

Interscholastic Athletics

The Board of Education believes individual students will benefit from opportunities to grow physically and intellectually through experiences that provide the opportunity for self-discipline and team efforts made possible through competitive inter-school team and individual sports activities.

North Canaan Elementary School's participation in interscholastic athletics will be subject to approval by the Board. It is the Board's policy to provide students interscholastic athletic competition in a variety of sports. Students will be allowed to participate in individual sports on the basis of their physical condition and desire. Qualified personnel shall be provided for coaching and supervising individual sports.

Students possessing the required level of skill or ability to participate in a competitive program or activity shall be afforded an equal opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities, which include club or interscholastic athletics. The North Canaan Elementary School shall make reasonable modifications and provide those aids and services that are necessary to afford a "qualified" disabled student the opportunity to participate in extracurricular athletics, unless it results in a fundamental alteration to the school's program. The North Canaan Elementary School will consider whether safe participation by a disabled student can be assured through reasonable modifications or the provision of aids and services.

The North Canaan Elementary School may create additional opportunities for students with disabilities who cannot participate in the existing extracurricular athletics program, even with reasonable modifications or aids and services in order to afford such students an equal opportunity to receive the benefits of extracurricular athletics.

Each student who chooses to participate in an interscholastic athletic program is required to have on file, in the offices of the building administrator and the Athletic Director, a certificate of consent that is signed by the parent or legal guardian. This certificate of consent will be for each student for each sport season. No student may start practice for any athletic team until he or she has been examined and approved annually by a medical doctor.

The purpose of school athletics is both educational and recreational. The athletic program should encourage participation by as many students as possible and should be carried on with the best interests of the participants as the primary consideration. Participation should be without unreasonable interference with other obligations in the school, community, and home.

It is recognized that a well-organized and well-conducted athletic program is a potent factor in the morale of a student body and an important phase of good community-school relations.

Every possible effort shall be made to offer equal opportunities for both sexes in sports and activities that shall include life sports a student can carry through adulthood.

All student groups shall have equal access to the school media, including the public address system, the school newspaper, the school bulletin board and school website to announce meetings.

The principal or his/her designee may inform students that certain groups are not school sponsored.

No school shall deny equal access or a fair opportunity to meet to or discriminate against any group officially affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, or with any other youth group listed as a patriotic society in Title 36 of the United States Code, for reasons based on the membership criteria or oath of allegiance to God and country.

Team travel will be arranged according to the guidance of the coach and principal.

The School Principal must be informed about and agree to the schedule of games to be played.

A uniform body of rules for each of the competitive games will be agreed upon in advance of the season by the principals of our schools.

(cf. 5141 – Student Health Services)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10-149](#) Qualifications for coaches of intramural and interscholastic athletics.

Stratton, PPA v. St. Joseph's High School, Bridgeport Superior Court, June 4, 1986 (12 CT 26)9/87.

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, “Dear Colleague Letter,” 113 LRP 3326 (OCR 1/25/13)

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NORTH CANAAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

North Canaan, Connecticut