



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK

Mission Statement

To create well educated, respectful citizen leaders in a K-12th grade College Prep Science and Art School.

Vision Statement

As a K-12th grade College Prep Science and Arts school, our goal is to educate all students academically, socially, emotionally, and physically so they are prepared for the challenges of school, college, and his/her future career. We set high standards for academic achievement, attendance, student behavior, and expect our students to have a productive and successful school year.

Contact Information

SCHOOL	ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
Vision Charter School 19291 Ward Rd. Caldwell, ID 83605 P: (208) 455-9220 F: (208) 455-9121	Darla Harrold P: (208) 455-9220 Ext. 351 E: darlaharrold@visioncsd.org

Organizational Structure

Charter Administrator/6-12 Principal
Athletic and Activities Director
Varsity Head Coach for each sport

Organizational Affiliation

Vision Charter School is a member of the 1A Western Idaho Conference (WIC) and Idaho High School Activities Association for high school. The WIC for high school consists of the following schools: Centennial Baptist, Gem State Academy, Greenleaf Friends, Idaho City, Liberty Charter, Notus, Rimrock, Riverstone International, Victory Charter, Vision Charter, and Wilder.

Vision Charter School is a member of the 2A Western Idaho Conference (WIC) for middle school. The WIC consists of schools: Ambrose, Compass Charter, Cole Valley Christian, Marsing, Melba, New Plymouth, Nampa Christian, North Star, Nyssa, Vale, and Vision Charter.

We recognize and adhere to the guidelines set by the Western Idaho Conference(WIC) and Idaho High School Activities Association(IHSAA).

Interscholastic Athletics Philosophy

Every coach and staff member is expected to be a positive role model that seeks to prepare student-athletes to meet the challenges of competition. Vision Athletics is committed to the highest level of competition and to instill and reinforce Vision Athletics' Seven Pillars of Character.

Core Values

Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, Citizenship, Integrity.

These core values define the culture of Vision Charter Athletics. Each principle builds a culture of good sportsmanship and develops positive character. The goal is not always to win, but to produce a program that instills values in all that are part of it. Coaches, players, parents, and fans are all part of the positive culture Vision Athletics brings to the school, so it is important to uphold these core values.

Responsibilities Players and Parents

Players

Responsibility- As a participant, your job is to do your best at every practice and competition-both as an athlete and as an enthusiastic and supportive team leader. Good sportsmanship for athletes means you must:

1. Accept and take seriously your responsibility as a player and role model and also recognize your privilege of representing your school and community. Practice good sportsmanship at all times - on and off the field or court.
2. Cooperate with your coaches and follow school and team rules of conduct as outlined in your student and athletic handbooks.
3. Respect officials and accept their decisions.
4. Follow the rules of the game.
5. Avoid foul language.
6. Know that participating is a privilege, not a right
7. Uphold and reflect Vision's core values: Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, Citizenship, and Integrity

Integrity- Once you commit to an extracurricular activity, you are expected to fulfill the obligation of that season. Coaches, players and others rely on you. Quitting is not an option.

1. Any player that chooses to remove themselves before the season is over will not letter in that particular sport or activity.
2. Any player that chooses to remove themselves before the season is over will not be allowed to join another sport or activity until a meeting is held with the player, coach/director, activities director and parent. This policy will carry over from the current academic school year to the following school year.

Vision Charter School realizes that every situation is unique and will analyze each incident on a case by case basis.

Well-rounded Citizen Leaders- Vision Charter school prides themselves in supporting well-rounded citizen leaders. We understand students are involved in many activities on and off campus.

1. Students are expected to communicate with directors and coaches anytime a scheduling conflict occurs. This communication needs to happen prior to the day of the event and preferably multiple days in advance.
2. Vision understands that many students have part-time jobs and supports their efforts. To ensure coaches and directors can plan for practices and games. Work schedules should be turned into their coaches the Friday prior to the upcoming week. The hope is that students will create a balance between work and school obligations.

Respect- Respect is a top priority for coaches, players and parents. Showing up late or missing scheduled practices, games, and events is considered disrespect to all parties involved. Any time a student needs to miss a scheduled event, they need to communicate with their coach or director.

1. Communicated absences may result in loss of playing time. Each individual situation will be assessed but coaches and directors will exercise consistency.
2. Uncommunicated absences will result in a “no-start” for the next event and loss of playing time.
3. Habitual absences may result in an attendance contract.

