

## INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

The School Board recognizes the value of a program of interscholastic activities as an integral part of the total school experience to all students of the district and to the community. Interscholastic activities are defined as athletics, music, cheerleading, debate, drama, clubs and organizations, ASB officers, or any activity where students represent the school outside the regular program.

Participation in interscholastic activities is completely voluntary and shall not be required for graduation. However, exceptions to voluntary participation may occur as a result of a student's participation in co-curricular classes (e.g., drama, band, choir) that award grades based upon a certain level of extracurricular participation. Involvement in the activities program does, however, require extra effort and extra time beyond the school day. Participants in interscholastic activities represent their student bodies, families and communities. Therefore, standards must be kept high. These include academic requirements, citizenship, sportsmanship, conduct and loyalty. The image of the total school program is reflected in the activity program and it is important that students conduct themselves in an exemplary manner. The superintendent shall establish regulations and guidelines for student participation in interscholastic activities. Such regulations shall be signed by each participant and their parent/guardian before the start of the activity.

### REGULATIONS & GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES

The district's interscholastic activities program hopes to develop leadership, a strong school spirit and friendly, positive interschool relationships. Students representing the Richland School District are expected to exemplify the highest standards of good sportsmanship. Sportsmanship includes the qualities of courteousness, fairness and respectfulness to officials, teammates, opponents, coaches and all others associated with the sport or activity.

1. In order to participate in practice or the activity itself, the participant must be in school attendance the entire day of such practice or activity (except Saturday). Any exception must be cleared through the building administration or athletic director.
2. Theft of goods or equipment may result in expulsion from the team or activity. Theft is interpreted as the unauthorized possession of equipment or goods belonging to the Richland Schools or any other school, organization or individual.
3. Use or possession of tobacco or tobacco products will result in a two-week suspension on the first offense. Second offense will result in expulsion from the activity.
4. Possession or use of drugs or alcohol will result in the immediate removal of the participant from the team, squad or office for sixty (60) school days or for the remainder of the season, term, or elected position, whichever is longer. In the event that the 60-day suspension is invoked, up to 15 days may be held in abeyance if the student participates in a certified substance abuse program. **NOTE:** ASB OFFICER'S term begins with election; CHEERLEADER'S season begins with tryouts.
5. School equipment is to be worn only while participating in practice or during scheduled contests or with the approval of the supervisor. The Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) prohibits the use of school issued equipment while participating in any event outside the yearly school program or activities not sponsored by the WIAA or authorized by school officials. School equipment checked out by the student is his/her responsibility. The student is expected to keep it clean and in good condition. Loss of issued equipment or damage to issued equipment will be the student's financial obligation and the district reserves the right to withhold transcripts until obligation is satisfied.
6. The school district and the ASB provide students with physical facilities for the activities at great expense to parents and community members in the form of taxes; therefore, it is important that students exercise care and personal regard for these areas. Misuse of dressing areas, lockers, towels, soap, benches, gymnasiums, fields, or any school facilities will not be tolerated.

The head coach or activity advisor has the prerogative to discipline a student who refuses to observe acceptable patterns of behavior. At the beginning of the season the head coach or director of an activity will provide student participants with a written outline of the training rules and criteria to be used in determining eligibility for a letter or other award applicable to that activity. In the event discipline is imposed, that discipline may result in denial of a letter or award. The head coach/activity advisor also has authority to recommend suspension or expulsion of a student from the activity. Because student participants in extracurricular activities

are representatives of the school and are participating in a school activity, exceptional misconduct may result in imposition of both discipline related to athletics/activities and student discipline as outlined in policy 3200, Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Students will have access for appeal through the Activities Review Board and the school administration. Due process procedures will then be followed as set up by the Richland School District and the State of Washington.

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Students who live in the school's attendance area are eligible to participate. If a student recently moved into the school's attendance area, building administrators can determine eligibility. In order for a student to participate in an activity, the following items must be on file in the school office:

1. Physical examination and physician's signature (as required for sports and specific activities). The student shall not be eligible to represent their school unless there is on file with the principal a physician's statement for the current year certifying that the student has passed an adequate physical examination and, in the opinion of the certifying physician, is fully able to participate in the school's activities. The physical examination is valid for one year and must be renewed annually. In case of serious injury or illness, the participating student must present to school officials a physician's release to resume activities participation.
2. Parent permission and emergency information form.
3. Waiver of insurance or paid insurance.
4. Signature of parent and student signifying that they have read and understand these regulations.

### **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

WIAA guidelines require participating students to maintain passing grades in a minimum of four classes from the previous semester. Participants are ineligible if one of those four classes is incomplete unless the class is completed within five weeks.

Failure to have passing grades in four classes will result in five weeks of academic probation with the student ineligible to participate. Eligibility to participate can be resumed on Monday of the sixth week if the student is passing at least four classes at that time.

A student shall be enrolled in at least five classes of a program geared for meeting senior year graduation requirements. Seniors can be enrolled in four classes if graduation requirements have been met.

### **ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES**

1. A student is not to be given special treatment or privileges on a regular basis to enable him to participate in non-school athletic activities, such as reduced practice times, special workouts, late arrivals, or early dismissals.
2. Students shall not be permitted to participate on any college, junior college, or university athletic team.
3. Students shall not compete in the uniform of their school at non-school events.

### **SEPARABILITY CLAUSE**

If any of these regulations or guidelines are held invalid, the remainder of this agreement shall not be affected.

### **ACTIVITY REVIEW BOARD**

A District Activity Review Board will be established annually. The ten member Board will consist of five representatives from middle school and five representative from high school and will include an assistant principal, activities director, athletic director, ASB President and a parent. A chairperson will be selected by the members of the Review Board.

The Board shall have two functions. First, to ensure a fair and impartial review of discipline imposed by a head coach or activity advisor. Second, in cases of alleged exceptional misconduct, review decisions from the principal for imposition of discipline extending beyond the coach/advisor's activity. The Activity Review Board hearing process is initiated by a written appeal submitted to the appropriate building principal by the student or

parent in discipline cases. The Board will meet when necessary and will have the authority to uphold, modify, or rescind: 1) coaches/advisors imposed discipline; 2) a suspension with appropriate treatment; 3) disqualification of students from participation in activities or competition; or 4) placement of the student on probation and such probation may extend beyond the school year or activity particularly involved. Appeal from an Activity Review Board decision is subject to the same procedures applicable to appeal of a student conduct code violation resulting in imposition of a disciplinary action. (WAC 180-40-235)

I have read the above regulations and fully understand the consequences in the event of a violation on my part.

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Student Signature	Date	Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
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