

STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN COLLEGE ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

The South Orange County Community College District provides athletic programs at each college and has the legal obligation to insure against negligence by providing reasonable and safe programs and facilities.

I REQUIREMENTS FOR ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

All participants must complete a Participation Consent and Waiver Agreement, Form FS# 31, before they are permitted to try out for any event.

All participants in athletic events and club sports shall sign a waiver of liability form prescribed by and in accordance with the Statewide Association of Community Colleges Waiver of Liability Policy, and abide by all rules established by the college and/or district. Any participants under the age of 18 must also have parental or guardian consent.

Additional requirements for athletic participation may include physical examination, proof of insurance, and consent for treatment agreement. All required documentation shall be on file before the athlete is permitted to participate in any sport.

All players are expected to travel to events and return with the team. In order for an athlete to return home otherwise, the athletic participant must have a Student Voluntary Transportation Agreement, Form #32, approved by and on file with the athletic director or coach in charge. Any participants under the age of 18 must also have parental or guardian consent.

II RISK MANAGEMENT

Students participating in sports programs do so by assuming the risk of possible injury and the responsibility of having adequate insurance to provide proper treatment and care should an injury occur.

The district can minimize sports injury negligence lawsuits by the application of the following principles of risk management.

1. Instruction on the safe and proper use of sports and recreation facilities and the dangers of a specific activity or event.
 - a. Warn all participants of inherent risks; use "Participation Consent and Waiver Agreement," Form FS# 31, to set forth risks.

- b. Present athletic safety training and document individuals who are present.
 - c. Post safety rules in appropriate areas. Make sure the signs are not complicated, and are legible and readable from a distance.
 2. Adequate and proper supervision of all sports and recreational activities.
 - a. Provide an adequate number of coaches and aides.
 - b. Do not try to conduct multiple events simultaneously.
 3. Require medical backgrounds on sports' participants.
 - a. Complete medical examinations before the athlete is permitted to participate in any athletic activity.
 - b. Require written medical clearance following an injury before permitting an individual to participate in athletic activities.
 - c. Provide staff trained in medical emergency.
 - d. Secure an Athletic Insurance Information Sheet," Form FS# 53, from all participants.
 4. Inspection of sports facilities and equipment.
 - a. Perform regular safety audit of facilities.
 - b. Use proper warnings of physical hazards.
 5. Distribution, fitting, and inspection of players' protective equipment.
 - a. Make sure all participants use acceptable equipment.
 - b. Instruct all participants in the proper use of equipment.
 - c. Have equipment properly inspected and dated.
 6. Procedures for cheerleader safety.
 - a. Make sure all instructors are qualified.

- b. Require physical examinations for participants.
 - c. Inspect mini-tramps and spring boards, if used. It is best not to use them.
 - d. Reduce pyramid levels.
7. Procedures for safe transportation of participants.
- a. Verify that the driver is properly licensed to operate the vehicles being driven.
 - b. Check motor vehicle records.
 - c. Restrict use of personal automobiles to emergency use only.
 - d. Use "Student Voluntary Transportation Agreement," Form FS# 32, when appropriate.
8. Adhere to proper competitive grouping.
9. Accident/injury reporting.
- a. Report all accidents immediately.
 - b. Do not mail out blank reports or provide completed reports to anyone without the approval of the District's Risk Manager.
 - c. Consider each injury as a potential lawsuit. Make sure that the facts of the incident are clearly stated, and that the report is legible. List names, addresses, phone number, and student I.D. number, if applicable, for all victims and witnesses. Make no statements, either written or oral, as to your opinion regarding the cause, fault, or liability of the incident.
 - d. Do not provide information to anyone other than Campus Safety, or medical personnel without authorization from the District Risk Manager.
 - e. When in doubt, call 911 or Campus Safety.
10. Post claim procedures.
- a. Show interest in the claim and the claimant.

- b. Do not let claimant participate in athletic activities until he/she is ready and all required documents are on file.

All members of the athletic staff should review and be familiar with the "Waiver of Liability Policy" of the Statewide Association of Community Colleges, as well as the athletic policy and procedure manuals of each college.