

Athletic Code of Conduct

Philosophy

Reed City Area Public Schools adheres to the philosophy that interscholastic sports are an essential and important part of the total educational program. Developing the physical, mental, emotional, and social values of our student-athletes will help prepare them for future endeavors. Athletics, by their nature, require great physical effort, mental discipline and sacrifice. Physical conditioning begins with the student-athlete developing proper habits such as eating proper foods, getting sufficient rest, and giving 100% total concentration. Accepting coaching instructions, playing by the rules, abiding by the decisions of the officials, and taking suggestions or criticism are necessary in developing proper mental values. Something worth doing is worth making sacrifices to succeed.

Student-athletes have the opportunity to excel and be recognized. With this opportunity comes the responsibility to self, the team, the coach, and the rules set forth by the Reed City Area Public Schools' Board of Education.

Reed City High School student-athletes are expected to exhibit a high level of sportsmanship both on and off the field/court. Student-athletes who do not exhibit a high level of sportsmanship may be subject to a variety of penalties, up to and including dismissal from the team.

Sportsmanship At Athletic Contests

When we entertain visiting teams from other schools, or when we go to other schools, our school and we are judged by the manner in which we conduct ourselves.

Please do:

1. Accept the decisions of the officials
2. Take part in your own school's cheering
3. Be considerate of other people at the game

Please do not:

1. Boo
2. Cause a disturbance during organized cheers by the opposition
3. Razz the players

Definitions

Student-athlete: An individual is considered to be a student-athlete once he/she becomes a member of a Reed City Middle School or High School team: as a manager or participant.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility requirements will be modified, if necessary, to meet or exceed the minimum requirements mandated by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA).

Daily Eligibility – Attendance

1. To attend practice or participate in a contest, you must be in attendance in your regular classes on that entire day, unless the office issued an advanced excuse or you bring in a note from a doctor. Exceptions may be made only under extenuating circumstances, such as emergencies, at the discretion of the Athletic Director and Principal/Asst. Principal.

2. The student-athlete is expected to be in school the entire day following a contest. Repeated absences, excused or otherwise, following will be reviewed by the Athletic Director and the Principal on a case-by-case basis and may subject the student-athlete to suspension(s).

3. Any student-athlete who is serving an in-school or out-of-school suspension will not participate in any meetings, practices or contests during the time of the suspension. All student-athletes are students first and athletes second and are expected to act accordingly.

Bi-Weekly Eligibility- Academics and Citizenship

1. Academic eligibility will be based on the semester cumulative grade (your overall grade in a class up to that point).
2. Respectful attention in the classroom as well as proper respect for the faculty, other staff, students and property is expected at all times.
3. All student-athletes must be attending school full-time and passing all classes to remain eligible.
4. Students who are not eligible to play due to previous trimester grades, disciplinary suspensions, or biweekly eligibility may not leave class early for a game. This policy includes team managers.

Semester Eligibility- Academic and Residence

1. All student-athletes must have attended school full-time, and passed all classes, the previous semester to be eligible for team membership. A “previous semester” is defined as ending after the second marking period (January) or the fourth marking period (June). Correspondence classes will not count toward eligibility. Summer school classes may count toward fall/winter semester eligibility only if previously approved by the building principal.
2. The first time a student fails a semester class, he/she will be ineligible for one-half of the next sports season in which he/she participates in the following semester. The second (or additional) time a student fails a class, he/she will be ineligible for participation in contests for the entire following semester. One-half season is defined as one-half of the regularly scheduled season contests. Students’ middle school and high school academic records will be considered separately when evaluating first and subsequent semester class failures. Therefore, a student having failed a middle school class would start 9th grade with a zero class failure status in high school.
3. Residential requirements are mandated by the MHSAA and must be met to be eligible for team membership.
4. In accordance with MHSAA regulations, the semester eligibility requirement will be waived for students entering the 9th grade for the first time, except as otherwise prohibited by MHSAA.

