



**Responsible Office:** Office of Student Services

## **BOARD POLICY 5325**

### **DISTRICT-RECOGNIZED ATHLETICS**

#### **PURPOSE**

The Board of Trustees (“Board”) recognizes the importance of student participation in intra- and extra-curricular activities including District-Recognized Athletics as an important part of the total school experience of students in the Washoe County School District (“District”). Participation in such programs enrich the educational and social development of students. Such programs can provide an integral component of the educational program, including an opportunity to promote physical well-being, enhance self-confidence, build school spirit, and promote a positive school climate while learning values such as teamwork and sportsmanship. In order to encourage student participation in athletics, the Board adopts this policy to recognize athletics not sanctioned by the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) but recognized by the District.

#### **POLICY**

##### **1. Definitions**

- a. The term “District-recognized athletics” refers to competitive teams approved by District, but not sanctioned by the NIAA or the District, to operate in a school. See Board Policy 5340, District-Sanctioned, Interscholastic Athletics, and any implementing regulations and procedures for additional information about District-sanctioned athletics.

##### **2. Guiding Principles**

- a. The District offers a wide range of intra-curricular, extracurricular, District-recognized athletics, and District-Sanctioned athletics to encourage student participation and enhance the learning environment.
- b. In implementing and maintaining student programs, District staff and volunteers shall comply with the policies and regulations of the District, as well as any applicable state and federal laws and regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, policies prohibiting bullying, harassment, and/or discrimination.

- c. All students should have equal access to participation in District-recognized athletics.

### 3. Guiding Practices

- a. The terms and conditions under which District-recognized athletics may operate include, but are not limited to the following:
  - i. Receive approval by the District prior to implementation by a school.
  - ii. District-recognized athletics include teams that are competitive in nature but not sanctioned by the NIAA or the District. See Board Policy 5340, Interscholastic Athletics – District-Sanctioned, for additional information.
  - iii. There may not be an equivalent team offered that is sanctioned. (i.e. baseball, basketball, softball, volleyball).
- b. The District identifies District-recognized athletics to:
  - i. Promote sound parameters over the conditions under which students and teams compete.
  - ii. Encourage well-managed rules and regulations.
  - iii. Add an element of “due diligence” that encourages compliance with District rules and regulations.
  - iv. Protect the welfare of student-athletes.
  - v. Protect existing programs and thereby promote the opportunity for a larger number of students to gain the benefits of participation.
  - vi. Help reduce the abuses of excessive competition.
  - vii. Help protect students from exploitation.
  - viii. Adhere to regulations, procedures, and protocols adopted by the Superintendent.
- c. An on-campus staff member shall serve in a liaison role between the external organization, the school/District, and the student-participants and their families.
  - i. This shall be a non-paid position for the District; and
  - ii. The team’s liaison shall report to school administration and follow\_

all District and site-based procedures related to other student activities.

- d. District-recognized athletic teams shall be composed of members of the current student body to include a dual enrolled student, or a member of another District school when a similar opportunity is not available at the student's home school and with the permission of the principal.
- e. District-recognized athletics must have an external organization as a "co-sponsor" of the activity.
  - i. This will generally be a non-profit organization dedicated to youth athletics/activities;
  - ii. The external organization shall be responsible for all financial aspects of the team; and
  - iii. No monies related to the team will be deposited with or managed by the school. However, the staff liaison, in his/her individual capacity with the external entity, may manage monies associated with the team.
- f. The external organization shall present, for District approval, a charter, bylaws, or other written documentation stating compliance with this and other District policies and regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - i. All students shall have equal access to participation in a District recognized athletic team. There shall be no try-outs or limits to participation. Equivalent opportunities shall be available for boys and girls, as well as students with disabilities.
  - ii. No student shall be denied access to participation due to an inability to pay. The external organization shall implement procedures for ensuring scholarships or alternative means of offering financial assistance.
  - iii. Bullying, harassment, and/or discrimination in all aspects of the program are prohibited.
  - iv. The procedures for handling any concerns or complaints shall be documented and available to student participants and their families. Generally, the school's staff liaison shall be a first level for receipt of complaints, prior to the school administration.
  - v. The external organization shall assume all liability related to the

team. Student participants and their parent/guardian shall acknowledge the external organization's lead role and responsibility in organizing and managing the team, and the District's secondary role in making participation available to students through the school.

