



ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES *Policy Code: 3620*

The Board recognizes the value of interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities in promoting leadership and team skills, practicing democratic principles, and encouraging the lifelong learning process. Students are encouraged to actively participate in opportunities available at the school, including interscholastic athletics and student organizations. All activities are open to all students attending that school unless a restriction is justified and has been approved by the principal. The principal will ensure that students and parents are notified of the various opportunities for participation in extracurricular activities. The principal will establish any rules necessary for school and student-sponsored activities.

Participation in extracurricular activities, including student organizations and interscholastic athletics, shall be reserved for students who are enrolled in Franklin County Schools on a full-time basis, are in good academic standing and meet behavior expectations of the Board and the school. Participation in extracurricular activities may be restricted if a student (1) is not performing at grade level as provided in Board policy 3420, Student Evaluation, Progression and Placement; (2) has exceeded the number of absences allowed by Board policy 4400, Attendance; (3) has violated the code of student conduct in the Board policies found in the 4300 series; or (4) has violated school rules for conduct. Any school choosing to exercise its authority to restrict participation based upon any of the reasons provided in this paragraph will provide this policy and any additional rules developed by the Superintendent or the principal to all parents or guardians and students. The grievance procedure, provided in policy 1740, Student and Parent Grievance Procedure, may be utilized by parents or students who believe a student has been aggrieved by a decision made pursuant to this policy.

GOALS OF ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

- to provide activities which teach the values of cooperation as well as the spirit of competition;
- to offer opportunities which enhance self-concept and optimum development as an individual;
- to provide opportunities that develop pride, and interest in, and appreciation for the school;
- to provide opportunities for individuals to develop physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially;
- to teach self-discipline and good sportsmanship through competition;
- to provide an incentive for students to attend school regularly and to earn passing grades; and
- to teach sound health habits and safety techniques in all sports and extracurricular activities.

Athletics, Grades 7-12

The athletic program is a valuable asset to the total education process. Different programs with different emphasis are necessary and appropriate for different age groups.

In order to be eligible for practice or participation in interscholastic athletics, a student must receive a medical exam every 365 days by a duly licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant. In addition, all students participating in interscholastic athletics must be adequately covered by accident insurance. Documentation of a student's insurance, parental permission form and medical certificate must be on file in the principal's office before the student may participate in practice or competition.

Evidence of legal birth date must be established by a copy of the birth certificate, or from one of the following sources: a record from the State Bureau of Vital Statistics, Raleigh; a record from the County Register of Deeds' office; an infant baptismal record; a recording from the attending doctor's registry or cashbook, if specific; a news item at the time of birth from the local daily or weekly paper; or an official register sheet from the first grade.

The athletic programs offered by Franklin County Schools shall meet the needs and interests of the students, taking into consideration budgetary limitations, available supervision and existing school facilities and equipment.

Generally, no person shall be excluded from membership or participation in any interscholastic activity on the basis of sex; however, in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the following exceptions are permitted:

- contact sports – if the sport or athletic activity involves bodily contact as a major part of the activities, teams may be limited to members of one sex; and
- competitive sports – if selection for a team is based on competitive skill, separate teams may be provided for boys and girls. If separate teams are not offered, boys and girls shall be given equal opportunity to try out for the team which is sponsored by the school.

Each coach of a team or squad is responsible for the control and supervision of the members of the team. The school principal or designee shall attend and shall be responsible for the supervision of all athletic games or contests with particular emphasis on the supervision of football, soccer, basketball, and any sporting activity attended by large numbers of spectators.

In addition to Board policies, administrative regulations, and local school rules, interscholastic athletics at the high school level are also subject to the rules and regulations established by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

Transportation for Athletics

If student transportation is by a Franklin County Schools owned vehicle, the school system vehicle liability coverage is applicable to any vehicular accident. If student transportation is by private vehicle, the vehicle owner's liability coverage is applicable to any vehicular accident. Students must get permission using the parental consent form to use a private vehicle. Parent or adult drivers should be aware that they may be held responsible for injuries to any individuals they are transporting and must certify that any private vehicle is covered by at least the North Carolina state required insurance coverage. All student athletes who travel with a team to any away athletic event must return to the school with the team. The only exception to this policy is when both the coach and parent/legal guardian agree that it is permissible for the student athlete to leave the event with the parent/legal guardian.

Athletic Recruiting Prohibited

No employee of Franklin County Schools shall encourage a student to seek transfer from another school or school district for athletic purposes, or to otherwise engage directly or indirectly in recruiting practices that would result in such transfer requests. Any employee of Franklin County Schools who exercises influence to cause a pupil to transfer from another school or school district for athletic purposes shall be considered in violation of this policy

and shall be subject to whatever disciplinary action the Board deems appropriate, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, within the limits of state law.

Residence – for the Purpose of Determining Athletic Eligibility

The residence of a student shall be presumed to be that of his or her living parent(s) or legal guardian(s). If a student's parents are divorced or legally separated, residence shall be presumed to be that of the parent granted custody by court order or by a legal separation agreement. The residence of a student 18 years of age or older shall also be presumed to be that of his or her living parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

A student granted reassignment in accordance with state regulations and Board policy shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics at the school to which the student is assigned.

