

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

FM

TAPPS RULES AND SCHOOL POLICIES

A student enrolled in the Texas School for the Deaf (hereinafter called "School") who participates in an extracurricular activity or a Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) competition is subject to School policy and TAPPS rules regarding participation only when the student is under the direct supervision of an employee of the School or at any other time specified by resolution of the Board. [See FO regarding additional standards of conduct for extracurricular activities]

ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES
TAPPS FORMS

Each student participating in an extracurricular athletic activity must complete the TAPPS athletic forms including but not limited to medical, physical forms and each form must be signed by both the student and the student's parent or guardian.

SAFETY TRAINING

The School shall provide training to students participating in athletic extracurricular activities including but not limited to:

1. Recognizing the symptoms of potentially catastrophic injuries, including head and neck injuries, concussions, injuries related to second impact syndrome, asthma attacks, heat-stroke, cardiac arrest, and injuries requiring use of a defibrillator; and
2. The risks of using dietary supplements designed to enhance or marketed as enhancing athletic performance.

The training may be conducted by the School, the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, or a similar organization, or by TAPPS.

RECORDS

The Superintendent or her/his designee shall maintain complete and accurate records of the School's compliance and the School shall make available to the public proof of compliance for each person enrolled who is required to receive safety training.

UNSAFE PRACTICES

A coach, trainer, or sponsor for an extracurricular athletic activity may not encourage or permit a student participant to engage in any unreasonably dangerous athletic technique that unnecessarily endangers the health of a student, including using a helmet or any other sports equipment as a weapon.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

A coach, trainer, or sponsor for an extracurricular athletic activity shall at each athletic practice or competition ensure that:

1. Each student participant is adequately hydrated;

2. Any prescribed asthma medication for a student participant is readily available to the student;
3. Emergency lanes providing access to the practice or competition area are open and clear; and
4. Heatstroke prevention materials are readily available.

If a student participating in a practice or competition becomes unconscious during the activity, the student may not:

1. Return to the activity during which the student became unconscious; or
2. Participate in any extracurricular athletic activity until the student receives written authorization for such participation from a physician.

CONCUSSIONS

“Concussion” means a complex pathophysiological process affecting the brain caused by a traumatic physical force or impact to the head or body, which may include temporary or prolonged altered brain function resulting in physical, cognitive, or emotional symptoms or altered sleep patterns, and involve loss of consciousness. *Education Code 38.151(4)*

The Superintendent shall ensure that the Athletic Director provides concussion training for all coaches in accordance with TAPPS guidelines.

CONCUSSION
TRAINING
RETURN-TO-
PLAY
PROTOCOL

Concussion training must include a return-to-play protocol, based on peer-reviewed scientific evidence, for a student’s return to interscholastic athletics practice or competition following the force or impact believed to have caused a concussion. *Education Code 38.153(b)*

REQUIRED
ANNUAL FORM

A student may not participate in a TAPPS activity for a school year until both the student and the student’s parent or guardian or another person with legal authority to make medical decisions for the student have signed the TAPPS “Concussion and Traumatic Brain Injury” form electronically for that school year. The form acknowledges receiving and reading written information that explains concussion prevention, symptoms, treatment, and oversight and that includes guidelines for safely resuming participation in an athletic activity following a concussion. The form must be approved by the TAPPS.

REMOVAL
FROM PLAY

A student shall be removed from a TAPPS athletics practice or competition immediately if one of the following persons believes the student might have sustained a concussion during the practice or competition: a coach; a physician; a licensed health-care professional, as defined by Education Code 38.151(5); a licensed chiropractor; or the student's parent or guardian or another person with legal authority to make medical decisions for the student. *Education Code 38.156*

RETURN TO
PLAY

A student removed from an interscholastic athletics practice or competition under Education Code 38.156 may not be permitted to practice or compete again following the force or impact believed to have caused the concussion until:

1. The student has been evaluated, using established medical protocols based on peer-reviewed scientific evidence, by a treating physician chosen by the student or the student's parent or guardian or another person with legal authority to make medical decisions for the student;
2. The student has successfully completed each requirement of the return-to-play protocol established under Education Code 38.153 necessary for the student to return to play;
3. The treating physician has provided a written statement indicating that, in the physician's professional judgment, it is safe for the student to return to play; and
4. The student and the student's parent or guardian or another person with legal authority to make medical decisions for the student have acknowledged that the student has completed the requirements of the return-to-play protocol necessary for the student to return to play, have provided the treating physician's written statement to the person responsible for compliance with the return-to-play protocol and the person who has supervisory responsibilities, and have signed a consent form indicating that the person signing:
 - a. Has been informed concerning and consents to the student participating in returning to play in accordance with the return-to-play protocol;
 - b. Understands the risks associated with the student returning to play and will comply with any ongoing requirements in the return-to-play protocol;
 - c. Consents to the disclosure to appropriate persons, consistent with the Health Insurance Portability and

Accountability Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-191, of the treating physician’s written statement and, if any, the return-to-play recommendations of the treating physician; and

- d. Understands the immunity provisions under Education Code 38.159.

TSD’s coaches of athletic teams may not authorize a student’s return to play.

The School’s Superintendent or designee shall supervise TSD’s athletic trainer(s) or other person (or persons) responsible for compliance with the return-to-play protocol. The persons who have supervisory responsibilities may not be a coach of an interscholastic athletics team.

Education Code 38.157

**FOOTBALL
HELMET SAFETY
REQUIREMENTS**

The School may not use a football helmet that is 16 years old or older in the football program. The School shall ensure that each football helmet used in the football program that is 10 years old or older is reconditioned at least once every two years.

