

NORTH COUNTRY SUPERVISORY UNION COMMON BOARD POLICY MANUAL

STUDENT

F.13 STUDENT ATHLETICS, CLUBS, AND ACTIVITIES

(RECOMMENDED)

I. Policy

The North Country Supervisory Union (NCSU) and member school districts will provide a student co-curricular activity program that is representative of the interests of students and as varied as staff, resources, and facilities permit. The program will be designed to offer students activities to develop skills in democratic and cooperative management for these activities. The NCSU and member school districts seek to promote culturally responsive, equitable, and inclusive activities.

All school-sponsored athletics, clubs, and activities as well as all student-run non curriculum-related groups will be under the ultimate control of the NCSU and member school districts and will comply with all policies and procedures of the school. The NCSU and member school districts will make determinations related to individual activities to be offered through consideration of many factors, including but not limited to the following considerations:

- A. The level of student interest in the activity, taking into account that some student activities will be provided for a small number of students in order to provide equitable and culturally responsive programs;
- B. The fiscal ramifications of equitable sponsorship, taking into account that cost per student may be higher for some student activities offered to a small number of students who identify with historically excluded groups;
- C. The availability of qualified personnel to supervise the activity;
- D. The impact of adding or eliminating the activity on the balance of opportunities outlined in Title IX;
- E. The potential of the activity to help participating students meet the goals of the school's curriculum;
- F. The potential of the activity to increase students' cultural awareness, by cultivating a greater understanding of diversity, inclusion, and equity; and
- G. The recommendation of the superintendent.

II. Definitions

- A. Culturally Responsive: The beliefs, methods, and practices that support and empower all students socially, emotionally, intellectually, and civically by leveraging students' lived experiences to ensure learning.
- B. School Athletic Team: an interscholastic athletic team or club sponsored by a public or approved independent school for elementary or secondary students.
- C. Youth Athlete: an elementary or secondary student who is a member of a school athletic team.

Athletics, clubs, and activities may be (1) school-sponsored and related to the curriculum, (2) student-run and not related to the curriculum, or (3) community-sponsored and not related to the curriculum. This policy addresses the first two categories. The third is addressed in the District's policy on Community Use of School Facilities.

- A. School-Sponsored Curriculum-Related Groups
 - 1. Curriculum-related groups are the only type entitled to school sponsorship. The

controlling factor in deciding whether an activity will be sponsored by the school will be whether that activity is directly related to the school's curriculum. Any activity that is not directly related to the curriculum or educational mission of the school will not receive sponsorship.

2. Activities or clubs that meet at least one of the following criteria will be considered curriculum-related.
 - a. The subject matter of the student-run non curriculum-related group or club is actually taught or will be taught in a regularly scheduled course.
 - b. The subject matter of the group or club is such that it concerns the body of courses as a whole.
 - c. The transferrable skills taught in the group or club support the educational mission of the District.
 - d. Participation in the group is required for a particular course.
 - e. Participation in the group results in academic credit.
- B. Student-Run Non Curriculum-related Groups
 1. A student-run non curriculum-related group is one that is monitored by school staff, created by students, run by students, and provides activities for students. If a group or club is organized or run by non-school staff, even if students attend its meetings, then it is a community-sponsored group and must comply with the school district's policy on Community Use of School Facilities.
 2. If a school permits student-run non curriculum-related groups, clubs, or activities to access facilities or such things as the public address system, bulletin boards, or publications, such access must be provided on an equal basis with all other student-run non curriculum-related groups. A fair opportunity will be provided to non-sponsored student-run non curriculum-related groups wishing to conduct meetings on school premises during non-instructional time provided that:
 - a. any such meeting is voluntary and student-initiated.
 - b. there is no sponsorship of the meeting by the school, the government, or its agents or employees;
 - c. employees or agents of the school or any governmental entity are present at meetings only in non-participatory capacities;
 - d. the meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school; and
 - e. non-school persons do not direct, conduct, control or regularly attend activities of student-run non curriculum-related groups.
 3. Listings and notices referring to non-sponsored clubs or activities will include a disclaimer of school sponsorship or endorsement. District faculty and staff may only be present at activities of student-run non-curriculum-related groups as monitors for keeping order.

III. Administrative Responsibilities

The superintendent or designee shall develop procedures for the determination of a school-sponsored activity and for student-run non curriculum-related activities. When an activity is school-sponsored, the superintendent or designee shall develop procedures to:

- A. ensure alignment of the goals of co-curricular activities with the goals of the school's curriculum;
- B. seek to engage community organizations, which may include resources to inform learning about the history, contribution, perspectives, and structural barriers placed upon diverse ethnic and social groups;

- C. ensure athletic facilities and opportunities for participation on an equal basis as outlined in Title IX;
- D. ensure access by addressing barriers for students with disabilities and students who are English learners;
- E. ensure a wide basis of participation in both team and individual sports in interscholastic competition;
- F. offer activities with no direct or indirect cost to students/families or provide financial assistance and/or resources to cover those costs, as requested.
 - 1. direct costs include the cost to attend;
 - 2. indirect costs include the cost of specifically required clothing, food at or on the way to/from the activity, access to technology, etc.
- G. employ personnel in coaching and supervision positions who are qualified and notified of individualized student education plans and accommodations; and
- H. follow the rules and regulations of the Vermont Principals' Association.

The principal or superintendent may require parental permission for student participation in either a school-sponsored activity or a student-run non curriculum-related activity.

The principal or designee shall ensure the provision of all requirements related to concussion and other head injury as outlined in 16 V.S.A. §1431, including guidelines and information, notice and training, healthcare providers at athletic events, and an action plan.

IV. Student Eligibility/Participation

- A. In determining eligibility, the administrative team shall consider each student's circumstances with regard to educational equity.
- B. The principal or superintendent may set standards for academic eligibility for participation in co-curricular activities.
- C. A youth athlete shall not be permitted to continue to participate in any training session or competition associated with a school athletic team if a coach or health care provider knows or should know that the athlete has sustained a concussion or other head injury during the training session or competition. In such cases, the youth athlete is not permitted to train or compete with a school athletic team until the athlete has been examined by and received written permission to participate in athletic activities from a health care provider.

Boards	Adopted	Revised	Revised
Brighton	12/10/25		
Charleston	12/10/25		
Coventry	12/17/25		
Derby	1/6/26		
Holland	N/A		
Jay/Westfield	12/9/25		
Lowell	12/15/25		
Morgan	N/A		
Newport City	12/8/25		
Newport Town	12/17/25		
Troy	12/9/25		
NCUHS	12/16/25		
NCUJHS	12/16/25		
NCSU	12/18/25		