

STATE COLLEGE
AREA
SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

ADOPTED: March 12, 2001

REVISED:

<p>1. Purpose SC 511</p> <p>2. Guidelines</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">123. ATHLETIC PROGRAMS</p> <p>The Board of School Directors believes that the purpose of an interscholastic athletic program is to provide learning experiences that will contribute to the personal, physical, and psychological development of the individual student athlete. These learning experiences will be consistent with the educational goals of the State College Area School District, as outlined in its Statement of Organizational Purpose, and will complement the academic program of the district. Hence, participation in interscholastic athletics can serve an important role in meeting the needs of secondary level students within the total educational process.</p> <p>The State College Area School District interscholastic athletic program is both voluntary and competitive and will be designed to meet the needs of student athletes. In order to participate, student athletes must be physically healthy, academically qualified, and willing to make a significant personal commitment to maximize the development of their knowledge, skills, and attitudes relative to the particular sport.</p> <p>All athletic teams will operate under the leadership and supervision of an effective coaching staff committed to accomplishing the educational goals of the school system. Members of the coaching staff will employ safe and educationally sound techniques designed to actively promote the development of the student athlete as a whole person. Also, coaches will be expected to continually improve their coaching techniques through participation in appropriate professional development programs.</p> <p>The school administration, especially the athletic director and the secondary principals, will provide a supportive environment for the coaches and athletes at all levels. All district administrators will be committed to the philosophy.</p> <p>The interscholastic athletic program will be increasingly competitive as students progress from the middle school and ninth grade through the junior varsity to the varsity levels. The earlier levels will serve as developmental programs for the more advanced levels. Team size will reflect these goals. Varsity coaches will work with junior varsity, ninth grade and middle school coaches to coordinate the developmental aspects of the program in each particular sport.</p>
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<p>3. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>At the middle school and ninth grade levels of interscholastic competition, coaches will place a strong emphasis on instruction and on maintaining sufficient levels of participation in that sport to allow the individual student to develop his/her athletic potential. Participation and development of skills in a sport will be valued above the winning of contests. The needs of the team should be balanced with the developmental needs of the individual team members. The number of participants accepted for membership on a team, however, must support this commitment to high levels of instruction and participation.</p> <p>At the junior varsity level, instruction and the development of individual skills for all athletes will continue to be emphasized. However, team success in inter-school competition will also be valued. Athletes will become increasingly aware of the importance of teamwork and a positive attitude toward team success. The number of athletes selected for the team will allow the coaches not only to instruct and assist the participants in their individual development but also to teach teamwork as an important factor in interscholastic competition.</p> <p>At the varsity level of interscholastic competition, coaches will have the dual responsibility of fostering individual skill development and achieving team success. To achieve this end, the most effective student athletes, as judged by the coaching staff regardless of grade level, will be given the opportunity to further develop their athletic abilities and to participate at the most advanced levels of interscholastic athletic competition. Coaching emphasis will be placed on helping the members of the team to work together and to develop a strong desire to attain the highest possible levels of team success.</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee is directed by the Board of School Directors to develop, disseminate, maintain, and periodically revise the administrative procedures, including but not limited to handbooks for coaches and student athletes, necessary to implement the intent of this policy as well as an annual evaluation process for coaches. Appropriate inservice programs for coaches relative to this policy and the above procedures will also be provided.</p>
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