Parents

The role of a parent in the education of a student-athlete is vital. Fairness and respect are lifetime values taught through athletics and activities. These are the principles of good sportsmanship and character.

1. Realize that athletics are part of the educational experience, and the benefits of involvement go beyond the final score of a game.
2. Encourage students to perform their best, just as we would urge them on with their classwork.
3. Participate in positive cheers that encourage our student-athletes; and discourage any cheers that would redirect that focus. Avoid foul language. Learn, understand, and respect the rules of the game, the officials who administer them and their decisions.
4. Respect the tasks our coaches face and support them as they strive to educate our youth.
5. Respect the opponents as student-athletes, and acknowledge them for striving to do their best.
6. Parents and other family members who do not follow the above expectations may be banned from attending home activities and maybe required to complete a sportsmanship class.

Communication with Coaches and Parents/Guardians

It is very important that there is a good line of communication between coaches and parents. Therefore coaches and parents should understand their roles in helping to provide a great experience for the athlete. As parents, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach.

Communication You Should Expect From Your Child's Coach:

- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as the entire team.
- Locations and times of all practices, events, and games.
- Team requirements (practices, equipment needed, policies, etc.).

Communication Coaches Expect From Parents:

- Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
- Notification if the athlete is going to miss practices excused or unexcused.
- Concerns expressed directly to the coach. As your child becomes involved with our athletics program, they will experience some very educational and rewarding times. There may also be sometimes when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times discussion with the coach is encouraged at an appropriate scheduled time.

Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches:

- Concerns about your child's behavior or attitude.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- The treatment of your child mentally and physically. It can be very difficult to accept if your child is not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches make decisions based on what they feel is best for the team and program.

It is important for you to understand that there are certain items we do not discuss with parents.

Concerns Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches and Athletic Director:

The following decisions are the prerogative of the coach and the coaching staff:

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Game strategy
- Play calling
- Other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach, parents, athletic director, and the student athlete. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue or concern.

If You Have A Concern To Discuss With The Coach:

- Set up an appointment by contacting the coach.
- Never confront a coach before or after a game or practice. These can be emotional times for all involved and this nature of contact does not promote resolutions.
- There is a **24 hour** cooling off period to allow emotions to settle.

Steps to Follow for Resolution:

1. The concerned player should approach their immediate coach to schedule a time to discuss their questions or concerns. If the player is not satisfied or comfortable with the outcome of this meeting, move to the next step.
2. The concerned player should request a meeting with the head coach. If the player is not satisfied or comfortable with the outcome of this meeting, move to the next step.
3. The concerned player should request a meeting with the sport coaching staff and parents/guardians. This should be done by email with a brief explanation of the situation and concern. If the player and/or parents/guardians are not satisfied or comfortable with the outcome of this meeting, move to the next step.
4. Request a meeting involving the player, necessary sport coaching staff, parents, and athletic director. If all parties involved are not satisfied or comfortable with the outcome of this meeting, additional alternatives should be discussed for a resolution.
5. If necessary, an additional meeting can be scheduled between the parties of step four and an administrator of Vision Charter School.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FOR ALL SPORTS & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

To be academically eligible for athletics, a student must be enrolled full-time at Vision Charter School, on target to graduate based on State Board of Education graduation requirements, and have received passing grades and earned credits in the required number of courses during the previous reporting period.

- Equivalency is determined by the following criteria:
 - 3 classes attempted must pass all three
 - 4 classes attempted must pass at least three
 - 5 classes attempted must pass at least four
 - 6 classes attempted must pass at least five
 - 7 classes attempted must pass at least five
- An incomplete or conditional grade received at the end of a semester counts as a failure until the deficiency is removed.
- A student must have satisfactorily completed the preceding semester and the academic eligibility requirements to be eligible for the current semester.

Students participating with a cumulative GPA below 2.0 must have an academic improvement plan in place as developed by the local school district. This plan must include monitoring, additional assistance, time provided for assistance, and an appropriate timeline.

Graduation Requirements:

- Students must be on track to graduate in order to be eligible for athletics or activities.
- Being “on target to graduate by State Board of Education requirements” means: a student not having the necessary number of credits to graduate with their class through the normal school day program, must have a graduation plan that provides for receiving a diploma by the end of the summer following their senior year in order to be eligible for activity participation.

During the Season:

Any student who has a D or an F in ANY class at grade check time will move into Academic Probation.

