

Interscholastic and Co-curricular Activities Program

1. Philosophy and Beliefs

- a. Interscholastic activities programs can teach a number of important skills and concepts:
 - (1) Human relations or social skills needed in a bureaucratic society;
 - (2) The worth of democratic principles;
 - (3) Leadership skills;
 - (4) The importance of good physical conditioning and health;
 - (5) How to prepare for the future.

- b. An interscholastic activities program can help students develop:
 - (1) Personality and lifestyle;
 - (2) Lifelong friendships;
 - (3) Feeling of identity, fitting in;
 - (4) Special interests, in and out of school;
 - (5) Social graces;
 - (6) Relationships with teachers and other adults;
 - (7) Work ethics and goal setting;
 - (8) Good citizenship, and leadership.

- c. The Board believes that a soundly conceived, well-operated interscholastic activities program has several practical values. Furthermore, the Board believes the program can teach character and provide an environment where the traditional values of interscholastic activities programs are nurtured and promoted in various ways to augment teaching. Specifically, the Board expects the program to teach toward and provide opportunity for all of the above practical matters, but with heaviest emphasis on teaching:
 - (1) Good sportsmanship;
 - (2) Control of emotions;
 - (3) Respect for the rights, abilities and efforts of others;
 - (4) Loyalty to family, country, school, team and friends;
 - (5) Self-respect and pride in striving toward achievement;
 - (6) Cultural and cross-cultural tolerance and understanding;
 - (7) Balance competitiveness, keeping winning and losing in perspective; and
 - (8) Cooperative, optimistic attitudes towards others.

2. Administration of the Athletic Program

- a. The district's athletic programs shall be administered in accordance with the following:
 - (1) The Board shall approve sports programs. The programs shall function in accordance with Board policy, administrative regulations, state and federal law;
 - (2) Equipment shall be adequate for the protection and safety of the players;
 - (3) All coaches shall schedule their practices so that players and parents can depend on practice beginning and concluding at a specific time;
 - (4) There shall be at least two coaches on the field for all football games, both on the road and at home;
 - (5) All grade 7-12 players will be covered by accident insurance to care for injuries incurred;
 - (6) Students in interscholastic activities are expected to conform to Board policy, administrative regulations, and school and classroom rules including the student conduct code of their respective schools in regard to training, dress and grooming.
 - (7) An athlete is expected to be loyal to his/her team, his/her school and his/her community.
 - (8) An athlete is expected to demonstrate a positive attitude and hard work in both school and the activity.

- b. The local school principal shall control and be responsible for the operation of his/her school athletic program within these guidelines as established by the Board, and where applicable, by the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA);
 - (1) The athletic director is responsible for coordinating the building program as specified further in his/her job description;
 - (2) The coaches of each sport at each school shall be under the direct authority of the athletic director and the principal. The principal shall evaluate the performance of the coaches, with meaningful input from the athletic director;
 - (3) Publicity released by the schools shall provide descriptions of athletic events which emphasize team performance and give minimum emphasis to individual performance;
 - (4) Every group representing district schools must have a Morrow County School District employee in charge, whether the group is on a road trip or at a local practice.
 - (5) School principals and their designated representatives shall be responsible for arranging for officials for scheduled contests;

- c. Scheduling of Contests
 - (1) Contests shall be scheduled with the following conditions:
 - (a) Contests shall be scheduled so they do not interfere with regular school hours, but at the earliest practical time on the day of the contest.
 - (b) Contests shall be scheduled on Friday, Saturday and Thursday. The building principal must approve exceptions to the above conditions. In the event that a game is scheduled other than Thursday, Friday or Saturday, the following guidelines will apply:

- (i) No mid-week games shall be scheduled where the student returns home later than 10 pm;
 - (ii) Mid-week games shall diminish by 10% per year until such time that the board determines that further reductions are not necessary or practical. The superintendent will report annually on the number of mid-week games scheduled in current and previous years.

- (2) The building principal at the end of each sport season, shall submit a written report for the board, submitted to the Superintendent, within thirty days of the end of the season. Said report shall contain the original schedule and the actual schedule and start times. It shall also contain the actual departure and return times for away contests and the numbers of students transported to and back from away contests.
- (3) When weather conditions impose a hazard to the health and/or safety of the participants, athletic contests shall be postponed or cancelled;
- (4) Travel distances should be held to a minimum within the limitations created by commitments to league schedules and the geographical location of the participating schools;
- (5) Athletes shall ride to and from athletic contests in transportation arranged by the school. Other arrangements may be made by the parent or legal guardian in writing no less than one day in advance. Participants may return from a contest with a parent or legal guardian by prior arrangement by direct contact with the coach, principal or principal's representative. Parent or legal guardian must sign for the student prior to the student's release.

- d. Coaches shall be qualified as noted below and be employed by the district, including, on a temporary basis, college students who are practice teaching. When qualified licensed personnel are not available, non-licensed coaches who are otherwise qualified may be employed. In the event that non-licensed coaches are hired, they must meet the same qualifications unless otherwise noted:
 - (1) Be at least 21 years of age;
 - (2) Have a current first-aid card;
 - (3) Have one or more of the following experiences:
 - (a) Extensive participation in the sport involved;
 - (b) Coaching experience in the sport involved;
 - (c) Coaching course(s) relating to the sport;
 - (d) Workshop(s) related to the sport,
 - (e) Knowledge of the sport one is employed to coach.
 - (4) Be recommended for hiring by the building principal;
 - (5) Able to devote the time necessary to fulfill successfully the duties of a coach;
 - (6) Familiar with applicable Board policies, administrative regulations and OSSA rules;
 - (7) Demonstrate effort to gain knowledge of coaching techniques through attendance at workshops, reading professional reference material and periodicals, interacting with fellow coaches or other means deemed satisfactory to the district;
 - (8) Able to work successfully with young people:

- (9) Be ASEP certified, as per OSSA policy.
- (10) Pass a nationwide criminal records check and fingerprinting as required by law;
- (11) If non-licensed, coaches must have a high school diploma or its equivalent;
- (12) Meet Type 10 and/or Type 20 vehicle operation rules as set forth by OAR 581-053-0545 and OAR 581-053-0550 and any additional training provision as may be required by the building principal.
- (13) Unpaid volunteer coaches who do not have a teaching license or the qualifications listed above may not be charged with related coaching responsibilities nor coach a team on their own. The athletic director and the principal in advance of the first practice must approve any volunteer coach.

e. Other administrative requirements

- (1) No 7 - 12 player shall be allowed to play in more quarters, games or matches than OSAA rules allow or recommend;
- (2) Coaches shall administer no drugs or stimulants nor shall they encourage, promote and/or recommend the use of any drug, chemical or substance to enhance performance, recovery or healing;
- (3) Student participation in other school activities shall not be cause for dropping a student from an athletic team or denying a student an opportunity to turn out for a team;
- (4) Coaches shall establish and enforce training rules consistent with district policies, administrative regulation and school rules;
- (5) Limitation of team size will be allowed at the high school level with administrative approval.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 326.051](#)

[ORS 332.075\(1\)\(e\)](#)

[ORS 339.430](#)

[OAR 581-021-0034 to -0035](#)

[OAR 581-021-0045 to -0049](#)

[OAR 581-022-1680](#)

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1683 (2006); Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance, 34 C.F.R. Part 106 (2006).

OR. SCH. ACTIVITIES ASS'N, OSAA HANDBOOK (2005).

Montgomery v. Bd. of Educ., 188 Or. App. 63 (2003).