

Interscholastic Activities

The board recognizes the value of a program of interscholastic activities as an integral part of the total school experience to all students of the district and to the community. The program of interscholastic activities will include all activities relating to competitive sport contests, games or events, or exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students of this district when such events occur between separate schools within this district or with any schools outside this district.

The board expects that:

- A. All interscholastic activities and events will be in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA). The schools of the district will not participate in any out-of-season athletics that are not sanctioned by the WIAA. The district will not be responsible or liable for nonschool-sponsored programs or for programs that are organized, promoted or participated in by staff members without school approval. The district will not be responsible for or control and incur liability for summer and/or out-of-season activities unless specifically sponsored by the school district. The superintendent will establish rules defining the circumstances under which school facilities may be used and under which announcements of summer sports leagues and/or clinics may be channeled to students.
- B. An athletic coach must be properly trained and qualified for an assignment as described in the coach's job description.
- C. A syllabus that outlines the skills, techniques and safety measures associated with a coaching assignment will be distributed to each coach. A coach must secure permission in advance if he/she wishes to deviate from the syllabus.
- D. Coaching stipends and all gifts to a coach that exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) in a season will be approved by the board of directors.
- E. In-service training opportunities will be afforded each coach so that he/she is trained to attend to the health care needs of participants. Prior to a sports season, the coach will prepare a plan for handling medical emergencies at practice sessions and games (home and away).
- F. Participants will be issued equipment that has been properly maintained and fitted.
- G. All facilities and equipment utilized in the interscholastic activity program, whether or not the property of the district, will be inspected on a regular basis.
- H. Non-prescribed medications, including such items as analgesic balms, vitamins and salt tablets, must be approved by the superintendent before they may be available for use by coaches and/or athletic trainers. After athletic training medications have been approved, the coach and/or trainer must secure authorization from the parent and the student's doctor before the medications may be used during the athletic season. If such release is not on file, the non-prescribed medications may not be used. This provision does not preclude the coach and/or trainer from using approved first aid items.

A sign will be posted that warns students that eligibility to participate may be denied if anabolic steroids are used for the purpose of enhancing athletic ability.

- I. The board recognizes that certain risks are associated with participation in interscholastic sports. While the district will strive to prevent injuries and accidents to students, each participant and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) will be required to sign a statement which indicates that the parent(s) and the student acknowledge the risks of injuries resulting from such participation and give assurance that the student will follow the instructions of the coach.
- J. Each participant will be required to furnish evidence of physical fitness prior to becoming a member of an interscholastic team. A written report will be completed when a student is injured while participating in a school-supervised activity. A participant will be free of injury and will have fully recovered from illness before participating in any activity.
- K. Each student participating in interscholastic athletic activities is required to have or obtain medical insurance for expenses incurred as a result of injuries sustained while participating in the extracurricular activity. Students will provide evidence of coverage with a minimum limit of \$25,000 in medical expenses or will obtain such coverage through the insurance plan offered to all students participating in activities in the district. No student will be denied the ability to participate solely because the student's family, by reason of low income, is unable to pay the entire amount of the premium for such insurance. The superintendent or his or her designee may approve partial or full waiver of premiums to permit all students to obtain the required medical insurance.

The superintendent will annually prepare, approve and present to the board for its consideration a program of interscholastic activities for the school year. The superintendent will prepare rules for the conduct of student activities including, but not limited to, use of alcoholic beverages; use of tobacco; use or possession of illegal chemical substances (including marijuana/cannabis) or opiates not prescribed by a physician; physical appearance; curfew; unsportsmanlike conduct; absence from practice; gambling; or any infraction of civil law. Notice of rules and disciplinary actions related to rule violations will be distributed to each participant and his/her parents prior to the beginning of an interscholastic activity season.

Nondiscrimination

The district will not exclude any person from participation in the interscholastic program, deny any person the benefits of such a program or otherwise discriminate against any person in any interscholastic program on the basis of the categories identified in the district's Nondiscrimination policy.

The district will provide necessary funds for recreational and athletic activities for both sexes, although the aggregate expenditures are not required to be equal for members of each sex and expenditures for separate male and female teams are not required to be equal.

When individual students with disabilities are unable to participate in existing activities even when offered reasonable modifications and necessary accommodations, aids or services, the district may offer opportunities for students with disabilities to participate in separate or different recreational or athletic activities.

The district may operate or sponsor separate teams for members of each sex where selection for such teams is based upon competitive skill or the activity involved is a contact sport. However, when the district operates or sponsors a team in a particular sport for members of one sex but not the other, and athletic opportunities for members of the other sex have previously been limited, members of the excluded sex will be allowed to try out for the team offered. For the purposes of this policy, contact sports include boxing, wrestling, rugby, ice hockey, football, basketball and other sports in which the major activity involves bodily contact.

