

**Otter Valley Union High School  
2997 Franklin Street  
Brandon, VT 05733  
802.247.6833**

**Parental Permission and Participation Contract for Interscholastic Athletics**

Dear Parent, Stepparent, or Guardian:

Your child has expressed a desire to participate in our interscholastic sports program. It is important that you and your child understand the goals of the program and agree to abide by the rules established by the school for the benefit of those who participate as players, students, and representatives of their community. This contract is a summary of the basic regulations, which students, parent(s), and/or guardian(s) should understand. Each participant and their parent are expected to read and indicate their understanding of and willingness to comply with these regulations by signing the contract. Complete regulations are available from the Athletic Director.

Participation in interscholastic sports activities at Otter Valley Union Middle and High School is a privilege. Interscholastic sports are a part of a broad co-curricular program designed to teach students certain skills and reinforce concepts of self-worth (achievement), cooperative efforts (teamwork), and ethical decision making (sportsmanship). During their participation students are expected to conduct themselves in a reasonable and appropriate manner; a child's behavior should always reflect positively on the school. These responsibilities include abiding by the rules in the Student Handbook and the Athletic Handbook. These guidelines apply to all students who represent OVUHS at athletic contests where they receive equipment, monetary support, or transportation. Students selected to participate in All-Star games or other post-season activities are also expected to abide by the rules in the Student Handbook and Athletic Handbook.

1. All participants must have a current physical examination record on file with the Athletic Director and school nurse. Please consult your physician regarding your child's protection against tetanus. The coaching staff and other responsible school officials will do everything within reason to protect your child against injury, including the provision of appropriate equipment, safe facilities, and training. Unfortunately injuries will occur and on a rare occasion may be serious and disabling. If you are concerned about this possibility, you should discuss it with your child's coach.

2. The use or possession of tobacco/alcohol or controlled substances is inconsistent with participation in athletics at OVUHS and Middle School. If you are involved in school-sponsored athletic activities you are governed by the school's Policy Code JFCIA: *Anti-Drug, Alcohol, or Tobacco Use Policy governing Participants in Co-curricular and/or Athletics Activities or Programs*. Students who sign this contract agree not to use or possess these substances during the season of practice or play.

3. Hazing is prohibited. Hazing as defined in OVUHS Policy Code JFD is any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, directed against a student, that (i) causes or creates a serious risk resulting in severe mental or emotional distress or bodily injury to a student and (ii) is for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any student group or club whose members are students at the Otter Valley Union High School/RNESU. Hazing may also be the directing of another student to commit some act of harm or humiliation to him/herself; it may be done by one person alone or acting with others. Any student who violates this policy will immediately forfeit the privilege of participating in any extracurricular activities for a period of six weeks, and may be suspended from school and/or subjected to other appropriate disciplinary and/or corrective action, including restitution. A student will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including long term suspension and expulsion, under this policy if found to commit any of the following:

- A. Engages in hazing.
- B. Solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in engaging in hazing.
- C. Intentionally knowingly or recklessly condones the hazing activity.
- D. Retaliates against a person for reporting a hazing incident or for cooperating with an investigation into an allegation of hazing.

It is not a defense in a disciplinary proceeding under this policy that the person against whom the hazing was directed consented to or acquiesced in the hazing activity.

Examples of what may constitute hazing include, but are not limited to, the following actions, when they also meet the definition of hazing in the paragraph above.

- A. Any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electric shocking, placing of a harmful substance on or in the body, or similar activity;
- B. Any type of physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, or other activity that creates or results in an unreasonable risk or harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
- C. Any activity involving consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance which subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm; or
- D. Any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task, which involves the commission or a crime or an act of hazing.

4. To be eligible to participate in contests, games, theatrical, or musical performances, the student must be passing all courses.

Any course failures will result in the student being placed on academic probation. While on probation the student is expected to continue practicing with team, but may not travel with, may not suit-up with, may not warm up with, nor participate in any competitions, performances or productions.

- A. If the student has one failure the student is placed on academic probation for five (5) school days. Five (5) days after the publication of the eligibility list the student must take the eligibility form to each of the teachers to verify that they are passing each class. They are to submit the completed verification form to the Athletic Director or co-curricular activity advisor. The student will continue with this process every five (5) school days until the new eligibility list is published.
- B. If the student has two (2) or more failures the student is placed on academic probation for ten (10) school days. Ten (10) schools days after the publication of the eligibility list the student must take an eligibility form to each of their teachers to verify that they are passing in each class. They are to submit the completed verification form to the Athletic Director or co-



curricular activity advisor. The student will continue with this process every five (5) school days until the new eligibility list is published.

- C. When all grades are passing the student is able to compete or perform. At any one of the grade monitoring points the student may return to eligible or probationary status.
- D. For the purpose of these procedures, grades are classified as follows:

Passing Grades

- = 65% or higher
- = P (Passing)
- = S (Satisfactory)
- = WP (Withdrawn Passing)

5. In accordance with the OVUHS School Board Policy on Unlawful Harassment, OVUHS maintains a learning and working environment that is free from unlawful harassment. Any form of unlawful harassment on the basis of disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion, age, sex, or sexual orientation is prohibited.

6. School insurance for the medical treatment of sports related injuries are applicable only after the parents' or guardians' health insurance, if any is used. Our insurance is scheduled excess coverage and generally will not pay the full cost of treatment.

7. School equipment issued to your child for participation is his or her responsibility and must be returned promptly upon request. Reimbursement from the student will be expected for loss or destruction beyond ordinary wear and tear.

I have read and understand the eligibility rules, behavior rules, requirements for physicals, and OVUHS and Middle School policy regarding accident insurance as explained in the Athletic Handbook for Athletes and Parents. I understand that I will be required to abide by team, school and applicable association rules in order to maintain my eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics. I therefore give my word of honor that I will abide by all of the stipulations of this contract.

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Sport (s) \_\_\_\_\_

- I have read the information in the above contract and understand both the risks of injury to, and the responsibilities of my child while participating in the interscholastic athletic program. I understand and will support the above contract.
- I give permission for my child to participate. I also give my consent for my child to receive, through a medical doctor of the school's choice, emergency medical care that may become necessary in the course of such athletic activity or travel.
- I have received and read the document on concussion symptoms and treatment.

Parent or Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*This statement must be signed and returned to the Athletic Director prior to practice or participation.*

In order for your child to participate in interscholastic sports, we must have proof of insurance. Please list the name of the insurance company if it is other than school insurance. If your child is insured by the school insurance, just place a check on the line provided. Please advise the school of any changes in your insurance coverage.

School Insurance: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to athlete \_\_\_\_\_

Physician's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Drug Allergies \_\_\_\_\_ Other Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Medication \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Lens: \_\_\_\_\_