

Fresno Unified Board Policy (BP) 6145.2 Athletic Competition

The Governing Board recognizes that the district's athletic program constitutes an integral component of the district 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)

Student Eligibility

Eligibility requirements for student participation in the district's interscholastic athletic program, including requirements pertaining to academic achievement and residency, 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)

Participation in the district interscholastic athletic program shall be made available to those students who meet the eligibility requirements and demonstrate successful progress towards meeting graduation requirements.

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

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 Codes of Conduct adopted by CIF.

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

(cf. 1265 – Civility Policy)
(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 training and competition 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)

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)

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a written emergency action plan that describes the location of automated external defibrillator(s) and procedures to be followed in the event of sudden cardiac arrest or other medical emergency related to the athletic program's activities or events. The plan shall be posted in accordance with guidelines of the National Federation of State High School Associations. (Education Code 35179.4)

In the event of a serious injury or a perceived imminent risk to a student's health during or immediately after an athletic activity, the coach or 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)

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 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)

Fresno Unified School District prohibits discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on actual or perceived race, color, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, ancestry, age, creed, religion, political affiliation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, mental or physical disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy or parental status, medical information, military veteran status, or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics or any other basis protected by law or regulation, in its educational program(s) or employment.

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
35179.4 Emergency action plan
35179.5 Interscholastic athletics; limitation on full-contact practices
35179.6 Automated external defibrillator, athletic activities
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
HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE
1797.196 Automated external defibrillator
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

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

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

CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION PUBLICATIONS

Athletic Department Emergency Action Plan: Response Teams
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
Event Emergency Guidelines, 2013
Pursuing Victory with Honor, 1999

Policy FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Policy Section: 6000 Instruction