

**ATHLETIC COMPETITION**

The Governing Board recognizes that the athletic program constitutes an integral component of the educational program and helps to build a positive school climate. The athletic program also promotes the physical, social, and emotional well-being and character development of participating students. The athletic program shall be designed to meet students' interests and abilities and be varied in scope to attract wide participation.

*(cf. 3541.1 - Transportation for School-Related Trips)*

*(cf. 5030 – Student Wellness)*

*(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)*

*(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)*

*(cf. 7110 - Facilities Master Plan)*

**Nondiscrimination and Equivalent Opportunities in the Athletic Program**

The district's athletic program shall be free from discrimination and discriminatory practices in accordance with state and federal law. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that equivalent athletic opportunities are provided for both sexes.

*(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)*

*(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)*

*(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)*

Any complaint regarding the district's athletic program shall be filed in accordance with the district's uniform complaint procedures.

*(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)*

**Sportsmanship**

The Board values the quality and integrity of the athletic program and the ethical well-being and character development of student athletes. Student athletes, coaches, parents/guardians, spectators, and others are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play during all athletic competitions. They shall also abide by the core principles of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship and the Codes of Conduct adopted by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF).

Students and staff may be subject to disciplinary action for improper conduct.

*(cf. 3515.2 - Disruptions)*

*(cf. 4118 - Suspension/Disciplinary Action)*

*(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)*

*(cf. 5131 - Conduct)*

*(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)*

## **ATHLETIC COMPETITION (continued)**

*(cf. 5131.4 - Student Disturbances)*

*(cf. 5144 - Discipline)*

*(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)*

*(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Individuals with Disabilities))*

### **California Interscholastic Federation**

The Board maintains membership in the CIF and requires that interscholastic athletic activities be conducted in accordance with Board policy, administrative regulation, and CIF bylaws and rules. The Superintendent or designee shall have responsibility for the district's interscholastic athletic program, while the principal or designee at each participating school shall be responsible for site-level decisions, as appropriate.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board shall annually designate an employee from each high school to serve as a representative to the local CIF league. Appointees shall represent the district in performing all duties required by the CIF league. In making this selection, the Board shall consider the employee's understanding of the district's goals for interscholastic and extracurricular activities, knowledge of the athletic programs, awareness of the implications of league decisions for the school and the district, and individual interpersonal communication and leadership skills.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district representatives to the CIF report regularly to the Board on league, section, and statewide issues, as well as activities and prospective actions related to athletics.

*(cf. 0500 - Accountability)*

### **Student Eligibility**

The first priority of student athletes shall be a commitment to their education and academic achievement.

*(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)*

Eligibility requirements for participation in the district's interscholastic athletic program, including eligibility for a child in foster care or a child of a military family, are the same as those set by the district for participation in extracurricular and cocurricular activities.

*(cf. 3530 - Risk Management/Insurance)*

*(cf. 5111.1 - District Residency)*

*(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)*

*(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)*

*(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)*

*(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)*

*(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)*

*(cf. 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families)*

## **ATHLETIC COMPETITION** (continued)

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students participating in interscholastic athletics governed by the CIF satisfy CIF eligibility requirements.

Student participation in Club Sports and/or participation in other activities shall not be a requirement in the selection process for determining membership on an athletic team in the Visalia Unified School District.

The share of each athlete's individual playing time is at the coach's discretion.

Students shall not be charged a fee to participate in an athletic program.

*(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)*

## **Health and Safety**

The Board desires to give student health and safety the highest consideration in planning and conducting athletic activities. In the event that an injury occurs, the coach or other appropriate district employee shall observe universal precautions and shall remove the student athlete from the activity and/or seek medical treatment for the student as appropriate.

*(cf. 4119.42/4219.42/4319.42 - Exposure Control Plan for Bloodborne Pathogens)*

*(cf. 4119.43/4219.43/4319.43 - Universal Precautions)*

*(cf. 5141 - Health Care and Emergencies)*

*(cf. 5141.21 - Administering Medication and Monitoring Health Conditions)*

*(cf. 5141.22 - Infectious Diseases)*

Students shall have a medical clearance before participating in interscholastic athletic programs. Care shall be taken to ensure that all athletic trainings and competitions are conducted in a manner that will not overtax the physical capabilities of the participants. When appropriate, protective equipment shall be used to prevent or minimize injuries.

*(cf. 5131.61 - Drug Testing)*

*(cf. 5131.63 - Steroids)*

*(cf. 5141.3 - Health Examinations)*

*cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)*

*cf. 5141.7 - Sun Safety)*

*(cf. 5143 - Insurance)*

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all athletic equipment is cleaned and inspected for safety. Coaches and appropriate district employees shall take every reasonable precaution to ensure that athletic equipment is kept in safe and serviceable condition.

