

Williamson County Board of Education

**Adopted Date:**

6/18/01
Rev 9/20/04;10/17/05;
6/16/08; 5/17/10;
Editorial 6/2/14; Rev.
9/21/17

4.301

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS
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I. General Provisions

A. All WCS school sponsored sports programs must be sanctioned by the Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association (TSSAA), the Tennessee Middle Schools Athletic Association (TMSAA), or the Williamson Middle Athletic Association (WMAA). In addition to the items listed below, all other district policies and procedures relating to school operations remain in effect for activities relating to school-sponsored athletic events.

1. The Principal shall be responsible for the administration and control of the interscholastic athletic program within his school.

2. The Principal or his designee is required to accompany an athletic team on its trips, and all trip requests shall be made according to the procedures established by the Williamson County Schools administration.

3. Coaches shall follow the chain of command procedures for Williamson County Schools for any request related to athletics. Coaches must obtain a purchase order prior to committing the district or any school to purchasing any products or service.

4. School athletics are to be coached by personnel employed by Williamson County Schools. Such coaches are to be compensated only from Board funds, according to the current salary schedule. Coaches shall not receive pay other than from Williamson County Schools for any athletic-related services provided to any student who is or may be participating in that coach's sport except that coaches may participate in school authorized clinics, camps, etc.

5. Any student, except as outlined below, shall be eligible to try out for any athletic team. Academic and citizenship requirements for being a member of an athletic team shall be carefully considered and developed to promote the welfare of the individual student. Only students in grade 6-12 shall engage in interscholastic activities.

6. Students who move out of their school transportation zone but continue attendance in the original school per Board Policy 1.703 or any other applicable policy may continue to participate in athletics. The Board specifically forbids recruiting of students in any fashion.

7. Students must have a current athletic physical on file, based on TSSAA standards, before being allowed to participate in any extracurricular activity involving athletics in the Williamson County School System. These activities include but are not limited to weight training outside of the instructional day, conditioning, open facilities, tryouts, practices, and athletic contests. Cost of the examination shall be borne by the parent or guardian of the student.

8. Schools may not schedule and students may not participate in any athletic team practice during the school day. No student or faculty may be dismissed during the school day from school premises or the regular activities of the student's or school's schedule in order to play an athletic contest or interscholastic game without the written approval of the Superintendent of Schools which will be reported to the Board. This restriction would NOT apply to tournaments/play-off games scheduled by the TSSAA.

9. It shall be the responsibility of the parent(s) or guardian to provide health and hospitalization insurance for all students participating in interscholastic athletics.

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- 1 10. No person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of,
2 be treated differently from another person, or otherwise be discriminated against in any athletic
3 program of the school. Equal athletic opportunity shall be provided for members of both sexes.
4
- 5 11. Coaches and other employees of the school district shall not encourage, permit, condone or
6 tolerate hazing activities as part of the athletic program.
7
- 8 12. All fundraising requests related to school-sponsored athletic programs must adhere to WCS
9 Board policies governing fundraisers.
10
- 11 13. Schools may charge WCS BOE authorized fees to students who choose to participate in school-
12 sponsored athletic activities.
13
- 14 B. Any sport not sanctioned by the TSSAA, TMSAA or WMAA sports is not school-sponsored and is
15 often referred to as a "club sport". Because they are not WCS programs, no school funds may be
16 used to support these individual or team sports programs.
17
- 18 1. Schools cannot provide a pay supplement to any individual who is acting as a coach for any club
19 sport.
20
- 21 2. While WCS employees may choose to serve as coaches for the separate legal entities managing
22 these club sports, at no time should the club sport responsibilities be performed during the
23 employee's regularly scheduled work day nor should release time ever be granted for the employee
24 to perform these duties or attend any club sport event.
25
- 26 3. If there is a student-led club associated with a club sport, it shall be established pursuant to Board
27 Policy 4.802, Student Equal Access.
28
- 29 4. Any organizer/coach of a high school club sport activity who wishes for participants to be eligible
30 to receive a waiver of the .5 elective P.E. credit must submit the appropriate form to the school's
31 athletic director for approval from the district office. Individual participants will have the P.E. credit
32 waived only after the activity has received the approval by district office staff AND the individual
33 students have submitted the appropriate form to his/her school counselor.
34
- 35 5. Schools may not charge any fees for participation in club sport activities.
36
- 37 6. All fundraising requests must adhere to WCS Board policies governing fundraisers.
38
- 39 7. Schools may not authorize student field trips for participation in club sport activities.
40
- 41 8. Schools may provide meeting/practice space for club sport activities in accordance with board
42 policy.
43
- 44 9. Club sports affiliated with Non-Profits may be included in school and district communication.
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- 46 10. Students participating in club sport activities are subject to all school attendance rules and
47 procedures applicable to any other students.
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1 II. High School Interscholastic Activities