The district will provide equal athletic opportunities for both sexes within each school for interscholastic, club or intramural athletics. In determining whether equal athletic opportunities for both sexes are being provided, the district will consider the following factors:

1. Whether the selection of sports and levels of competition effectively accommodate the interests and abilities of members of both sexes;
2. Provision of equipment and supplies;
3. Scheduling of games and practice time, including the use of playfields, courts, gyms and pools;
4. Travel and per diem allowances, if any;
5. Opportunity to receive coaching and academic tutoring;
6. Assignment and compensation of coaches, tutors, and game officials;
7. Provision of locker rooms and practice and competitive facilities;
8. Provision of medical and training facilities and services, including the availability of insurance;
9. Provision of housing and dining facilities and services, if any; and
10. Publicity and awards.

Annual athletic evaluation

The district will evaluate its intramural and interscholastic program in each school at least once each year to ensure that equal opportunities are available to members of both sexes with respect to participation in interscholastic and/or intramural programs. The evaluation will include consideration for the factors listed in the above paragraph, Nondiscrimination.

Student athletic interest survey

Every three years, the district will administer to each school that operates interscholastic, intramural and other athletics the survey developed by the office of the superintendent of public instruction to determine male and female student interest in participation in specific sports. The district will consider the survey results when planning and developing recreational and athletic activities offered by the district and when determining whether equal opportunities are available to members of both sexes.

Facilities

The district will provide separate facilities (e.g., showers, toilets, training rooms) for male and female students or schedule the facilities equitably for separate use.

Cross References: 3210 - Nondiscrimination
 6512 - Infection Control Program
 4260 - Use of School Facilities
 3418 - Response to Student Injury or Illness
 3416P - Procedure Medication at School
 3414 - Infectious Diseases
 3413 - Student Immunization And Life Threatening Health
 Conditions
 2121 - Substance Abuse Program

Legal References: RCW 28A.400.350 Liability, life, health, health care, accident,

disability, and salary insurance authorized — Health savings
accounts — Premiums — Noncompliance
RCW 28A.600.200 Interscholar athletic and other extracurricular
activities for students — Authority to regulate and impose penalties
— Delegation of authority — Conditions
RCW 69.41.330 Public Warnings — School districts
RCW 69.41.340 Student athletics — Violations — Penalty
WAC 392-190-025 Recreational and athletic activities

Management
Resources:

WIAA Handbook
2014 - December Issue
2013 - April Issue
2007 - October Issue

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Procedure Interscholastic Activities

Coach's Duties

In accordance with district policy and the coach's job description, the coach has the duty to:

- A. **Instruct Participants**
The coach should employ the latest methods and proper instruction when working with students to develop motor skills. If an injury occurs while using an improper instructional method, the district and its employees may be liable for negligence.
- B. **Warn Participants**
The coach should inform all athletes and their parents of the inherent risks involved in participation in the particular sport, including the very small risk of infection with a blood-borne pathogen. The coach must describe, using a variety of methods, the catastrophic and common non-catastrophic injuries unique to the sport.
- C. **Supervise Participants**
The coach will create a daily plan, showing how the coach plans to conduct general supervision of the sport, and how he/she will supervise specific drills and other components of the daily practice. Adequacy of supervision should be reviewed in terms of quality and quantity and should include factors such as: the age of the students, the size of the students, the equipment involved, the maturity level of the students, the first aid equipment and training available, the appropriate certification of supervisors where required, and the safety training of the personnel involved.
- D. **Provide Safe Equipment and Facilities**
Equipment should be properly fitted and maintained. Athletes should be instructed on how to conduct a daily inspection. Facilities should be free of hazards and inspected regularly.
- E. **Maintain Records of Injuries**
A report should be completed for each accident. Injury reports should be maintained for a period of five years after the student's 21st birthday.
- F. **Assess Fitness of Participants**
The coach will assess the physical fitness, the medical condition, and the skill level of athletes prior to participation in sporting activities.
- G. **Provide Equal Protection and Due Process**
While participation in co-curricular activities is a privilege, a student whose participation will be terminated based on an alleged violation of the conduct code must be afforded the opportunity of a fair hearing.
- H. **Transport Athletes Safely**
A coach has a duty to see that athletes are safely transported to and from contests and to and from practices if practices are held at sites other than the immediate school grounds.
- I. **Group Participants**
The coach has the duty to employ a recognized system of grouping for participants in a particular sport that will avoid unequal and unsafe participation. The system of grouping will be based upon skill level, age, maturity, sex, size and experience.
- J. **Foresee Danger**
A coach should be able to reasonably anticipate foreseeable dangers that may occur if the, and take precautions protecting the children in his/her custody from such dangers.
- K. **Protect From Loss**

A participant is required to present evidence that he/she is covered by an accident policy. A blanket catastrophic ("no fault") insurance provides coverage for serious injuries.

The duties listed above are not meant to be comprehensive. In carrying out the duties of the assignment, a staff member is expected to act as a reasonable professional would act under similar circumstances. A staff member who supervises a sports activity is expected to know the intricacies of the activity that he/she is leading.

Summer Sports Activities/Clinics

Rules governing out-of-school and/or out-of-season student sports participation are as follows:

- A. A practice is defined as the teaching phase of a sport to any present, past or future squad member while as the student is in grade 7-12. Practices can take place during the school year or during the summer. The school may not sponsor, promote or direct activities which resemble out-of-season practices or contests during the school year or summer.

