

Managing Extracurricular Activities in Public Schools

NDSBA BRUNCH & LEARN

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NDSBA
NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL
BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Today's Presenters

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School Board's Role

- Establishes overall policies and guidelines
- Sets the vision for extracurricular programs
- Approves budgets for extracurricular activities
- Reviews and approves major policy changes
- May approve personnel positions and pay



$y = g(x)$

Secant Lines

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

$$f(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+h)^2 - x^2}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2 + 2xh + h^2 - x^2}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{2xh + h^2}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} h(2x + h)$$

School Administration's Role


- ✓ Implements board-approved policies
- ✓ Day-to-day management of extracurricular programs
- ✓ Handles disciplinary actions and enforcement
- ✓ Coordinates with coaches, advisors, and NDHSAA
- ✓ Enforces student participation regulations and makes decisions regarding suspension and discipline

Personnel Issues

- Extracurricular coach and advisor positions generally considered **classified staff positions**
 - ✓ What if filled by administrators or teachers?
 - ✓ What does the negotiated agreement say?
- Typical for school board to delegate authority/responsibility to hire, fire and supervise classified staff to school administration
 - ✓ For extracurricular positions – superintendent, principal and/or athletic director
- Authority generally delegated by board policy
 - ✓ Policy DBAA (Recruitment, Hiring, and Background Checks for New Classified Staff)
 - ✓ Policy DKBA (Separation of At-Will Employees)

Extracurricular Participation Requirements

- Policy FFE (Extracurricular Participation Requirements) – *required by NDHSAA Constitution and By-laws*
- Participation is a privilege, not a right**
- District responsible to enforce ND law and NDHSAA requirements
 - Cover both on-campus and off-campus behaviors
- Covers all student activities, including but not limited to, those sponsored by NDHSAA



Tobacco, Alcohol, & Other Drug use

- Board policy generally prohibits student presence at gatherings with illegal substance use
- Presence regarded as possession
- Consequences align with NDHSAA by-laws
 - First offense – suspension of six consecutive weeks
 - Subsequent offenses – suspension of eighteen weeks (if occurring within eighteen weeks of previous offense)
 - May impose additional disciplinary measures
- Principal/Superintendent to consider knowledge and opportunity to leave



Academic Requirements

- Board has ability to set academic requirements for participation
- Board policy typically defines what is considered a ‘failing grade’ for purposes of participation (discretion left to board)
- For special education students, ability to participate may be conditioned on progress towards goals of IEP (BE CAREFUL!!)

Off-Season Violations

- Policy and regulations in effect all year round
- Extended to next activity season
- Minimum two-week or two-contest suspension
- Applies to next complete activity participation

NDCC 15.1-09-33.4: Student Misconduct and Extracurricular Activities

School board must prohibit a student from participating in any extracurricular activity if:

- Student has pled guilty to or been convicted of a crime and sentenced in accordance with ND law
- The student is subject to an order prohibiting contact, a disorderly conduct restraining order, or protection order at the request of another student or employee
- The principal of the school receives information pertaining to a juvenile court offense or order



Addressing Common Parent Concerns

Common complaints/concerns:

- Playing time/position selection
- Team selection/cuts
- Coaching/advisor decisions
- Safety concerns
- Academic impact

Usually follow “chain of command”
procedures



Recommended Strategies

- Host pre-season parent meetings
- Provide written guidelines on participation requirements and regulation
- Encourage player-coach communication as first step
- Follow chain of command and complaint procedures established in board policy

Managing Unruly Spectators and Fans – Preventative Measures

- Clearly communicate behavior expectations
- Post code of conduct visibly at all venues, include in student and parent handbooks
- Train staff on de-escalation techniques
- Implement a warning system before ejection

