

Rice Lake Middle School Co-Curricular Code

Philosophy Statement

The Rice Lake School District believes that its primary purpose is to provide opportunities for excellence in education. With this in mind, the school board, administration, and faculty agree that athletics can be an integral part of a student's education. Competitive co-curriculars offer valuable learning experiences that are physically, ethically and emotionally demanding. These experiences provide lessons that often cannot be taught in the normal classroom setting. Co-curriculars are considered to be an extracurricular activity; therefore, anyone wishing to participate must be willing to accept this code of conduct and similarly, accept responsibility for action taken in response to code violations.

I. Eligibility

Each school year, all participating students must turn in the following prior to receiving any equipment or participating in any practice sessions (on Skyward):

1. Proof of insurance or a signature accepting responsibility of payment in case of injury.
2. A statement signed by both student and parents/guardians indicating an understanding of the athletic code, along with the concussion form.
3. Sport form signed by both student and parents/guardians indicating an understanding of the specific sport/curricular requirements.

II. Academics

Grades will be run weekly and if an athlete has No Evidence in 2 or more academic areas in any class they will have one week of probation to complete the standard with a score higher than Minimal Mastery. Athletes should be practicing while on probation unless approved by the coach. If an athlete needs to attend remediation, they will be ineligible for any practice/games/activities during any remediation time periods. Once they have completed remediation successfully, they will be reinstated.

III. Attendance

- A. Students are required to be in attendance for at least half of the school day on the day of a contest or practice to be eligible for participation on that day. The student must be to school by 11:30 AM to practice or participate in a game or at a meet. Exceptions may be made for a medically excused absence or funeral cleared by the Athletic Director or Administrator.
- B. An unexcused absence of one or more class periods during a sports season makes a student ineligible for the next upcoming contest for which he/she is eligible, unless there are extenuating circumstances as determined by the MS athletic director and principal.
- C. Some students miss or come in late, particularly the school day after an athletic contest. It is understandable that student athletes may be tired as a result of competition the prior evening. The primary reason for existence of a school is academic education, not athletics. Therefore, student athletes who are late to school in the morning, miss

school entirely, or are tardy for classes repeatedly, will be required to have their parents contact the MS athletic director to show cause why he/she should be allowed to continue taking part in athletic competition.

IV. Travel and Conduct on Trips

- A. Athletes must travel with their team using the mode of transportation approved by the school. An athlete who travels to a site with a school team must return with the team. The only exception to the rule is that if the athlete's parent/guardian is present at the site, he/she may request that the athlete return with the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian must personally present the coach with a **written** note indicating that he/she will be taking his/her child home.
- B. Student athletes are responsible for cleaning up garbage and other debris that results from eating on school buses or other school provided transportation.
- C. It is expected that students will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner on school-sponsored trips. It is important that all of our students understand that they represent their school and community to the general public.

V. Athletic Policies

- A. **Enforcement** – The RLMS Athletic Code will be enforced from the first day of practice or date of signing, for a period of 12 consecutive months.
- B. **Suspension** – A student athlete who has an out of school suspension will be suspended from any activity for the same duration of time as the suspension from school and a minimum of one game/activity/match/etc. The student athlete will not be allowed to practice while serving school suspension. A student athlete who has an in school suspension will not be allowed to participate in a game/activity that day but should attend practice.
- C. **Academic or Code Violation Sanctions** – Any student athlete who is under academic suspension or suspension from a code violation will not be allowed to travel with the team to away games until the suspension has been served.
Any student athlete who is under academic or code violation suspension will not be allowed to wear the uniform for games during their suspension period but may be with the team at a home game dressed in proper attire.
- D. **Communicating the Code to Parents and Athletes** – It is the responsibility of each athlete and parent to review the athletic code and sign it before participation is granted. If there are any questions regarding the athletic code, contact the MS athletic director. Athletes and their parents must sign the athletic code each year.
- E. **Equipment** – Any school equipment that is issued must be returned or paid for before a student may participate in his/her next sport or receive awards in the current sport.
- F. **Injury** – All injuries incurred during an athletic practice or contest must be reported to the coach immediately. Parents must inform the school of any injury sustained during the sport season whether the injury occurs while the student is participating in the school sport or outside of school activity. If a student is evaluated by a health care provider and there are restrictions to the student's physical activity, the parent must provide

written documentation of the injury from the health care provider. When the health care provider determines the student may return to unrestricted activity, the parent/guardian must provide a medical release from the health care provider to return to unrestricted athletic participation.

