

Weakley County Board of Education



Monitoring:

Descriptor Term:

Interscholastic Athletics

Descriptor Code:

4.301

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1
2 No person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of,
3 be treated differently from another person or otherwise be discriminated against in any athletic
4 program of the school. Equal athletic opportunity shall be provided for members of both sexes.¹
5 Student athletes shall only be allowed to participate in athletic activities or events that align with
6 the student's sex indicated on his/her original birth certificate.² The Director of
7 Schools/designee shall require the parent/guardian to provide the student's original birth
8 certificate prior to participation in any interscholastic athletics. If the original birth certificate is
9 not available or does not indicate the student's sex at the time of birth, the parent/guardian shall
10 provide medical documentation showing evidence of the student's sex at birth.

11
12 Notwithstanding the requirements of the paragraph above, a recipient may operate or sponsor
13 separate teams for members of each sex where selection for such teams is based upon
14 competitive skill or the activity involved in a contact sport. However, where a recipient operates
15 or sponsors a team in a particular sport for members of one sex but operates or sponsors no such
16 team for members of the other sex, and athletic opportunities for members of that sex have
17 previously been limited, members of the excluded sex must be allowed to try-out for the team
18 offered unless the sport involved is a contact sport. For the purposes of this part, contact sports
19 include boxing, wrestling, rugby, ice hockey, football, basketball and other sports the purpose or
20 major activity of which involves bodily contact.

21
22 Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege offered by the school. Students must
23 adhere to established rules and codes of conduct for each activity. It is the responsibility of the
24 student to adhere to the prescribed rules and codes of conduct. Failure to abide by such codes
25 may result in consequences up to, and including, removal from participation.

26
27 Interscholastic athletics shall be administered as a part of the regular school program and shall be
28 the principal's responsibility. The principal or his/her designee must accompany an athletic team
29 on trips.

30
31 School athletics shall be coached only by regularly employed personnel if governed by TSSAA
32 regulations. Full-time administrators will serve the entire school day performing administrative
33 duties. These persons may be assigned coaching duties during hours outside of the regular school
34 day. Volunteers who assist with coaching at any school must be approved by the principal, the
35 Director of Schools and the Board.

36

Legal References:

¹ Title IX, Education Amendment of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681, et seq.; 34 CFR § 106.41

² Public Acts of 2021, Chapter No. 40

4.301 Interscholastic Athletics

1 There shall be a complete annual physical examination of every student prior to his/her
2 participation in interscholastic athletics.³ Cost of the examination shall be borne by the parent or
3 guardian of the student. These records shall be on file in the principal's office.

4
5 Each parent or guardian is encouraged to provide health and hospitalization insurance for all
6 students participating in interscholastic athletics.

7
8 No principal or teacher of any school under the control of the Board shall dismiss his/her school
9 or any group of students for the purpose of permitting them to practice or play baseball, football,
10 basketball or any similar game within the regular school hours of any school day of the week
11 without written permission from the Board. This does not prevent the inclusion of regular
12 physical training lessons in the daily school program.⁴

13
14 Coaches and other employees of the school district shall not encourage, permit, condone or
15 tolerate hazing activities as part of the athletic program.⁵

16
17 Students shall not be disqualified from participation on a school athletic team solely on the basis
18 of participation in another sport except where the season overlaps by more than two weeks.
19 Principals shall ensure that practices are confined to established seasons and that school
20 regulations regarding participation in a sport are reasonable.

21
22 Students who move out of their school area but who wish to continue attendance in the original
23 school may continue to participate in athletics. The Board specifically forbids the recruitment of
24 students in any fashion.

25
26 Athletic schedules shall be filed in each school principal's office.

27
28 Transportation of teams to athletic games is approved by the Board.

29 30 **STUDENT SAFETY**

31
32 No action shall be taken by any coach or athlete that will endanger the safety of any participant.

33
34 Initiations shall be conducted with a dignity in keeping with the purposes of the organization.
35 The nature of any initiation shall be outlined and presented in writing to the club sponsor and the
36 principal of the school for approval prior to the actual initiation. Hazing of students is strictly
37 prohibited. Any organization which permits an initiation to go beyond the scope of activities
38 planned and previously approved will be suspended until reinstated by the principal.

39 40 **MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS**

41

³ TRR/MS 0520-1-3-.08(2)(b)

Legal References:

⁴ TCA 49-6-1002

⁵ TCA 49-2-120

4.301 Interscholastic Athletics

1 Athletics are co-curricular sports activities under the direct control of the school principal. The
2 principal will be directly accountable to the director of schools and the Board in all matters
3 pertaining to athletics, according to TSSAA regulations. Weakley County middle schools will:
4

- 5 1. Play a maximum of eight (8) regular season football games.
6
- 7 2. Game starting times will be set by the schools.
8
- 9 3. Play a maximum of 20 games during a school year. Tournaments shall count as two
10 games notwithstanding the number of games in which each team participates in a
11 tournament.⁶
12
- 13 4. If a student is 15 before August 1 of that school year, he/she is ineligible to play football
14 or basketball.
15
- 16 5. A student repeating a grade is ineligible for the entire season.
17
- 18 6. An eighth grader who has passing grades and is retained at the request of his/her parent(s)
19 or guardian(s) becomes ineligible to play football or basketball in middle school.
20
- 21 7. Any school athletic program found in violation of requirements above shall forfeit the
22 game in which the ineligible student participated.
23
- 24 8. The coaches will mail a list of players and their ages to the director of school's office
25 before their first football or basketball game.
26
- 27 9. A student who participates in a sport at one Weakley County school is not eligible to
28 participate in that same sport at another Weakley County school during that same school
29 year.
30
- 31 10. All change of eligibility for the second semester will take effect on the first day of the
32 second semester. Amendments to the eligibility list in the director of school's office must
33 be made prior to participation in any games during the second semester.
34
- 35 11. The middle school football teams (schools not members of TMSAA) are to be the
36 Reelfoot Conference. A championship and a runner-up trophy will be awarded. Each
37 member will pay \$25.00 at the beginning of the year for the cost of trophies. Coaches will
38 select the All-Conference Team. The number to be selected All-Conference will be
39 determined at the end of each season. Schools will pay for their own players' awards.
40

Legal Reference:

⁶ TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.08(2)

4.301 Interscholastic Athletics

1 12. The middle school basketball teams (schools not members of the TMSAA) are to be part
2 of the WCB Conference. All determinations, such as awards, tournament rotation, and
3 accepting schools, will be voted on by the WCB Conference coaches.
4

5 **SECONDARY ATHLETICS**

6
7 Bylaws of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association shall regulate the operation and
8 control of secondary athletics.⁷ No credit will be awarded for interscholastic athletic practice
9 during the school day.

Legal Reference:

⁷ TRR/MS 0520-1-2-.08(1)