

**ATHLETIC COMPETITION**

**Nondiscrimination and Equivalent Opportunities in the Athletic Program**

No student shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be denied equivalent opportunity in, or otherwise be discriminated against in interscholastic, intramural, or club athletics on the basis of actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, ethnic group identification, race, ancestry, national origin, religion, color, mental or physical disability, or any other basis specified in law. (Education Code 220, 221.5, 230; 5 CCR 4920; 34 CFR 106.41)

*(cf. 0410 – Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)*

*(cf. 5145.3 – Nondiscrimination/Harassment)*

The Superintendent or designee may provide single-sex teams when selection for the teams is based on competitive skills. (5 CCR 4921; 34 CFR 106.41)

Each student shall be allowed to participate in any single-sex athletic program or activity consistent with his/her gender identity and for which he/she is otherwise eligible to participate, irrespective of the gender listed on the student's records. (Education Code 221.5)

*(cf. 5125 – Student Records)*

When a school provides only one team in a particular sport for members of one sex, but provides no team in the same sport for members of the other sex, and athletic opportunities in the total program for that sex have been previously limited, members of the excluded sex shall be allowed to try out and compete with the team. The same standards for eligibility shall be applied to every student trying out for the team, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or other protected group status. (5 CCR 4921; 34 CFR 106.41)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that equivalent opportunities are available to both sexes in athletic programs by considering, among other factors: (5 CCR 4922; 34 CFR 106.41)

1. Whether the offered selection of sports and levels of competition effectively accommodate the interests and abilities of both sexes.

The athletic program may be found to effectively accommodate the interests and abilities of both sexes using any one of the following tests: (Education Code 230)

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- a. Whether the interscholastic-level participation opportunities for male and female students are provided in numbers substantially proportionate to their respective enrollments.
  - b. Where the members of one sex have been and are underrepresented among interscholastic athletes, whether the district can show a history and a continuing practice of program expansion that is demonstrably responsive to the developing interests and abilities of the members of that sex.
  - c. Where the members of one sex are underrepresented among interscholastic athletes and the district cannot show a history and continuing practice of program expansion as required in item #1b above, whether the district can demonstrate that the interests and abilities of the members of that sex have been fully and effectively accommodated by the present program.
2. The provision and maintenance of equipment and supplies.
  3. Scheduling of games and practice times, selection of the season for a sport, and location of the games and practices.
  4. Travel and per diem allowances.
  5. Opportunities to receive coaching and academic tutoring.
  6. Assignment and compensation of coaches and tutors.
  7. Provision of locker rooms, practice facilities, and competitive facilities.
  8. Provision of medical and training facilities and services.
  9. Provision of housing and dining facilities and services.
  10. Publicity.
  11. Provision of necessary funds.

Each school that offers competitive athletics shall, at the end of the school year, post on its school web site, or on the district web site if the school does not have a web site, the following information: (Education Code 221.9)

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1. The total enrollment of the school, classified by gender.
2. The number of students enrolled at the school who participate in competitive athletics, classified by gender.
3. The number of boys' and girls' teams, classified by sport and by competition level.

*(cf. 1113 – District and School Web Sites)*

The data reported for items #1-3 above shall reflect the total number of players on a team roster on the official first day of competition. The materials used to compile this information shall be retained by the school for at least three years after the information is posted on the web site. (Education Code 221.9)

*(cf. 3580 – District Records)*

**Concussions and Head Injuries**

The Superintendent or designee shall annually distribute to student athletes and their parents/guardians an information sheet on concussions and head injuries. The student and parent/guardian shall sign and return the information sheet before the student's initiating practice or competition. (Education Code 49475)

*(cf. 5145.6 – Parental Notifications)*

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training to coaches and/or athletic trainers regarding concussion symptoms, prevention, and appropriate response. (Education Code 35179.1, 49032)

*(cf. 4127/4227/4327 – Temporary Athletic Team Coaches)*

If a student athlete is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in an athletic activity, he/she shall be immediately removed from the activity for the remainder of the day. The student shall not be permitted to return to the activity until he/she is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the management of concussions and receives the health care provider's written clearance to return to the activity. If the health care provider determines that the athlete sustained a concussion or a head injury, the athlete shall also complete a graduated return-to-play protocol of no less than seven days in duration under the supervision of a licensed health care provider. (Education Code 49475)

A middle school or high school football team shall not hold a full-contact practice during the off-season and shall not conduct more than two full-contact practices per week during the preseason and regular season (from 30 days before the commencement of the regular season until the completion of the final interscholastic football game of that season).