- G. **Discipline** – Recognition is given that discipline is an essential part of the learning process; therefore, each coach may establish rules in addition to those to ensure an atmosphere conducive to the sport. Any additional rules may not preclude any code of conduct rules. These rules must be submitted to the MS athletic director in writing and approved by the principal and athletic director prior to their introduction to the team at large. In order to be enforceable, the additional rules must be given to each participant in writing.

VI. Code Violations

- A. Purchase, possession, or use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, illegal drugs or look-alike drugs.
- B. Insubordination, illegal acts or conduct contrary to the principles and standards of the Rice Lake Area Schools (conduct not becoming of an athlete).
- C. Violation of Wisconsin Statutes, County and Municipal Ordinances (includes illegal gambling or presence [without a parent] in an establishment that sells alcohol)

VII. Reporting and Administration for Code Violations

- A. Athletic code violations may be observed or reported by administration, faculty, parents, students, or community members. When appropriate, as determined by the MS athletic director, the anonymity of the informant will be maintained.
- B. The athlete and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified of the alleged violation within two days of receipt of the report by the MS athletic director. The MS athletic director shall interview the athlete and/or his/her parents(s)/guardian(s) not later than two days after the preceding notice.
- C. Upon conclusion of the interview and after such other and further investigation and inquiry as the MS athletic director deems appropriate, the MS athletic director shall issue his/her decision whether the athlete violated a code provision. The athletic director shall determine and impose the appropriate consequence if a violation is found to have occurred. The MS athletic director shall be the sole finder of fact.

VIII. Consequences

Participation in interscholastic athletics is considered a privilege and not a right. Failure to abide by the established rules will result in withdrawal of the privilege to participate. Violations of the code of conduct will be dealt within the procedures that follow:

Honesty Consequence Reduction – Athletes who admit to violations voluntarily when questioned for the first time during the first interview will receive a lesser consequence compared to those who do not cooperate or attempt to deceive school officials during the first interview. Additionally, athletes who report their violations to the MS athletic director of their own violation, could, at the discretion of the MS athletic director, have their suspension reduced by another contest. The honesty consequence reduction is available

on the first offense only.

- **First Offense** – Suspension from 1 game, AODA class taken (if drug or alcohol offense must be completed).
- **Second Offense** – Suspension from ½ of the season. If the violation is for a second drug or alcohol offense, the athlete will get a juvenile referral.
- **Third Offense** – Suspension from interscholastic athletics for **12 consecutive months** from the date of the offense. The athlete will meet with the administration to determine appropriate procedures for re-admittance to the athletic program.
- **Fourth Offense** – Suspension from interscholastic athletics for the remainder of his/her MS career. The HS athletic director will be made aware of any MS athlete that makes a fourth offense.
- **Increased consequence for serious violations** – If a student commits an act in violation of the athletic code which would be classified under Wisconsin state law or federal law as a felony or Class A misdemeanor, or which in the sole discretion of the MS athletic director is so serious that additional (increased) consequences including, but not limited to additional and increased suspension periods. These consequences are solely within the discretion of the MS athletic director.
 - **Suspensions** will be rounded to the nearest whole number of contests. Any suspension not completed in one sport will carry over to the next sport. An athlete must complete a sport in order to satisfy the requirement of a suspension.
 - **Consequences** for violations that occur while an athlete is already serving a suspension will result in the additional suspension being imposed after the current suspension is completed.

IX. **Appeal Procedure**

If the athlete and/or the athlete's parent(s)/guardian(s) are not in agreement with the disciplinary action taken, the following procedure may be commenced. Written notice of an appeal must be submitted to the MS athletic director within 72 hours of the MS athletic director's decision. Written notice of an appeal to any subsequent level must also be submitted to the MS athletic director within 72 hours of the decision at any level of appeal. The hearing for each level of appeal will be held within seven days of the MS athletic director's receipt of the written notice of appeal. The athlete and/or parent/guardian should present a legitimate basis for appeal, not simply to appeal for appeal's sake. The order of appeal after the MS Athletic Director is: MS principal, then District Administrator, then Rice Lake School Board.