- 2
- 3 A. The By-Laws of Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association shall be adopted as a part of the
- 4 regulation for the operation and control of athletics in the high schools of Williamson County.
- 5
- 6 B. To be eligible to participate in the interscholastic athletic activities during any semester, the high
- 7 school student shall at least meet current TSSAA standards.
- 8
- 9 C. Any student classified as a second semester junior or as a senior who moves out of the county may
- 10 complete his/her senior year, with payment of tuition, and continue to participate in athletics within
- 11 the guidelines of the athletic governing body.
- 12
- 13 D. If a high school student is forced to withdraw from school or is prevented from enrolling in school due
- 14 to illness or accident to the student, the Principal shall review the full details submitted by the
- 15 student or his/her parent(s) concerning the student's illness or accident and make a ruling with
- 16 regard to the student's eligibility provided the student was eligible at the time the illness or accident
- 17 forced the student to withdraw or prevented the student from enrolling in school. (In the case of
- 18 TSSAA athletics, the Principal may submit to the Executive Director of the TSSAA the full details
- 19 and request a ruling with regard to the student's eligibility. If ruled eligible, such a student shall be
- 20 credited with a semester of attendance for interscholastic athletic purposes for the semester of non-
- 21 attendance or withdrawal.)
- 22

23 III. Middle School Interscholastic Athletics

- 24
- 25 A. The By-Laws of the Williamson Middle Athletic Association shall be adopted as part of the regulation
- 26 for the operation and control of athletics in the middle schools of Williamson County with the
- 27 exception of those middle schools that have elected to participate as members of the Tennessee
- 28 Middle Schools Athletic Association. Those schools shall be governed by the By-Laws of TMSAA.
- 29
- 30 B. Eligibility for Middle School Athletics for those middle schools governed by WMSA will be determined
- 31 as follows:
- 32
- 33 1. The middle school student shall have passed (70 or above) four (4) academic subjects:
- 34 communication arts (reading, language, spelling), math, science and social studies in the previous
- 35 nine-week grading period in order to be eligible to try-out for a middle school athletic team. The
- 36 previous nine-week grading period is the last nine-week period school was in session.
- 37
- 38 2. The following procedures should be used to determine eligibility to continue participation in a sport
- 39 during sport season:
- 40
- 41 a. Coaches will provide subject area teachers with names of student participants when teams
- 42 are formed.
- 43 b. Teachers will certify those students with a passing grade (70 or above) at the end of each
- 44 established grading period.
- 45 c. Students whose grades in any of the four (4) academic subjects listed above fall below 70 for
- 46 the nine-week period will be placed on probation. Students on probation may practice, but
- 47 not dress out or play. As soon as the grade has improved to an average of 70 or above, the
- 48 student will be allowed to participate on the team, except that a student shall not dress out or
- 49 play for at least one (1) week after being placed on probation.
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- 1 d. For any student whose grade does not improve to an average of 70 or above in each of the
2 four (4) academic subjects by the mid-term progress report, that student will be suspended
3 from participation until the next nine-week grading period
4 e. Principals are responsible for enforcing "probation and ineligibility status".
5

6 C. Eligibility for Middle School Athletics for those middle schools who are member of TMSAA will be
7 determined as follows:
8

- 9 1. The middle school student shall have been academically promoted to the next higher grade. Any
10 student repeating a grade is ineligible to participate. A student who is ineligible at the beginning of
11 the school year may gain eligibility the second semester by passing five (5) subjects, or the
12 equivalent, the preceding semester, provided the student is not repeating the same grade.
13
14 2. If a middle school student is forced to withdraw from school or prevented from enrolling in school,
15 due to the student's illness, his/her accident, or his/her disability, the principal may request a ruling
16 in regard to the student's eligibility, provided the student was eligible at the time the illness or
17 accident forced the student to withdraw or prevented the student from enrolling in school. If ruled
18 eligible, such a student shall be charged with a semester of attendance for athletic purposes for the
19 semester of non-attendance or withdrawal.
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41 Legal References:
42 TCA 49-6-1002
43 RRMS 0520-1-2-.25
44 RRMS 0520-1-3 -.08(2)(b)
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Cross References:
5.608 Tutoring for Pay
1.703 School Attendance Areas, Zoning and Nonresident Students
TSSAA Handbook
TMSAA Handbook