

OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT	Policy Code: JJIF
Draft to Policy Committee: March 13, 2013 First Read School Board – May 1, 2013 Second Read/Adoption School Board: June 5, 2013 Policy Committee: October 12, 2023 School Board First Read: December 6, 2023 School Board Second Read/Adoption: December 20, 2023	Page 1 of 2

Athletic Policy-Sanctioning of Sports

The Oyster River School Board recognizes the value of athletic participation to the development of well-rounded students. Significant evidence exists to show that students who participate in interscholastic sports perform better academically than those who do not. The Oyster River School Board promotes athletic participation in the belief that successful athletic programs promote individual and team potential by helping to develop high standards of competence, character, civility and citizenship for student-athletes.

The following definitions are guidelines the District will use to identify the process whereby the School Board adopts an athletic program as a school extracurricular activity and accepts some level of responsibility for coordinating and supporting the activity. There are three levels of sanctioning:

- A. **Level 1 Club sport.** This is the first level of sanctioning. The school district, through its administration, hires and evaluates coaches and arranges scheduling (practice and interscholastic), transportation, fields. The club itself or an affiliated booster organization is responsible for all associated costs and will meet with athletic director to set up a financial budget and other arrangements. Transportation may or may not be funded

- B. **Level 2 School sport.** This is the second level of sanctioning. The School District assumes the responsibilities listed above for a club sport. In addition, at the Board’s discretion, through their vote, it also pays for varsity, junior varsity and middle school (if any) coaches, officials, game managements costs and facilities cost. All additional costs associated with the program will be paid through booster organizations or individual families. Transportation may or may not be funded.

- C. **Level 3 School-sponsored sport.** This is the final level of sanctioning. The School Board, at the Board’s discretion, through their vote, assumes all the responsibilities listed above for a school sport. In addition, the school district pays for some or all of the activity's uniforms and equipment. The level of responsibility for uniforms and equipment may vary from activity to activity depending on the costs involved and the individual agreement between the school district and any affiliated booster organization that shares costs for the activity. The school district does not normally pay costs (except coaches and insurance costs) associated with teams other than varsity and junior varsity, reserve and middle school teams. Transportation may or may not be funded.

The Decision Process:

Decisions on sanctioning are made by the School Board based on the advice of the athletic director and building principal. In all cases, the athletic director consults with the principal and superintendent prior to presentation to the School Board.

Factors for Consideration. In making sanctioning decisions, the athletic director and the School Board shall consider the following factors on a case-by-case basis:

- A. Is the sport in compliance with Title IX and other statutory guidelines?
- B. Is there a gender equity issue that would be addressed by the addition of a new activity?
- C. Is there a feeder system at lower grade levels indicative of community, family, and athlete support of the activity?
- D. Is the activity sponsored by the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association?
- E. How many students would likely participate in the sport and sustain the numbers for many years?
- F. Are there qualified coaches able and willing to coach?
- G. Are there facilities for practicing and playing that can be used without undue hardship to existing teams?

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- H. What is the particular level of logistical and financial support expected from the school? In particular, what would the total cost to the district be per student projected to participate in the program?
- I. What is the timeline or potential for the sport to want to upgrade within our sport sanctioning levels?
- J. Is there student capacity to add additional sports?
- K. Can the program be added and co-exist with existing programs?
- L. Is the program being advocated by students?
- M. In no case will negotiated stipends be exceeded.

Cross Reference:

JJA – Student Activities, Clubs and Organizations

Legal Reference:

Title IX Guidelines
NHIAA Rules and Regulations