

# **PINE RIVER MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL**

## **Athletic Policy**

**2019 - 2020**



*Pine River Middle/High School:  
Student-Centered, Success-Driven*

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**Pine River Area Schools Athletic Code and Policy Book**  
**Revised 2017-2018 PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS**

Athletics at Pine River Area Schools are a part of the total educational program. The focus of athletics at Pine River Area Schools is on educational outcomes and student learning, thus allowing students the opportunity to demonstrate physical, emotional, social, and intellectual growth

**For those who are members of a team, the following educational goals can be achieved.**

1. The athlete learns the value of teamwork, self discipline, hard work and personal sacrifice; all of which are necessary in a democratic society. The athlete learns that their contribution to the team is more important than their personal goals or desires.
2. The athlete learns to be a good sport. Through participation in athletics, you must develop emotional control, honesty and an ability to cooperate with others. You must learn to be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
3. The athlete learns the importance of having a sound physically fit body. To enjoy life and to be a contributing citizen, one should develop good health habits and one should maintain a high degree of physical fitness.
4. The athlete learns techniques for handling, in a positive manner, the competitive nature of our society. The athlete learns the value of success realizing that you will succeed if you continually strive to do so.

**In addition to educational goals, the athletic program at Pine River Schools is governed by these general guidelines:**

***Participation in interscholastic athletics at Pine River Schools is a privilege and not a right.***

To be eligible for participation in athletic, student-athletes will be expected to meet Pine River Athletic Department standards in each of the following areas:

- A. Daily practice attendance
- B. Cooperative team effort and attitude
- C. Practice expectations and work ethic
- D. Adhere to all requirements of the Pine River "Athletic Code"
- E. Additional coaches' rules (as approved by the athletic director)
- F. Adhere to all requirements as set forth in the Middle School and High School student handbooks

**General Notes of Guidance**

1. While we do strive for maximum participation, interscholastic athletics is for those students who have both physical skills in their respective sports and a willingness to follow those expectations outlined in the Pine River athletic policy guide.
2. Success or failure of our athletic programs will not be determined by won or lost records. Our program will be evaluated in light of our educational goals and general guidelines.
3. The athletic program will reflect our school and community in a positive light.
4. We will provide our athletes with quality teaching and coaching personnel. We encourage teaching staff members to be involved with our students in their extra-curricular activities.
5. We will provide our athletes with the best facilities and equipment that are available in relationship to the financial conditions which exist at the given time.
6. We will provide spectators an opportunity to identify with and support the interscholastic teams of Pine River Schools.
7. We encourage our coaching staff, athletes, student body and adult followers to act in a manner which represents Pine River Schools in a positive manner. Sportsmanship is the underlying value of all high school activities.
8. Our athletic program will provide athletes an opportunity to grow physically and emotionally, to acquire positive values and to learn life lessons thru participation in interscholastic athletics
9. We will follow a pre-established chain-of-command when wishing to discuss items of concern within the interscholastic athletic department.

### *Participation Philosophy of Pine River Athletics*

Middle School – Team Limitations: Volleyball minimum (8), maximum (18); Cross-Country minimum (4), no maximum; Track minimum (8) and Wrestling minimum (6) both Track and Wrestling maximum is unlimited; Football minimum (14), unlimited maximum; Basketball minimum (7), maximum (15)

The Middle School will serve as a "skill development" period in terms of the focus to be placed on player participation.

- A. Player skill development will be emphasized first and foremost.
- B. Participation opportunities will be provided to each student/athlete on a per game basis as long as playing standards have been adhered to.
- C. Playing time will be distributed among team members at the coach's discretion and in a manner consistent with our middle school philosophy.

Freshman, Junior Varsity and Varsity- Team Selections/Limitations = Discretion of Coach in consultation with varsity coach and/or athletic director with following minimums and maximums (minimum number must be achieved ten (10) calendar days prior to the first scheduled competition; failure to achieve the minimum number by this time will result in the immediate dissolution of the team for that season):

Sport (per team)	Minimum to Maximum
Football	13 to unlimited

Soccer	13 to unlimited
Volleyball	8 to 15
Basketball	7 to 15
Cross Country	4 to unlimited
Competitive Cheer	8 to 16
Sideline Cheer	6 to 14
Wrestling	7 to unlimited
Track	8 to unlimited
Baseball	10 to 18
Softball	10 to 18

The Junior Varsity and Varsity levels will serve as a "competitive" period in terms of the focus to be placed on player participation.

