


| | | |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------|
|  | ABERDEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT | NEPN Code: JJIF |
| | POLICIES AND REGULATIONS | |

HIGH SCHOOL CLUB SPORT RECOGNITION

The Board will consider requests for recognition from non-school organizations that sponsor athletic programs that are not sanctioned by the South Dakota High School Activities Association (SDHSAA). Recognition includes allowing the organization the use of the school name, school mascot, and school colors. The club sport of swimming, currently accepted under the original High School Club Sports Policy adopted November 10, 1997, will be grandfathered into this policy provision. Any additional club sports to be accepted under the amended policy must work toward complete compliance with this provision within an agreed upon specified time period.

The District administration will review each authorized club sport activity prior to the beginning of the fall term and make recommendations in writing to the Board as to the continued sponsorship of said club sport under this policy. The Board shall make any final determinations concerning the acceptance, rejection, or continued authorization under this policy before the beginning of the fall term. By authorizing club sports in the District, the District does not in any way agree to sponsor any specific sport in the event the SDHSAA recognizes the sport as an official sporting event under the auspices of the SDHSAA.

Sponsoring Organization Requirements:

- The club sport sponsoring organization must be defined as a not-for-profit organization that has attained 501(c)(3) status by the IRS.
- The club sport sponsoring organization must be affiliated with a state-wide organization that has been in existence for at least five consecutive years.
- The club sport must produce a state-wide competitive athletic schedule that includes a state championship play-off system.
- The club sport may not duplicate any sport offered under the auspices of the SDHSAA.
- The club sport must adhere to all Title IX provisions.

Operational Requirements:

- All budget items such as, but not limited to, transportation, officials, coaches, supplies, awards, facility preparation/use, local/state/national dues, etc., will be the responsibility of the club sport sponsoring organization.
- The club sport sponsoring organization will have proof of insurance on file with the Aberdeen School District prior to the start of the season. The limits of such insurance shall be approved by the District Finance Officer and the District must be named as an additional insured on all insurance policies.
- In order to reduce the conflicts between school and club sponsored activities, and to allow students the option of participating in activities sponsored by both entities, club sport sponsored activities that have dual participation athletes shall begin not earlier than 5:30 PM or at a time mutually agreed upon by the club sport and the athletic director. Club sports that have multiple seasons will allow athletes involved in District athletic activities priority for practice and competition situations during their non-lettering seasons only.
- If the club sport activity is using District property for practice or competition purposes, a facilities usage agreement must be signed by both parties. This agreement would specify locations, dates, and times District property would be used by the club sport.

- Club sport participants may earn a high school letter under guidelines mutually agreed upon by the District Athletic Director and the club sport. There will be only one lettering season for any Club Sport activity. A list of award winners will be sent to the District Athletic Director. The District will be reimbursed by the club sport for the cost of the letters or emblems requested by the club sport.
- The club sport will compete during the athletic season that corresponds with the athletic season followed by the majority of the schools approving this sport in South Dakota. The length of the club sport's season, the beginning and ending dates, and number of contests played, shall be mutually agreed upon by the District and the club sport sponsoring organization.

Coaching Requirements:

- The club sport sponsoring organization shall designate a specific representative to work with the District Athletic Director on all matters outlined within this policy. This representative is to work with the Athletic Director to implement all provisions relating to this policy. The Athletic Director will submit all District concerns or complaints to this representative.
- All coaches in the club sport must meet the same requirements as any other District employed coach. Coaches are required to complete all NFHS required courses for coaching certification. Any changes or additions in public school coaching certification will apply to club sport coaches in an alike manner.
- District athletic forms will be distributed, signed, collected, and retained by the Club Sport. A report containing the names and confirmation of all District eligibility forms will be completed by the club sport and placed on file in the District athletic office. A not-for-profit organization which sponsors the club sport shall indemnify and hold harmless the school district, its agents and employees, for any and all liability, damage, expense, causes of action, suits, claims, or judgments arising from injury to persons or personal property otherwise which arises out of the act, failure to act, or negligence of the sponsoring entity, its agents, or employees in connection with or arising out of the club sport.

Student Athlete Requirements:

- Participants in the club sport activity, representing the Aberdeen Public Schools, must reside within the boundaries of the Aberdeen School District or be enrolled as a student under the open enrollment law in the District.
- All participants will abide by all District eligibility policies, the District Activities Code, School Board policies, and guidelines.
- Middle School students may participate as per the Aberdeen District petitioning policy.

ADOPTED: November 10, 1997
REVISED: September 27, 1999
REVISED: July 24, 2006
REVIEWED: August 8, 2011
REVIEWED: November 23, 2015
REVIEWED: June 27, 2022
REVISED: January 23, 2023