

## **Instruction**

### **ATHLETIC COMPETITION**

The Governing Board recognizes that the athletic program constitutes an integral component of the educational program and helps to build a positive school climate. The athletic program also promotes the physical, social and emotional well-being and character developing of participating students. The athletic program shall be designed to meet students' interests and abilities and be varied in scope to attract wide participation.

#### **Nondiscrimination and Equivalent Opportunities in the Athletic Program**

The district's athletic program shall be free from discrimination and discriminatory practices in accordance with state and federal law. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that equivalent athletic opportunities are provided for both sexes.

Any complaint regarding the district's athletic program shall be filed in accordance with the district's uniform complaint procedures.

#### **Sportsmanship**

The Board values the quality and integrity of the athletic program and the ethical well-being and character development of the student athletes. Student athletes, coaches, parents/guardians, spectators, and others are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play during all athletic competitions. They shall also abide by the core principles of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship and the Codes of Conduct, as adopted by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF).

Students and staff may be subject to disciplinary action for improper conduct.

#### **California Interscholastic Federation**

The Board maintains membership in CIF and requires that interscholastic athletic activities be conducted in accordance with Board policy, administrative regulation and CIF bylaws and rules. The Superintendent or designee shall have responsibility for the district interscholastic athletic program, while the principal or designee at each participating school shall be responsible for the site-level decisions, as appropriate.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board shall annually designate an employee from each high school to serve as a representative to the local CIF league. Appointees shall represent the district in performing all duties required by the CIF league. In making this selection, the Board shall consider the employee's understanding of the district's goals for interscholastic and extracurricular activities, knowledge of the athletic programs, awareness of the implications of league decisions for the school and the district, and individual interpersonal communication and leadership skills.

**ATHLETIC COMPETITION (continued)****Student Eligibility**

The first priority of student athletes shall be a commitment to their education and academic achievement.

Eligibility requirements for participation in the district's interscholastic athletic program, including eligibility for a child in foster care or a child of a military family, are the same as those set by the district for participation in extracurricular and cocurricular activities.

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students participating interscholastic athletics governed by the CIF satisfy CIF eligibility requirements.

**Health and Safety**

The Board desires to give student health and safety the highest consideration in planning and conducting athletic activities. Universal precautions shall be observed when injuries occur.

Students shall have a medical clearance before participating in the interscholastic athletic program. Care shall be taken to ensure that all athletic trainings and competitions are conducted in a manner that will not overtax the physical capabilities of the participants. When appropriate, protective equipment shall be used to prevent or minimize injuries.

Coaches and appropriate district employees shall take every possible precaution to ensure that athletic equipment is kept in safe and serviceable condition. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all athletic equipment is cleaned and inspected for safety before the beginning of each school year.

**Supervision**

All athletic teams shall be supervised by qualified coaches to ensure that student athletes receive appropriate instruction and guidance related to safety, health, training and preparation for competition. Athletic events shall be officiated by qualified personnel.

At least one coach from each sport shall participate in a professionally operated coach training program.

(cf. 3541.1 - Transportation for School-Related Trips)

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education)

(cf. 7110 - Facilities Master Plan)

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 3515.2 - Disruptions)

(cf. 4118 - Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

**ATHLETIC COMPETITION (continued)**

- (cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)
- (cf. 5131 - Conduct)
- (cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)
- (cf. 5131.4 - Student Disturbances)
- (cf. 5144 - Discipline)
- (cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)
- (cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Individuals with Disabilities))
- (cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)
- (cf. 3530 - Risk Management/Insurance)
- (cf. 5111.1 - District Residency)
- (cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)
- (cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)
- (cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)
- (cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)
- (cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)
- (cf. 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families)
- (cf. 4119.42/4219.42/4319.42 - Exposure Control Plan for Bloodborne Pathogens)
- (cf. 4119.43/4219.43/4319.43 - Universal Precautions)
- (cf. 5141 - Health Care and Emergencies)
- (cf. 5141.21 - Administering Medication and Monitoring Health Conditions)
- (cf. 5141.22 - Infectious Diseases)
- (cf. 5131.61 - Drug Testing)
- (cf. 5131.63 - Steroids)
- (cf. 5141.3 - Health Examinations)
- (cf. 5143 - Insurance)
- (cf. 5142 - Safety)
- (cf. 4127/4227/4327 - Temporary Athletic Team Coaches)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex
- 270-271 Athletes' Bill of Rights
- 17578 Cleaning and sterilizing of football equipment
- 17580-17581 Football equipment
- 32221.5 Required insurance for athletic activities
- 33353-33353.5 California Interscholastic Federation; implementation of policies, insurance program
- 33354 California Department of Education authority over interscholastic athletics
- 35160.5 District policies; rules and regulations
- 35161 Powers and duties generally
- 35179 Interscholastic athletics
- 48850 Interscholastic athletics; students in foster care

