

Interscholastic Activities/Athletics

The District recognizes the value of a program of interscholastic activities/athletics as an integral part of the total school experience. The program of interscholastic activities/athletics includes all activities/athletics relating to competitive sport or intellectual contests, games or events, or exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students of this District, when such events occur between schools outside this District.

Interscholastic activities/athletics enhance the quality of education through teaching character education, sportsmanship, and ethical and socially responsible behavior. It is the responsibility of our administration and activities/athletic staff to prove the educational worth of high school interscholastic activities/athletics and to show that the lessons learned by participants in these activities/athletics will reinforce and supplement the same goals as those of classroom teachers.

All activity/athletic programs will operate in compliance with District policy. All manuals, handbooks, procedures, rules, or regulations, including subsequent changes, intended for use within any activity/sport must be submitted to administration for review of compliance with District policy prior to use. It is the responsibility of administration and activity/athletic advisors/coaches to develop any such materials far enough in advance of the intended date of use to allow for administrative review.

All facilities and equipment utilized in the interscholastic activity/athletic program, whether or not the property of the District, will be inspected on a regular basis. Participants will be issued equipment which has been properly maintained and fitted.

An activity/athletic advisor/coach must be properly trained and qualified for an assignment as described in the advisor/coach's job description. A manual which outlines the skills, techniques, and safety measures associated with an advising/coaching assignment will be developed and maintained by administration and distributed to each activity/athletic advisor/coach. All advisors/coaches will hold a current valid first aid certificate.

The Board recognizes that certain risks are associated with participation in interscholastic activities/athletics. While the District will strive to prevent injuries and accidents to students, each parent or guardian will be required to sign an "assumption of risk" statement indicating that the parents assume all risks for injuries resulting from such participation. This form is attached as **2151F1**. Each participant will be required to furnish evidence of physical fitness (physical form) prior to becoming a member of an athletic team sanctioned by the Montana

High School Association (MHSA). A participant will be free of injury and will have fully recovered from illness before participating in any event.

Advisors/Coaches and/or trainers may not issue medicine of any type to students. This provision does not preclude the advisor/coach and/or trainer from using approved first aid items.

Program Review

Administration and activities/athletics advisors/coaches must periodically, but not less than every three years, fully review the activities/athletics program in alignment with the set of standards listed below, utilizing the form attached as **2151F2**. Every interscholastic activity/athletic program for which the school hires an advisor/coach and pays a stipend must be included in this review. The full review must be presented to the Board at least every three years at the regularly scheduled June Board meeting in the review year. Interim progress and plan presentations must be made to the Board annually in non-review years at the regularly scheduled June meeting. The full review and the interim presentations must include annual and cumulative demographic and survey response data.

Surveys

Administration is required to survey participants, parents, and advisors/coaches to solicit feedback on the quality of each program at the close of each activity/athletic season. Administration must ensure that surveys are conducted in a manner that provides anonymity to the respondents.

Survey participation is required. Parents and participants must acknowledge and accept this responsibility prior to the student participating in any JHS interscholastic activity/athletic program or sport. An acknowledgement form is attached as **2151F3**. Administration will incorporate this acknowledgement/acceptance form in pre-season materials. Administration will track survey participation.

Survey templates are attached as **2151F4-5-6**. Survey items may not be removed except by approval of the Board. Survey items may be added at the discretion of administration in order to obtain more or better information relating to program standards and goals and improvement initiatives. Essay or free-form text survey questions may be used at the discretion of the administration. Questions that would require a survey participant to give identifiable information must not be used.

These review and survey processes are intended to be an evaluation of the activities/athletics program and are not to be used as the sole evaluation of an advisor/coach. The Board recognizes that supervision and evaluation of activity/athletic advisors/coaches rests with school administration. Data from the surveys associated with these policies may be used as a part of, but not as a substitute for, the regular advisor/coach evaluation process. In addition, the Districts recognizes that complaints about an advisor/coach should follow the Uniform Complaint Procedure in Policy 1700.

ACTIVITY/ATHLETIC PROGRAM STANDARDS

STANDARD I: Guiding Principles. Activity/athletic programs and competition are an integral part of students' academic, social, emotional and physical development. The JHS

Activity/athletic Program promotes the academic mission of our school and honorable competition. Administration clearly defines and communicates what JHS is seeking to achieve and delineate the expectations of each activity/athletic program for participants, advisors/coaches, school administration, parents/guardians, and the community. As part of this, each coach, player and parent/guardian is required to acknowledge and abide by our Codes of Conduct which are attached as Forms **2151F7-8-9**.

STANDARD II: Activity/athletic Program Expectations. Activity/athletic programs are developed by administration that enable the school to achieve these expectations: high level of student participation in activities/athletics, activity-specific skill development, promotion of academic achievement, the teaching and endorsement of sportsmanship, character development, ethics, values, living a healthy and drug free lifestyle and appropriate behavior for all participants, advisor/coaches, parents, and spectators in connection with the activity/athletic program.

STANDARD III: Program Resources and Equity. Sufficient support and resources are provided to assure the achievement of the program expectations. Equitable and appropriate resources, facilities, and opportunities are afforded to all activity/athletic programs.

STANDARD IV: Program Administration. Structure, policies, procedures, and personnel to allow for the attainment of the athletic program expectations are provided by administration. Administration incorporates and encourages the active involvement of advisors/coaches, participants, parents, booster clubs, and the community in decision-making to promote an atmosphere of participation and ownership. The accomplishments of the program, the participants and the advisors/coaches are regularly acknowledged and celebrated.

STANDARD V: Program Evaluation. Ongoing evaluation procedures are in place to measure the department's success in achieving its standards and expectations and the developmental skill growth of each participant. The program has a clearly defined evaluation plan in place which is designed to enhance the professional growth of all advisors/coaches and participants. Skill growth goals and plans for the team are co-developed by the participants and advisor/coach at the beginning of each season and formally assessed at the end of each season. A form for use in goals/plan/assessment is attached as **2151F7**. Each activity/athletic advisor/coach reports their progress in meeting skill growth goals to administration.

Cross Reference: 3416 administering Medicines to Students
1700 Uniform Complaint Procedure

Legal Reference: 10.55.707, ARM Certification
37.111.825, ARM Health Supervision and Maintenance

Policy History: Edited April 2022

Adopted on: February 2007

Revised on: May 2016

Revision notes: Substantially revised to include broadened description of program description, goals and expectations, five activity/athletic program standards, processes for review and survey of activity/athletic program and accompanying forms:

2151F1 - INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITY/ATHLETICS PROGRAM ASSUMPTION OF RISK FORM

2151F2 - THREE YEAR INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITY/ATHLETICS PROGRAM EVALUATION FORM

2151F3 - PLAN/GOAL/ASSESS AND SURVEY REQUIREMENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

2151F4 - JHS Activities/Athletics Participant Survey

2151F5 - JHS Activities/Athletics Advisor/Coach Survey

2151F6 - JHS Activities/Athletics Parent Survey

2151F7 – JHS Activities/Athletics Player’s Code of Conduct

2151F8 – JHS Activities/Athletics Coach’s Code of Conduct

2151F9 – JHS Activities/Athletics Parent’s Code of Conduct