# Hickman County Board of Education

| | Descriptor Term: **Interscholastic Athletics** | Descriptor Code: **4.301** | Issued Date: **03/02/20** |
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| | | Rescinds: **4.301** | Issued: **01/08/18** |

No person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be treated differently from another person or otherwise be discriminated against in any athletic program of the school. Equal athletic opportunities shall be provided for members of both sexes.[1] Student athletes shall only be allowed to participate in athletic activities or events that align with the student's sex indicated on his/her original birth certificate.[2] The Director of Schools/designee shall require the parent/guardian to provide the student's original birth certificate prior to participation in any interscholastic athletics. If the original birth certificate is not available or does not indicate the student's sex at the time of birth, the parent/guardian shall provide medical documentation showing evidence of the student's sex at birth.

Interscholastic athletics shall be administered as a part of the regular school program and shall be the principal's responsibility. Principals shall ensure that school regulations regarding participation in a sport are reasonable. Athletic schedules shall be filed in each school principal's office. The principal or his/her designee must accompany an athletic team on trips. Transportation of teams to athletic games is approved by the Board, provided the team's school reimburses the Board for mileage.

Bylaws of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association shall regulate the operation and control of athletics.[3] The Director of Schools shall develop a code of conduct for all coaches to follow in order to ensure the health and safety of athletes.[4]

In the event that the school's insurance provider does not extend coverage to an athlete, that athlete must provide proof of independently secured catastrophic coverage and liability coverage, with the school system as a named insured, of not less than the limits set forth in TCA § 29-20-403.[5] It shall be the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to provide health and hospitalization insurance for all students participating in interscholastic athletics.

Prior to participation in interscholastic athletics, every student must complete an annual physical examination.[6] The parents/guardians of each student shall be responsible for covering the cost of the examination, and these records shall be on file in the principal's office. It shall be the responsibility of the parent(s) or guardian to provide health and hospitalization insurance for all students participating in interscholastic athletics.

No principal or teacher of any school under the control of the Board shall dismiss his/her school or any group of students for the purpose of attending the practice of any interscholastic sport during the school day without written permission from the Board. This does not prevent the inclusion of regular physical training lessons in the daily school program.[7]

Students shall not be required to attend a school athletic event, or event related to participation on a school athletic team, if the event is on an official school holiday, observed day of worship, or religious

holiday. The student's parent or legal guardian shall notify the coach in writing three (3) full school days prior to the event.[8]

## SEVERE WEATHER[4]

Severe weather is any type of weather that could impede the safety of any athlete by compromising the playing conditions of the interscholastic sport. Severe weather includes, but is not limited to, thunder, lightning, and extreme temperatures. When severe weather is forecasted, suspension of play shall be discussed with all players, coaches, and officials, if applicable.

All coaches who oversee or participate in outdoor training, practice, or competition shall annually complete a heat illness prevention course approved by the Tennessee Department of Health as well as receive training on activity modifications based on environmental conditions.

Coaches, employees, and volunteers of the school district shall not encourage, permit, condone or tolerate hazing activities.[9]

Legal References

1. 34 CFR § 106.41; 20 USCA § 1681 et seq.
2. Public Acts of 2021, Chapter No. 40
3. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.08(1)
4. Public Acts of 2021, Chapter No. 272
5. TCA 29-20-403
6. 20 USCA § 1232h(c); TRR/MS 0520-01-13-.01(1)(a)
7. TCA 49-6-1002(a)
8. TCA 49-6-1002(c)
9. TCA 49-2-120

Cross References

Special Use of School Vehicles 3.402
Student Insurance Program 3.601
Extracurricular Activities 4.300
Attendance 6.200