



Extracurricular Activities

Policy Number: 4.301	Monitoring Review: Annually
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Approved by: Lizzette Gonzalez Reynolds, Commissioner	

General

All Achievement School District (ASD) students shall have equal athletic opportunities. Students shall not, on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, disability, or any other category protected by state or federal law, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be treated differently, or otherwise discriminated against in any ASD athletic program. Equal athletic opportunities shall be provided for members of both sexes.¹ Student athletes shall only be allowed to participate in athletic activities or events that align with the student's sex indicated on his/her original birth certificate.² The director of schools or designee shall require the parent/guardian to provide the student's original birth certificate prior to participation in any interscholastic athletics. If the original birth certificate is not available or does not indicate the student's sex at the time of birth, the parent/guardian shall provide medical documentation showing evidence of the student's sex at birth.

Interscholastic athletics shall be administered as a part of the regular school program and shall be the principal's responsibility. Principals shall ensure that school regulations regarding participation in a sport are reasonable. Athletic schedules shall be filed in each school principal's office. The principal or designee shall accompany an athletic team on trips. Transportation of teams to athletic games is approved by the director of schools.

The bylaws of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association shall regulate the operation and control of athletics at the ASD.³ The director of schools shall develop a code of conduct for all coaches to follow in order to ensure the health and safety of athletes.⁴

Insurance and Physical Examinations

In the event that the charter management organization's insurance provider does not extend coverage to a student athlete, the student athlete must provide proof of independently secured catastrophic coverage and liability coverage, with the charter management organization as a named insured, of not less than the limits set forth in state law.⁵

¹ 34 CFR § 106.41; 20 USCA § 1681 et seq.

² Public Acts of 2021, Chapter No. 40

³ TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.08(1)

⁴ Public Acts of 2021, Chapter No. 272

⁵ Tenn. Code Ann. § 29-20-403

It shall be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide health and hospitalization insurance for all students participating in interscholastic athletics.

Every student shall complete an annual physical examination prior to participation in interscholastic athletics.⁶ The student's parent or guardian shall be responsible for covering the cost of the examination, and these records shall be on file in the director of school's office.

Scheduling Conflicts

Students shall not be dismissed from school for the purpose of attending the practice of any interscholastic sport during the school day without written permission from the director of schools.⁷ This does not prevent the inclusion of regular physical training lessons in the daily school program.

Students shall not be required to attend a school athletic event, or event related to participation on a school athletic team, if the event is on an official school holiday, observed day of worship, or religious holiday. The student's parent or legal guardian shall notify the coach in writing three (3) full school days prior to the event if a student will not participate in a school athletic event due to one of the aforementioned reasons.⁸

All coaches who oversee or participate in outdoor training, practice, or competition shall annually complete a heat illness prevention course approved by the Tennessee Department of Health as well as receive training on activity modifications based on environmental conditions.

Severe Weather⁴

Severe weather is any type of weather that could impede the safety of any athlete by compromising the playing conditions of the interscholastic sport. Severe weather includes, but is not limited to, thunder, lightning, and extreme temperatures. When severe weather is forecasted, suspension of play shall be discussed with all players, coaches, and officials, if applicable.

All coaches who oversee or participate in outdoor training, practice, or competition shall annually complete a heat illness prevention course approved by the Tennessee Department of Health as well as receive training on activity modifications based on environmental conditions.

Prohibition Against Hazing

Coaches, employees, and volunteers shall not encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate hazing activities⁹ and must report all observed or reported instances to the director of schools within twenty-four (24) hours of observation or report.

Parent or Guardian Permission Requirement

All students under the age of eighteen (18) shall present a signed and dated statement from their parent/guardian before joining any club or organization or participating in activities of a club or organization. The Director of Schools, or charter management organization, shall develop administrative procedures outlining this record-keeping process.

⁶ 20 USCA § 1232h(c); TRR/MS 0520-01-13-.01(1)(a)

⁷ Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-1002(a)

⁸ Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-1002(c)

⁹ Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-2-120