation of \$10,000 of the necessary program costs until the program is fully funded by the district.

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The Board is not bound by its stated intent to support new athletic programs as outlined in this policy when financial exigencies, changes in state requirements, or other unforeseen circumstances occur. The Board reserves the right to provide funding, either partial or full, to support existing programs through the establishment of programs at school levels other than those where the program currently operates.

39 U.S.C.A. 1702 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3; 18A:42-2; 18A:42-5

First Reading: December 8, 2015
Adopted: January 5, 2016
Reviewed: January 28, 2020