- 1) It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to provide health/accident insurance coverage for the student participant.
- vi. The external organization shall have documented protocols for the handling of any potential participant injuries or illnesses related to the activity and specifically concussion management, to include notifying the staff liaison.
  - vii. Failure of an external organization to comply with the provisions of this or any other District policy, or any implementing regulations, may result in the team's status as a recognized team being revoked.
- g. District-recognized Athletics may utilize District facilities for meetings, practices, and competitions.
- i. A District Use of Facilities Agreement must be completed by the external organization, approved by the principal, and submitted to the District's Housekeeping Department.
  - ii. The Use of Facilities Agreement shall be accompanied by proof of insurance, as described in the Terms and Conditions of the Agreement.
  - iii. Fees for such use may be assessed based on the normal upkeep and maintenance of the facility and/or when such use demands an on-site dedicated custodian or groundskeeper.
  - iv. District-recognized athletics receive priority use of the facilities over non-recognized athletics or activities.
- h. District-recognized Athletics shall have access to District transportation.
- i. Fees for the use of school buses shall be assessed in accordance with the District's standard fee schedule; and
  - ii. District-recognized athletics receive priority use of District transportation over other non-recognized athletics or activities.
  - iii. The District is not be responsible for providing uniforms,

equipment, or other supplies for District-recognized Athletics.

- iv. All coaches and volunteers associated with District-recognized Athletics shall comply with the District's protocols related to background checks. This includes, on an annual basis, fingerprinting at the expense of the coach and/or volunteer. See Administrative Regulation 4125 related to staff background checks and Administrative Manual 1535 related to volunteer procedures for additional information.
- v. The District retains the right to deny the application of an external organization wishing to become a District-recognized team/club. The school principal shall retain the final decision as to the operation of any student-groups at the school. Such denial may result from, but not be limited to:
  - 1) the organization fails to meet any of the requirements listed in District policies and regulations;
  - 2) the principal determines there is not adequate or appropriate space available for the activity; or
  - 3) A staff liaison cannot be found.
- i. Disclaimer - District-Recognized Athletics.
  - i. The District is not responsible or liable for District-recognized athletics that are owned, organized, promoted, or participated in by staff members operating outside the course and scope of their employment with the District.
    - 1) District staff who are involved with non-recognized athletics, activities, or organizations during their personal time must understand that employment with the District does not extend to the granting of benefits or privileges not available to non-employees (i.e. use of a school facility).
    - 2) Staff should be aware of District rules related to conflict of interest and ethical responsibilities. (See Administrative Regulation 4530, Ethical Standards / Conflict of Interest) District staff, to include coaches/advisors and volunteers, shall avoid any conflict of interest between his/her employment or volunteer opportunity and the non-sanctioned activity; and comply with ethical responsibilities by maintaining separation between the duties as a District staff member and the duties to the outside organization.

This includes use of District email, communication with students and other staff during work hours related to the outside organization, and other use of District resources.

- ii. The District is not responsible for nor does it control or incur liability for summer and/or out-of-season activities.
- j. The Superintendent may create administrative regulations and procedures related to the organization and management of District-recognized athletics. These include, but are not limited to:
  - i. Student eligibility, including academic and behavioral expectations, as well as eligibility appeals. Student eligibility criteria shall be documented and made available to students and their families.
  - ii. Responsibilities of the principal or site administrator related to supervision, well-being, and safety of student-participants.

### **DESIRED OUTCOMES**

1. Through this policy, the Board seeks to ensure that students have the opportunity to compete in athletic endeavors not sanctioned by the NIAA or the District in order to provide its students with as much opportunity as possible.

### **IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS**

1. This document reflects the goals of the District's Strategic Plan and aligns/complies with the governing documents of the District, to include:
  - a. Board Policy 5300, Student Activities
  - b. Board Policy 5340, District-Sanctioned Interscholastic Activities
  - c. Board Policy 5345, Prevention and Treatment of Sport Related Injuries
  - d. Board Policy 7120, Community Use of School Facilities
2. This document complies with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC).
  - a. Chapter 385B, Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association
  - b. Chapter 392, Pupils
3. This document complies with federal laws and regulations.

### **REVIEW & REPORTING**

1. This document shall be reviewed as part of the bi-annual review and reporting process, following each regular session of the Nevada Legislature. The Board of Trustees shall receive notification of any required changes to the policy as well as an audit of the accompanying governing documents.
2. Administrative regulations, and/or other associated documents, will be developed as necessary to implement this policy.

**REVISION HISTORY**

Date	Revision	Modification
6/26/2018	1.0	Adopted: Replaced Board Policy 5305, Interscholastic Activities, Athletics, ...