Responding to Spectator Misconduct – Steps to Take

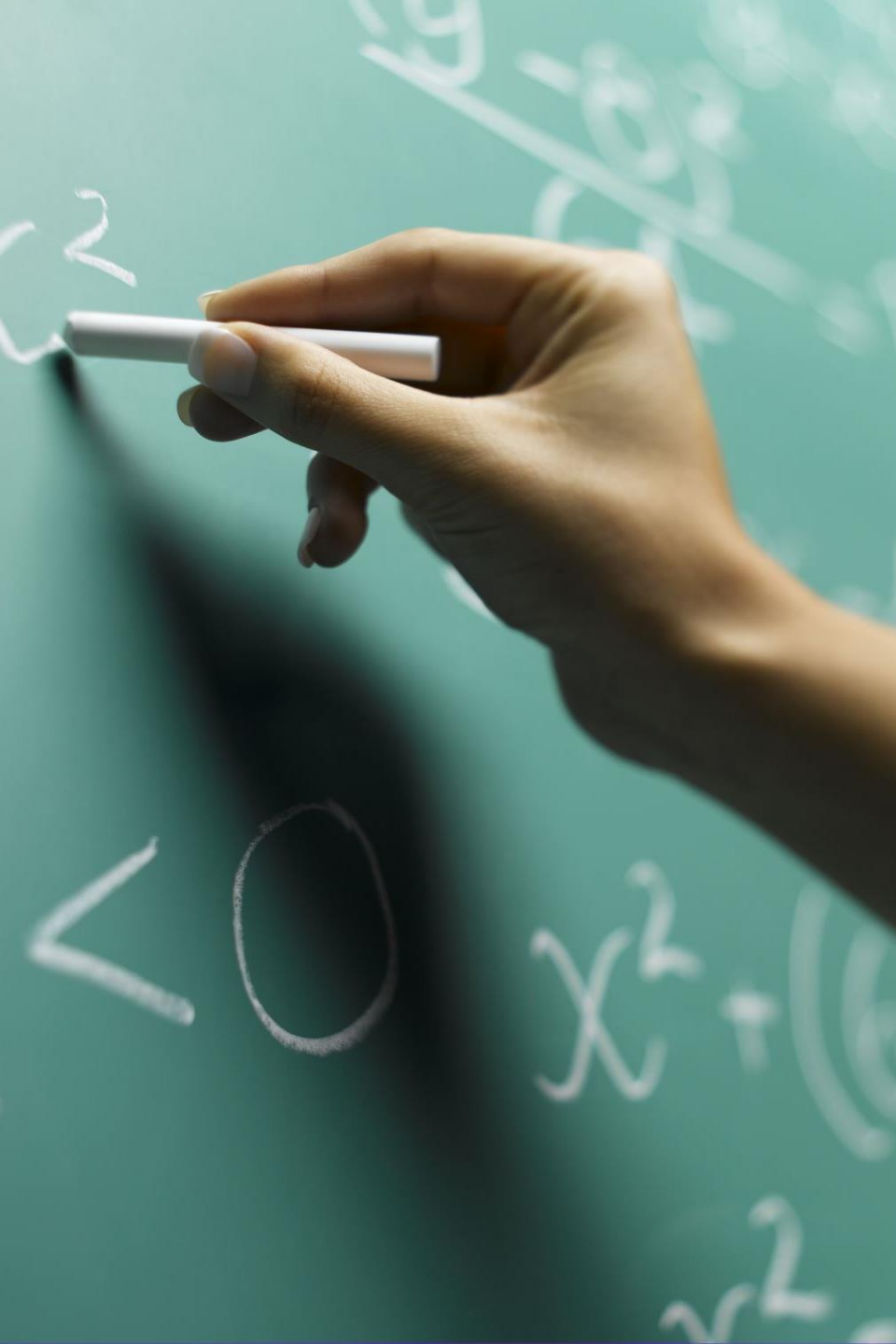
1. Prompt intervention by designated staff

2. Issue verbal warnings for minor infractions

3. Remove persistent offenders from event

4. Ban repeat offenders from future events**

5. Involve law enforcement if necessary



Follow-up Actions

- Document all incidents
- Review and improve security measures regularly
- Collaborate with neighboring schools on consistent policies

NDHSAA Ejection Policy

*Any attendee ejected from a regular season or NDHSAA tournament contest will incur a minimum three (3) game/event suspension from that team's games/events and all other NDHSAA games/events in the interim at any level of competition. If the ejection occurs with fewer than three (3) games/events remaining in the team's season, the suspension will carry over to the school's sports season which immediately follows. An attendee ejected for a second time during a school year shall be suspended for a minimum of one (1) calendar year from all NDHSAA regular and postseason events. **NDHSAA member schools may increase these minimum penalties at their discretion.***

**Updated on Sep 11, 2024

Participation in Extracurriculars by Homeschooled Students

- NDCC 15.1-23-16
- Homeschooled students may participate in extracurricular activities:
 - ✓ Under the auspices of the child's school district of residence
OR
 - ✓ Under the auspices of an approved nonpublic school, if permitted by administrator of the school
- Parent must designate extracurricular activities and school in statement of intent required to be filed with school district of residence under NDCC 15.1-23-02
- Homeschooled students who are allowed to participate are subject to same standards for participation as required of full-time students at these schools (e.g., conduct and academic requirements)
- NDHSAA – once child's parent has selected the school in which child will participate, the child is subject to the transfer rules as provided in NDHSAA Constitution and By-Laws

Students with Disabilities and Extracurricular Participation

- Students with disabilities have a right, under Section 504, to an **equal opportunity** to participate in school's extracurricular programs
- Must not exclude students based on stereotypes and assumptions – must make an individualized inquiry to determine if there are **reasonable accommodations**, or **necessary aids and services**, which would allow student chance to participate
- IEP or 504 team makes these decisions
- Examples of accommodations, aids, and services may include:
 - Using a light along with a starter pistol so that a deaf runner can compete in track or cross country
 - Providing for or assisting with administration of needed medicine like insulin

Students with Disabilities and Extracurricular Participation

- This does NOT mean:
 - Changing essential elements that effect the fundamental nature of the game or activity
 - Giving a student with a disability an unfair advantage over other competitors
 - Changing the nature of selective teams – students with disabilities have to compete with everyone else and legitimately earn their place on the team
 - Compromising student safety
- District need not provide a modification, aid, or service if doing so would put an undue burden on its program
- **HOWEVER**, generally believed that reasonable modifications and necessary aids and services should NOT be unduly burdensome



QUESTIONS?
