

Bartlett City Board of Education		4027
Descriptor Term: INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS	Descriptor Code: Instructional Services	Issue Date: 4/24/2014
	Rescinds:	Revised: 09/23/2021 06/27/2024

1 No person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of,
2 be treated differently from another person or otherwise be discriminated against in any athletic
3 program of the school. Equal athletic opportunities shall be provided for members of both sexes.¹
4 Interscholastic athletics shall be administered as a part of the regular school program and shall
5 be the principal's responsibility. Principals shall ensure that school regulations regarding
6 participation in a sport are reasonable. Athletic schedules shall be filed in each school principal's
7 office for middle school students and the BCS Athletic Director's office for high school students.
8 The principal or his/ her designee must accompany an athletic team on trips. Transportation of
9 teams to athletic games is approved by the Principal or his/her designee.

10 Bylaws of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association shall regulate the operation and
11 control of athletics.² Principals and Coaches shall be responsible for ensuring that TSSAA rules
12 are followed. A student's gender for purposes of participation in a public middle school or high
13 school interscholastic activity or event must be determined by the student's sex at the time of the
14 student's birth, as indicated on the student's original birth certificate. Each student participating in
15 a middle or high school interscholastic activity must present the student's original birth certificate.
16 If a student's birth certificate does not appear to be the original birth certificate or does not indicate
17 the sex upon birth, then the student must provide other evidence indicating the student's sex at
18 the time of birth. The student or the student's parent or guardian must pay any costs associated
19 with providing evidence of birth.³

20 Prior to participation in interscholastic athletics, every student must complete an annual physical
21 examination.⁴ The parents/guardians of each student shall be responsible for covering the cost of
22 the examination, and these records shall be on file in the principal's office. It shall be the
23 responsibility of the parent(s) or guardian to provide health and hospitalization insurance for all
24 students participating in interscholastic athletics. The Board strongly recommends that
25 parents/guardians of all students participating in interscholastic activities purchase a family
26 insurance policy that covers the costs of injuries that may arise during participation.

27 The Principal may dismiss students participating in interscholastic athletics from school during
28 regular school hours for an interscholastic athletic practice or game; provided that the dismissal

¹ Title IX, Educational Amendment of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.; 34 C.F.R. §106.41

² TRR/MS 0520-1-2-.08(1)

³ T.C.A. §49-6-310

⁴ TRR/MS 0520-1-3-.08(2)(b)

1 does not hinder student academic progress. This does not prevent the inclusion of regular
2 physical training lessons in the daily school program.⁵

3 **Hazing**

4 Coaches, employees, and volunteers of the school district shall not encourage, permit, condone
5 or tolerate hazing activities.⁶

6 **Background Checks⁷**

7 All BCS employee and volunteer coaches, and all persons engaged or contracted to referee or
8 officiate any interscholastic event shall pass a background check conducted by the Tennessee
9 Bureau of Investigation.

10 **CPR and AED Training**

11 All coaches, whether employed or volunteer, shall annually receive training in cardiopulmonary
12 resuscitation (CPR) and in the use of automated external defibrillators (AED).

13 **Cardiac Arrest Education and Protocol⁸**

14 Consistent with BCBE Policy 6053, all coaches, whether employed or volunteer, shall complete
15 a sudden cardiac arrest education program approved by the Tennessee Department of Health.

16 Prior to initiating practice or competition each year, a sudden cardiac arrest information sheet
17 approved by the Department that includes sudden cardiac arrest symptoms, warning information,
18 and information about electrocardiogram (EKG) testing shall be signed and returned by each BCS
19 coach and athletic director.

20 Prior to any youth athlete initiating practice or competition, a sudden cardiac arrest information
21 sheet shall be reviewed by each youth athlete and the athlete's parent or guardian. Such sheet
22 shall include sudden cardiac arrest symptoms, warning information, and information about
23 electrocardiogram (EKG) testing. The information sheet shall be signed and returned by the youth
24 athlete, if the youth athlete is eighteen (18) years of age or older, otherwise by the athlete's parent
25 or guardian, to confirm that both the parent or guardian and the youth athlete have reviewed the
26 information and understand its contents.

27 Documentation of the completion of such education and information sheet shall be maintained for
28 a period of three (3) years.

