

ROCKWELL CHARTER SCHOOL

Athletics and Activities Participation Policy

Purpose

The Board of Directors of Rockwell Charter School has established this policy to assert that participation in athletics and other extracurricular activities at the school is a privilege and not a right. There is no constitutional right to participate in such activities, nor are there any life, liberty, or property interests associated therewith. The board also acknowledges the many benefits to students who participate in athletics and other extracurricular activities and encourages students to participate in a variety of activities to receive these benefits.

In sponsoring athletics and other extracurricular activities, the board recognizes that participating students are representatives of the school. Therefore, the board delegates to the administration the management of participation criteria and serious conduct that may impact the ability of a student to participate and to act as a representative of the school regardless of where and when such athletics or other activities occur. The board also directs the administration to ensure that students meet eligibility requirements of all associations or agencies governing participation in specific athletics or activities before allowing students to participate.

General Categories

Competitive Activities

The board acknowledges that most activities involving competition between schools should be reserved for high school students. Middle school activities will most often be conducted at the local school level and within guidelines established by the administration. At the discretion of the administration, middle school activities may include competitive contests in county, municipal, or sponsored leagues.

High School Athletics

High school athletics and activities include, but are not limited to, those sponsored by the following associations:

- Utah High School Activities Association;
- State and/or nationally affiliated associations;
- Local school and regionally sponsored programs.

Intrastate Competition

The Board supports the regulations and guidelines governing intrastate competition as approved by the Utah High School Activities Association and the regulations provided

for other activities and school-sponsored clubs by state or nationally affiliated associations.

Student Eligibility Requirements for UHSAA Activities

General Requirements

In order to participate in activities sponsored by the Utah High School Activities Association (UHSAA), a student must meet eligibility requirements with regards to attendance, behavior, residency, scholastic performance, and other applicable criteria. School administrators, athletic directors, coaches/advisors, parents, teachers, and all other employees of the school share in the responsibility of ensuring that students meet the expected standards for participation. The administration is required to implement procedures for participation that allow the school to verify that all athletes are covered by accident insurance prior to participation.

Specific Requirements

The school accepts and supports the constitution, bylaws, regulations, guidelines, and standards established by UHSAA in relation to eligibility for participation as listed below:

- Students below the 9th grade are not allowed to participate under any circumstances in UHSAA sponsored activities.
- Each student and parent must complete the UHSAA tryout checklist form and the Sportsmanship Pledge, and are required to receive the Concussion Education Information prior to participating in any UHSAA sponsored activities.
- All students are required to have an annual physical prior to participating in all UHSAA sponsored athletic activities.
- Students who participate in school- sponsored athletics are required to have accident insurance (the school **does not** carry or provide accident insurance for students).
- A player must be a full-time student, as defined by the school, or otherwise comply with all Utah State Board of Education (USBE) dual enrollment requirements;
- A private school or home schooled student may participate in extracurricular activities in the school by meeting eligibility requirements as outlined in Utah Code §53G-6-703.
- A player must not be in violation of the UHSAA Age Rule, Sport Season Rule, Attendance Rule, or Amateur Rule.
- In the preceding grading period, a player must have:
 - Earned a minimum of a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent;
 - Must not have failed or received an F in more than one subject; and,
 - Must have been certified as scholastically eligible by UHSAA standards.

- A student who has failed to meet the minimum requirements set forth shall be ineligible for participation in UHSAA activities throughout the next grading period.
- Deficiencies in the final grading period of the school year may be made up prior to the first term of the succeeding year by any method acceptable to the school. Deficiencies must be made up in the same subject area in which the student failed.
- The scholastic regulations apply to students who are entering high school for the first time and to any ninth-grade student at a junior high or middle school level who has established eligibility at another high school.
- Eligibility under this policy is determined when grades are posted. Grades are "posted" when the school registrar enters all grades electronically, and they are available to students, parents, and teachers.
- Grade changes after the posting date cannot restore lost eligibility, except for a documented clerical error.
- After the competition start date for any sport, players are not allowed to compete on any outside team in the same sport (Limited Team Membership Rule).
- Students who previously established eligibility at another high school (i.e. attended another school, tried out for a team, or competed on a team from another high school) shall lose eligibility for participation in UHSAA activities for twelve months from the first day of attendance at the new school unless the UHSAA approves a request for a "Waiver of Ineligibility."
- The administration may impose its own minimum requirements for participation that exceed those of the UHSAA.

Student Athlete Transfers

When a secondary student athlete transfers from one high school to another, the athletic eligibility standards established by UHSAA must be satisfied. Violation of these standards may bring about severe sanctions for a student, a coach, team, program, and/or the school.

Requirements for Coaches

All coaches and advisors, whether they are employees or volunteers, must have completed the following:

- Fingerprint and background check;
- Hands-on CPR and First Aid training;
- The NFHS Concussion Management course;
- A review of the school's Code of Conduct for licensed and non-licensed employees and volunteers.