A school staff member who sponsors, promotes or directs such activities during the summer vacation will clearly indicate that he/she is operating independent of the school district. As such, the school district will be free of liability associated with the activity.

- B. Students will be advised that participation in a commercial summer camp or clinic or other similar type of activity will not begin until the conclusion of the final WIAA state tournament of the school year. Participants in a fall school sports program may not attend any summer camp/clinic in that sport after August 1 until the first fall sports turnout. The school should announce by school bulletin that summer sports camp/clinic is neither endorsed nor sponsored by the district.
- C. A coach (contracted or volunteer) may not sponsor, promote, coach or direct activities which resemble out-of-season practices or contests in the sport they coach to any of their squad members or future squad members (grades 7-12) until after the school year's final WIAA state tournament.
- D. The use of the school bulletin board, public address system or school newspaper for promotional purposes to announce sports clinics/camps will fall within the same guidelines as applied to other commercial endeavors.
- E. School facilities to be used for summer activity and/or sports camps may be rented consistent with the rates, rules and regulations applicable for other commercial uses.

A user will hold the district free and without harm from any loss or damage, liability or expense that may arise during or be caused in any way such use of school facilities. Authorization for use of school facilities will not be considered as endorsement of or approval of the activity group or organization, or the purposes it represents.

Athletic Code

The opportunity to participate in the interscholastic athletic program is a privilege granted to all students of the district. Participants in this voluntary program are expected to conform to specific conduct standards established by the principals and athletic coaches.

A student who is found by a certificated staff member of the student's school to be in violation of any rules is subject to removal from the team. A student who has allegedly violated one or more of the conduct rules may appeal a disciplinary action as specified in this code.

The following rules will be applicable for a sports season:

- A. **Use and/or Possession of Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco**
An athlete who is found to be in possession of alcohol or tobacco products may be removed from the athletic team for three weeks (first offense). If the student violates the rule twice during the sports season, he/she will be dropped from the team for the season.
- B. **Use and/or Possession of Illegal Chemical Substances or Opiates**
An athlete who is found to be in possession of illegal chemical substances (including marijuana/cannabis) or opiates will be removed from the team for the balance of the sports season.
- C. **Physical Appearance**
An athlete will maintain the dress and grooming standards of the team. The first offense will result in a verbal warning. Repeated offenses will result in removal from the activity for five (5) school days.
- D. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct**
An athlete will exhibit appropriate conduct in practices and/or contests. The first offense will result in a verbal warning. Repeated offenses will result in removal from the activity for five (5) school days.
- E. **Attendance at School**
An athlete will attend school for at least one half day on the day of an athletic contest. If an athlete receives an unexcused absence for any portion of the day, the athlete will be ineligible to participate in the activity/contest on that day. If excused, the athlete may participate if he/she was in attendance for one half day or more.
- F. **Absence from Practice**
An athlete is expected to be in attendance at all team practices unless excused for illness or by prior approval. If an athlete is absent from practice and not excused, the athlete will be ineligible to participate in the next contest.
- G. **Violation of Law on School Grounds**
When a student is found guilty of an offense committed while on school grounds or at a school activity, the corrective action will depend upon the nature of the violation.
- I. **Repeated Offenses**
If a student repeatedly violates one of the above rules, he/she may be removed from the team for the remainder of the sports season.

Appeal Process for Disciplinary Action

When infractions occur within the athletic program, the following process may be followed:

- A. A Building Hearing Committee composed of the building principal and/or designee, activities director, and coach will be constituted to hear any appeals of disciplinary action taken against student athletes. Upon the imposition of penalty for infraction(s) of any rules or regulations related to interscholastic athletics, any aggrieved student and parents of said student will have the right to an informal conference with the Building Hearing Committee to request that they refrain from enforcing the decision of the coach or ask the coach to reconsider. If the students and parents do not make a written request for this informal conference within five (5) school days of the imposition of the penalty, they will have waived their right to the conference and appeal procedure. The informal conference is to be held within three (3) school days of the request.
- B. If the parties are unable to agree at the informal conference, the aggrieved party may appeal to the Building Eligibility Committee. The Building Eligibility Committee consists of the activities director and three student peers and three building staff members named by the building administrator. The Building Eligibility Committee must meet within three (3) school days of the appeals request. The aggrieved party and the coach(es) will be available as a resource.

- C. The Building Eligibility Committee will hear the case in detail and will render a decision within three (3) school days after hearing the case.
- D. The aggrieved party may appeal to the superintendent of schools within three (3) school days of the appeals decision. The superintendent of schools, after hearing the case in detail, will render a decision within ten (10) school days of the hearing.
- E. The aggrieved party may appeal the superintendent's decision to the Board of Directors within three (3) school days. The Board of Directors, after hearing the case in detail, will render a decision on the case within ten (10) school days of the hearing. This decision will be final.

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Prescott School District

Classification:

Revised Dates: **02.00; 12.11; 04.13**

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