

SUBJECT: SPORTS AND THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Athletics are an integral part of a well balanced educational program. Therefore, the Board supports within its resources a broad sports program with equal access for both males and females, with an emphasis on maximum participation, through interscholastic and intramural activity. The District will comply with recommendations from the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) regarding Title IX equal opportunity for males and females in the District's total athletic program regarding any of the following factors which may be applicable:

- a) The nature and extent of the sports program to be offered (including the levels of competition, such as varsity, club, etc.);
- b) The provision of equipment and supplies;
- c) The scheduling of games and practice time;
- d) The provision of travel and per diem allowances;
- e) The nature and extent of the opportunity to receive coaching and academic tutoring;
- f) The assignment and compensation of coaches and tutors;
- g) The provision of locker rooms, practice and competitive facilities;
- h) The provision of medical and training facilities and services;
- i) The provision of housing and dining facilities and services; and
- j) The nature and extent of support, publicity and promotion including cheerleading, bands, published programs distributed at games, and booster club activities.

The interscholastic athletic program shall conform to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education as well as the established rules of the New York State Public High Schools Athletic Association and the State Education Department.

Eligibility for interscholastic athletic competition requires that the students:

- a) Provide written parental/guardian consent. A consent form for a student's participation in interscholastic sports must contain information regarding concussion management protocol;

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- b) Pass satisfactorily the medical examination administered by the school physician/nurse practitioner or the student's personal physician. The school physician/nurse practitioner retains final approval on all physicals performed by the student's personal physician; and
- c) Meet the requirements for interscholastic competition as set forth by the Commissioner's Regulations and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

Booster Clubs

The School District has a responsibility under Title IX to ensure that boys' and girls' programs are provided with equivalent benefits, treatment, services and opportunities regardless of their source. When determining equivalency, benefits, services and opportunities attained through the use of private funds (e.g., "booster clubs"), such funds are considered in combination with all benefits, services and opportunities.

Private fundraising, including student-initiated fundraising, is permissible under Title IX. Further, compliance with Title IX does not mean that teams must "share" proceeds from fundraising activities. It does, however, place a responsibility on the District to ensure that benefits, services, treatment and opportunities overall, regardless of funding sources, are equivalent for male and female athletes.

In accordance with OCR, in order for the District to be in continuing compliance with Title IX requirements, the District must assure that services, benefits and opportunities in its athletic programs are provided on an equivalent basis to both boys and girls, including those services, benefits and opportunities that are provided through the use of outside financial assistance such as donations, fundraising by coaches, and booster clubs.

Selection/Classification Process

York Central School will participate in the New York State Selective Classification Policy. This policy is for Junior High athletes who wish to participate in sports at a higher level of competition and who are both mature and exceptionally skilled in their sport.

Only a 7th grade athlete who is considered an exceptional athlete and has passed the AAPERD (American Association of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance) Physical Fitness test at the Presidential Level as a 6th grader will be allowed to be involved in the Selective Classification program. The student must be reviewed by the Selective Classification Committee, which will be comprised of:

- a) The student's 6th grade physical education teacher/7th grade physical education teacher after the fall season;

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- b) The Elementary and High School Principals;
- c) The Director of Athletics;
- d) The student's 6th grade teacher/a 7th grade teacher after the fall season;
- e) The school nurse.

If the Selective Classification Committee identifies the student athlete as exceptionally skilled, he/she will be administered the Selective Classification test. The committee's recommendation will be determined by a majority vote.

Only an 8th grade athlete who is considered an exceptional athlete and has passed the AAPHERD Physical Fitness test at the National Level will be administered the Selective Classification test.

The Head Coach of the program that the athlete is being selectively classified for must initiate the formal process with the Athletic Promotion Request (in Coaches' Handbook) being sent to the Director of Athletics. A parent can also initiate the Selective Classification process through the Director of Athletics. After all the forms are completed and turned in to the Director of Athletics, the process will begin.

The Selective Classification Test will be administered three (3) times during each sport season by the Director of Athletics. One (1) date will be before the season begins, once during the first week of the season, and the last test will be administered during the second week of the sport season. The test may be administered additional times if circumstances dictate (e.g., new students entering school, students absent from school when the test is administered).

York Central School has an established Junior High athletic program, and we feel that our athletes should play on teams with their peers unless an athlete has exceptional talent.