Year-round Eligibility- Athletic Code of Conduct

After the first occurrence of membership on an athletic team, a student-athlete will comply with the athletic code of conduct throughout the entire year (from January 1 to December 31) and until graduation to maintain his/her eligibility status.

Academics and Citizenship: Eligibility Administration

1. The teachers are expected to post grades on Skyward for eligibility purposes.
2. The initial reporting date will be the second or third Thursday of each semester. Thereafter, eligibility will be required every other Thursday. Eligibility reports will be accepted from students on “off” Fridays. Reporting periods are subject to change to comply with minimum MHSAA standards. A form for reporting grades on “off” Fridays can be obtained from the athletic office.
3. Academic ineligibility will take effect the Monday following reporting for a period not less than Monday through Sunday. Reinstatement of eligibility will take effect the Monday following a satisfactory report(s) that clears the individual for participation. The student-athlete will be notified on Monday if he/she is ineligible. He/she will be expected to practice, not be allowed to dress in uniform during contest, and will sit with his/her team during contests throughout the suspension period.
4. Students may submit a new eligibility report between the regularly scheduled bi-weekly reports. Upon correcting the situation, the student-athlete may request a report using a form the student obtains from the Athletic Director. All the student’s teachers must report passing grades for the student-athlete to regain eligibility.

Major Offenses

A student athlete may be charged with a major offense when the Athletic Director or the Principal/Assistant. Principals feel they have sufficient evidence that an offense has occurred. Prosecution in a court of law is not required to move forward with imposing penalties under this section of the athletic code. The following are considered major offenses of the Athletic Code of Conduct:

1. Any act that constitutes the commission of a crime *may result in punishment as a major offense.*
2. The use or possession of alcohol, tobacco (including chewing tobacco), or illegal drugs and/or the sale, purchase, or transporting or the attempted sale, purchase, or transporting of the same.

Major Offense Penalties

A major offense will be dealt with in the following manner:

1. The Athletic Director and the Principal/Assistant Principal will meet with the student to discuss the issue. If it is determined that a violation of the athletic code has occurred, the parents will be notified in writing. The notification will contain a summary of the penalty and the suspension that will be imposed.
2. If it has been determined that the student-athlete has committed a major offense, the penalties will be as follows:

First Offense:

suspension for 25% of a season. Completion of an approved educational/rehabilitation program, prior to reinstatement, if the offense involved alcohol, tobacco, or drugs and 20 hours of community service performed through the athletic office. Community service is defined as helping out with set-up and tear-down of events, cleaning the bleachers after games, etc.

Twenty-five percent of a season is defined as one-quarter of the regular season contest dates and will be prorated for suspensions served during more than one season.

Second Offense:

Suspension for 50% of an athletic season.

One-half season is defined as one-half of the regular season contest dates and will be prorated for suspensions served during more than one season.

Third Offense:

A third offense will result in a one-year suspension from athletics. After completion of suspension, the student-athlete may reapply for athletic eligibility through the Athletic Director.

3. **The school district maintains the right to remove any student from participation in athletics for involvement in or commission of an egregious act.**

4. **Students not participating in a sport during a first violation will receive suspension for 25% of a season.**

- a. If a student-athlete is not participating in a sport when a first violation occurs, or the suspension cannot be completely served within a single season, the remaining suspension will be served during the student's next participation on an athletic team. If serving a suspension out of the season when a violation occurred, the student-athlete will be required to remain a participant in good-standing until the completion of that sport season for the suspension to be considered served.

- b. Coaches are under no obligation to accept a student-athlete onto a team to allow a first suspension to be served. A first suspension is considered served if the student-athlete does not participate during the next occurrence of the same season in which the suspension was initiated or after one calendar year if the suspension was not served by participating on a team. Summer break shall be considered a part of the fall sports season.
- c. All 8th grade students will be granted a zero-offense eligibility status the day following the last contest of the spring middle school sports season. Any violations on or after that date will carry forward for the remainder of the student-athlete's career, including high school. Students granted advance high school eligibility will regain a zero-offense status upon the granting of advanced eligibility. Granting a zero-offense status will occur no more than one time per athlete and will not occur after entering the 9th grade.

