

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

POLICY:

The Board recognizes the value of a program of interscholastic athletics as an integral part of the total school experience to all students of the district and to the community. The program of interscholastic athletics shall include all activities relating to competitive sport contests, games or events, or sports 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 requires that:

- A. All interscholastic activities and events shall be in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA). The schools of the district shall not participate in any out-of-season athletics that are not sanctioned by the WIAA. The District shall 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 shall 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 shall 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 which 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. 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).
- E. Participants will be issued equipment that has been properly maintained and fitted.

- F. All facilities and equipment utilized in the interscholastic athletic program, whether or not the property of the District, shall be inspected on a regular basis.
- G. Nonprescribed 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 nonprescribed 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 solely for the purpose of enhancing athletic ability.

- H. 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.
- I. Each participant shall be required to furnish evidence of physical fitness prior to becoming a member of an interscholastic team. A written report shall be completed when a student is injured while participating in a school-supervised activity. A participant shall be free of injury and shall have fully recovered from illness before participating in any activity.
- J. 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 shall provide evidence of coverage with a minimum limit of \$25,000 in medical expenses or shall 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 shall annually prepare, approve, and present to the Board for its consideration a program of interscholastic athletics for the school year. The Superintendent shall prepare rules for the conduct of student athletes including, but not limited to, use of alcoholic beverages; use of tobacco; use or

possession of illegal chemical substances or opiates not prescribed by a physician; physical appearance; curfew; unsportsmanlike conduct; absence from practice; gambling; or any infraction of civil law. Rules and disciplinary actions related to rule violations shall be distributed to each participant and his/her parents prior to the beginning of an athletic season.

Cross References:

(cf. 6310 - Substance Abuse Program)

(cf. 5475.2 - Administration of Medication)

(cf. 1410 - Community Use of School Buildings, Equipment, and Grounds, -
Fee Schedule)

(cf. 3300 - Safety)

WIAA Handbook

Athletic Code, Lake Stevens School District

Legal References:

RCW 28A.400.350 Liability, life, health, health care, accident, disability, and
salary insurance authorized--Premiums

RCW 28A.600.200 Interschool athletic and other extra-curricular activities for
students, regulation of--Delegation, conditions

RCW 69.41.330 Public Warnings -- School districts

RCW 69.41.340 Student athletics

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PROCEDURES:

Coach's Duties

In accordance with the Lake Stevens School District policy and the coach's job description, the coach has the duty to:

Instruct Participants. The coach should employ the latest methods or proper instruction using sound progression in presenting motor skills. If an injury occurs while using an improper instructional method, negligence may be present.

Warn Participants. The coach should inform all athletes and their parents of the inherent risks involved in participation in the particular sport. The coach must describe, using a variety of methods, the catastrophic and common noncatastrophic injuries unique to the sport.

Supervise Participants. The daily plan should show 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. Factors to consider include, but are not limited to, 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.

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. First aid equipment shall be available in the event of an injury.

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.

Evaluate Fitness of Participants. The coach has a duty to evaluate the physical fitness, the medical condition, and the skill level of athletes. Failure to evaluate and maintain records of those evaluations may be cause for negligence should an injury occur involving fatigue or lack of skill.

Provide Equal Protection and Due Process. While participation in co-curricular activities is a privilege, a participant who allegedly violates the conduct code must be afforded the opportunity of a fair hearing.

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.

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, based upon skill level, age, maturity, sex, size, and experience.

Foresee Danger. A coach should be able to reasonably anticipate foreseeable dangers that may occur if the activity is continued in a facility, or with equipment, or in a situation, and take precautions protecting the children in his/her custody from such dangers.

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 have acted 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 a teaching phase of a sport to any present, past, or future squad member while a student in grade 7-12 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 shall clearly indicate that he/she is operating independent of the school district. As such, the District shall be free of liability associated with the activity.

- B. Students shall be advised that participation in a commercial summer camp or clinic or other similar type of activity shall 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 camps/clinics are 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 shall 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 shall 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 shall not be considered as endorsement of or approval of the activity group or organization nor for 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. Provision is made for a student who has allegedly violated one or more of the conduct rules to appeal a disciplinary action as specified in the Athletic Code.