Student Participation in Activities Not Governed by the UHSAA

The Executive Director may establish the GPA standard or other requirements to be met prior to a student's participation in student government, school-sponsored clubs, cheerleading, or other events and activities not sponsored by UHSAA or other state or national organizations. Requirements for these activities must be clearly identified in the team, club, or group disclosure statement and provided to students and parents or guardians.

Standards of Behavior for All School Community Members

The school expects all participants in athletics or activities sponsored by the school, including spectators, fans, volunteers, or others representing the school to exhibit sportsmanship and respect for players, competitors, coaches, advisors, club members, administrators, parents, and the building, facility, campus, field, or other venue in which the activity is housed. Student-athletes and students participating in activities are expected to maintain a high standard of behavior, as well as academic excellence, in order to remain in good standing and have the opportunity to participate.

Key Behavioral Expectations

- Respect and Sportsmanship: Be courteous to officials, opponents, teammates, coaches, and fans; play fair; accept rulings; avoid taunting, fighting, disrespectful gestures, inappropriate language, or other unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Substance-Free: Zero tolerance for alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, and other unauthorized substances.
- Safety: No throwing objects, dangerous stunts, or unsafe vehicle operation; protect others from harm.
- Compliance: Follow all game and facility rules and school codes, and will be responsive to directives from administrative or site supervisors.
- Strong Composure: Remain calm, self-controlled, and focused under pressure or in challenging situations; manage emotions effectively and respond thoughtfully rather than impulsively.
- Positive Representation: Maintain high standards of conduct on and off campus as a representative of the school; act professionally, ethically, and enthusiastically in all interactions, and represent the school in a positive way when we are guests in another community

Prohibited Actions

- Hazing or initiations.
- Showing disrespect to coaches, teachers, advisors, or other staff members.
- Fighting, bullying, or physical altercations.
- Cheating or stealing.
- Using foul, abusive, or derogatory language (including racist or taunting speech).

- Arguing with officials.
- Taunting, disrespectful gestures, or unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Disruptive behavior, including inappropriate cell phone use.
- Vandalism, theft, or encouraging criminal acts.

Consequences for Violations

- For Athletes and Participants: Verbal/written warnings, loss of playing time, suspension from games/seasons, removal from leadership roles, ineligibility, or suspension or dismissal from the team, club, or group.
- For Spectators: Removal from the event, suspension from future events, or potential legal action for severe violations.
- General Consequences: If teams, clubs, or groups sponsored by the school have members who commit regular violations of this policy, the school will limit or cancel games or events or, ultimately, disband the team, club, or group for a period of time or indefinitely.

Disqualifying Actions, Deficiencies, or Offenses

- If a student is truant the week of an activity, that student will not be eligible to compete or participate in athletic or extracurricular activities that week.
- If a student has not provided the written consent of the student's parent or guardian, that student shall not be permitted to participate in athletic or extracurricular activities.
- If a student has not met the eligibility criteria of an athletic or non-athletic extracurricular activity, that student shall not be permitted to participate.
- If a student has been charged with a misdemeanor, a student's continued participation will be handled on a case-by-case basis depending on the severity of the misdemeanor. Likely consequences for less serious charges include temporary suspension from activities, while more serious charges may include long-term suspension from activities.
- If a student has been charged with a felony, that student shall be suspended from participating in any school-sponsored athletics or extracurricular activities until the charge is resolved.
- If a student charged with a felony is acquitted or the charges are dropped, the student shall be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities.
- If a student is found guilty or enters a plea of no contest to a charge, that student will be suspended from all school-sponsored athletic extracurricular activities for the greater of either 180 school days following the decision or the remainder of the current school year.

Parent Notification of Suspension or Dismissal

Parents or guardians of a student must be notified of any suspension or disqualification of a student's participation in any athletic or non-athletic extracurricular activity. Parents or guardians must also be informed of any further discipline to which a student may be subject if such discipline is or becomes warranted.

Transportation Related to Athletic and Non-Athletic Activities

The administration has the responsibility of planning student travel related to a school-sponsored activity *when the school is providing transportation to such activities*.

The following guidelines apply to school-sponsored transportation:

- The administration will determine whether buses will be contracted by the school for transportation of students to each school-sponsored activity;
- When the school does not provide transportation in connection with a school-related activity or event, the following guidelines apply:
 - Each student desiring to participate in an activity or event for which the school is not providing transportation must submit a Participation Disclosure and Acknowledgement form signed by the student and the student's parent or guardian which acknowledges that no transportation is being provided by the school.
 - Through signatures on this form, parents or guardians acknowledge that the student's participation is conditioned on the student arranging for the student's own transportation to events or competitions associated with the activity.
 - The student must present a completed and signed Participation Disclosure and Acknowledgement form in order to participate in an activity or event when the school will not be providing transportation to that activity or event.
 - Signed disclosure forms will be kept on file for the year during which a student will be participating in an event or activity for which the school is not providing transportation.

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