*(cf. 5142 - Safety)*

**ATHLETIC COMPETITION** (continued)**Supervision**

All athletic teams shall be supervised by qualified coaches to ensure that student athletes receive appropriate instruction and guidance related to safety, health, training, and preparation for competition. Athletic events shall be officiated by qualified personnel.

(cf. 4127/4227/4327 - *Temporary Athletic Team Coaches*)

*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 *Prohibition of discrimination ~~on the basis of sex~~*

270-271 *Athletes' Bill of Rights*

17578 *Cleaning and sterilizing of football equipment*

17580-17581 *Football equipment*

32221.5 *Required insurance for athletic activities*

33353-33353.5 *California Interscholastic Federation; implementation of policies, insurance program*

33354 *California Department of Education authority over interscholastic athletics*

35160.5 *District policies; rules and regulations*

35179 *Interscholastic athletics*

48850 *Interscholastic athletics; students in foster care*

48900 *Grounds for suspension and expulsion*

48930-48938 *Student organizations*

49020-49023 *Athletic programs; legislative intent, equal opportunity*

49030-49034 *Performance-enhancing substances*

49458 *Health examinations, interscholastic athletic program*

49475 *Health and safety, concussions and head injuries*

49700-49701 *Education of children of military families*

51242 *Exemption from physical education for high school students in interscholastic athletic program*

PENAL CODE

245.6 *Hazing*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4900-4965 *Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs, especially:*

4920-4922 *Nondiscrimination in intramural, interscholastic, and club activities*

5531 *Supervision of extracurricular activities of students*

5590-5596 *Employment of noncertificated coaches*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1681-1688 *Discrimination based on sex or blindness, Title IX*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

106.31 *Nondiscrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities*

106.33 *Comparable facilities*

106.41 *Nondiscrimination in athletic programs*

COURT DECISIONS

*Mansourian v. Regents of University of California*, (2010) 594 F. 3d 1095

*Kahn v. East Side Union High School District*, (2004) 31 Cal. 4th 990t

*McCormick v. School District of Mamaroneck*, (2004) 370 F.3d 275

*Hartzell v. Connell*, (1984) 35 Cal. 3d 899

*Management Resources (see next page)*

## ATHLETIC COMPETITION (continued)

### Management Resources:

#### CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Student Fees Litigation Update, Education Legal Alliance Advisory, May 20, 2011

A School Board Member's Guide to CIF and Interscholastic Sports, 1997

California Interscholastic Federation Constitution and Bylaws

A Guide to Equity in Athletics

Acute Concussion Evaluation (ACE) Care Plan, 2006

Pursuing Victory with Honor, 1999

#### CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION PUBLICATIONS

Heads Up: Concussion in High School Sports, Tool Kit, June 2010

Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports, Tool Kit, July 2007

#### OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Intercollegiate Athletics Policy Clarification: The Three-Part Test - Part Three, Dear Colleague letter, April 20, 2010

#### WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

California Interscholastic Federation: <http://www.cifstate.org>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Concussion Resources: <http://www.cdc.gov/concussion>

National Federation of State High School Associations: <http://www.nfhs.org>

National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment: <http://www.nocsa.org>

U.S. Anti-Doping Agency: <http://www.usada.org>

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights: <http://www2.ed.gov/ocr>

Policy

adopted: July 17, 2001

revised: January 28, 2003

revised: May 27, 2008

revised: February 23, 2010

revised: April 24, 2012

**VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Visalia, California

## **ATHLETIC COMPETITION**

### **Nondiscrimination and Equivalent Opportunities in the Athletic Program**

No student shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be denied equivalent opportunity in, or otherwise be discriminated against in interscholastic, intramural, or club athletics on the basis of actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, ethnic group identification, race, ancestry, national origin, religion, color, mental or physical disability, or any other basis specified in law. (Education Code 220, 221.5, 230; 5 CCR 4920; 34 CFR 106.41)

*(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)*

*(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)*

The Superintendent or designee may provide single-sex teams when selection for the teams is based on competitive skills. (5 CCR 4921; 34 CFR 106.41)

Each student shall be allowed to participate in any single-sex athletic program or activity consistent with his/her gender identity and for which he/she is otherwise eligible to participate, irrespective of the gender listed on the student's records. (Education Code 221.5)

*(cf. 5125 - Student Records)*

When a school provides only one team in a particular sport for members of one sex, but provides no team in the same sport for members of the other sex, and athletic opportunities in the total program for that sex have been previously limited, members of the excluded sex shall be allowed to try out and compete with the team. The same standards for eligibility shall be applied to every student trying out for the team, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or other protected group status. (5 CCR 4921; 34 CFR 106.41)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that equivalent opportunities are available to both sexes in athletic programs by considering, among other factors: (5 CCR 4922; 34 CFR 106.41)

1. Whether the offered selection of sports and levels of competition effectively accommodate the interests and abilities of both sexes

The athletic program may be found to effectively accommodate the interests and abilities of both sexes using any one of the following tests: (Education Code 230)