- A. Player skill development and overall team success will be emphasized.
- B. Participation opportunities will be provided to student/athletes at the coach's discretion.
- C. Playing time will be distributed among team members at the coach's discretion.

### CONDUCT AND VALUES OF AN ATHLETE

1. In the classroom, the athlete should work hard, have good study habits, good behavior and good attendance.
2. During competition, an athlete is expected to exhibit good sportsmanship. Use of profanity or illegal tactics will not be tolerated. Athletes are not to argue with or show disrespect toward any contest official, school personnel or game management personnel.
3. On trips, athletes directly represent the community, school and coaches. Therefore, it is expected that all concerned will conduct themselves in an acceptable and respectful manner.
4. Team members will "dress as a team" on the day of games, both home and away. If the athletic contest is on a Saturday, "dress as a team" day will be on Friday. Specific game day attire will be determined by the coach and/or the head coach of each program. Non-compliance by the student will result in the student being suspended from their athletic contest for that evening. Coaches are responsible for monitoring their team and establishing a "dress as a team" theme appropriate for our athletic department.
5. Conduct in and out of school shall be such as to bring no discredit to the athlete, parents, school, or team. Any conduct considered unbecoming to an athlete will be brought before the administration for disciplinary action. Examples of conduct unbecoming to an athlete are as follows, the list being not all inclusive: Stealing; classroom misconduct; abusing school property; disrespect for authority; commission of any crime, including youthful offender status; sexual misconduct; verbal sexual harassment; fighting; school suspensions; school detentions; removal from an athletic team due to behavior or attendance; (including violations of the student code of conduct as outlined in the MS/HS student handbooks and this policy)

Each offense: Depending on the nature of the misconduct, the penalties range from game/practice suspensions to total dismissal from athletics.

## ATHLETIC CODE

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege, and it is also a responsibility. Student athletes wear school uniforms on the field of play and they wear symbols of their participation while off the field. Athletes are representatives of their school in the particular sport in which they participate. They may be held in esteem by fellow students and the community at large. As athletes, they are looked up to by younger students, both on and off the field. Responsibility for an athlete's conduct is not removed with the removal of the uniform. Thus, athletes are expected to be exemplary school citizens (as outlined under 'Conduct and Values of an Athlete') and are not at any time or in any way to be involved with or use alcohol, tobacco, steroids, performance enhancing drugs, or any controlled substance or drug. **This policy is in effect 12 months a year and applies from the first day of fall sports in the athlete's seventh-grade year (or sixth-grade if participating in specified sports) until the last date of competition in the athlete's senior year.**

### **Purpose of the Athletic Code.**

- A. Through the establishment and enforcement of uniform standards, it is expected that all student athletes will strive for and attain high standards of self-discipline in all areas of their life, thereby allowing them to reach their full potential as students and athletes.
- B. The Athletic Code, as adopted by the Pine River Board of Education, establishes uniform standards for all student-athletes and details the penalties for violations of these standards.

Athletic Code standards have been established for the following:

- a. Substance abuse
- b. Attendance
- c. Academic performance
- d. Transportation
- e. General conduct and behavior
- f. Equipment
- g. Dropping a sport
- h. Student Participation

### **Athlete Defined**

An athlete is any member of an athletic team, including managers, statistician, etc. When a student goes out for any interscholastic team for the first time and begins official practice, the student is regarded as an athlete. Students wishing to participate in athletics are subject to the provisions of the athletic code throughout their middle and high school career regardless of when they join an athletic team.

### **Rules Governing the Provisions of the Athletic Code**

- A. The provisions of the athletic code are in effect for the calendar year. All athletes are regarded as athletes whether in season or not.

- B. When serving a team suspension (in-season) an athlete may participate in all practice sessions and must be present, with the team, at all contests during the suspension. During a suspension, athletes will not be allowed to be dressed in game attire at contests.
- C. If a student is involved in a second offense while a previous penalty is still being served, the penalty for a second offense will begin immediately after the penalty for the first offense has been served.
- D. If a penalty, involving student suspension, is not served during a given sport season, the remaining percentage of time not served will be carried over to the next sport season in which the athlete participates. A student must complete the sports season or seasons to have fulfilled the requirements of their suspension.
- E. These offenses accumulate throughout the athlete's Middle School career and then throughout their High School career.

