

SENECA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: CLUB SPORTS

ADOPTED: August 14, 2006

REVISED: March 12, 2007

<p>1. Purpose</p> <p>2. Definition</p> <p>3. Authority Pol. 123, 123.1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">122.1. CLUB SPORTS</p> <p>The Board recognizes the desire of students to participate in sports that are not sanctioned or endorsed by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (P.I.A.A.).</p> <p>For the purpose of this policy, a Club Sport is a program organized and operated by members of the Seneca Valley School District community for the benefit of resident students to provide the opportunity to compete in interscholastic athletics in sports in which the school district does not financially support and directly operate a program.</p> <p>To the extent a Club Sport desires recognition by the Seneca Valley School District and the privileges associated with such recognition, the Club Sport must adhere to those norms of operation that apply to school-sponsored interscholastic programs and that reflect and support the district's educational mission.</p> <p><u>Recognition</u></p> <p>Recognition of a Club Sport by the Seneca Valley School District is a privilege that is subject to the annual approval of the Board of School Directors. Requests for recognition shall be initially submitted to the Athletic Director and senior high school principal for administrative review for compliance with the criteria and guidelines set forth below. The Athletic Director and senior high school principal shall provide their recommendation for approval or rejection of the request to the Superintendent for subsequent presentation to the Board. The Board shall have the exclusive authority to grant a request for recognition and shall not be bound by the administrative recommendation. The Board may reject any request for recognition for any reason determined to be in the best interest of the Seneca Valley School District. Recognition shall be granted for one (1) school year and shall terminate on the last day of the school year. To gain recognition for the upcoming year, all stipulations in the guidelines below must be met.</p>
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<p>4. Guidelines</p> <p>SC 111 Title 22 Sec. 8.1 et seq 23 Pa. C.S.A. 6301 et seq</p>	<p>The following procedures shall be adhered to by sponsors of Club Sports when seeking recognition from the School Board. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the loss of recognition and the privileges associated with it.</p> <p>The president of the club program must present an annual written request to be recognized by the district. The request must include the following items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Proof of not-for-profit status.2. Articles of organization and bylaws of parental board of control.3. Act 34 and 151 clearances for all coaches.4. Team schedule.5. Student athletic manual/handbook outlining player responsibilities and a code of player conduct.6. All additional rules and regulations for participation. <p>Incomplete requests will not be granted.</p> <p>Any request must be submitted to the Athletic Director by the dates below to receive consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Teams with a selection process must submit one (1) month prior to the start of team selection.2. Teams with no selection process must submit one (1) month prior to the start of the season. <p><u>Management Guidelines</u></p> <p>The oversight committee is responsible for administering the following guidelines:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Club sports agree to follow the same calendar and cancellation policies of the Seneca Valley School District.
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122.1. CLUB SPORTS - Pg. 3

<p>Pol. 204, 204.2, 218, 227, 227.1</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Club sports must follow the same student-athlete eligibility criteria and requirements established by the Seneca Valley School District for participation in school-sponsored interscholastic-athletic programs, including, but not limited to, attendance and academic requirements, drug and alcohol testing. Students subject to disciplinary action by the school district shall be prohibited from participating in Club Sports during the same period and to the same extent as such students are prohibited from participating in school-sponsored interscholastic-athletic programs.3. A team roster must be submitted to the Athletic Director before the season begins. A weekly eligibility list, based upon academic progress and attendance, must be submitted to the Athletic Director.4. Practices and contests must be supervised by a coach with clearances on file with the school district.5. The club must consist of a sufficient number of students to conduct the proposed activity in a meaningful manner. It is recommended that the number of students needed for recognition be at least 2.5 times the number of players required to actually play a game.
<p>Pol. 123, 227.1</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Participation is limited to Seneca Valley School District residents. Participants not enrolled in the Seneca Valley School District must meet all of the eligibility criteria or their equivalent for participation in the activity that apply to students enrolled in the Seneca Valley School District, including, without limitation, those set forth in or promulgated pursuant to District Policy No. 123 (Interscholastic Athletics) and District Policy No. 227.1 (Drug and Alcohol Awareness For Athletic Programs, Extracurricular Activities and Student Drivers). These criteria include, without limitation, verification of requisite academic progress, fulfillment of attendance requirements and the completion of drug and alcohol testing and physical examination. Participants not enrolled in the Seneca Valley School District must authorize the school in which the participant is enrolled to furnish attendance, academic progress reports and disciplinary reports to the Seneca Valley School District on a weekly basis during the club sport's season.7. If approval to award athletic letters is requested, the students must meet the same athletic and social standards expected from the student-athletes in school-sponsored athletic programs.8. Programs wishing to use school facilities must fill out a use of facilities form and pay all applicable fees.

9. At the request of the Seneca Valley School District, the club must furnish a certificate of insurance naming the Seneca Valley School District as an additional insured for liability coverage of at least \$1,000,000. Such policies must provide coverage for any occurrences during the school year for which recognition has been granted. Coverage afforded to the Seneca Valley School District as an additional insured shall be on a primary basis and applied before any other insurance carried by the school district. Further, and as a condition of recognition, the club shall be obligated to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Seneca Valley School District from any and all claims arising from the club's operations.
10. Club sports agree to follow the booster group fundraising policies of the Seneca Valley School District.

Terms Of Recognition

The following terms apply to Seneca Valley School District recognition:

1. Upon receiving Board recognition, club sports will receive the following privileges:
 - a. Use of the Seneca Valley School District name.
 - b. Use of the Seneca Valley School District colors.
 - c. Use of the Seneca Valley School District moniker, "Raiders".
 - d. Inclusion in student yearbook.
 - e. Participation in homecoming and similar events.
 - f. Use of district facilities when available.
 - g. Right to award a varsity letter when appropriate.
2. At the discretion of the Board, the failure to comply with Seneca Valley School District rules and regulations, including those requirements set forth above, may result in a revocation of recognition and corresponding privileges and/or the denial of a subsequent annual request for recognition.

Establish A New Club Sport

The Board appreciates the diverse interests of our student population. It is expected that new recreational pursuits will arise over time and students seeking club status should have a procedure to follow and criteria to meet in order to establish a new club sport. The procedure and criteria are outlined below:

1. A parental board of control must be established to manage the program and fulfill the requirements needed to create a request for recognition.
2. The sport in question must have both a national governing body and local governing body.
3. At least eight (8) other schools in the greater Pittsburgh area must have a program already in place.
4. The Board reserves the right to withhold recognition should it deem the activity to present issues not in the best interest of the district.
5. Any new club will enter a three (3) year probationary period to determine the sustainability of the program. During this time the team will enjoy all of the club sport privileges except the ability to award a varsity letter.

P.I.A.A. Recognition

If a club sport becomes sanctioned as an interscholastic sport governed by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (P.I.A.A.), upon the effective date of such action, any provision of this policy that conflicts with any requirements or regulations of the P.I.A.A., including participant eligibility restrictions, thereafter shall be inapplicable to such sport.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 111

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 8.1 et seq.

Child Protective Services Law – 23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6301 et seq.

Board Policy – 123, 127.1, 204, 204.2, 218, 227, 227.1