

**Administrative Procedures for Policy #3440 (Students) of the Board of Education
Regarding Fitness and Athletic Equity for Students with Disabilities**

I. Definitions

- A. Individual Education Plan – A written description of special education and related services for a student with a disability that is developed, reviewed, and revised by the student's IEP Team
- B. 504 Plan – A written description of the specific modifications, adjustments, accommodations, or other related aids and services to be provided in the regular classroom for a student with a 504 plan. This plan should be sufficiently detailed to allow teachers to address the individual disability-related needs of eligible 504 students
- C. Students with a 504 Plan – any student enrolled in school who has, or has a record of having, or is regarded as having, a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working
- D. Interscholastic Athletics – Athletic competitions between different secondary schools
- E. Modifications – Changes or alterations to equipment or a game in order to allow a student to participate in an activity
- F. Objective Safety Risk – A safety risk that is discernable to others as well as the individual involved.

II. Participation in Physical Education

- A. All students with disabilities shall have an equal opportunity to participate in mainstream physical education.
- B. Physical education teachers shall adapt Physical Education for students as required by their current Individual Education Plans (IEP) and current 504 Plans. The Adaptive Physical Education teachers will consult with the Physical Education teachers on an as needed basis to identify appropriate adaptation.
- C. Information about how teachers can modify physical education instruction and adapt sports for certain disabilities and conditions can be found in the Calvert County Public Schools Adapted Physical Education Handbook and the CCPS Special Education Handbook (developed per Policy 2150). The Calvert County Public Schools Adapted Physical Education Handbook is written and regularly reviewed by the Directors of Curriculum and Instruction and the Director of Special Education or their designees.

III. Participation in Interscholastic Athletics

- A. Student Eligibility

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1. All students who meet state and local eligibility criteria are permitted the opportunity to try out for interscholastic athletic programs. Among those criteria are enrollment status, age, academic eligibility, medical approval and parent permission.
2. Students with disabilities who meet the eligibility requirements shall not be excluded from trying out for an interscholastic athletic program unless inclusion presents an objective safety risk to the student or others based on an individualized assessment by the coach or fundamentally alters the nature of the interscholastic athletic program.
3. During the tryout, a student with disabilities shall be allowed to use whatever modifications or aids he/she usually uses to play the sport. Such modifications might include, but are not limited to, racing wheelchairs, artificial limbs, interpreters for hearing impaired students, changes in positions, and special equipment. Students shall not be excluded from trying out merely for needing modifications or aids.
4. The head coach determines the final roster for his/her team. That determination is made based on many criteria including athletic ability, competitive demeanor, and a student's ability to function within a team environment.

B. Pathway to Play Committee

1. At the beginning of each season the school system shall, as needed, convene a committee to maximize student opportunities and provide guidance for coaches. The committee shall include:
 - a. The Supervisor of Athletics
 - b. A school principal
 - c. A school athletic director
 - d. An adaptive physical education teacher
 - e. A special education representative
2. If concerns have been expressed about the ability of a student with a current IEP or 504 Plan to participate in the interscholastic athletic program, the student, parent, teacher, coach, or administrator is referred to the committee. The committee will determine each student's eligibility based on the above stated eligibility criteria (see section III.A.2) on a case by case basis. The committee will conduct a review of the student and the sport, consult with the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) if needed, and determine the accommodations and or modifications necessary to enable the student to participate.
3. While making the determination, the committee shall apply the following four point criteria: Do the accommodations or modifications:
 - a. Fundamentally alter the sport?

- b. Provide a competitive advantage to the student?
 - c. Competitively disadvantage other participants?
 - d. Significantly increase the risk of injury for the student or other athletes?
4. The Pathway to Play Committee shall render in writing one of the following determinations for each student referred:
- a. The student is able to participate in the interscholastic athletic program with accommodations.
 - b. The student is able to participate against or alongside other athletes in individual events with allowable accommodations or modifications.
 - c. The student is unable to participate in individual or team sports because of the necessary accommodations.
5. The Pathway to Play Committee will maintain the appropriate records and will forward a written copy of the decision to the principal, athletic director, parent/guardian and the coach.
6. Unified Sports Program
- a. Calvert County Public Schools shall offer a unified sports program in high schools during each athletic season. The dates of the season do not need to match the dates prescribed in COMAR 13A.06.03. The sport season for the unified program shall be limited to a maximum of 12 consecutive weeks.
 - b. The unified program shall include co-ed teams comprised of disabled and non-disabled students who meet eligibility requirements.
 - c. Calvert County Public Schools shall provide:
 - 1) Rules, guidelines and modifications for each sport to ensure greater participation and success of the program
 - 2) Unified Sports coaches
 - 3) Game equipment and uniforms as needed
 - 4) Transportation for teams in order to compete if appropriate
 - d. Students must meet the following criteria in order to be eligible to participate in the Unified Sports program:
 - 1) Are secondary school students in grades 9-12
 - 2) Are officially enrolled in and attend a Calvert County public school
 - 3) Submit a parent/guardian permission form for participation
 - 4) Submit a certified physical form
 - 5) Are making satisfactory progress toward graduation with a Maryland high school diploma or school completion with a

Maryland high school certificate of program completion (See also Policy 3451 Regarding Academic Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities.)

- 6) Have not participated on an interscholastic athletic team in the same sport. If a student acquires a disability during his/her years of participation in interscholastic sports, an exception may be made.

7. Appeals

- a. Appeals of committee decisions may be filed in accordance with Policy 1600 and Procedure 1600.1 Regarding Appeals.