

Marion County Board of Education

Monitoring:

Descriptor Term:

Descriptor Code:

Issued Date:

Review:
Annually,
in November

Interscholastic Athletics

4.301

03/11/24

Rescinds:

Issued:

4.301

05/20/03

GENERAL

No person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be treated differently from another person, or otherwise be discriminated against in any athletic program of the school. Equal athletic opportunities shall be provided for members of both sexes¹. 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/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 principal's office. The principal/designee shall accompany an athletic team on trips.

Bylaws of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association shall regulate the operation and control of athletics.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 & PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

In the event that the school's insurance provider does not extend coverage to an athlete, the athlete shall provide proof of independently secured catastrophic coverage and liability coverage, with the school district as a named insured, of not less than the limits set forth in state law.⁵ It shall be the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to provide health and hospitalization insurance for all students participating in interscholastic athletics.

Prior to participation in interscholastic athletics, every student shall complete an annual physical examination⁶. The parent(s)/guardian(s) of each student shall be responsible for covering the cost of the examination, and these records shall be on file in the principal/designee's office.

SCHEDULING CONFLICTS

No principal or teacher shall dismiss his/her school or any group of students for the purpose of attending the practice of any interscholastic sport during the school day without written permission from the Board⁷. This does not prevent 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/guardian shall notify the coach in writing three (3) full school days prior to the event.⁸

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 of the school district shall not encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate hazing activities.⁹

PERSONAL CONDUCT AT SPORTING EVENTS

Good sportsmanship and appropriate personal conduct are expected from all student athletes, coaches, and spectators.

In the event any student of Marion County Schools behaves in a manner that violates the Code of Acceptable Behavior, the school administration will impose appropriate discipline.

Additionally, if any spectator, whether student or adult, behaves in a manner that results in TSSAA imposing a fine on the school for unruly behavior, then any such person will be barred, for a minimum of two weeks, from attending any extracurricular activities of the Marion County Schools and will be required to reimburse the Board the amount of the fine. Failure to reimburse the Board will result in a continued suspension from any and all Marion County Schools extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year or until such fine has been reimbursed to the Board.

Legal References

1. 34 CFR § 106.41; 20 USCA § 1681 et seq.
2. TCA 49-6-310(a)
3. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.08(1)
4. TCA 49-6-3601
5. TCA 29-20-403
6. 20 USCA § 1232h(c); TRR/MS 0520-01-13-.01(1)(a)
7. TCA 49-6-1002(a)
8. TCA 49-6-1002(c)
9. TCA 49-2-120

Cross References

- Special Use of School Vehicles 3.402
- Student Insurance Program 3.601
- Extracurricular Activities 4.300
- Attendance 6.200