

Instruction

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS ON ATHLETIC PROGRAMS 6145.2AR

Requirements for Student Participation

Students will be entitled to participate in school athletic programs on the basis of their physical condition, desire and overall eligibility as outlined in the high schools' athletic handbook. Intramural athletic activities will be provided, as an outgrowth of class instruction in physical education, commensurate with the grade level of the students involved.

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, which is signed by the parent or legal guardian. This certificate of consent will be in effect for each student for each sports season. In addition, no student may start practice for any athletic team until he or she has been approved by a medical doctor in accordance with BOE Policy 5510.

Requirements for Hiring, Training and Evaluating Coaches

For both intramural and interscholastic athletics, qualified personnel, holding a valid coaching certificate, shall be provided for coaching and supervising student athletes and athletic events.

Prior to the beginning of each season, each coach is required to attend a pre-season orientation meeting in which district and CIAC policies are reviewed. Coaches are required to review appropriate policies, including Title IX, Substance Abuse (Policy 5313), Smoking (Policy 5314), Hazing (Policy 5325), and Recognition of Religious Holidays (Policy 6141) with their students athletes throughout the course of the season. In addition, each high school in the district must hold a mandatory pre-season parent meeting in which these policies are reviewed. Coaches will be monitored throughout the season for compliance with all BOE policies and CIAC regulations.

It is the expectation of the Fairfield Board of Education that athletes playing in CIAC-controlled and non-CIAC-controlled athletics will be chemical-free. Therefore, the Fairfield School District prohibits the use of anabolic steroids, hormones and analogues, diuretics, blood doping procedures, and other performance enhancing substances and practices identified as banned by the NCAA and the USOC.

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Requirements for Hiring, Training and Evaluating Coaches (continued)

A student athlete who has been determined to have used, in or out of season, androgenic/anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing substances shall be declared ineligible for all CIAC-controlled and non-CIAC controlled athletic activities for 180 school days on each occurrence. The 180 school day period of ineligibility commences on the day the CIAC Board of Control or the High School Headmaster and Athletic Director, in the case of non-CIAC athletic activities, makes such a determination.

The Fairfield Board of Education likewise prohibits the use of alcohol and performance enhancing food supplements, including Creatine, by students involved in interscholastic or intramural athletic programs, other than use for a valid medical purpose as documented by a physician. Body building and enhancement of athletic ability and performance are not considered valid medical purposes. In addition to the regular school disciplinary practices, consequences for violations of this policy can include suspension from practices and games and/or exclusion from the team.

School personnel and coaches will not dispense any drugs, medication or food supplements except as in compliance with Connecticut State law, district policy, and as prescribed by a student's physician, dentist, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse. The order is to be on record in the school health office listing dose, time and length of order, side effects and emergency contact together with a signed parental consent on file.

Coaching Expectations (Based on CIAC Handbook, with Additions in Content and Language)

All coaches, including those who teach within the Fairfield Public School System and those who do not, play a critical role in supporting and enhancing the Board of Education's goal of fostering student development. Coaches must accept primary responsibility for the behavior, actions and safety of their players and assistant coaches, where appropriate, on the field, in the locker room as well as on buses to and from games. The coach serves as a role model for his/her players, their parents and the spectators. The coach must always be in control, practice sound values and ethics, and always pursue victory with honor. In addition, coaches:

1. Will model appropriate language, behavior, ethics and sportsmanship, always pursue victory with honor, and maintain dignity and self-control. Profane or abusive language and/or behavior are not permitted by coaches and will not be tolerated.

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Coaching Expectations (Based on CIAC Handbook, with Additions in Content and Language)

2. Shall stay informed about sound coaching techniques and the physical, mental and emotional development of the student athlete.
3. Will teach players the rules of the game and to respect the game, officials and opponents, and will take appropriate action when athletes exhibit poor sportsmanship.
4. Will place the academic, emotional, physical and moral well being of student athletes above desires and pressures to win.
5. Will be an ambassador for the sport among athletes, schools, families and the community.
6. Will abide by the rules of the game and CIAC regulations, practices and procedures in both letter and spirit.
7. Shall exemplify high moral character, behavior and leadership, lead by example, and set a standard for players and spectators to follow.
8. Will respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
9. Will ensure that practices begin and end as scheduled.
10. Will abide by the Fairfield Public School policy on corporal punishment. Corporal punishment as a disciplinary measure is prohibited by the Fairfield Public Schools. Notwithstanding this, physical force may be used to quell a disturbance, which threatens physical injury to others, to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects, for the purpose of self defense, and for the protection of persons and property. (Refer to BOE Policies 5114, 5131.7).
11. Will not engage in punitive, harmful, unreasonable or unfair disciplinary measures and practices toward student athletes since the athletic program is an extension of the school day.

Violations of any of these expectations for coaches will result in disciplinary action. This disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, a reprimand, probation, suspension and/or termination of employment as a coach in the Fairfield Public Schools.

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Enforcement of Policies and Regulations

The High School Headmasters, High School Athletic Directors and Middle School Principals are primarily responsible for enforcing these regulations and coaching expectations, holding coaches to a strict standard of conduct and compliance with BOE policies and CIAC regulations, determining when violations have taken place, and taking appropriate action when necessary.

The High School Headmasters, High School Athletic Directors and Middle School Principals will supervise and evaluate coaches and the athletic program to ensure that these regulations and coaching expectations are followed. They will take appropriate supervisory or discipline action as required.

NON-RETALIATION

Retaliation against an employee or athlete making a complaint is prohibited.

Student athletes who complain (or whose parents complain) to the coach, High School Headmaster, High School Athletic Director or Middle School Principal about a coach's behavior will not face retaliation from their coaches in lost practice or playing time, team position, or in any other manner. It is the responsibility of the Athletic Director and/or the High School Headmaster and/or Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, where appropriate, to investigate all allegations of retaliation against student athletes, to take immediate steps to stop such reprisals and to take appropriate disciplinary action against the coach if it is determined that such retaliation has, in fact, occurred. Coaches found retaliating against a student athlete may face immediate disciplinary action up to and including possible termination of their coaching position.

5/21/2008