

### INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

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

The program should foster the growth of school loyalty within the student body as a whole and stimulate community interest in athletics.

The game activities and practice sessions should provide many opportunities to teach the values of competition and good sportsmanship.

The program of interscholastic athletics should provide students the opportunity to exercise and test their athletic abilities in a context greater and more varied than that which can be offered by a school or the School District alone. It should also offer an opportunity for career and educational development.

For purposes of this policy, the program of interscholastic athletics shall include all activities relating to competitive sport contests, games, events, or sport exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students of this District with those of another district.

The Board shall determine the standards of eligibility to be met by all students participating in the interscholastic program. Such standards shall require that each student be in good physical condition, be free of injury, and have fully recovered from illness before participating in any interscholastic athletic event. In addition to the eligibility requirements established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, to be eligible for any interscholastic extra-curricular activity, a student must meet OHSAA eligibility requirements as well as Fremont City Board of Education eligibility requirements.

Beginning at the end of the first grading period of the 2010-11 school year, the eligibility requirements for interscholastic participation are as follows:

A. Middle School (Grades 7-8)

A student athlete enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement. Thereafter, a student must earn a grade point average of at least 1.5 and receive passing grades in a minimum of five (5) of those subjects in which the student received grades in the period grading period in order to be eligible to participate in interscholastic activities.

B. High School (Grades 9-12)

A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from the eighth grade must earn a grade point average of at least 1.5 and receive passing grades in a minimum of five (5) of all subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled. Thereafter, a student must pass five (5) subjects, each of which carries one-half unit of credit per semester or its equivalent; fail not more than one (1) subject; and maintain a grade point average of at least 1.5 from the previous grading period.

C. Other Notes

1. Transfer students shall have eligibility computed based upon an official transcript from the previous school of attendance. A student cannot participate in athletics until the transcript has been reviewed and the student has been declared eligible to participate.
2. Summer school and other educational options may not be used to substitute for failure to meet the academic standards during the last grading period of the school year.
3. The building principal shall be the final authority in determining the student's grade point average and the student's eligibility.
4. It is the responsibility of the coaching staff to communicate this policy to the student athletes along with an emphasis on academic achievement over athletic achievement.

The eligibility or ineligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth school day of the next grading period, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding grading period become effective. For the purpose of this Bylaw, "School Day" includes faculty in-service days, calamity days, and regular school attendance days, but not holidays or school breaks.

Any case involving a current student with a disability shall be referred to the Director of Student Services and principal to determine if a waiver of the eligibility standard is appropriate. However, in athletics, the Ohio High School Athletic Association Standards must be met.

Since the primary purpose of the athletic program is to enhance the education of participating students as indicated in this policy, the Board places top priority on maximum student participation and the values of good sportsmanship, team play, and fair competition.

The Board further adopts those eligibility standards set by the Constitution of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and shall review such standards annually to ascertain that they continue to be in conformity with the objectives of this Board.

The Board further directs that only those students may participate in the program of interscholastic athletics who have:

- A. maintained a satisfactory academic record;
- B. attended school regularly;
- C. demonstrated good citizenship and responsibility;
- D. returned all school and athletic equipment;
- E. refrained from participation in a contest on a noninterscholastic team, or as an individual in the same sport during the school's season.

In addition to the aforementioned items, parents and athletes must attend one athletic preseason parent meeting per year prior to the beginning of the athlete's season.

In order to minimize health and safety risks to student-athletes and maintain ethical standards, school personnel, coaches, athletic trainers, and lay coaches shall not dispense, supply, recommend, or permit the use of any drug, medication, or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes. The Superintendent shall cause to be posted in all locker rooms in buildings that include students in any grade higher than the sixth grade, the following:

“Warning: Improper use of anabolic steroids may cause serious or fatal health problems, such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, growth deformities, infertility, personality changes, severe acne, and baldness. Possession, sale, or use of anabolic steroids without a valid prescription is a crime punishable by a fine and imprisonment.”

The Superintendent shall develop appropriate administrative guidelines for the operation of the Athletic Program and a Code of Conduct for those who participate. Such guidelines should provide for the following safeguards:

- A. Prior to enrolling in the sport, each participant shall submit to a thorough physical examination by a District-approved physician and/or parents shall report any past or current health problems along with a physician's statement that any such problems have or are being treated and pose no threat to the student's participation.
- B. Any student who is found to have a health condition which may be life-threatening to self or others shall not be allowed to participate until the situation has been analyzed by a medical review panel that has determined the conditions under which the student may participate. The District shall assume no liability for any student with a health condition who has been authorized to play by the parents and their physician but not by the District.
- C. Any student who incurs an injury requiring a physician's care is to have the written approval of a physician prior to the student's return to participation.

The Superintendent is also to develop guidelines for ensuring that sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity characterize the manner in which the athletic program is conducted and the actions of students who participate. Such guidelines should include:

- A. criteria for judging these important qualities;
- B. procedures by which these values will be communicated to students, parents, and supporters;
- C. means for monitoring the behavior of each of these groups to ensure their behavior reflects high standards.

The guidelines should also provide a set of behavioral expectations for each type of participant as well as a Sportsmanship Code of Conduct which each type of participant is to follow. The Superintendent is authorized to implement suitable disciplinary procedures against those who violate this Sportsmanship Code.

Students will be further informed that participation in interscholastic sports is a privilege and not a right, and that they may be prohibited from all or part of their participation in such activities by authorized school personnel without further notice, hearing and/or appeal rights (See Policy 5610.05 - Prohibition From Extra-Curricular Activities).

In order to support the High School Athletic Association's program to strengthen sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity, the Board commits itself to:

- A. adopt policies (upon recommendation of the administration) which reflect the District's educational objectives and promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity;
- B. establish standards for athletic participation which reinforce the concept that athletic activities are a privilege, not a right;
- C. attend and enjoy school athletic activities, serving as a positive role model and expecting the same from parents, fans, participants, coaches, and other school personnel;

- D. support and reward participants, coaches, school administrators, and fans who display good sportsmanship;
- E. recognize the value of school athletic activities as a vital part of education.

R.C. 2305.23, 2305.231, 3313.53, 3313.535, 3313.752, 3315.062  
Ohio High School Athletic Association

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