



HIGH SCHOOL CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

The Regional School Unit-24 (RSU) Board (RSUB) believes that student co-curricular programs are an integral part of high school education and are used as a means of developing wholesome attitudes and good interpersonal relations as well as knowledge and skills. Although these activities often require as much careful planning and supervision as student experiences in academic subject areas, it is important that co-curricular program participation not take precedence over academics or jeopardize student achievement. The (RSUB) has established eligibility, sportsmanship/citizenship standards and other requirements in order to provide quality co-curricular experiences for all RSU high school students.

For the purpose of this policy: “co-curricular program” and “program” refer to any school-sponsored activity, athletic and non-athletic, for which a grade is not received; “physician” includes physicians, dentists, and other licensed health professionals when prescribing/performing within the scope of their licensed authority; “advisor” refers to an activity’s coach, director or advisor; and “parent” refers to the student’s parent or guardian.

Participation in co-curricular programs is a privilege, not a right. Before a student may participate in any co-curricular program during the current school year, he/she must acknowledge by signature that he/she has read and understands the terms of this policy and agrees to comply with them. The student’s parent must also acknowledge by signature that he/she has read the policy and understands that the student’s participation in any co-curricular program is subject to the terms of this policy.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

A. Medical Approval

1. Athletics

All freshmen or first-time participants must have a physical examination, conducted at their own expense by a physician, before they may participate in any athletic activity. Another physical examination will be required after two (2) years, or earlier if the student’s coach, the Athletic Director (AD) and/or the Building Administrator (BA) are concerned about the effect of continued participation on the student’s health, based upon observation of the student in practice or competition. In the event of an injury or illness which precludes participation in athletic activity, the student’s physician and parent must give written approval before the student may resume participation.

2. Non-athletics

In the event an illness or injury precludes participation in non-athletic co-curricular programs, the student’s physician and parent must give written approval before the student may resume participation.

B. Insurance

Proof of insurance and permission for emergency medical treatment must be presented before a student may participate in any RSU high school co-curricular program.

C. Eligibility

1. Academic

In order to be eligible to participate in co-curricular programs at RSU high schools, a student must meet one of the following two requirements:

1. Take a minimum of four (4) courses, with no failures per ranking period;
2. Take five or more courses, with not more than one (1) failure per ranking period.

Students who fail to meet the applicable requirement during the ranking period will be placed on academic probation. If, at the end of the ranking period, a student is failing one (1) course (option 1) or more than one course (option 2), that student will be denied further participation in the program.

The academic probationary period will begin the day that rank cards are distributed and will be reviewed in four school weeks from this date. If the student wishes to return to the program after the probationary period, then the student must attend all practices/rehearsals/meetings of the activity, but will not be allowed to participate. If the student does not attend all activity practices/rehearsals/meetings, then that student forfeits the opportunity to rejoin the activity following the probationary period.

Following the academic probationary period, if the student's grades meet the eligibility requirements he/she will be restored to full participatory status with the stipulation that the student file a weekly grade check with the BA/AD (or designee) for the remainder of that ranking period. It is the student's responsibility to have each of his/her grades checked on a weekly basis.

If during any week within the respective ranking period, the student fails to meet this responsibility or does not meet academic criteria, the student will become academically ineligible for the remainder of that ranking period. Any student who is not meeting academic standards after the four-week probationary period is ineligible for the duration of the quarter/trimester. In addition, any student who does not meet academic criteria at the end of any quarter/trimester will be ineligible to try out for programs that choose participants by audition or try-out.

Students assigned an academic detention to complete missing work must attend the detention on the day assigned. The student may participate in co-curricular programs following the detention.

Students who will be academically ineligible at the beginning of the next school year because of failing a (or more than one) class during the previous school year's fourth quarter/trimester will not be allowed to regain eligibility by taking a "make-up" course over the summer. The "ineligibility beginning date" will be the first student day of the following school year.

2. Disciplinary

Students serving a suspension may not participate in any co-curricular program's activities during the assigned suspension.

D. Care and Responsibility of Equipment

It is the student's responsibility to properly care for all equipment issued to him/her by the RSU. Any student who does not return all equipment will be billed accordingly. The student will not be allowed to participate in any RSU co-curricular program until all issued equipment is returned or paid for.

E. Travel

In order to provide for their safety, students traveling to and/or from any RSU co-curricular program's "away" events are required to use transportation provided by the RSU.

The RSUB recognizes that there may be occasions when transportation *from* an event by a means other than that provided by the RSU may be appropriate, and authorizes the Superintendent to approve an administrative procedure detailing how permission for alternative transportation must be obtained.

F. Sportsmanship/Citizenship

An individual who is a member of any co-curricular program is expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship/citizenship at all times. This includes, but is not limited to, proper respect for coaches, teachers, officials, fellow program members and school property. Failure to exhibit good sportsmanship/citizenship may result in suspension or removal from the program by the BA.

It is the responsibility of all RSU community members, as well as the general public, to exhibit good sportsmanship/citizenship during co-curricular events. Behavior such as booing, jeering, applauding errors, using profane language, throwing objects, and harassing officials are actions which reflect poor sportsmanship/citizenship and will not be tolerated.

RSU students are expected, and therefore will be required, to treat visiting teams, fans and game officials in a manner which will reflect favorably upon our schools and communities. This is one of the basic responsibilities of the school's AD and/or BA.

G. Grooming

Students are expected to be groomed and dressed appropriately for all RSU-sponsored events. The coach/advisor, in consultation with the BA/AD, will determine what is appropriate for each function.

H. Commitment and Responsibility

Any student who is part of an organized RSU sponsored program must recognize his/her commitment and responsibility to that program. More than one **unexcused** absence from the program's activities will result in immediate dismissal from the program. Generally, a student who is injured is expected to attend all activities of the co-curricular program. The advisor will monitor this closely and hold the student accountable. Commitment and responsibility are two of the most important aspects of any co-curricular programs.

I. Change of Program

A participant will not move from one program to another once it has been in progress for two (2) weeks, except under unusual and necessary circumstances. This determination will be made by the BA/AD. Any student dismissed from a program for disciplinary reasons will not be allowed to participate in another program during that season. In the case of a program which does not involve a specified season, a determination will be made by the advisors of each program and approved by the BA/AD. If an advisor is approached by a student requesting to change programs during the season, he/she is to notify the BA/AD as soon as feasible.

J. Outside Teams

A student may participate in non-RSU programs/activities during the regular season, provided that it does not interfere with their RSU program, which must always take priority.

K. School Attendance

Participants in co-curricular programs are expected to arrive on time and attend a full day of school in order to be eligible to participate in school day co-curricular events. If the student is absent from school due to an excused, planned absence (doctor appointment, college interview, etc.), it is that student's responsibility to notify the main office and the advisor **in advance** of the planned absence. Failure to do so may result in exclusion from involvement in any program activities that day.

Students who are absent due to illness or who must be dismissed from school due to illness may not participate in any program activities that day. Any exceptions will be approved only by a physician or the BA.

L. Possession or Use of Tobacco, Alcohol or Drugs

Refer to Policies JICH – Chemical Health and ADC – Tobacco Use and Possession

Cross References: ADC – Tobacco Use and Possession
 EEAG – Student Transportation in Private Vehicles
 IHBGA – Home School Instruction – Participation in School Programs
 JEA – Compulsory Attendance
 JICH – Chemical Health
 JJI – Citizenship
 JKD – Suspension of Students

First Reading: August 3, 2010

Adopted: August 17, 2010