An 8th grade student violating the athletic code who, due to the timing and circumstances of their participation, would not be suspended from any participation due to the granting of zero-offense eligibility will have his/her case reviewed as if it were a minor violation of the athletic code. The Athletic Director and the High School Principal will review the matter and may impose a suspension. An example would be an 8th grade Student not participating in spring sports who violates the athletic code during the spring season.

Minor Offenses

1. A minor offense is a violation of the coach's list of written rules.
2. A minor offense is as violation of the Student Code of Conduct, not previously defined as a major offense.
3. A minor offense includes displaying or contributing to unsportsmanlike or other inappropriate behavior as determined by a majority consensus of the Athletic Director, Principal/Asst. Principal, and coach.

Minor offense Penalties

A minor offense shall be dealt with in the following manner:

1. If it is a violation of the coach's written rules, the coach will meet with the student-athlete to discuss the issue, and then notify the Athletic Director and student-athlete's parent(s) or guardian(s) of the discipline.
2. If it is any other minor violation, the Athletic Director will meet with the coach and student-athlete to discuss the issue. The Athletic Director will notify the student-athlete's parent(s) or guardian(s) of the decision.
3. If the student-athlete is not participating in a sport when a minor violation occurs, the student will meet with the Athletic Director and the Principal/Assistant Principal to discuss the issue. The student-athlete's parent(s) or guardian(s) and next coach will be notified by the Athletic Director of the disciplinary decision.

Appeal Process

The student-athlete and/or parent/guardian will have ten (10) days from the mailing of a notice to submit a written request to the Athletic Director for a review by the Athletic Council of a major or minor offense violation. Any suspension will remain in effect until overturned by appeal. If, after the decision of the Athletic council, the student/parent/guardian still disagrees with the decision, they will have three (3) days to file an appeal to the Superintendent of schools for the purpose of making a determination. The decision of the Superintendent will be final.

Athletic Council

Membership –

- One (1) Administrator
- One (1) School Board Member
- Two (2) Coaches
- One (1) Parent or Community Member
- Athletic Director (non-voting member)
- Chairperson – Athletic Director
- Meeting – To be scheduled within 5 school days
- Decisions – Based on a majority vote
- Duties – Rule on appeals concerning disciplinary suspensions for major or minor offense violations.
 - 1) May concur with the decision of the Athletic Director
 - 2) May overrule the decision of the Athletic Director

Team Membership

A student-athlete may not quit one team to join another team during the same season, unless due to a physical limitation and physician's recommendation, after the first contest for the initial team during that season. No individual may join a team after cuts if one or more individuals were cut during the tryout period, with the exception of a student who transfers to the district after tryouts. The Athletic Director and the Principal may consider exceptions under extenuating circumstances. If a student-athlete quits a team after the first contest, the student-athlete will sit out one-fourth of the following season that he/she participates in and forfeits the "pay-to-participate" fee. If the student-athlete has to quit for extenuating circumstances, the student-athlete will not be penalized the following season. "Extenuating circumstances" must be cleared through the athletic office prior to the student-athlete removing him/herself from the team.

Equipment and Facilities

Students are expected to maintain all equipment and facilities in good condition. Equipment handed out to athletes is their personal responsibility at all times. The school district is not responsible for the security of equipment, either on or off of school property. Student-athletes must replace or pay for all equipment that is lost, stolen, or ruined. Failure to return equipment in good condition will result in suspension of that individual from all athletic and school related activities until the equipment is returned or replaced. Failure to return equipment within 3 days after the coach's specified due date may result in suspension from future athletic contests, the number of which will be determined by the Athletic Director, Principal, and coach, unless the equipment is lost and ultimately replaced.