

# 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 Guidelines**

The board acknowledges that most activities involving competition between schools should be reserved for high school students. Middle school activities should be conducted at the local school level and within guidelines established by the administration.

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.

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 Participation in Athletics

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 schools 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.

Rockwell Charter 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 nor 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 dual enrollment requirements;
- 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 more than one subject (for purposes of this policy, a failure in a multi-period subject shall be counted as the number of failures equal to the number of periods in the class), 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 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 Association 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, a team or program, and the school. The Utah State Board of Education requires that transferring student athletes meet all UHSAA transfer and eligibility requirements.

### **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 council, 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.

### **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 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 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 felony, that student shall be suspended from participating in any school-sponsored 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 charge against a student results in a finding of guilty or entry of a plea of no contest, then the student shall be suspended from all extracurricular activities sponsored by the school for whichever is longer: either 180 school days after entry of the finding or the remainder of the school year.

### **Parent Notification of Suspension of Participating**

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.