

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The Governor Wentworth Regional School Board encourages its students to participate in extra-curricular activities. Interscholastic athletics sanctioned by the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) are an integral part of high school programs throughout the State. However, school size and economic conditions can have a direct impact on the nature and number of athletic teams that any one school may be able to sponsor. It is the intent of the Governor Wentworth Regional School District to provide opportunities for its student athletes that are commensurate with other New Hampshire high schools with similar enrollments.

New Athletic Teams

Recognizing the desire of parents and students to add additional athletic teams and the increased competition for limited budgetary resources, the guidelines for adding a new team shall be as follows:

1. New athletic teams must have the recommendation of the Principal, Athletic Director and the Superintendent of Schools. The request shall then be brought to the School Board for action.
2. All new teams which are approved shall be placed on a 5-year probationary status to determine the level of student interest and the impact on the school.
3. During the probationary period, all expenses (with the exception of transportation) must be funded with resources that are not part of the regular school budget. For any year that a new team is inactive during their probationary period, credit will not be given for that year. Any sport that is dormant for more than two (2) successive years will be treated as a new sport if it again becomes active.
4. At the end of the 5-year period the Athletic Director will prepare a written evaluation of the team and make a recommendation for its continuance or termination. The evaluation shall address cost, participation and impact on the students and the school.
5. The recommendation, along with recommendations from the Principal and Superintendent, shall be brought to the School Board for determination of the continuation or termination of the sport/team.
6. If approved, District funding of the program will be phased in as follows:
 - a. 40% - Year 6
 - b. 60% - Year 7
 - c. 80% - Year 8
 - d. 90% - Year 9
 - e. 100% - Year 10 and thereafter

The above funding schedule is effective July 1, 2020.

When a fee system is employed to support the financing of a new sport, it is the intent of the School Board that no student-athlete is barred from playing on a team because

he/she cannot afford to pay. Conversely, the Board also expects that students who can afford to pay must do so in order to be eligible to participate. The sponsors of new teams, working in conjunction with the Athletic Department, must develop a system by which either scholarship money or earned money (job based) is available for needy students. The criteria that applies to free and reduced lunch support shall serve as a basis for determining a student's level of need.

The Principal shall be responsible for determining whether a student-athlete has a financial need and will review the reasonableness of the options made available to support a student. Any disagreements between the student, her/his parents and the team sponsor regarding either the level of need or the designated source of the funding (as approved by the Principal) may be appealed to the Superintendent of Schools, whose determination shall be final.

This policy shall treat currently approved and privately funded sports such as hockey and lacrosse as though next season were the first year of the respective programs.

Existing Athletic Teams

Every athletic team shall receive a written review every 5-years by the Athletic Director and submitted to the Principal and Superintendent. The evaluation shall place teams on cycle such that 1/5th of them are reviewed each year. Consideration shall be given to the level of participation, comparability in other similar sized schools, cost and the impact on the school. When a sport is no longer serving the interest of the school and community, it will be eliminated and the funds that supported it will be directed to the other sport programs.

Approved: 7/14/03

Reaffirmed: 9/8/08, 6/1/09

Revised: 03/09/20