29 Any youth athlete who passes out, faints, or exhibits any of the following sudden cardiac arrest
30 symptoms while participating in an athletic activity or immediately following an athletic activity
31 shall be immediately removed from play. Symptoms include passing out, fainting, unexplained

⁵ T.C.A. §49-6-1002

⁶ T.C.A. §49-2-120

⁷ Public Chapter 272 (2021)

⁸ T.C.A. §68-6-103

1 shortness of breath, chest pains, dizziness, racing heart rate, or extreme fatigue. Youth athletes
2 experiencing the aforementioned symptoms shall not return to practice or competition or
3 participate in any team physical exertion of any kind until the youth athlete is evaluated by a health
4 care provider and receives written clearance for a full or graduated return to play.

5 **Concussion and Head Injury Education and Protocol⁹**

6 Consistent with BCBE Policy 6053, all coaches, whether employed or volunteer, shall complete
7 a concussion recognition and head injury safety education program approved by the Tennessee
8 Department of Health.

9 Prior to initiating practice or competition for each year, a concussion/head injury information sheet
10 approved by the Department shall be signed and returned by each BCS coach and athletic
11 director. The information sheet shall include, but not be limited to:

- 12 1. Written information related to the recognition of symptoms of head injuries;
- 13 2. The biology and the short-term and long-term consequences of a concussion written in
14 layman's terminology;
- 15 3. A summary of State Board of Education Rules and Regulations relative to safety
16 regulations for the student's participation in extracurricular activities; and
- 17 4. The medical standard of care for post-concussion participation or participation in an
18 extracurricular activity.

19 Prior to any youth athlete initiating practice or competition, a concussion and head injury
20 information sheet shall be reviewed by each youth athlete and the athlete's parent or guardian.
21 The information sheet shall be signed and returned by the youth athlete, if the youth athlete is
22 eighteen (18) years of age or older, otherwise by the athlete's parent or guardian, to confirm that
23 both the parent or guardian and the youth athlete have reviewed the information and understand
24 its contents.

25 Documentation of the completion of such education and information sheet shall be maintained for
26 a period of three (3) years.

27 Any youth athlete who shows signs, symptoms, and behaviors consistent with a concussion from
28 related physical activity or competition shall be evaluated by a licensed health care professional,
29 if available, and if not, by the coach. In determining whether a youth athlete suffered from a
30 possible concussion, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC)'s concussion signs
31 and symptoms checklist shall be utilized. A youth athlete showing signs, symptoms, and
32 behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from activity or competition.
33 Youth athletes shall not return to practice or competition or participate in any team physical

⁹ T.C.A. §68-55-502

1 exertion of any kind until the youth athlete is evaluated by a health care provider and receives
2 written clearance for a full or graduated return to play.

3 **Severe Weather**¹⁰

4 All coaches, whether employed or volunteer, shall oversee or participate in outdoor training,
5 practice, or competition and shall annually complete a heat illness prevention course approved
6 by the Tennessee Department of Health. The course shall be completed no later than ninety (90)
7 days after the start of the coach's employment or volunteer service. After the coach completes
8 the first heat illness prevention course, the coach shall annually acknowledge in writing that the
9 coach completed the course and that the coach understands the requirements and importance of
10 the course.

11 All coaches, whether employed or volunteer, who oversee or participate in outdoor training,
12 practice, or competition shall annually receive training on activity modifications based on
13 environmental conditions such as lightening.

14 **Coaches' Code of Conduct**

15 All coaches, whether employed or volunteer, shall adhere to the BCS Code of Ethics and the
16 Teacher Code of Ethics reflected in Policy 5024: Ethics.

17 **Informational Meeting**¹¹

18 An informational meeting shall be held before the start of each school athletic season for students,
19 parents, coaches, and school officials to learn about the symptoms and warning signs of sudden
20 cardiac arrest; heat illness; concussions and other head injuries; and other health, safety, and
21 wellness issues related to sports participation, and to receive information about electrocardiogram
22 (EKG) testing, and each of the safety plans and policies implemented by BCS.

23 **Home School Student Participation**¹²

24 Home school students shall be permitted to participate in accordance with TSSAA or TMSAA
25 guidelines. If a school is not a member with these organizations, home school students that are
26 zoned for the school shall be permitted to participate in interscholastic athletics to the same extent
27 as other students.

¹⁰ T.C.A. §49-6-3601

¹¹ T.C.A. §49-6-3603

¹² T.C.A. §49-6-3050(e)(1)(B)