

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Interscholastic athletics is an integral and desirable part of the secondary school educational program of the Bethlehem Central School District (the District). Individual and team sports shall be based upon comprehensive physical education instruction and intramural activities, seeking broad participation from all eligible secondary students. Lifetime or carryover sports are to be particularly encouraged and supported. Parity in the number and kind of sports activities for girls and boys is a clear objective of the District.

Student eligibility for participation on interscholastic teams shall include:

1. authorization by the school physician;
2. written consent from parent(s) or guardian(s); and
3. endorsement by the principal based on established rules and various league and State Education Department regulations.

Although the District will take reasonable care to protect student athletes, students may still sustain injuries. In order to most effectively ensure student safety, open communication between students, parents, and coaches about the child's medical condition is critical. Coaches, and other appropriate staff, will receive guidance and training regarding recognition of injuries and removal of the student athlete from play in the event of injury. Parent(s) and/or guardian(s) and/or students are expected to report injuries so that the student's health can be protected.

In the case of a suspected or actual head injury, a student must be removed from play immediately. In order to resume participation following injury, including head injury, the student needs to receive medical clearance. The superintendent, in consultation with appropriate District staff, including the school physician, will develop regulations and procedures to guide the process of return to play.

In recognition of the importance of appropriately managing head injuries, the Board of Education (the Board) authorizes the creation of a Districtwide Concussion Management Protocol that outlines procedures to follow in managing head injuries; as well as guidance in returning to play and/or activities following a concussion. The Concussion Management Protocol provides guidelines regarding the responsibilities of the school administrator, student, parent(s) and/or guardian(s), medical director, school nurse, athletic director, coach, athletic trainer, director of physical education, physical education teacher, classroom teacher, and guidance counselor, as appropriate.

In accordance with existing Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, the Board may permit students in grades 10-12 to receive credit towards high school graduation equivalent to physical education for participation in interscholastic athletics as well as approved nonscholastic activities. Such credit will, in addition to other requirements, be contingent upon proven cardiovascular and

physical fitness and competency in lifetime or carryover sports. Standards for such fitness and competency shall be developed by the administration.

Cross-ref: 5405, Wellness Policy on Nutrition and Physical Education
5405R, Wellness Policy on Nutrition and Physical Education Regulation
5420, Student Health Services
5280.1, Concussion Management

Ref: Education Law §§ 305(42), 1709 (8-a); 3001-b 8 NYCRR §§135.4, 136.5
[Guidelines for Concussion Management in the School Setting, New York State Education Department, June 2012.](#)
[Concussion Management and Awareness Act, July 1, 2012.](#)
Concussion Management Support Materials, www.nysphsaa.org
Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Dist. V. Doe, 520 U.S. 290 (2000) (constitutionality of student-led prayers at interscholastic athletic activities)

Adoption date: September 3, 2013

Revised date: August 7, 2019