

**NEPN/NSBA CODE: JJIB**

**TITLE: SPONSORSHIP AND EVALUATION OF ATHLETIC PROGRAMS**

**AUGUSTA CODE/TITLE: NONE**

We have included for the Board's consideration the comprehensive language from the MSMA sample policy on sponsorship and evaluation of athletic programs that was distributed in the September 2006 bulletin, "Sports in Schools: A Policy Perspective," supplemented by some suggested language to address the Board's concerns with club sports and students from other schools participating in individual sports.

It is through sponsorship that the District assumes responsibility for, and control of, a particular athletic program. Sponsorship requires Board approval. A process for approving new programs and for evaluating existing programs will enable the Board to avoid thorny problems that arise when a community group or parents want the school system to offer a new program when there are limited funds to sponsor a full range of athletic activities or when student interests change.

The Board should be aware of the language in this policy that pertains to "club sports." In this policy, "club sports" refers to programs that are not part of the school unit's regular interscholastic athletic program but have been approved by the Board. Generally these club sports are supported by parents and the community, with the school unit providing resources such as fields, facilities and locker rooms. "Club sport" status is frequently viewed as a "trial run" or a step toward becoming a school-sponsored interscholastic activity.

In policy JJIB, we have also stressed the importance of evaluating ongoing athletic activities, as student interest in participation and availability of funding may change over time.

*Ratification*