Academic probation consists of two categories, Probation1 and Probation2 (defined below).

- **Academic Probation Level 1:**
 - 2 weeks to bring grades to a minimum of a C-
 - Does not affect playing eligibility for practices or games.
 - Any student with an F in any course will not be allowed to miss school for any athletics, activities, or extracurricular activities.
- **Academic Probation Level 2:**
 - Required to attend practices
 - Not allowed to compete in games
 - Any student with an F in any course will not be allowed to miss school for any athletics, activities, or extracurricular activities.

Grade checks will be completed every other Monday starting after the first week of practice for each Sport/Activity. During Academic Probation Level 1, students are able to participate in practices and games as long as the grade(s) are brought up to a C- prior to the next grade check at the end of the two weeks. In the event that the grades are cured, the student is off of Academic Probation and returned to his/her full privileges. In the event the student still has an F or a D at the two-week grade check, the student will move to Academic Probation Level 2. The student will be required to attend practices, may attend competitions but will not be allowed to compete.

At any time, a student's grades have improved and the student becomes eligible they may return to the sport/activity. If it is before the next official grade check, the student-athlete must email the athletic director to request a grade check to determine if they are cleared of academic probation. Requests will not be processed outside of school hours.

ATTENDANCE FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES:

All students must be in school attendance for 3.5 hours during school hours to be eligible to participate in any practice, performance, game, or function that day/evening. This policy will begin on September 19, 2022 and will be enforced here forward.

To participate during the school day in extra-curricular activities a student must:

- Turn in assigned class work and take any assigned tests prior to participating and leaving school for the day unless specific arrangements have been made with a teacher.

A student suspended in school for more than one period or out of school on the day of activity will not be allowed to participate in that activity, game, or practice.

Vision Charter students who dual-enroll in IHSA sports for their home school district, in a sport that Vision does not offer

- Will have an absence from class due to a game or practice waived as long as the student submits in advance to the Charter Administrator in writing the schedule of games and practices for the IHSA sport
- The student misses the minimum time away from instruction and meets the requirements of this section specifically outlined in Attendance for Extracurricular Athletics and Activities.
- A student's instructional schedule may be changed to accommodate their IHSA dual enrollment sport schedule including having a no credit study hall or Tutoring Practicum at the start or end of the day to avoid the student missing excessive amounts of class instructional time if practice time negatively impacts instruction.
 - This may necessitate the student not getting the class(es) they want or having to take a required course online through IDLA due to missing too much instructional time to grant credit.

Students participating in athletics/activities/club programs that are not dual-enrollment IHSA athletics programs for their home district, will not qualify for this attendance waiver.

Lettering:

An athletic or activity letter, pin and certificate will be awarded to students who meet the requirements for each sport or activity in which they participate.

Athletic Letters:

Athletic letters will be granted based on a student athlete meeting the following conditions:

- A cumulative GPA of 2.5
- Attending and participating in at least 2/3 of the sports' games, meets, or matches on the varsity level team.
- Completing the competitive season
 - The competitive season is defined as all contests up through the State Tournament.
 - The student-athlete cannot meet the 2/3 requirement and then fail to participate for the remainder of the season and earn a letter in that sport.
 - An athletic letter can be awarded to students who are injured if it is apparent to the coach that they would have earned a letter if not for the injury.
- Athletes are expected to attend all practices and to be on time. No more than **three** unexcused absences (practices or events) is acceptable in earning a letter.
- The coach or charter administrator reserves the right to withhold letters from players who display conduct and attitudes detrimental to the squad, regardless of participation.
- Athletic team managers may receive a letter at the coach or administrator's discretion based on fully attending and participating in the duties of manager during the sport's season.
- Students with a pattern of disciplinary actions may be denied a letter as determined by the school administrator

Activities Letters:

All activities lettering requires maintaining a cumulative GPA of 2.5 (unless otherwise noted in the lettering requirements of each activity).

Students must also attend at least 80% of the required meetings and performances (if applicable).

Students with a pattern of disciplinary actions may be denied a letter as determined by the school administrator.

Individual directors may designate additional lettering criteria for their specific activity. These criteria are approved by the administrator and will be clearly outlined in printed form to be distributed during one of the first designated activity meeting times. Lettering requirements for each activity will be on file with the activities facilitator. Questions or comments concerning the lettering standards for each activity should be addressed with the individual activity director.