

Series 6000 – Instruction**1. Elementary and Secondary****D. Curriculum****(5) Student Activities****(b) Intramural Programs/Interscholastic Athletics**

School sports constitute a part of the total school program. Although differing in nature from the academic program, intramurals and interscholastic athletics can only be justified if they provide a profitable educational experience for the participants and are available to all students who can benefit from them.

The athletic program is an important and integral part of the total school program and is open to participation by all students regardless of individual differences. Through voluntary participation, the athlete gives time, energy, and loyalty to the program. The individual also accepts the training rules, regulations, and responsibilities which are unique to an athletic program. In order to contribute to the welfare of the group, the athlete must willingly assume these obligations as the role demands that the individual make sacrifices not required of others.

The major objectives of the program are for students to develop, from their experiences, favorable habits and attitudes. The success of the athletic program should not be measured in terms of wins or losses, but in the student athlete's development of sportsmanship and teamwork skills as the result of effort and determination.

The goals of the athletic programs should complement the general policies developed by the Suffield school system. At no time, should the program place the total education curriculum secondary in emphasis; the intramural/interscholastic athletic programs should function as a part of the whole curriculum and should constantly strive for the development of a well-rounded individual, capable of taking his or her place in society.

Coaches and staff have the ability to influence on students who participate in interscholastic and intramural athletics. As a result of their frequent interactions with the students, coaches have an opportunity to demonstrate characteristics that can have a significant positive impact on students. It is the policy of the Suffield school system to promote this positive environment by providing qualified staff which possess the necessary technical skills and personal characteristics to develop traits such as sportsmanship, leadership and responsibility in student athletes. The Suffield school system, through the office of its Athletic Coordinator, will provide an atmosphere where qualified coaches can grow in skill and effectiveness. Candidates who express an interest in coaching and who possess strong interpersonal skills, should be recruited into the athletic coaching staff. The development of technical skills and human relations shall be supported for both new and experienced members of the coaching staff.

The Athletic Coordinator shall be responsible for the implementation of the proposed policy for interscholastic athletics.

The Intramural Director for Suffield Middle School shall be responsible for the implementation of the proposed policy for the intramural program.

Interscholastic sports programs will be subject to approval by the Board. Approval will be granted only at the middle school and high school levels.

Participation in Athletics and Extra Curricular Activities

Students will abide by C.I.A.C. rules and regulations. In addition, a student cannot at any time participate in athletics and extra curricular activities unless taking and passing at least five major subjects.

Students must maintain a “C” average with no “F”s” to participate in any extracurricular activity. Eligibility will be determined based upon grades received during the marking period prior to the beginning of the extracurricular activity (i.e., participation in a fall activity will be contingent on grades received in the prior marking period ending in June).

Should a student fail to meet the “C” rule, s/he may make a written appeal to the school principal. Appeals should only be made in rare circumstances such as a death in the family or student illness.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-149 Qualifications for coaches of intramural athletics.

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SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Suffield, Connecticut