

Jackson-Madison County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: Interscholastic Athletics Home School	Descriptor Code: 4.301	Issued Date: 08/08/13
		Rescinds: 4.301	Issued: 08/11/11

1 No person shall, on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be
2 treated differently from another person or otherwise be discriminated against in any athletic program of
3 the school. Equal athletic opportunity shall be provided for members of both sexes.¹
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5 Interscholastic athletics shall be administered as a part of the regular school program and shall be the
6 principal's responsibility. Principals shall ensure that school regulations regarding participation in a sport
7 are reasonable. Athletic schedules shall be filed in each school principal's office. The principal or his/
8 her designee must accompany an athletic team on trips. Transportation of teams to athletic games is
9 approved by the Board, provided the team's school reimburses the Board for mileage.
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11 Bylaws of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association shall regulate the operation and control
12 of middle and secondary athletics.² Jackson-Madison County School System will follow all TSSAA
13 bylaws unless noted in Board policy.
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15 In the event that the school's insurance provider does not extend coverage to an athlete, that athlete must
16 provide proof of independently secured catastrophic coverage, and liability coverage, with the school system
17 as a named insured, of not less than the limits set forth in Tenn. Code Ann. § 29-20-403.³
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19 Prior to participation in interscholastic athletics, every student must complete an annual physical exami-
20 nation³ according to TSSAA requirements. The parents/guardians of each student shall be responsible
21 for covering the cost of the examination, and these records shall be on file in the principal's office. It
22 shall be the responsibility of the parent(s) or guardian to provide health and hospitalization insurance
23 for all students participating in interscholastic athletics.
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25 No principal or teacher of any school under the control of the Board shall dismiss his/her school or any
26 group of students for the purpose of attending the practice of any interscholastic sport during the school
27 day without written permission from the Board. This does not prevent the inclusion of regular physical
28 training lessons in the daily school program.⁴
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30 Coaches, employees, and volunteers of the school district shall not encourage, permit, condone or toler-
31 ate hazing activities.⁵ Also, each head coach must document and submit to the principal notification that
32 each student athlete has been informed of this policy.
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34 Administrative procedures governing the activities of extracurricular groups, including but not limited to,
35 athletic teams and bands, during times of extreme weather shall be followed and have a heat illness plan
36 on file. (Refer to 4.301 Administrative Procedures)
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38 All coaches of a sport or cheerleading and/or band directors shall be CPR certified.
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Home School Students

In addition, a home schooled student wishing to participate in extracurricular athletics shall be eligible if the following qualifications are met:

1. The student shall be enrolled in a home school study program in compliance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3050(b)(1) and Board Policy 6.202 and be registered with the director of schools by August 1 of the current school year. The student must be enrolled in a home school conducted by his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and the student must be taking a minimum of five (5) academic subjects or the equivalent administered by the parent(s) or guardian(s) which count toward graduation.
2. The student must have a legal residence within the school district. By August 15 of the school year, the parent or guardian must make application to the principal of the school in which the home school athlete would be assigned by virtue of the student's residence as required by Policy 6.205.
3. The home school athlete shall meet the same academic standards required of a student athlete who is enrolled and attends a school in the District to participate in the athletic program; however, the Director of Schools or his/her designee in which a home school athlete wishes to participate shall work with the parent or guardian to ensure that the home school athlete is academically eligible. If a home school student's course of study does not include five (5) academic subjects, then the Director of Schools and the parent shall develop an alternative measure of academic progress and submit the same to the TSSAA for approval. In no event shall a home school student be eligible to participate if the student is not receiving the minimum of four (4) hours per day of instruction administered by their parent/guardian or if the student has fallen three (3) months or more behind the student's appropriate grade level. Proof of academic eligibility shall be provided by the Director of Schools or his/her designee to the TSSAA each semester.
4. The home school student must provide to the Director of Schools or his/her designee proof of basic medical insurance coverage and both independently secured catastrophic insurance coverage and liability insurance coverage which names the School System and TSSAA as an insured party. The insurance must be in place before the home school student practices or participates and must be no less than the limits set forth in Tenn. Code Ann. § 29-20-403.
5. The LEA may impose a participation fee for each sport in which a home school athlete participates. Such participation fee shall not exceed the fees or costs charged to or borne by students enrolled at the school and shall be paid in full prior to the first regular season contest.
6. The home school student must meet all TSSAA eligibility requirements.
7. The home school athlete must adhere to the same standards of behavior, responsibility, performance, and code of conduct as other participants of the team. The opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics is a privilege, and home school students who fail to adhere to the standards of behavior, responsibility, performance and code of conduct are subject to discipline including but not limited to dismissal from the team.
8. A home school athlete only has the opportunity to try out for a member school's athletic team. Ultimate decisions on the roster are left to the coaches. No student is guaranteed participation, but only the opportunity to try out for a position on the team, subject to the other provisions of this policy.

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Any home school athlete that is selected to a team will be allowed to participate in all team related functions, activities and events.

9. No home school student serving a suspension or expulsion from this or another school system is eligible to participate during the period of suspension and/or expulsion.

Legal References:

1. Title IX, Education Amendment of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §1681, et seq. ; 34 CFR §106.41
2. TRR/MS 0520-1-2-.08(1)
3. TCA 29-20-403(b)(4)
4. TRR/MS 0520-1-3-.08(2)(b)
5. TCA 49-6-1002

Cross Reference:

Student Insurance Program 3.601