

GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Greenwich, Connecticut

Policy E-002 – WHOLE STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Procedure E-002.6 – High School Interscholastic Athletics

The Board of Education believes individual students will benefit from opportunities to grow physically and intellectually through experiences that provide the opportunity for self-discipline and team efforts made possible through competitive interscholastic sports activities. The purpose of interscholastic athletics is both educational and recreational. The athletic program should encourage participation by as many students as possible and should be carried on with the best interests of the participants as the primary consideration. Participation should be without unreasonable interference with other obligations in the school, community and home. The Board of Education supports interscholastic athletic competition in a variety of sports. Students will be allowed to participate in individual sports based on a variety of criteria including but not limited to interest and ability, selection through a fair and equitable process, academic eligibility, and willingness and commitment to comply with program expectations (attendance, etc.)

Greenwich High School is a member of the **Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference** (CIAC) and Fairfield County Interscholastic Athletic Conference (FCIAC). The CIAC controls boys and girls athletics in the state of Connecticut. The CIAC regulates and determines eligibility, provides out-of-season limitations, and sets practice dates and game limits. The CIAC is the only association which governs interscholastic athletic programs for secondary schools in the state of Connecticut and all GHS team sports whether sanctioned or non-sanctioned are expected to follow CIAC guidelines.

Program administration. The Greenwich High School Athletic Director, the Headmaster, and the District administration are responsible for the supervision and evaluation of the high school interscholastic athletic program. The Athletic Director is responsible for approving memberships in leagues, associations or conferences; disseminating and enforcing rules for student participation; developing annual sports schedules in collaboration with coaches; arranging for transportation; recruiting, recommending for hire, supervising and evaluating all coaches, whether paid or volunteer.

Transportation. The District interscholastic athletic program provides transportation to practice sites (if applicable) and competitions via yellow school bus. The only exceptions to this standard are a) smaller approved vehicles may be used for teams with fewer than 15 participants; b) coach busses may be approved for state competitions subject to compliance with Title IX in terms of resource allocation, whether funded through the school system budget or private donations.

Levels of competition. In general the District supports interscholastic competition at the local (FCIAC) and state levels. Requests for resources to support individual or team participation in regional, national or international competitions will be considered on a case by case basis. The administration's decision will be based on a number of factors including resources required,

equity (compliance with Title IX), impact on teaching and learning, and related procedure pertaining to approval of extended field trips (Procedure E-002.10).

Funding. In general the high school interscholastic athletic program is funded through the school system's annual budget. The terms and conditions governing opportunities for external funding and support for an interscholastic athletic team or program, including the Title IX Athletic Equity Fund, are described in the following procedures: E-020.2 Student Activity Funds, E020.3 Gifts & Grants, E-080.9 Soliciting Funds. The District's willingness to consider external funding from private sources, including booster clubs and individual donations, is subject to compliance with Title IX and all other relevant statutes, laws and regulations. Regardless of funding source(s) or other donations the District maintains full control over and responsibility for all decisions related to interscholastic athletic programs.

Approved programs. The list of high school interscholastic team sports approved and authorized by the Board of Education is part of the Greenwich Education Association collective bargaining agreement (Appendix B). Team sports on the approved list may or may not be offered every year based on a number of factors including funding, availability of qualified coaches, access to required facilities/fields, participation levels, and equity. Approved programs must meet all of the following requirements:

1. Facilities (gymnasium, field, locker room) required are available and can be accommodated within Title IX and other requirements (cost, etc.).
2. Participation levels reflect levels of student interest and ability.
3. Sport recognized by a minimum of six FCIAC member school districts, or b) six (6) additional public or private schools in a 60 mile radius, or, c) CIAC sanctioned sport.
4. 50% or more of the competitions must be against Connecticut public high schools.
5. Season must be consistent with one of three CIAC seasons
6. Acceptance of CIAC limitations including restrictions regarding out-of-season activities, player-coach contact and practices, etc.
7. Coach (es) meets all Connecticut State Department of Education and Town of Greenwich requirements, including but not limited to certification.

There are a number of interscholastic athletic programs previously approved that do not currently comply with the provisions of this procedure. The athletic director, working collaboratively with coaches and others, is charged with developing a transition plan to ensure compliance by the end of 2009-2010 but no later than 2010-2011.

Approval of new programs. Individuals or groups may request to add a new interscholastic athletic team sport by submitting a formal written proposal which clearly addresses all program elements listed below. Proposals will then be reviewed for the purpose of comparing each element against a set of criteria. If the proposed program meets all of the criteria, the administration may recommend the Board of Education consider approving the sport. Proposals must be submitted by September 15th to be considered for approval and funding for the following fiscal year.

Program Requirement	Criteria Used to Evaluate Proposal
1. Participation level based on interest and ability and potential for sustained student interest – include specific data/evidence to support anticipated number of student athletes interested in this sport (unduplicated count), as well as information about feeder programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which this sport provides additional opportunities for increased participation by students not currently involved in an interscholastic sport during the new sport’s season.
2. Level of play – Specify whether this proposal includes varsity, junior varsity and/or freshman team as well as proposed multi-year phase-in plan if applicable; include detail about facility requirements (practice, competition) including number, type and location.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility based on availability of facilities, estimated cost, equity, and comparability with other area programs.
3. Leagues and conferences – provide specific information including the names, membership costs, and fees associated with any leagues or conferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost and equity.
4. Confirmation that the sport is prepared to observe normal weekly and season limitations whether CIAC sanctioned or not.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Season must be consistent with one of three CIAC seasons • Acceptance of CIAC limitations including restrictions regarding out-of-season activities, player-coach contact and practices, etc. • Equity
5. Confirmation that the program, whether or not it is governed by the CIAC, agrees to comply with all CIAC eligibility rules.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptance of these terms and conditions.
6. Proposed competition – a list of the schools that currently offer the program and a sample schedule.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of six FCIAC member school districts - or – six (6) additional public or private schools in a 60 mile radius – or – a CIAC sanctioned sport. • 50% or more of the competitions must be against Connecticut public high schools.
7. Resources required – provide detail about projected start-up and recurring costs including number of coaches, officials, equipment, supplies, competition (dues and fees), uniforms, transportation, facilities; projected external financial support if anticipated and factored into the financial model.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated cost per student • Level of administrative and clerical support required • Availability of external funding to support the sport • Risk/liability assessment based on District and Town requirements • Equity including impact on funding, locker rooms, etc.
8. Availability of coaching pool – Description of number and qualifications of coaches as well as specifics about recruitment opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient potential number of qualified interested coaches who meet all Connecticut State

Program Requirement	Criteria Used to Evaluate Proposal
	Department of Education and Town of Greenwich requirements, including certification.
9. Equity and Access – Number of projected participants by gender and description of opportunities for participation by students with disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title IX impact and compliance • Opportunities for students who might otherwise not participate in interscholastic sports.

LEGAL REFERENCE:

PA 98-377 Title VIII Equal Access Act
Connecticut General Statutes 10-149 Qualifications for coaches of intramural and interscholastic athletics.

Procedure Adopted – January 2008
Revised May 2009