

Students

Extracurricular Athletics

Student participation in school-sponsored extracurricular athletic activities is contingent upon the following:

1. The student must meet the academic criteria set forth in Board policy 6:190, *Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities*.¹
2. A parent/guardian of the student must provide written permission for the student's participation, giving the District full waiver of responsibility of the risks involved.²
3. The student must present a current certificate of physical fitness issued by a licensed physician, an advanced practice registered nurse, or a physician assistant. The ***Pre-Participation Physical Examination Form***, offered by the Illinois High School Association and the Illinois Elementary School Association, is the preferred certificate of physical fitness.³
4. The student must show proof of accident insurance coverage either by an insurance policy purchased through the District-approved insurance plan or a parent/guardian written statement that the student is covered under a family insurance policy.⁴

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content.

A comprehensive Student Handbook can provide notice to parents and students of the school's conduct rules, extracurricular and athletic participation requirements, and other important information. The building principal usually develops the Handbook, subject to review and approval by the superintendent and board.

Each board in a district that maintains any of grades 9 through 12 must have a *no pass-no play* policy. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.30. See sample policy 6:190, *Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities*, for complete details.

For purposes of clarity, the IASB uses a curricular-extracurricular dichotomy. All classes are included in the category *curricular* as well as what was formally known as *co-curricular*, e.g., band and choral performances that are a required part of the class. The category *extracurricular* includes all school-sponsored activities that are not a part of a student's educational program as reflected in the student's class schedule. Examples include football, cheerleading, French club, Key Club, and student government. Note that extracurricular activities may be curriculum-related or non-curriculum-related for purposes of determining access to school facilities under the federal Equal Access Act. See sample policy 7:330, *Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access*.

² At a minimum, schools should: (1) fully inform and warn students and their parents/guardians of risks inherent in a sport, (2) assist their understanding and appreciation of these risks, and (3) document the school's efforts. See sample exhibit 7:300-E1, *Agreement to Participate*. This form's provision concerning waiver of liability and hold harmless should be reviewed with the board attorney. The district may not be able to waive gross negligence or recklessness on its part, but the waiver language in the form serves to alert the student and his/her parents/guardians to the seriousness of potential injuries.

³ Students participating in interscholastic athletics must have an annual physical exam. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.530(b)(2). Ill. High School Association (IHSA) bylaw 2.150 requires schools to have on file for each student participating in interscholastic athletics a certificate of physical fitness issued by a licensed physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner not more than 395 days preceding any date of participation; a form is available on the IHSA website at: www.ihsa.org/resources/download-center.

⁴ This item ensures that students are covered by insurance for medical expenses up to \$50,000 (before the district's catastrophic accident insurance kicks in) and that students who are not covered by the district's catastrophic insurance are otherwise covered by insurance.

5. The student must agree to follow all conduct rules and the coaches' instructions.
6. The student and his or her parents/guardians must provide written consent to random drug and alcohol testing pursuant to the Extracurricular Drug and Alcohol Testing Program.⁵
7. The student and his or her parents/guardians must: (a) comply with the eligibility rules of, and complete any forms required by, any sponsoring association (such as, the Illinois Elementary School Association, the Illinois High School Association, or the Southern Illinois Junior High School Athletic Association),⁶ and (b) complete all forms required by the District including, without limitation, signing an acknowledgment of receiving information about Board policy 7:305, *Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries*.⁷

The Superintendent or designee (1) is authorized to impose additional requirements for a student to participate in extracurricular athletics, provided the requirement(s) comply with Board policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*, and (2) shall maintain the necessary records to ensure student compliance with this policy.

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

105 ILCS 5/22-15 requires (with limited exceptions) each school district having grades 9-12 to maintain catastrophic insurance coverage for student athletes who sustain an accidental injury while participating in interscholastic athletic events sanctioned by IHSA that results in medical expenses in excess of \$50,000. A district maintaining grades K-8 may, but is not required to, provide accident and/or health insurance on a group or individual basis for students injured while participating in any school-sponsored athletic activity. For more information see sample policy 4:100, *Insurance Management*.

⁵ Optional; delete if the district does not have such a program. Be sure this provision is consistent with sample policy 7:240, *Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities*, and sample administrative procedure 7:240-AP2, *Extracurricular Drug and Alcohol Testing Program*. The Seventh Circuit upheld the constitutionality of a high school's random drug testing program for students involved in extracurricular activities in *Todd v. Rush County Schs.*, 133 F.3d 984 (7th Cir. 1998).

⁶ Participants in an IHSA-sponsored or sanctioned athletic event are subject to testing for banned substances. For a list of banned substance classes, the testing program, and other related resources, see the IHSA Handbook at:

www.ihsa.org/about/constitution-by-laws-policies and www.ihsa.org/resources/download-center.

The sponsoring organization's rules/bylaws/policies govern decisions related to transgender student participation in extracurricular athletic activities. See:

1. IESA Handbook: *Policy and School Recommendations for Transgender Participation* at: www.iesa.org/documents/handbook/IESA-Policies.pdf;
2. IHSA Handbook: Policy #34, *Policy and School Recommendations for Transgender Participation*, at: www.ihsa.org/about/constitution-by-laws-policies; and
3. SIJHSAA *Transgender Participation Policy* at: www.sijhsaa.com/images/stories/pdf/TRANSGENDER_PARTICIPATION_POLICY_Revised_10-17-18.pdf.

For further information on accommodating transgender students, see sample administrative procedure 7:10-AP1, *Accommodating Transgender, Nonbinary, or Gender Nonconforming Students*. See also two Ill. State Board of Education non-regulatory guidance documents entitled *Supporting Transgender, Nonbinary and Gender Nonconforming Students* and *Sample District Policy and Administrative Procedures*, at: www.isbe.net/supportallstudents. Federal administrations have taken varying positions on whether transgender students can compete consistent with their gender identity; consult the board attorney for guidance on this evolving area of law.

⁷ IHSA eligibility information and required forms are available at: www.ihsa.org/resources/download-center.

A district must include information concerning the board's concussion policy in any agreement, contract, code, or other written instrument that the district requires a student athlete and his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) to sign before participating in practice or interscholastic competition. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.530(b)(1). Sample exhibit 7:300-E1, *Agreement to Participate*, contains the requirements in this policy. In addition, the student and student's parent/guardian must sign a form approved by IHSA acknowledging receiving and reading written information on concussions. 105 ILCS 5/22-80(e).

The IHSA website contains many helpful resources, available at: www.ihsa.org/resources.

Concussion information is available from the Ill. Elementary School Assoc. at: www.iesa.org/activities/concussion.asp.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.30 and 5/22-80.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.530(b).

CROSS REF.: 4:100 (Insurance Management), 4:170 (Safety), 6:190 (Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:240 (Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities), 7:305 (Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries), 7:340 (Student Records)