The School shall maintain and make available to parents of students enrolled in the School documentation indicating the age of each football helmet used in the football program and the dates on which each helmet is reconditioned.

**STEROID
INFORMATION**

Parents and students will be provided with information on steroid use in accordance with TAPPS guidelines and will be required to annually sign the “Parent and Student Notification Steroid Use Agreement Form” electronically provided by the School.

**Interscholastic
Athletic Competition
Based on Biological
Sex**

An interscholastic athletic team sponsored or authorized by the school may not allow a student to compete in an interscholastic athletic competition sponsored or authorized by the school that is designated for the biological sex opposite to the student’s biological sex as correctly stated on the student’s official birth certificate, as described below, or if the student’s official birth certificate is unobtainable, another government record.

Exception

An interscholastic athletic team sponsored or authorized by the school may allow a female student to compete in an interscholastic athletic competition that is designated for male students if a corresponding interscholastic athletic competition designated for female students is not offered or available.

Birth Certificate
Statement

For purposes of this provision, a statement of a student’s biological sex on the student’s birth certificate is considered to have correctly stated the student’s biological sex only if the statement was entered at or near the time of the student’s birth or modified to correct any type of scrivener or clerical error in the student’s biological sex.

Education Code 33.0834

MILITARY
DEPENDENTS

The School shall facilitate the opportunity for transitioning military children’s inclusion in extracurricular activities, regardless of application deadlines, to the extent they are otherwise qualified.

[See FDD]

PARTICIPATION IN
SCHOOL
SPONSORED
EXTRACURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES

Participation in school-sponsored activities is an excellent way for a student to develop talents, receive individual recognition, and build strong friendships with other students; participation, however, is a privilege, not a right.

State law and the rules of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) govern eligibility for participation in many of these activities. The following requirements apply to all extracurricular activities:

1. A student must be enrolled in a least four accredited academic courses to be eligible to participate in extracurricular events.
2. A student who has not reached 19 years of age prior to September 1 of the current school year is eligible to participate in TAPPS activities.
3. A student may participate in TAPPS contests during a normal program of high school courses over a period of four consecutive calendar years after the student first enrolls in the 9th grade.
4. A student who receives a recorded grade average below 70 on a scale of 0-100 in one course for a nine-week grading period will be eligible to participate in practice, competition, and extracurricular activity events.
5. A student who either earns a Grade Point Average (GPA) below 2.25 or receives a grade of below 70 on a scale of 0-100 in two courses for a nine-week grading period, may not compete or participate in an extracurricular activity for the next three weeks following the nine-week period in which the grade average was received. Additional academic

- support and tutoring may be required for students. For additional information regarding additional support and tutoring, please refer to your child's Principal. However, the student may participate in athletic practices. A student is responsible for providing documentation of improved grades to the Athletic Director, coaching staff, and residential staff.
6. A student, who receives an incomplete grade (INC) in two courses for a nine-week grading period, may not practice, compete or participate in an extracurricular activity until incomplete grade(s) are changed to numeral grade(s), in which the grade average was received. A student is responsible for providing documentation of numeral grades to the Athletic Director, coaching staff, and residential staff.
 7. Suspension of a student with a disability that significantly interferes with the student's ability to meet regular academic standards shall be based on the student's failure to meet requirements of the student's Individual Educational Plan, as determined by the ARD Committee.
 8. A student is allowed in a school year up to ten absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of five absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of two-day absences for state competition. All extracurricular activities and public performances, whether TAPPS activities or other activities approved by the Board, are subject to these restrictions.
 9. A student who misses a class because of participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.

The School may identify additional honors courses in the subject areas of English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, or a language other than English for the purposes of extracurricular eligibility, but must identify such courses before the semester in which any exemptions related to extracurricular activities occur.

The School is neither required to nor restricted from considering courses as honors for the purpose of grade point average calculation.

LIMITATIONS ON EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Non-athletic extracurricular activities related to the curriculum and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills including clubs are

subject to the same participation requirements with the following exceptions:

A student ineligible to participate in an extracurricular activity, but who is enrolled in a state-approved course that requires demonstration of the mastery of the essential knowledge and skills in a public performance, may participate in the performance if the requirement for student participation in public is stated in the essential knowledge and skills of the course.

19 TAC 76.1001(a)

**PARENTAL NOTICE
AND CONSENT**

A parent is entitled to full information regarding the school activities of a parent's child except as provided by Education Code 38.004

**VIDEOTAPING
AND RECORDING**

A School employee is not required to obtain the consent of a child's parent before the employee may videotape the child or record the child's voice if the videotape or recording is to be used only for a purpose related to a co-curricular or extracurricular activity.

Education Code 26.009(b)(2)

**DISCRIMINATORY
CLUB**

An extracurricular activity sponsored or sanctioned by the School, including an athletic event or an athletic team practice, may not take place at an athletic club located in the United States that denies any person full and equal enjoyment of equipment or facilities provided by the athletic club because of the person's race, color, religion, creed, national origin, or sex.

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS
RECOGNITION**

If the School allows high school students to earn a letter for academic, athletic, or extracurricular achievements, the School must allow high school students to earn a letter on the basis of a student's participation in a Special Olympics event. *Education Code 33.093*

Adopted: 05-29-1982

Amended: 08-21-1987, 06-01-1994, 05-20-1994, 03-03-1995, 02-15-2018, 04-13-2018, 09-01-2023