Selective Classification Process

Pre-Committee

- a) Parent or Head Coach requests a student athlete to be selectively classified. Files appropriate form(s) with Director of Athletics.

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- b) Parent(s) complete and submit permission form to Head Coach who gives this copy to Director of Athletics.
- c) Director of Athletics references particular student's performance on the American Association of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAPERD) Physical Fitness Test to confirm Presidential (grade 6) or National (grade 7) fitness.
- d) Director of Athletics references Tanner score as a sign of student's maturity. Tanner score provided to District by family physician. **Check first with school nurse to see if District already possesses score.** If not, then request made by Director of Athletics of parents to obtain score from family physician.
 - 1. If Tanner score indicates student not physically mature for specific sport, then selective classification request is denied unless a physician agrees to allow student to participate by signing waiver on back of form, then selective classification request proceeds to Committee.
 - 2. If Tanner score meets or exceeds minimum, then selective classification request proceeds to Committee.

Committee

- a) Committee assesses the following data:
 - 1. Tanner score of physical maturity;
 - 2. Other measures of maturity;
 - 3. AAPERD performance; and
 - 4. Parental input in form of parental written consent.
- b) By majority vote, grant or deny student permission to take selective classification test as administered by the Director of Athletics.
- c) Results:
 - 1. If student does not meet Selective Classification test criteria, then student is selectively classified.
 - 2. If student does not meet Selective Classification test criteria, then student remains on Junior High School team.

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Selective Classification test will be administered three (3) times during each sport season:

- a) Once before season begins;
- b) Once during first week of season; and
- c) Last time during second week of the new sport season.

Student Athletic Injuries

No student should be allowed to practice or play in an athletic contest if he/she is suffering from an injury. The diagnosis of and prescription of treatment for injuries is strictly a medical matter and should under no circumstances be considered within the province of the coach. A coach's responsibility is to see that injured players are given prompt and competent medical attention, and that all details of a doctor's instructions concerning the student's functioning as a team member are carried out. No student will be allowed to practice or compete if there is a question whether he/she is in adequate physical condition.

A physician's certificate may be required before an athlete is permitted to return to practice or competition.

Concussions

A student who has sustained or is believed to have sustained a concussion (mild traumatic brain injury) must be immediately removed from athletic activities. If there is any doubt, it shall be presumed that the student is injured until proven otherwise. Before being permitted to return to athletic activity, a student must be symptom free for not less than twenty-four (24) hours and have been evaluated by and received written permission from a licensed physician. Additionally, for extra class athletic activities, a student must have received clearance from the school's medical director to participate in such activity.

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The District will take reasonable steps to see that physical risks to students participating in the interscholastic athletic program shall be kept at a minimum by:

- a) Requiring medical examinations of participants;
- b) Obtaining appropriately certified and/or licensed officials to coach all varsity, junior varsity, and, modified games; along with certified and/or licensed officials to referee all such competitions at the varsity and junior varsity levels;
- c) Ensuring that equipment is both safe and operative within approved guidelines; and

Coaching Practices

Coaches will be encouraged to support the following policies surrounding athletes participating in athletic programs:

- a) Coaches will encourage students to participate in a variety of extra-curricular activities in order to help the student become a well rounded individual.
- b) Coaches will not require students to participate in any out of season activities as a requirement to be a member of a school sponsored team.
- c) York CSD coaches who are involved in an outside season sport organization must communicate with York CSD in-season interscholastic coaches on a regular basis. The purpose of this communication is to avoid any conflicts with the York CSD sport season from the first day of practice until the last day of competition.

Students who choose to participate in an outside activity during a school sponsored sport season should understand that a coach may choose to discipline any student who misses any part of a practice or contest due to a scheduling conflict with the outside activity. Coaches may choose the amount of playing time a student athlete receives. That time could be reduced if the coach believes the safety or health of the player is at risk due to over training for two (2) or more activities, or if required practices/contests are missed due to conflicts.

POLICY

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Students

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Scheduling Conflicts

The District will try to schedule sporting events, extra-curricular events, and co-curricular events without conflicts. If a conflict arises, co-curricular events will have precedence over other activities. With conflicts concerning extra-curricular or sporting events, the student and their parents will make a decision without consequences from the coach, advisor, or other School District personnel.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 United States Code (USC) Section 1681 et seq.
45 Code of Federal Regulations Part 86
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) Section 135

Adoption Date: April 28, 2014