

Hamilton County Board of Education			
Monitoring: Annually in September	Descriptor Term: High School Athletics	Descriptor Code: 4.304	Issued Date: 09/20/18
		Rescinded:	Revised: 07/21/22

1 The Hamilton County Board of Education believes that high school athletics play an important role in
2 the development of a student’s body, mind, and character. Students are encouraged to participate in
3 intermural and interscholastic athletic opportunities available at their schools.

4
5 **GENERAL PROVISIONS GOVERNING INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**

6
7 Bylaws of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) shall regulate
8 interscholastic athletics.¹

9
10 Interscholastic athletics shall be administered as a part of the regular school program and shall be the
11 principal’s responsibility. No student may be required to pay any school fee as a condition of
12 participating in interscholastic athletics. Principals may permit television and radio stations to
13 broadcast or record a school’s sporting events, provided, however, that the Board of Education retains the
14 commercial rights to any such recordings, and further provided that principals are not authorized to execute
15 any releases or waivers in connection with any such arrangements.

16
17 Athletic trips are subject to Board Policy Nos. 3.402 and 4.301. The principal or his/ her designee
18 must accompany an athletic team on trips.

19
20 No principal or teacher of any school shall dismiss his/her school or any group of students for the
21 purpose of attending the practice of any interscholastic sport during the school day without written
22 permission from the board. This does not prevent the inclusion of regular physical training lessons in
23 the daily school program.²

24
25 **COACHES**

26
27 Subject to the TSSAA’s bylaws, the policies of the Board of Education, and the delegated authority of
28 the Superintendent of Schools, principals are authorized to select coaches for sports teams. Coaches
29 need not be members of the faculty of the school; provided, however, that no classified employee of
30 the Board of Education may coach in any school in Hamilton County unless he or she is doing so as a
31 volunteer with no promise or expectation of compensation; and further provided that no classified
32 employee may coach in any school in Hamilton County if his or her job is similar to coaching.

33
34 Faculty coaches may receive a supplement for their services per the terms of Board policy or any
35 memorandum of understanding. Classified volunteers may be reimbursed for their expenses and may
36 receive a nominal stipend or honorarium subject to guidelines developed by the Superintendent of
37 Schools.

38
39 No one may coach any sports team, assist any coach in any capacity, or have unmonitored contact with
40 any student unless he or she has first been background checked pursuant to Board Policy No. 5.1061.

1 Coaches, assistants, and any other person authorized to work with student athletes are required to
2 understand Board Policy No. 6.304 prohibiting discrimination, harassment, hazing, bullying, and
3 intimidation and to teach the application of this policy to their athletes.

5 **STUDENT ATHELETES**

6 In recognition of the honor and responsibility that comes with representing his or her school, student
7 athletes are expected to be model students both on and off campus. Principals may hold student
8 athletes accountable for any conduct that reflects poorly on the school or the program whether
9 occurring off campus or outside the sports season.

10
11 Prior to participation in interscholastic athletics, every student must complete an annual physical
12 examination.³ The parents/guardians of each student shall be responsible for covering the cost of the
13 examination, and these records shall be on file in the principal's office. It shall be the responsibility of
14 the parent(s) or guardian(s) to provide health and hospitalization insurance for all students participating
15 in interscholastic athletics.

16
17 In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, no person shall, on the basis of
18 sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be treated differently from another
19 person, or otherwise be discriminated against in any athletic program of the school. Likewise, equal
20 athletic opportunities shall be provided for members of both sexes.⁴ In compliance with Tenn. Code
21 Ann. 49-6-310, a student's gender for purposes of participation in middle or high school athletics must
22 be classified as the student's sex at birth.⁵

23
24 Students shall not be required to attend a school athletic event, or event related to participation on a
25 school athletic team, if the event is on an official school holiday, observed day of worship, or religious
26 holiday. The student's parent or legal guardian shall notify the coach in writing three (3) full school
27 days prior to the event.⁶

31 Legal References:

- 33 1. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.08(1)
- 34 2. TCA 49-6-1002
- 35 3. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.08(2)(b)
- 36 4. 34 CFR § 106.41
- 37 5. TCA 49-6-310
- 38 6. Public Acts of 2017, Chapter No. 260