

SPONSORSHIP AND EVALUATION OF ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

NEPN/NSBA Code: JJIB

It is the Board's desire to offer Rangeley Lakes Regional School students athletic programming that provides diverse, developmentally appropriate opportunities and also encourages student participation. At the same time, the Board recognizes that resources may not be available to fund all of the sports in which students and the community have an interest. In order to provide students with meaningful athletic experiences while maintaining high quality, sustainable programs, the Board adopts this policy governing sponsorship and evaluation of the school's athletic programs.

Through sponsorship, the school assumes responsibility for, and control of, a particular athletic program. Sponsorship requires Board approval. The school assumes responsibility only for those interscholastic athletic programs the Board has designated as school-sponsored.

The Board will approve for sponsorship only those programs that are consistent with its philosophy and policies and with regulations established by the appropriate governing bodies, including the Maine Principal's Association (which refers to its regulations as "policies"). Sponsorship does not mean that funding will be provided in whole or in part through the school's budget. Sponsorship is required even for activities that may be funded in full by booster organizations.

Sponsorship is required before any team may represent itself using the school name, to be eligible for league play and tournament participation, or to be eligible for school athletic awards.

In order to assess the sustainability of athletic activities, each ongoing activity will be evaluated on at least a five-year cycle.

The Board establishes the following process for the approval and evaluation of athletic programs.

CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL AND EVALUATION OF ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for developing a process (rubric) for evaluating potential athletic programs and assessing the viability of existing programs. The process (rubric) shall take into consideration the following factors, which shall be applied consistently to all programs:

1. Student body interest;
2. Community interest;
3. Gender equity;
4. Impact on facilities;
5. Impact on existing programs;
6. Impact on administration and staff;
7. Expenses;
8. Availability of competition;
9. Potential to field competitive teams;
10. Alignment with Board philosophy and policies; The Principles of Sports Done Right; and
11. Availability of funds, consideration of extraordinary costs (e.g., rental of facilities, transportation, specialized equipment), and other relevant data;
12. Potential for pursuit of life long activity.

The process (rubric) should include a scale for weighting and rating these criteria and for reporting a total score that may be used for comparison purposes.

APPROVAL OF NEW ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Sponsorship of all new interscholastic athletic programs must be approved in advance. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for making and supporting recommendations to the Board at least six months prior to the proposed starting date. Recommendations are to be made based on data from the evaluation process (rubric).

The Board may impose conditions that must be met for the program to be approved. Following initial approval, new programs will be placed on a one-year probationary status.

Six months prior to the end of the probationary period, the Superintendent or his/her designee must submit a report to the Board including recommendations and support for continued Board approval. The Board may provide for continuing approval, deny approval, or extend the probationary status for one additional year. Probationary status shall not exceed three years.

EVALUATION OF EXISTING OR ONGOING SCHOOL-SPONSORED ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Every athletic program will be reviewed on at least a five-year cycle.

The purpose of evaluation is to ensure that all existing or previously approved programs continue to meet the standards and criteria established by the Board.

The Board may authorize a program to be reviewed out of sequence based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

The evaluation of existing or ongoing approved programs will be done using the same process used to assess proposed programs.

Based upon the data, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall make a recommendation to the Board as to whether the program should continue or be deleted. The Board may vote to delete any program that it deems no longer sustainable or in keeping with Board philosophy, standards or criteria.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

The Superintendent may appoint a program evaluation or review committee to perform evaluations of proposed and existing athletic programs. Any such committee must have balanced representation including the Superintendent, the Athletic Director, the Principal, teachers who are employed as coaches, parents, students and the community. Any such committee will use the process for program evaluation. The committee shall be advisory to the Board.

Cross Reference: JJI- Philosophy of Athletics; JJIBA- Hiring and Evaluation of Coaches;
JJIBB- Relations with Booster Groups; JJIBC- Sportsmanship

Adopted: December 19 2006

Revised: July 30, 2013

Reviewed: 6.26.2018

Reviewed: 6.6.2022