

The School Board of Gadsden County

Bylaws & Policies

Unless a specific policy has been amended and the date of the policy was revised is noted at the bottom of that policy, the bylaws and policies of The School Board of Gadsden County were adopted on June 25, 2013, and were in effect beginning June 26, 2013.

2431 - INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The School Board recognizes the value to the students of the District and to the community of a program of interscholastic athletics for students as an integral part of the total school experience.

The program should foster the growth of school loyalty within the student body as a whole and stimulate community interest in athletics.

The game activities and practice sessions should provide many opportunities to teach the values of competition and good sportsmanship.

The program of interscholastic athletics should provide students the opportunity to exercise and test their athletic abilities in a context greater and more varied than that which can be offered by a school or the School District alone. It should also offer an opportunity for career and educational development.

For purposes of this policy, the program of interscholastic athletics shall include all activities relating to competitive sport contests, games, events, or sport exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students from high schools in this District with those from a high school in another district. Middle school or junior high athletic teams may not play out-of-county or against out-of-county teams within the county.

All high schools shall be members of the Florida High School Athletic Association and shall be governed by rules and regulations of said organization.

The Board shall determine the standards of eligibility to be met by all students participating in the interscholastic program. Such standards shall require that each student be in good physical condition, be free of injury, and have fully recovered from illness before participating in any interscholastic athletic event. Students shall comply with the eligibility requirements established by the Florida High School Athletic Association.

Since the primary purpose of the athletic program is to enhance the education of participating students as indicated in this policy, the Board places top priority on maximum student participation and the values of good sportsmanship, team play, and fair competition, rather than on winning, particularly at sub-varsity levels. Athletic teams made up of seventh and eighth year students should consist of at least two (2) separate units playing alternate quarters. Furthermore, all seventh and eighth year students in uniform must play in each game.

No student shall be excused from a class or supervised study for an extended period of time to participate in interscholastic athletics.

The Board further directs that only those students may participate in the program of interscholastic athletics who have maintained a satisfactory academic record; attended school regularly; demonstrated good citizenship and responsibility; and/or returned all school and athletic equipment.

The Superintendent shall develop appropriate administrative procedures for the operation of the athletic program. Such regulations should provide for the following safeguards:

- A. Prior to enrolling in the sport, each participant shall submit to a thorough physical examination by a District-approved physician. Parents shall report any past or current health problems along with a physician's statement that any such problems have or are being treated and pose no threat to the student's participation. Physicals must be dated June 1st or later of the current school year.

- B. Any student who is found to have a health condition which may be life-threatening to self or others shall not be allowed to participate until the situation has been analyzed by a medical review panel that has determined the conditions under which the student may participate. The District shall assume no liability for any student with a health condition who has been authorized to play by the parents and their physician but not by the District.
- C. Any student who incurs an injury requiring a physician's care is to have the written approval of a physician prior to the student's return to participation.
- D. In order to minimize health and safety risks to student-athletes and maintain ethical standards, school personnel, coaches, athletic trainers, and lay coaches should never dispense, supply, recommend, or permit the use of any drug, medication, or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes.
- E. The Superintendent is to ensure that sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity characterize the manner in which the athletic program is conducted and the actions of students who participate.

In order to support the Florida High School Athletic Association's program to strengthen sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity, the Board commits itself to:

- A. adopt policies upon recommendation of the Superintendent that reflect the District's educational objectives and promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity;
- B. reinforce the concept that participation in athletic activities are a privilege, not a right;
- C. attend and enjoy school athletic activities, serving as a positive role model and expecting the same from parents, fans, participants, coaches, and other school personnel;
- D. support and recognize participants, coaches, school administrators, and fans who display good sportsmanship;
- E. recognize the value of school athletic activities as a vital part of education.

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