

ATHLETIC COMPETITION

The Governing Board recognizes that the district's 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 district's athletic program shall be designed to meet students' interests and abilities and shall 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)

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

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

The Board encourages business and community support for district athletic programs, subject to applicable district policies and regulations governing advertisements and donations.

(cf. 1260 - Educational Foundation)

(cf. 1321 - Solicitation of Funds from and by Students)

(cf. 1325 - Advertising and Promotion)

(cf. 1700 - Relations Between Private Industry and the Schools)

(cf. 3290 - Gifts, Grants and Bequests)

Nondiscrimination and Equivalent Opportunities in the Athletic Program

The district's athletic program shall be free from discrimination and discriminatory practices prohibited by state and federal law, including, but not limited to, the use of any racially derogatory or discriminatory school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that equivalent athletic opportunities are provided for males and females, and that students are permitted to participate in athletic activities consistent with their gender identity.

(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)

ATHLETIC COMPETITION (continued)

California Interscholastic Federation

Any district school that participates in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) shall conduct its athletic activities in accordance with CIF bylaws and rules and any applicable district policy and regulation. 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.

The Board shall annually designate a representative to the local CIF league from each school that participates in CIF sports. The Superintendent or designee shall recommend a candidate for the position who demonstrates an understanding of the district's goals for student learning and interscholastic activities, knowledge of the athletic programs, awareness of the implications of league decisions for the school and the district, and interpersonal communication and leadership skills.

The designated representative(s) shall vote on issues that impact interscholastic athletics at the league and section levels, perform any other duties required by the CIF league, and report regularly to the Board on league, section, and statewide issues related to athletic programs.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

Student Eligibility

Eligibility requirements for student participation in the district's interscholastic athletic program, including requirements pertaining to academic achievement, shall be 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. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

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

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

Students shall not be charged a fee to participate in an athletic program, including, but not limited to, a fee to cover the cost of uniforms, locks, lockers, or athletic equipment.

(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)

(cf. 5143 - Insurance)

ATHLETIC COMPETITION (continued)

Sportsmanship

The Board values the quality and integrity of the athletic program and the 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 Code of Ethics adopted by CIF.

Students and staff shall 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)

(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))

Health and Safety

The Board desires to give student health and safety the highest consideration in planning and conducting athletic activities.

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)

Coaches and appropriate district employees shall take every possible precaution to ensure that athletic equipment is kept in safe and serviceable condition. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all athletic equipment is cleaned and inspected for safety before the beginning of each school year.

(cf. 5142 - Safety)

ATHLETIC COMPETITION (continued)

In the event of an injury or a perceived imminent risk to a student's health, such as a concussion or passing out, fainting, or other sign of sudden cardiac arrest, during or immediately after an athletic activity, the coach or any other district employee who is present shall remove the student athlete from the activity, observe universal precautions in handling blood or other bodily fluid, 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)

Whenever an injury is suffered by a student, 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.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

ATHLETIC COMPETITION (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination

17578 Cleaning and sterilizing of football equipment

17580-17581 Football equipment

32220-32224 Insurance for athletic teams, especially:

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

33479-33479.9 The Eric Parades Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act

35160.5 District policies; rules and regulations

35179 Interscholastic athletics

35179.1 California High School Coaching Education and Training Program

35179.5 Interscholastic athletics; limitation on full-contact practices

48850 Interscholastic athletics; students in foster care and homeless students

48900 Grounds for suspension and expulsion

48930-48938 Student organizations

49010-49013 Student fees

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) 602 F. 3d 957

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

Kahn v. East Side Union High School District, (2003) 31 Cal. 4th 990

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

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Updated Legal Guidance: Protecting Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students Against Discrimination, March 2017

Management Resources continued: (see next page)

ATHLETIC COMPETITION (continued)

Management Resources: (continued)

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Pupil Fees, Deposits, and Other Charges, Fiscal Management Advisory 12-02, April 24, 2013

CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION PUBLICATIONS

California Interscholastic Federation Constitution and Bylaws

A Guide to Equity in Athletics

Guidelines for Gender Identity Participation

Keep Their Heart in the Game: A Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information Sheet for Athletes and Parents/Guardians

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

Acute Concussion Evaluation (ACE) Care Plan, 2006

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

Withdrawal of Dear Colleague Letter on Transgender Students, Dear Colleague Letter, February 22, 2017

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.nocsae.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

revised: April 10, 2018

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
- 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

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- 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

Each school that offers competitive athletics shall, at the end of the school year, post on its school web site, or on the district web site if the school does not have a web site, the following information: (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
3. The number of boys' and girls' teams, classified by sport and by competition level

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)

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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)

Concussions and Head Injuries

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)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training to coaches and/or athletic trainers regarding concussion symptoms, prevention, and appropriate response. (Education Code 35179.1, 49032)

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

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)

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 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)

Sudden Cardiac Arrest

The Superintendent or designee shall distribute the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) information sheet on sudden cardiac arrest to all student athletes who will be participating in a CIF-governed athletic activity and to their parents/guardians. The student and parent/guardian shall sign and return the information sheet prior to the student's participation in the athletic activity. If an

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athletic activity is not covered by the CIF, the student and his/her parent/guardian shall, prior to participating in the athletic activity, sign and return an acknowledgement that they have received and reviewed the sudden cardiac arrest information posted on the California Department of Education's web site. (Education Code 33479.2, 33479.3)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training to coaches and/or athletic trainers regarding the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest. (Education Code 33479.6, 33479.7, 35179.1, 49032)

If a student athlete passes out or faints, or is known to have passed out or fainted, while participating in or immediately following his/her participation in an athletic activity, the student shall be removed from participation at that time. If a student exhibits any other symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest, including seizures during exercise, unexplained shortness of breath, chest pains, dizziness, racing heart rate, or extreme fatigue, he/she may be removed from participation by a coach or other employee who observes these symptoms. If any such symptoms are observed, notification shall be given to the student's parent/guardian so that the parent/guardian can determine the treatment, if any, the student should seek. A student who has been removed from participation shall not be permitted to return until he/she is evaluated and given written clearance to return to participation by a health care provider. (Education Code 33479.2, 33479.5)

Additional Parental Notifications

Before a student participates in interscholastic athletic activities, the Superintendent or designee shall, in addition to providing his/her parents/guardians with information on the signs and symptoms of concussions and sudden cardiac arrest as described above, 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)

ATHLETIC COMPETITION (continued)

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

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, unless prescribed by a licensed health care practitioner, or prohibited dietary supplements that include substances banned by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency

(cf. 5131.63 - Steroids)

Regulation

adopted: July 17, 2001

revised: January 28, 2003

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revised: September 22, 2014

revised: April 20, 2015

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VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Visalia, California