

## **SPONSORSHIP AND EVALUATION OF ATHLETIC PROGRAMS**

It is the Board's desire to offer Mt. Blue Regional School District student's athletic programming that provides diverse, developmentally appropriate opportunities and 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 Mt. Blue Regional School District's athletic programs.

Through sponsorship, Mt. Blue Regional School District assumes responsibility for, and control of, a particular athletic program. Sponsorship requires Board approval. Mt. Blue Regional School District 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 Principals' Association (which refers to its regulations as "policies"). Sponsorship does not mean that funding will be provided in whole or in part through Mt. Blue Regional School District'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.

### **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 Board 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. APPROVAL OF NEW ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Sponsorship of all new interscholastic athletic programs must be approved in advance. The Superintendent, in consultation with the Athletic Director, shall be responsible for making and supporting recommendations to the Board at least three months prior to the proposed starting date. Recommendations are to be made based on data from the evaluation process..

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 two-year probationary status.

Six months prior to the end of the probationary period, the Superintendent, in consultation with the Athletic Director, 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.

#### 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 Board.

The Board may authorize a program to be reviewed out of sequence based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent in consultation with the 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 in consultation with the Athletic Director shall make a recommendation to the Board as to whether the program should continue, move to club status, 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.

#### D. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Athletic Director, 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 and/or Athletic Director, a high school administrator, a middle school administrator, teachers who are employed as coaches, and community members. Any such committee will use the process for program evaluation.

The committee shall be advisory to the Board. While it may make recommendations to the Board, the Board retains full authority Mt. Blue Regional School District athletic programs.

Cross Reference: JJ – Student Clubs, Co/Extra Curricular Activities, Athletic Teams  
JJ-R – Co-Curricular and Extra Curricular Program Cancellations  
Regulations  
JJI—Philosophy of Athletics  
JJIBA – Hiring and Evaluation of Coaches  
JJIBB – Sportsmanship  
JJIBC – Relations with Booster Groups

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