
SPONSORSHIP AND EVALUATION OF ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

It is the Bangor School Committee's desire to offer Bangor School Department students athletic programming that provides diverse, developmentally appropriate opportunities and encourages student participation. At the same time, the Committee 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 Committee adopts this policy governing sponsorship and evaluation of the school unit's athletic programs.

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

The Committee 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 Principals' 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 unit's budget.

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

A. Criteria for Approval and Evaluation of Athletic Programs

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

1. Student 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. An established youth program for Bangor students with a link to Bangor High School;
11. Alignment with Committee philosophy and policies; and
12. Availability of funds, consideration of extraordinary costs (e.g., rental of facilities, transportation, specialized equipment), and other relevant data.

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



B. Approval of New Athletic Programs

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

The Committee may impose conditions that must be met for the program to be approved at the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Following initial approval, new programs will be placed on a two-year probationary status.

Six months prior to the end of the probationary period, the Superintendent/designee must submit a report to the Committee including recommendations and support for continued Committee approval. The Committee may provide for continuing approval, deny approval, or extend the probationary status for one additional year. Probationary status shall not exceed two (2) years.

C. Evaluation of Existing or Ongoing School-Sponsored Athletic Programs

Every athletic program will be reviewed on 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 Committee.

The Committee may authorize a program to be reviewed out of sequence based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent/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/designee shall make a recommendation to the Committee as to whether the program should continue. The Committee may vote not to continue any program that it deems no longer sustainable or in keeping with Committee philosophy, standards, or criteria.

D. Delegation of Authority

The Superintendent/designee may appoint a program evaluation or review committee to perform evaluations of proposed and existing athletic programs. Any such committee must have representation including the Superintendent/designee and/or Athletic Director, a high school administrator, a middle school administrator, teachers who are employed as coaches, and community. Any such committee will use the process for program evaluation.

The committee shall be advisory to the Committee. While it may make recommendations to the Committee, the Committee retains full authority over Bangor School Department athletic programs.

ADOPTED: July 29, 2015

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