- a. Whether the interscholastic-level participation opportunities for male and female students are provided in numbers substantially proportionate to their respective enrollments

## **ATHLETIC COMPETITION**

- b. Where the members of one sex have been and are underrepresented among interscholastic athletes, whether the district can show a history and a continuing practice of program expansion that is demonstrably responsive to the developing interests and abilities of the members of that sex
  - c. Where the members of one sex are underrepresented among interscholastic athletes and the district cannot show a history and continuing practice of program expansion as required in item #1b above, whether the district can demonstrate that the interests and abilities of the members of that sex have been fully and effectively accommodated by the present program
2. The provision and maintenance of equipment and supplies
3. Scheduling of games and practice times, selection of the season for a sport, and location of the games and practices
4. Travel and per diem allowances
5. Opportunities to receive coaching and academic tutoring
6. Assignment and compensation of coaches and tutors
7. Provision of locker rooms, practice facilities, and competitive facilities
8. Provision of medical and training facilities and services
9. Provision of housing and dining facilities and services
10. Publicity
11. Provision of necessary funds

Beginning with the 2015-16 school year and every year thereafter, each school that offers competitive athletics shall post the following information on its school web site, or on the district web site if the school does not have a web site, at the end of the school year: (Education Code 221.9)

1. The total enrollment of the school, classified by gender
2. The number of students enrolled at the school who participate in competitive athletics, classified by gender

**ATHLETIC COMPETITION** (continued)

3. The number of boys' and girls' teams, classified by sport and by competition level

*(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)*

The data reported for items #1-3 above shall reflect the total number of players on a team roster on the official first day of competition. The materials used to compile this information shall be retained by the school for at least three years after the information is posted on the web site. (Education Code 221.9)

*(cf. 3580 - District Records)*

**Health and Safety**

The Superintendent or designee shall annually distribute to student athletes and their parents/guardians an information sheet on concussions and head injuries. The student and parent/guardian shall sign and return the information sheet before the student's initiating practice or competition. (Education Code 49475)

*(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)*

If a student athlete is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in an athletic activity, he/she shall be immediately removed from the activity for the remainder of the day. The student shall not be permitted to return to the activity until he/she is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the management of concussions and receives the health care provider's written clearance to return to the activity. If the health care provider determines that the athlete sustained a concussion or a head injury, the athlete shall also complete a graduated return-to-play protocol of no less than seven days in duration under the supervision of a licensed health care provider. (Education Code 49475)

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the student's parent/guardian of the date, time, and extent of any injury suffered by the student and any actions taken to treat the student.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training to coaches and/or athletic trainers regarding concussion symptoms, prevention, and appropriate response.

*(cf. 4127/4227/4327 - Temporary Athletic Team Coaches)*

A middle school or high school football team shall not hold a full-contact practice during the off-season and shall not conduct more than two full-contact practices per week during the preseason and regular season (from 30 days before the commencement of the regular season until the completion of the final interscholastic football game of that season). In addition, the full-contact portion of a practice shall not exceed 90 minutes in any single day. For these



**ATHLETIC COMPETITION** (continued)

purposes, *full-contact practice* means a practice where drills or live action is conducted that involves collisions at game speed, where players execute tackles and other activity that is typical of an actual tackle football game. (Education Code 35179.5)

**Parental Notifications**

Before a student participates in interscholastic athletic activities, the Superintendent or designee shall send a notice to the student's parents/guardians which:

1. Contains information about the procedures for filing a discrimination complaint that arises out of an interscholastic athletic activity, including the name of the district's Title IX Coordinator

*(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)*

2. Includes a copy of students' Title IX rights pursuant to Education Code 221.8

3. Explains that there is an element of risk associated with all athletic competitions and that the district cannot guarantee that students will not be injured, despite a commitment to every participant's health and welfare

*(cf. 3530 - Risk Management/Insurance)*

4. Provides information about insurance protection pursuant to Education Code 32221.5

*(cf. 5143 - Insurance)*

5. Requests parental permission for the student to participate in the program and, if appropriate, be transported by the district to and from competitions

*(cf. 3541.1 - Transportation for School-Related Trips)*

6. States the district's expectation that students adhere strictly to all safety rules, regulations, and instructions, as well as rules and guidelines related to conduct and sportsmanship

*(cf. 5144 - Discipline)*

*(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)*

7. Includes a copy of the local California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) league rules

**ATHLETIC COMPETITION** (continued)

8. Includes information about the CIF bylaw and district policy requiring any student athlete and his/her parent/guardian to sign a statement that the student will not use steroids or dietary supplements banned by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency

Regulation

adopted: July 17, 2001

revised: January 28, 2003

revised: November 29, 2004

revised: April 14, 2008

revised: March 5, 2012

revised: September 22, 2014

revised: April 20, 2015

revised: February 8, 2016

**VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Visalia, California