## **ATHLETIC/EXTRA-CURRICULAR VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES**

**ALL VIOLATIONS OF THE ATHLETIC/EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY CODE OF CONDUCT WILL RESULT IN AN INTERNAL INVESTIGATION PERFORMED BY THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AND/OR THE BUILDING PRINCIPAL. ANY DISCIPLINARY ACTION ISSUED TO THE ATHLETE/PARTICIPANT WILL BE BASED SOLELY ON THE INTERNAL INVESTIGATION OR THE REPORT OF A RECOGNIZED, PROPER, LEGAL AUTHORITY.**

**ALL PENALTIES FOR THIS CODE OF CONDUCT SHALL BE CUMULATIVE BEGINNING WITH THE STUDENT'S FIRST DATE OF ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS AND WILL START NEW THE STUDENT'S FIRST DATE OF ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN HIGH SCHOOL WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE PENALTIES (TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, DRUGS) WHICH SHALL REMAIN CUMULATIVE FROM MIDDLE THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL.**

Major Offenses - Major offenses documented at any time are subject to Athletic/Extra-Curricular Code discipline. The number of major offenses is cumulative during the total high school career.

1. Involvement in any crime inside or outside of school that results in a misdemeanor or felony conviction or school suspension as a result of an incident.
2. Use, possession, association with or distribution of, alcohol, or illegal drugs is prohibited. This includes steroids, unauthorized medicines or prescriptions, narcotics, or look-alike drugs. Also included is the aiding and abetting of any such activity listed above, including the promotion of or distribution of information on where and how to obtain.
3. Assisting others in committing an offense; including obtaining, using, or distributing any above-listed substance; including falsifying information, lying or knowingly obstructing a legal or school investigation.

Progressive Discipline - Any athlete involved in a major offense will be subject to the following disciplinary action. A coach may establish more stringent discipline if approved by the athletic director and Superintendent.

1. First Offense: Suspension from the next scheduled 50% of the contest-dates, including scrimmages versus other teams where the student-athlete, as a member of a team, participates. If the offense results in a felony conviction, then the first offense will result in suspension from all extracurricular activities for one (1) calendar year. This will begin immediately; if an athlete/participant is unable to serve their entire suspension, the suspension will carry over to the athlete's/participants next season. Participants may continue practicing with the team/activity during this period with the coach's/moderator's permission, but cannot dress, play/participate, or be involved in any way during the contests/events, including scrimmages versus other teams.
2. Second Offense: Suspension from all extracurricular activities for one (1) calendar year. If the offense results in a second felony conviction, then the second offense will result in suspension from all extracurricular activities for the rest of the high school career.
3. Third Offense: You may not represent Pine River High School in any extracurricular activities for the rest of your school career.

Other Offenses: Tobacco use or possession –or– Where there is no misdemeanor or felony conviction and the offense involves conduct unbecoming of a Pine River student that is involved in an athletic/extra-curricular activity including—but not limited to violation of in-season team rules as determined by the head coach of the sport in question—the disregard for the rights of other team/activity members, coaches/moderators, faculty or school personnel, fans, other students or property (school or private).

1. First Offense: student will be subject to team rules if in-season (coach) or Suspension from the next scheduled 25% of the contest-dates(including scrimmages versus other teams) where the student-athlete as a member of a team participates (athletic director or principal).
2. Second Offense: student will be subject to team rules if in-season (coach) or Suspension from the next scheduled 50% of the contest-dates(including scrimmages versus other teams) where the student-athlete as a member of a team participates (athletic director or principal).
3. Third and Subsequent Offense: student will be subject to team rules if in-season (coach) or Suspension from all extracurricular activities for one (1) calendar year (athletic director or principal).

### Self Report

In an effort to reinforce honesty and integrity, the District will consider an athlete's self report of any offense, one time and one time only, as the following:

- A time of reflection and a time for individual growth.
- Any consequence will be reduced by one-half.



- Self report must be made by the athlete to his/her coach, the athletic director or the building principal prior to arrest or issuance of a citation by law enforcement or issuance of consequence by school official.

**Notes:**

Penalties: Athletic code contest suspensions shall not be considered served if the athlete quits the team or sport prior to that sport's season completion. The athletic director or principal may waive this clause under extenuating circumstances only.

