

Hermon School Department

SPONSORSHIP AND EVALUATION OF ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

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

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

The School 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 Department'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 School Committee establishes the following process for the approval and evaluation of athletic programs.

A. **CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL AND EVALUATION OF ATHLETIC PROGRAMS**

The athletic director 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 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 School Committee philosophy and policies; and
11. 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. EVALUATION OF EXISTING OR ONGOING SCHOOL-SPONSORED ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Every athletic program will be reviewed as appropriate.

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

The School Committee may authorize a program to be reviewed based upon the recommendation of the superintendent or athletic director.

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 athletic director shall make a recommendation to the School Committee as to whether the program should continue or be deleted. The School Committee may vote to delete any program that it deems no longer sustainable or in keeping with School Committee philosophy, standards or criteria.