Legal Reference: (continued)

EDUCATION CODE (continued)

- 48900 Grounds for suspension and expulsion
- 48930-48938 Student organizations
- 49020-49023 Athletic programs; legislative intent, equal opportunity
- 49030-49034 Performance-enhancing substances
- 49700-49701 Education of children of military families

**ATHLETIC COMPETITION (continued)**

60850-60859 High school exit examination

PENAL CODE

245.6 Hazing

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4900-4965 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs

5531 Supervision of extracurricular activities of students

5590-5596 Employment of noncertificated coaches

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1681-1688 Discrimination based on sex or blindness, Title IX

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

106.31-106.42 Discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities prohibited

COURT DECISIONSKahn v. East Side Union High School District, (2004) 31 Cal. 4th 990tHartzell v. Connell, (1984) 35 Cal. 3d 899

## Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONSA School Board Member's Guide to CIF and Interscholastic Sports, 1997CALIFORNIA TASK FORCE REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURECompact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children: Preliminary Final Report, March 2009CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION PUBLICATIONSA Guide to Equity (Equity Handbook)Pursuing Victory with Honor, 1999California Interscholastic Federation Constitution and BylawsWEB SITESCSBA: <http://www.csba.org>California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>California Interscholastic Federation: <http://www.cifstate.org>National Federation of State High School Associations: <http://www.nfhs.org>

National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment:

<http://www.nocsae.org>

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## Instruction

### ATHLETIC COMPETITION

No person shall on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic group identification, race, ancestry, national origin, religion, color or mental or physical disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be denied equivalent opportunity in, or otherwise be discriminated against in interscholastic, intramural or club athletics. (Education Code 5 CCR 4920)

The Superintendent or designee may provide single sex teams where selection for the teams is based on competitive skills. (34 CFR 106.41; 5 CCR 4921)

When a school provides only one team in a particular sport for members of one sex, but provides no team in the same sport for members of the other sex, and athletic opportunities in the total program for that sex have been previously limited, members of the excluded sex shall be allowed to try out for the team. The same standards for eligibility shall be applied to every student trying out for a team, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, or other protected group status. (5 CCR 4921)

When determining whether equivalent opportunities are available to both sexes in athletic programs, the Superintendent or designee shall consider, among other factors: (5 CCR 4922)

1. Whether the selection of sports and levels of competition offered effectively accommodate the interests and abilities of both sexes

To help ensure that the district's athletic program effectively accommodates the interests and abilities of both sexes in athletics, the district shall use the following criteria: (Education Code 230)

- a. Whether the interscholastic-level participation opportunities for male and female students are provided in numbers substantially proportionate to their respective enrollments
- b. When the members of one sex have been and are underrepresented among interscholastic athletes, whether the district can show a history and a continuing practice of program expansion that is demonstrably responsive to the developing interests and abilities of the members of that sex
- c. When the members of one sex are underrepresented among interscholastic athletes and the district cannot show a history and a continuing practice of program expansion as required in item # b above, whether the district can demonstrate that the interests and abilities of the members of that sex have been fully and effectively accommodated by the present program

**ATHLETIC COMPETITION (continued)**

2. The provision and maintenance of equipment and supplies
3. Scheduling of games and practice times, selection of the season for a sport, and location of the games and practices
4. Travel and per diem allowances
5. Opportunities to receive coaching and academic tutoring
6. Assignment and compensation of coaches and tutors
7. Provision of locker rooms, practice and competitive facilities
8. Provision of medical and training facilities and services
9. Provision of housing and dining facilities and services
10. Publicity
11. Provision of necessary funds

**Parental Notifications**

Before a student participates in interscholastic athletic activities, the Superintendent or designee shall send a notice to the student's parents/guardians which:

1. Contains information about the procedures for filing a discrimination complaint that arises out of an interscholastic athletic activity
2. Explains that there is an element of risk associated with all athletic competitions and that the district cannot guarantee that students will not be injured, despite a commitment to provide for every participant's health and welfare
3. Provides information about insurance protection pursuant to Education Code 32221.5
4. Requests parental permission for the student to participate in the program and, if appropriate, be transported by the district to and from competitions
5. States the Governing Board's expectation that students adhere strictly to all safety rules, regulations and instructions, as well as rules and guidelines related to conduct and sportsmanship
6. Includes a copy of the local California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) league rules
7. Includes information about the CIF bylaws and district policy requiring any student athlete and his/her parent/guardian to sign a statement that the student will not use steroids or dietary supplements banned by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency

**ATHLETIC COMPETITION (continued)**

- (cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
- (cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)
- (cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)
- (cf. 3530 - Risk Management/Insurance)
- (cf. 5143 - Insurance)
- (cf. 3541.1 - Transportation for School-Related Trips)
- (cf. 5144 – Discipline)
- (cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)
- (cf. 5131.63 – Steroids)

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