Additionally, athletic code contest suspensions shall not be considered served if the contest or contest-date is moved or cancelled due to weather and/or the joint agreement of both schools. In this case, the athletic director will notify the coach of the readjustment.

**Procedures for Reporting Substance Abuse Violations and Rule Enforcement**

An alleged substance abuse violation of the athletic code can be reported through personal admission or from a reliable source.

The athletic department will accept reports pertaining to alleged violations of the athletic code from any police, court, or social work system throughout a student-athlete's middle school or high school years

*Reported infractions to school administration will be checked in the following manner:*

The athletic director will meet with the accused telling them the allegations of the infractions. The athletic director may involve law enforcement, building principal, Dean of Students, other administrators, and parents/legal guardian. The student-athlete will be provided an opportunity to share his/her side of the story. The athletic director/administration will render a decision following the meeting.

**Pine River Schools will honor the athletic code and consequences of other schools when a student transfers into the Pine River School District with an existing offense; furthermore, any offense at a previous school will be considered when adjudicating any new offense at Pine River.**

**Appeal Procedure**

The parents or legal guardian may appeal the Athletic Director's decision to the Superintendent within five (5) school days after receiving written notification from the Athletic Director. The Superintendent will schedule a hearing within five (5) school days where all parties can attend; and,, after hearing the appeal in person, will render a decision in writing within five (5) school days.

The parents or legal guardian may appeal the Superintendent's decision to the Board of Education within five (5) school days after receiving written notification from the Superintendent.

The Board of Education shall review the appeal no later than twenty-five (25) school days from the date the appeal is received in a closed session where the student-athlete and his or her parents/guardians are expected to attend. A final decision will be made by the Board of Education and expressed in writing within 24 hours of the closed session hearing.

While an appeal of penalty is being sought, the student-athlete shall remain suspended.

## **ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**

All students must be eligible under MHSAA regulations. Additional guidelines for participation are as follows:

1. Every athlete must be enrolled in a full schedule.
2. Weekly Academic Eligibility – Weekly Academic Eligibility Grade checks will be made every Monday commencing with the 4th Monday of each semester at the middle and high school level. Any student-athlete with a failing grade or an "I" in any class at Pine River Middle/High School will face eligibility consequences as listed below in the Weekly Academic Eligibility Policy. Weekly eligibility runs from Monday to Sunday and is cumulative for the semester.

### **Weekly Academic Eligibility Policy for MS/HS Athletics**

The Athletic Department and Principal's Office will be monitoring the weekly academic progress of our high school and middle school student-athletes. The following description is intended to outline and communicate the procedures that will be used for monitoring academic progress and expectations for students if they fail to maintain satisfactory academic progress in the classroom.

- Weekly grade checks will occur at 10 am each Monday(commencing the 4th Monday of each semester) for the purpose of determining eligibility Notification of teacher errors must be made to Athletic Director by 3:00 pm on the same day eligibility is pulled. Notification must come from the teacher by note or email. Grades will represent the student's cumulative grade in each class for the semester.
- Unsatisfactory Grade Procedures: Any student-athlete that receives one "F" grade or "I" during the weekly check will be required to attend ONE(1) Help Desk session (non-game day). Once help desk is attended, the student will be eligible to participate in his/her athletic contest(s) for the week. Failure to attend help desk will result in further penalties. Student-athletes will not participate in practice on days that they are required to attend Help Desk regardless of practice times not conflicting with Help-Desk. Coaches will count an athlete's attendance at Help-Desk as an excused absence from practice, however, there may be an impact on playing time per the individual coach's practice attendance policy.

- Any student-athlete who receives two or more “F” or “I” grades during the weekly grade check will be declared academically ineligible. Therefore, they will be unable to participate in any contests(including scrimmages versus opposing schools) for that week and will be required to attend the next TWO(2) available (non-game day) Help Desk sessions. Student-athletes will not participate in practice on days that they are required to attend Help Desk regardless of practice times not conflicting with Help Desk. Coaches will count an athlete’s attendance at Help-Desk as an excused absence from practice which will count toward each individual coach’s practice attendance policy. Failure to attend help desk will result in further penalties
- Help Desk teachers will provide each student-athlete in attendance with further, more specific, Help Desk procedures and expectations.
- Middle School/High School students who are declared academically ineligible for the week may not be allowed to participate in upcoming interscholastic contests, including scrimmages versus opposing schools.. Practice participation will be determined by the building principal/athletic director in conjunction with the head coach and coach of that sport.
- The third time that a student is declared academically ineligible for the week, for any one sport season; the A.D., Principal, and Coach will meet to determine if it’s in the best interest of everyone involved for that student to continue as a member of the team.

