

- 1) The athletic program shall be considered an essential part of the total school program and shall be under the principal's direction and general supervision. However, a student's participation is a privilege and not a right. A student's opportunity to participate can be limited or denied for failure to follow team rules or for violation of the Student Conduct Code, School Board rules, or Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) rules and regulations.
- 2) For purposes of this rule, "athletics" shall be defined as those sports and activities sanctioned by FHSAA. As such, athletics at the middle school level and all other sports and activities at the high school level shall be governed by Rule 4.06, *Student Clubs and Organizations*.
- 3) All District high schools shall be members of, and shall be governed by, the rules and regulations adopted by FHSAA. Students who participate in athletics shall meet eligibility requirements established by FHSAA and the School Board.
- 4) Students participating in any type of interscholastic athletics shall provide proof of accident insurance covering medical expenses of any injury sustained in a sport provided the student is insured. The principal shall be responsible for obtaining proof of the student's insurance prior to participation in interscholastic athletics. A student shall not be denied the opportunity to participate in athletics because of lack of insurance. The District may provide appropriate insurance for non-insured students.
- 5) No student shall participate without the written permission of the student's parent(s) or legal guardian being on file.
- 6) Pursuant to Section 768.135, Florida Statutes, licensed medical personnel who act as volunteers for school events and agree to render emergency care or treatment shall be immune from civil liability for treatment of a participant in any school-sponsored athletic event, provided such treatment was rendered in accordance with acceptable standards of practice and was not objected to by the participant.
- 7) Students may be assessed a fee to defray the direct cost of their participation, but a student shall not be denied the opportunity to participate because of the student's financial inability to pay such fee. Provided, however, this provision does not apply to charging admission for students who are spectators at athletic events.

CHAPTER 4.00 – CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

**ATHLETICS**

**4.09**

- 8) Eligibility for membership shall not include a vote of the current team membership. Hazing is strictly forbidden. Hazing shall be defined as any action or situation for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with a team which recklessly or intentionally endangers a student's mental or physical health or safety.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** 1001.41; 1001.42, F.S.

**LAWS IMPLEMENTED:** 768.135; 1001.43; 1006.07;  
1006.15; 1006.16; 1006.20, F.S.

**HISTORY:** **ADOPTED:** 08/18/1998  
**REVISION DATE(S):** 11/16/2004  
**FORMERLY:** IGD; JHA