Use or possession of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs by athletes

Franklin County Schools believes the use or possession of tobacco or alcohol is detrimental to an athlete's performance. Franklin County Schools also believes that the misuse and/or possession of drugs (whether illegal, prescription or non-prescription when used improperly) is detrimental to an athlete's performance. This includes use or possession off campus (examples, parties and in vehicles). The following rules and consequences have been developed to deal with situations involving the use or possession of tobacco, alcohol or drugs:

1) The use of tobacco products

The use of tobacco products is prohibited. Coaches, at their own discretion, will handle the situation(s) as they arise.

2) Use or possession of alcoholic beverages

The possession or use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited at any time, not just when school is in session or during the season of an athlete's sport.

Penalty – 1st offense: student-athlete is ineligible for athletics for the rest of the current semester plus the next semester, and must enroll in and validate completion of a substance abuse counseling program.

Penalty – 2nd offense: **High School**—student-athlete is ineligible for athletics for the remainder of his/her high school career. **Middle School**—student-athlete is ineligible for athletics for the remainder of his/her middle school career. If the offense occurs during the spring semester of the eighth grade, the student is ineligible for the current semester of their eighth grade year and the first semester of their ninth grade year.

3) Use or possession of drugs

Drug abuse of any type, including illegal possession, is prohibited at any time, not just when school is in session or during the season of an athlete's sport.

Penalty – 1st offense: student-athlete is ineligible for athletics for the rest of the current semester plus the next semester, and must enroll in and validate completion of a substance abuse counseling program.

Penalty – 2nd offense: **High School**—student-athlete is ineligible for athletics for the remainder of his/her high school career. **Middle School**—student-athlete is ineligible for athletics for the remainder of his/her middle school career. If the offense occurs during the spring semester of the eighth grade, the student is ineligible for the current semester of their eighth grade year and the first semester of their ninth grade year.

4) Crime and Violence

The community follows the progress of young athletes closely. Any deviation from adherence to accepted standards of behavior gives the community a negative view of the school, the students, the athletic programs, and student athletes. Criminal and/or violent behavior is not an accepted standard of behavior for any student, whether athlete or not; therefore, the following list of offenses and related consequences has been developed to deal with incidents of crime or violence committed by athletes. Most items on this list are felonies. However, depending on the circumstances, some may be misdemeanors.

1. Assault resulting in serious injury
2. Assault involving the use of a weapon
3. Assault on school personnel (not resulting in serious injury)
4. Bomb threat
5. Starting a fire on campus (e.g., setting fire to a trash can)
6. Death by other than natural causes
7. Kidnapping
8. Possession of controlled substance in violation of law
9. Possession of firearm or powerful explosive in violation of law
10. Possession of a weapon other than firearms or powerful explosives
11. Rape
12. Robbery with a dangerous weapon
13. Theft or robbery without a dangerous weapon
14. Sexual assault (not involving rape or sexual offense)
15. Sexual offense
16. Taking indecent liberties with a minor

In addition, any criminal act resulting in a felony charge whether named above or not will be handled using the procedures below.

Penalty – on arrest: Any student who is charged or arrested for one of the above listed offenses is to be removed from athletic teams immediately.

Penalty – without court conviction: The student athlete is ineligible for the rest of the current semester plus the next semester.

Penalty – with court conviction: The student athlete is ineligible for athletics for the remainder of his/her high school career.

** This policy does not supercede the NCHSAA Felony Policy.*

***School discipline decisions are made using a preponderance of the information presented. This should not be confused with a criminal procedure, which requires a much higher level of proof. Therefore, a principal may impose discipline with or without court conviction. Absence of a court conviction does not necessarily equate to innocence. Conversely, if the principal agrees with the court that the student is innocent, the principal may immediately allow the student to resume school athletic participation.**

Profanity

The Board holds high expectations for proper behavior by both students and staff. The use of profanity or inappropriate language will not be tolerated during practice, athletic competitions, or any extracurricular activity. Use of profanity by students will be dealt with in accordance to the Franklin County Schools' Student Code of Conduct. Use of profanity by coaches or other staff members will be dealt with by the administration and may include removal from a coaching position.

Discipline

Any athlete assigned to in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension during the season is ineligible to participate in athletic games or practice until the day following the completion of the assigned punishment. All suspended students, including athletes, are prohibited from being on campus during extra-curricular activities.

State Rules and Regulations

The above rules and regulations are not meant to replace or supersede the eligibility requirements for athletics established by the State Board of Education and the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

MIDDLE SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AND INTRAMURAL PROGRAMS

Sports and physical fitness programs are valuable assets to the total education process and operate within the aims, objectives, and goals of the overall educational program. These programs will help students develop mentally, socially, physically, and emotionally.

In the middle schools, sports programs will involve a large number of students with more emphasis on participation than on winning. Therefore, a complete and varied intramural program will be emphasized throughout the schools. In order to meet the needs and interests of those students who desire additional activities, a limited interscholastic athletics program will be made available. The intramural program will be an outgrowth of the physical education program while the interscholastic program could be an outgrowth of the intramural program. Varied activities with different, appropriate emphasis for different age groups will be provided.

Inclement Weather

When school has been dismissed due to inclement weather conditions, all athletic events and all other extracurricular activities are cancelled for that day.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-36

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