

2431 ATHLETIC COMPETITION

The Board of Education recognizes the value of a program of athletic competition for both boys and girls as an integral part of the total school experience. Game activities and practice sessions provide opportunities to learn the values of competition and good sportsmanship. Programs of athletic competition, both intrascholastic and interscholastic, offer pupils the opportunity to exercise and test their athletic abilities in a context greater and more varied than that offered by the class or school or school district alone, and an opportunity for career and educational development.

For purposes of this policy, the program of athletic competition includes all activities relating to competitive sports contests, games, or events or sports exhibitions involving individual pupils or teams of pupils of this district when such events occur within or between separate schools within this district or with any schools outside this district.

Eligibility Standards

A pupil who wishes to participate in athletic competition must submit, on a form provided by the district, the signed consent of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The consent of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a pupil who wishes to participate in interscholastic athletics must include an acknowledgment of the physical hazards that may be encountered in the sport.

Pupil participation in athletic competition shall be governed by the following eligibility standards:

For School Districts with High School Pupils

1. NJSIAA REQUIREMENTS - To be eligible for participation in the interscholastic athletic program of a New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) member school all high school pupils must meet, at a minimum, all the eligibility requirements of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of the NJSIAA. NJSIAA rules and regulations state that students in grades 10 - 12 must have, 30 credits a year and 15 credits per semester
2. WILLINGBORO PUBLIC SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS - In addition to the NJSIAA REQUIREMENT, students must maintain a 2.0 GPA (Grade Point Average) for consecutive marking periods, to be eligible to participate in any interscholastic athletics. All student-athletes will be assigned Mandatory Academic Study Table during their sports' season.



3. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY - If any student does not maintain a 2.0 GPA for consecutive marking periods, the student will be placed on probation and is not eligible to participate in athletic completion until the standard is met. During the probationary period, at the coach's discretion, the student is able to practice with the team and must attend all Mandatory Academic Study Table sessions.
4. ACADEMIC PROBATION (IN SEASON) – Any student that is participating in a sport that is in its current season and receives a progress report that states the student is failing a particular course and/or in danger of failing, the student-athlete will be placed on probation and will not be able to participate in any athletic competition until he/she has been cleared by the Athletic Director.
5. APPEAL PROCESS - Students may request an appeal of their ineligibility status to the Superintendent of Schools (or assigned designee) due to hardship (death in the family, medical, tragic circumstances). Parents or legal guardians must accompany their child in order for an appeal to be considered. This appeal will be offered one time during the student athlete's four-year high school career.
6. STUDENT CONDUCT - The school administration may revoke the privilege of participating in athletics/co-curricular activities at any time for disciplinary reasons, flagrant misconduct, poor sportsmanship, excessive absenteeism, and/or failure to meet minimum scholastic eligibility standards.

High School Pupils

Home schooled children are eligible to participate in the high school interscholastic athletic program of this district only if the school district, the parent/guardian, and the home schooled child comply with the Guidelines, Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of NJSIAA, and the policies and regulations of the Board of Education.

Middle School Pupils

1. A pupil in grades six through eight are eligible for participation in the school district sponsored athletic/sports program if he/she does not have more than one (F) failing grade in his/her core classes.
2. Home schooled children in grades six through eight are eligible to participate in the school sponsored athletic/sports program of this district.

Alternative Education Pupils

Any student that is placed into the alternative education program as a result of a remand hearing is not eligible for participation in the school district sponsored athletic/sports programs.



Options For All Pupils

3. A pupil in any grade must maintain a satisfactory record of attendance to be eligible for participation in the school district sponsored athletic/sports program. An attendance record is unsatisfactory if the number of unexcused absences exceed 20 school days in the school year.

Any pupil who is absent with an unexcused absence for a school day may not participate in the school district sponsored athletic/sports program for the afternoon or evening of that school day.

A pupil who is serving an in-school or out-of-school suspension may not participate in the school district sponsored athletic/sports program while serving the suspension.

4. A pupil in any grade who fails to observe school rules for pupil conduct may forfeit his/her eligibility for participation in school district sponsored athletic/sports program.

Notice of these eligibility requirements shall be given to pupils.

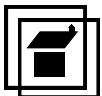
Health Requirements

Good physical condition, injury-free, and full recovery from illness are prerequisites to participation in school district sponsored athletic/sports program and practice for such competition. HIV status shall not be screened as a part of athletic physicals or reported in school health records.

A current examination of each candidate for a school athletic squad or team shall be conducted within 365 days prior to the first practice session with examinations being conducted at the medical home of the pupil. The "medical home" is defined as a health care provider and that provider's practice site chosen by the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for the provision of health care. Since the school physician is a "health care provider", the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may choose either the school physician or their own private physician to provide the medical examination.

The medical examiner of the student must be certified.

The medical examination shall be conducted in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)1 and 2 and Regulation 2431.2. The medical report shall include a determination concerning the pupil's participation on an athletic team or squad from the examining physician, nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist, or physician's assistant. The medical report shall be provided to the school nurse and Athletic Training if the school physician did not provide the medical examination.



If the pupil's medical examination was completed more than ninety days prior to the first practice session, the pupil must provide a health history update of medical problems experienced since the last medical examination in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)4. This health history must be completed and signed by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

The school district may provide, if requested, written notification to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), signed by the school physician, stating approval of the pupil's participation in the athletics, based solely on the medical report, or the written reasons for the school physician's disapproval of the pupil's participation. The school physician's signature on the notification indicates the medical report complies with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)5.

The health findings of this medical examination shall be maintained as part of the pupil's health record.

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 and incorporated in their entirety in regulations implementing this policy.

Emergency Procedures

Athletic coaches shall be trained in first aid and in the identification of student-athletes who are injured or disabled in the course of any athletic activity.

The Superintendent shall prepare and present to the Board for its approval procedures for the emergency treatment of injuries and disabilities that occur in the course of any athletic activity. Emergency procedures shall be reviewed by the Board not less than once in each school year and shall be disseminated to appropriate staff members.

A copy of the emergency procedures approved by this Board will be sent to each district that will participate in athletic competition in the facilities of this district.

Interscholastic Standards

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 Superintendent shall annually prepare, approve, and present to the Board for its consideration a program of interscholastic athletics that includes a complete schedule of athletic events and shall inform the Board of changes in that schedule.



POLICY

WILLINGBORO TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

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