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In addition, the full-contact portion of a practice shall not exceed 90 minutes in any single day. For these purposes, full-contact practice means a practice where drills or live action is conducted that involves collisions at game speed, where players execute tackles and other activity that is typical of an actual tackle football game. (Education Code 35179.5)

**Sudden Cardiac Arrest**

The Superintendent or designee shall distribute the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) information sheet on sudden cardiac arrest to all student athletes who will be participating in a CIF-governed athletic activity and to their parents/guardians. The student and parent/guardian shall sign and return the information sheet prior to the student's participation in the athletic activity. If an athletic activity is not covered by the CIF, the student and his/her parent/guardian shall, prior to participating in the athletic activity, sign and return an acknowledgement that they have received and reviewed the sudden cardiac arrest information posted on the California Department of Education's web site. (Education Code 33479.2, 33479.3)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training to coaches and/or athletic trainers regarding the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest. (Education Code 33479.6, 33479.7, 35179.1, 49032)

If a student athlete passes out or faints, or is known to have passed out or fainted, while participating in or immediately following his/her participation in an athletic activity, the student shall be removed from participation at that time. If a student exhibits any other symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest, including seizures during exercise, unexplained shortness of breath, chest pains, dizziness, racing heart rate, or extreme fatigue, he/she may be removed from participation by a coach or other employee who observes these symptoms. If any such symptoms are observed, notification shall be given to the student's parent/guardian so that the parent/guardian can determine the treatment, if any, the student should seek. A student who has been removed from participation shall not be permitted to return until he/she is evaluated and given written clearance to return to participation by a health care provider. (Education Code 33479.2, 33479.5)

**Additional Parental Notifications**

Before a student participates in interscholastic athletic activities, the Superintendent or designee shall, in addition to providing his/her parents/guardians with information on the signs and symptoms of concussions and sudden cardiac arrest as described above, send a notice to the student's parents/guardians which:

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1. Contains information about the procedures for filing a discrimination complaint that arises out of an interscholastic athletic activity, including the name of the district's Title IX Coordinator.

*(cf. 1312.3 – Uniform Complaint Procedures)*

2. Includes a copy of students' Title IX rights pursuant to Education Code 221.8.
3. Explains that there is an element of risk associated with all athletic competitions and that the district cannot guarantee that students will not be injured, despite a commitment to every participant's health and welfare.

*(cf. 3530 – Risk Management/Insurance)*

4. Provides information about insurance protection pursuant to Education Code 32221.5.

*(cf. 5143 – Insurance)*

5. Requests parental permission for the student to participate in the program and, if appropriate, be transported by the district to and from competitions.

*(cf. 3541.1 – Transportation for School-Related Trips)*

6. States the district's expectation that students adhere strictly to all safety rules, regulations, and instructions, as well as rules and guidelines related to conduct and sportsmanship.

*(cf. 5144 – Discipline)*

*(cf. 5144.1 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)*

7. Includes a copy of the local California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) league rules.
8. Includes information about the CIF bylaw and district policy requiring any student athlete and his/her parent/guardian to sign a statement that the student will not use steroids, unless prescribed by a licensed health care practitioner, or prohibited dietary supplements that include substances banned by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency.

*(cf. 5131.63 – Steroids)*

Regulation  
approved: September 10, 2009  
revised: December 11, 2018

**MURRIETA VALLEY USD**  
Murrieta, California