



BP 6145.2

Student Policy

Board Policy: Athletic Competition

The GCC Board recognizes that the athletic program constitutes an integral component of the educational program and helps to build a positive school climate. The athletic program also promotes the physical, social, and emotional well-being and character development of participating students. The athletic program shall be designed to meet students' interests and abilities and shall be varied in scope to attract wide participation.

All athletic teams shall be supervised by qualified coaches to ensure that student athletes receive appropriate instruction and guidance related to safety, health, sports skills, and sportsmanship. Athletic events shall be officiated by qualified personnel.

The Board encourages business and community support for GCC athletic programs, subject to applicable GCC policies and regulations governing advertisements and donations.

Nondiscrimination and Equivalent Opportunities in the Athletic Program

The GCC's athletic program shall be free from discrimination and discriminatory practices prohibited by state and federal law including, but not limited to, the use of any racially derogatory or discriminatory school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that equivalent athletic opportunities are provided for males and females and that students are permitted to participate in athletic activities consistent with their gender identity.

Any complaint regarding the GCC's athletic program shall be filed in accordance with the GCC's Uniform Complaint Procedures.

California Interscholastic Federation

Any GCC school that participates in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) shall conduct its athletic activities in accordance with CIF bylaws and rules and any applicable GCC policy and regulation. The Superintendent or designee shall have responsibility for the GCC's interscholastic athletic program, while the principal or designee at each participating school shall be responsible for site-level decisions, as appropriate.

The Board shall annually designate a representative to the local CIF league from each school that participates in CIF sports. The Superintendent or designee shall recommend a candidate for the position who demonstrates an understanding of the GCC's goals for student learning and

interscholastic activities, knowledge of the athletic programs, awareness of the implications of league decisions for the school and the GCC, and individual interpersonal communication and leadership skills.

The designated representative(s) shall vote on issues that impact interscholastic athletics at the league and section levels, perform any other duties required by the CIF league, and report regularly to the Board on league, section, and statewide issues related to athletic programs.

E-Sports

GCC schools may elect to include E-Sports as part of their athletic offerings by contracting with approved vendors. The purpose of E-Sports, as explained by the CIF, is team and personal development, student engagement, STEM/STEAM connections, potential for college scholarships and professional opportunities. Like traditional athletics, all E-Sports practices and games shall be supervised by a coach or admin designee.

E-Sport participants shall be held to the same standards of student eligibility, sportsmanship, athletic competition and safety measures detailed in this policy with the exception of medical requirements. Medical clearance and annual notifications (heat illness and concussions) are not required for participation.

Schools who offer E-Sports shall ensure students have an electronic device agreement on file and that it is upheld. Schools shall develop participation expectations, ensure student privacy is maintained at all times and a safe and fair environment is established.

Student Eligibility

Eligibility requirements for student participation in the GCC's interscholastic athletic program, including requirements pertaining to academic achievement, shall be the same as those set by the GCC for participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities.

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students participating in interscholastic athletics governed by the CIF satisfy CIF eligibility requirements.

Students shall not be charged a fee to participate in an athletic program including, but not limited to, a fee to cover the cost of uniforms, locks, lockers, or athletic equipment.

Sportsmanship

The Board values the quality and integrity of the athletic program and the character development of student athletes. Student athletes, coaches, parents/guardians, spectators, and others are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play during all athletic competitions. They shall also abide by the core principles of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship and the Code of Ethics adopted by CIF.

Students and staff shall be subject to disciplinary action for improper conduct.

Health and Safety

The Board desires to give student health and safety the highest consideration in planning and conducting athletic activities.

Students shall have a medical clearance before participating in interscholastic athletic programs. Care shall be taken to ensure that all athletic trainings and competitions are conducted in a manner that will not overtax the physical capabilities of the participants. When appropriate, protective equipment shall be used to prevent or minimize injuries.

Coaches and appropriate GCC employees shall take every possible precaution to ensure that athletic equipment is kept in safe and serviceable condition. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all athletic equipment is cleaned and inspected for safety before the beginning of each school year.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a written emergency action plan that describes the location of automated external defibrillator(s) and procedures to be followed in the event of sudden cardiac arrest or other medical emergency related to the athletic program's activities or events. The plan shall be posted in accordance with guidelines of the National Federation of State High School Associations.

In the event of a serious injury or a perceived imminent risk to a student's health, during or immediately after an athletic activity, the coach or any other GCC employee who is present shall remove the student athlete from the activity, observe universal precautions in handling blood or other bodily fluid, and/or seek medical treatment for the student as appropriate.

Whenever a serious injury or illness is suffered by a student athlete, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the student's parent/guardian of the date, time, and extent of any injury or illness suffered by the student and any actions taken to treat the student.

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 any actual or perceived characteristic including but not limited to; the student's race, religious creed, color, national origin, immigration status, citizenship status, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

The Superintendent or designee may provide single-sex teams when selection for the teams is based on competitive skills.

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.

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.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that equivalent opportunities are available to both sexes in athletic programs by considering, among other factors:

1. Whether the offered selection of sports and levels of competition offered 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:

- 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 GCC 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 GCC cannot show a history and a continuing practice of program expansion as required in item #1b above, whether the GCC 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 and 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 website, or on the GCC web site if the school does not have a web site the following information:

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

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.

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 initiates practice or competition.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training to coaches and/or athletic trainers regarding concussion symptoms, prevention, and appropriate response.

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.

Heat Illness

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training to coaches and/or athletic trainers regarding the signs and symptoms of, and the appropriate response to, heat illness, including heat cramps, heat syncope, heat exhaustion, and exertional heat stroke.

To assist in the prevention of heat illness, coaches and/or athletic trainers shall gradually increase the intensity and duration of exercise to acclimate student athletes to practice in the heat, provide adequate rest breaks, make water available during all athletic activities, and alter practice plans in extreme environmental conditions.

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 the student's participation 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.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training to coaches and/or athletic trainers regarding the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest.

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.

Automated External Defibrillators

The Superintendent or designee shall acquire at least one automated external defibrillator (AED) for each district school and shall make the AED(s) available to coaches, athletic trainers, and/or other authorized persons at athletic activities or events for the purpose of providing emergency care or treatment to students, spectators, and other individuals in attendance at athletic activities and events.

The district shall comply with all requirements of Health and Safety Code pertaining to any AED acquired by the district, including, but not limited to, regular maintenance and testing of the AED and the provision and posting of information regarding the proper use of the AED.

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:

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

2. Includes a copy of students' Title IX rights pursuant to Education Code
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
4. Provides information about insurance protection pursuant to Education Code
5. Requests parental permission for the student to participate in the program and, if appropriate, be transported by the district to and from competitions
6. States the Board of Education's expectation that students adhere strictly to all safety rules, regulations, and instructions, as well as rules and guidelines related to conduct and sportsmanship
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