

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The Berlin Board of Education believes individual students will benefit through opportunities to grow physically and intellectually through their experience in self-discipline and their contribution to team effort made possible through competitive interschool and intramural team and individual sports activities.

It is the Board's policy to provide interscholastic athletic competition in a variety of sports. Students shall be allowed to participate in school sponsored sports on the basis of their physical condition and desire. Qualified personnel should be provided for coaching and supervising such programs. In addition, it is the policy of the Board to provide intramural athletic activities whenever possible.

The purpose of school athletics is both educational and recreational. The athletic program should encourage participation by as many boys and girls as possible and should carry the best interests of the participants as the first consideration. This should be done without unreasonable interference with other obligations in the school community.

It is recognized that a well-organized athletic program is a potent factor in the morale of a school student body and an important phase of good community-school relations. Too great an emphasis on winning contests or too consistent a record of losing them are both harmful to the development of good attitudes among students and the public.

Policy Conditions

1. No student may start practice for any athletic team until he or she has been examined and approved by a medical doctor and until written informed consent has been obtained from the parent and placed on file.
2. The athletic program is an integral part of the school curriculum and comes under the authority of the principal to the same degree as do all other phases of the curriculum.
3. Those teachers having direct responsibility for the conduct of the athletic program of the school are required to conform in all ways to the general education program as laid down by the Board and administration, including such matters as schedules, financial expenditures, relationships with other schools, and health and safety regulations.
4. Berlin High School is a member of the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) and in all athletic matters will adhere firmly to the rules and regulations of that body and to the philosophy of sports which NHIAA encourages. The eligibility of students to participate in the athletic program is determined in accordance with NHIAA regulations.

5. Expenditures for the athletic department are incorporated as part of the general budget of the Board. Coaches of each sport will submit their budgetary needs to the athletic director for the next school year, and the latter will present the total athletic budget request to the principal for approval and inclusion in the general budget. No expenditures for the athletic purposes may be made in excess of those approved in the budget without approval of the Superintendent.
6. District participation in interscholastic athletics shall be subject to approval by the Board. This shall include approval of membership in any leagues, associations, or conferences, and rules for student participation.
7. The Board will support the Chain of Command for Berlin Athletics. When a problem arises within a sports program involving a student athlete the following steps must be taken:
 - A. Student Athlete to meet with Coach
 - B. Student Athlete to meeting with Coach, Parents, and Athletic Director
 - C. Student Athlete to meet with Coach, Parents, Athletic Director, Principal, Superintendent
 - D. Student Athlete to meet with Coach, Parents, Athletic Director, Principal, Superintendent, School Board

Berlin High School Athletic Rules – NHIAA

Scholastic Standing

- A. No pupil who has failed to pass four (4) units of work* during the previous grading period** shall represent the school in any interscholastic contest. A minimum of four (4) units of work per grading period is required for participation in interscholastic athletics. Schools utilizing alternative scheduling formats like block scheduling or trimesters should calculate and equate their system to meet the intent of passing four (4) units of work in a traditional format (i.e. in a 4x4 block program the student would need to pass a minimum of two (2) subjects to meet the standard.

Definitions:

1. Basic Ranking Period – Not less than six (6) weeks
2. Previous Basic Ranking Period – Indicates the last prior grading quarter of the school year.
3. Passing Grade – As determined by the NHIAA individual member high schools

B. Summer School: A student athlete may not regain athletic eligibility by making up academic deficiencies or failures of the regular school year during the summer months.

C. Incompletes: Incompletes are not to be considered to be passing grades for the purposes of eligibility.

*A unit of work reflects a course that meets the equivalent of five (5) times per week

**This is interpreted as the school's previous ranking period not the student's previous ranking period.

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