

# **LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

POLICY: 123  
SECTION: PROGRAMS  
TITLE: INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS  
ADOPTED: JULY 18, 1994  
REVISED: MAY 15, 1995  
MAY 18, 2009  
MAY 21, 2012  
MARCH 19, 2018

## **123 – Interscholastic Athletics**

### **Purpose**

The Board recognizes the value of a program of interscholastic athletics as an integral part of the total school experience for all students of the district and to the community. The program fosters the growth of school loyalty within the student body as a whole and stimulates community interest. The game activities and practice sessions provide many opportunities to teach the values of competition and sportsmanship. <sup>1</sup>

For purposes of this policy, the program of interscholastic athletics shall include all activities relating to competitive sport contests, games or events or sport exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students of this district when such events occur between separate schools within this district or with any schools outside this district.

It shall be the policy of the Board to offer opportunities for participation in interschool athletic programs to male and female students on as equal a basis as is practicable and in accordance with State regulations. <sup>2</sup>

The Board shall make school facilities, supplies, and equipment available and assign sponsors for the support and supervision of interscholastic athletic programs. The Board shall require that all equipment utilized in interscholastic athletic programs, whether or not the property of this Board, properly safeguard participants and meet all appropriate health and safety regulations.

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<sup>1</sup> SC 511

<sup>2</sup> Title 22 Sec. 5.10

Any interscholastic athletic program shall be considered to be under the sponsorship of this Board when it has been approved by the Board on recommendation of the Superintendent.

The Board shall determine the standards of eligibility to be met by all students participating in the interscholastic program. Such standards shall require that each student be in good physical condition, be free of injury, and shall have fully recovered from illness or injury, as determined by the district and/or family physician before participating in any interscholastic athletic program. The Board further adopts those eligibility standards set by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, the Lancaster-Lebanon Athletic Association, and the provisions of this policy.

The Board shall require that all students have permission from their parent(s) or guardian(s) in order to participate in any interscholastic athletic program.

The Board shall annually purchase appropriate accident insurance for all students participating in the interscholastic athletic program. Such insurance shall cover medical and hospitalization expenses related to injuries incurred while participating in an interscholastic athletic program.

#### Eligibility for Participation in Interscholastic

#### Athletic Programs

The Board considers participation in interscholastic athletic programs to be an integral part of a student's total educational experience. However, participation in such programs is a privilege which requires students to give appropriate attention to scholastic achievement, regular school attendance, and proper conduct. Therefore, all students who wish to participate in any interscholastic athletic program must adhere to the following eligibility standards.

#### Scholastic Achievement

Students in grades 7 and 8:

Any student who earns a failing grade in one full credit course will become ineligible to participate for a period of one (1) week. The period of ineligibility will be longer over any extended time period when school is not in session. Eligibility shall be cumulative from the beginning of a marking period and shall be graded on a weekly basis. In cases where a student's cumulative work from the beginning of the marking period does not, as of Friday, meet the standard, s/he shall enter a probationary period, from the immediately following Sunday through the Saturday immediately following

the next Friday. The student will be ineligible to participate after the probation week if the cumulative work is not passing. After one week of suspension from the activity (Sunday through Saturday) and upon the verification of a passing grade in said course, the student will be permitted to resume activity. The eligibility process will commence with the second Friday in each semester.

Students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12:

- A student is deemed academically eligible as long as the student-athlete is not failing more than one class at any given time.
- Coaches will receive a weekly list of student-athletes that are failing only one class so that the coaches can help the athletes get any necessary academic help.
- Students cannot be failing two classes at any given time.
- If a student is failing two or more classes on a weekly report, they will be declared ineligible for 5 school days.
- If a student is failing two or more classes on their report card, they will be declared ineligible for 10 school days.
- Coaches have the discretion with consultation of parents as to whether ineligible students can practice during the term of ineligibility.
- Students may not be dismissed early to attend any games or meets, and cannot be dressed for competition during this time of ineligibility.

During the period of ineligibility, the student may not participate in practices, performances, and/or any other activities associated with an interscholastic athletic program.

In order for a student to continue his/her membership in a program while ineligible, s/he must meet regularly with a tutor who will be assigned by the guidance department or the teacher(s) of the course(s) s/he is failing.

End-of-year grades from the previous term will be used to determine eligibility for all students at the beginning of a school year. If a student is ineligible, according to PIAA regulations, at the end of the previous school year, said student shall be ineligible for the first fifteen school days of the new school year. Successful completion of work in an approved summer school program may be used to produce passing grades in subjects failed.

### School Attendance

Students who wish to participate in interscholastic athletic programs must maintain a record of regular school attendance as determined by the principal. Any student who does not meet the intent of this standard may be

declared ineligible for participation. A student who is absent from school may not participate in any interscholastic athletic programs on the day of the absence. Exceptions to this rule may be permitted for emergency reasons if preapproved by the principal.

## Conduct

Students who wish to participate in interscholastic athletic programs must conduct themselves in a manner which represents themselves, their activity, their school, and their community favorable at all times. Any student who violates school rules or displays inappropriate behavior may be declared ineligible for participation. Students may not participate in any interscholastic athletic programs while on suspension. Students assigned detention must fulfill all such daily obligations prior to participating in any interscholastic athletic programs.

## Use of Tobacco, Alcohol, Drugs, Anabolic Steroids, or Other Illegal or Controlled Substances

The use of tobacco, alcohol (including reduced alcohol and so-called non-alcoholic beverages) drugs, anabolic steroids, or other illegal or controlled substances by athletes and other participants is strictly forbidden and shall result in the following consequences:

**First Offense:** The use of tobacco will result in at least a one-week suspension of eligibility. The use of alcohol, drugs, anabolic steroids, or other illegal or controlled substances shall result in suspension of eligibility for the remainder of the season. Offenses which occur within four weeks of the end of a season may result in extension of the suspension into the ensuing season of participation.

**Second Offense:** The use of tobacco will result in suspension of eligibility for the remainder of the season. The use of alcohol, drugs, anabolic steroids, or other illegal or controlled substances shall result in suspension of eligibility for the remainder of the academic year. Offenses which occur during the fourth marking period may result in extension of the suspension into the ensuing school year.

All consequences noted above shall be considered to be in addition to consequences imposed for violation of the Code of Student Discipline and other related policies of the Board.

Any student who is suspended from eligibility for the remainder of an activity

season shall forfeit all related awards and shall not participate in any related activities as a representative of the Lebanon School District (e.g., all-star contests).

At the conclusion of a period of suspension from eligibility related to use of alcohol, drugs, anabolic steroids, or other illegal or controlled substances, the student involved shall be required to undergo a medical examination to insure that usage has been terminated.

#### Enforcement

The principal shall be responsible for enforcement of this policy. S/He may delegate enforcement responsibilities to other personnel as deemed appropriate. Regulations and procedures for enforcing this policy shall be developed with input from the coordinator of student activities and program sponsors. All policies, rules, and procedures shall be distributed to program sponsors, student participants, and parents. Program sponsors may develop additional rules and regulations. Such additional rules and regulations shall be approved by the principal and distributed to program participants and parents prior to implementation.