#### **Overall Academic Eligibility/Semester Grades**

- If at the end of a semester, a student-athlete has received a grade of “F” in ONE(1) of his/her semester classes, the athlete will remain eligible for remainder of the current semester or start of next semester.
- If at the end of a semester, a student-athlete has received TWO(2) grades of “F” in his/her semester classes, the athlete will be ineligible to participate in athletic competition (games(including scrimmages versus opposing schools)) for 25% of their current or upcoming sport season during the next semester.
- If at the end of a semester, a student-athlete has received Three (3) grades or more of “F” in his/her semester classes, the athlete will be ineligible to participate in athletic competition for the upcoming semester.

*\*Eligibility appeals are to follow those guidelines as set forth in the High School/Middle School Student Handbooks.*

*\*Additional policies pertaining to eligibility requirements for High School/Middle School student athletes are outlined in the High School/Middle School Student Handbooks.*

Students involved in dual enrollment, CTC/Co-Op, and enhanced high school are also held accountable to regulations concerning overall academic eligibility listed above.

*\*If a student fails a 2 hour block class at Pine River High School, this will be equivalent to 2 failing grades and he/she will sit out 25% of the current or upcoming season. If a student fails CTC/Co-op, this will be equivalent to 4 failing grades and he/she will be ineligible for the entire upcoming semester.*

*\*No opportunity to make up an "F" in credit recovery will be offered to reduce penalty.*

### **Student Participation (Specific Sports Requirements or Limitations).**

1. Seniors may not participate on sub-varsity teams. (exceptions may be granted for exchange students and for senior female athletes competing on co-ed sponsored teams, f.g.: soccer)
2. Juniors may participate on a reserve team by invitation only - to be determined by the Athletic Director, head coach of sport and coach of the team involved.
3. A student is considered to be in a sport from the first official practice for that sport until the awards program for the same sport.
4. All Pine River High School students are eligible to participate in varsity level athletics if they are selected for the team.
5. Freshmen and sophomores must receive permission from their parent(s) or legal guardian prior to being eligible to participate in a sport at the varsity level.
6. The final selection of eligible participants for varsity level competition will be made at the discretion of the head coach.
7. The head coach of every team, at every level, will establish team rules governing the participation of team members in "outside" sport activities during the regular 7-12 school sport season. (Requires approval of the Athletic Director). Student-athletes must be conscious of their participation on both non-school teams and with other school-sponsored activities while serving as a member of a current sports team at PRAS.
8. Student-athletes may not participate in more than one sport per season unless the athlete is a senior and is so approved by the athletic director and the head coaches of both sports.
9. Junior Varsity team members who are suspended from athletics during the current sport season for a violation(s) of the athletic code will forfeit their opportunity to "move-up" to the varsity team at any time during that season.
10. Student-athletes who are suspended from athletics during a sport season for a violation of the athletic code may forfeit their opportunity to receive postseason awards and recognition.
11. Student-Athletes are required to report to the first day of practice. Exceptions may be made for such reasons as family emergencies, illness, transfers, pre-arranged/pre-approved family obligations, and failure to make another sports team. This shall be acted upon by the head coach of the sport, the athletic director, and the coach of the team involved. Athletes who miss team practice sessions will be required to make-up missed practice days prior to being eligible for interscholastic competition (an exception may be made for students transferring between sports during the same sport season).
12. Coaches may conduct a "tryout" period in order to determine team selection. Coaches are under no obligation to place students on an athletic team who have not been in attendance during the "tryout" period. Exceptions may be made for such reasons as family emergencies,

illness, transfers, and pre-arranged/pre-approved family obligations. This shall be acted upon by the head coach of the sport, the athletic director, and the coach of the team involved.

13. No student may practice with an athletic team unless they are on the team's master eligibility list. Exceptions will be made for students who will become eligible to be placed on the team's master eligibility list prior to the end of the sport season. Thus, 6th grade students may not practice with or on 7th/8th grade teams (with the exception of specified sports) and 7th/8th grade students may not practice with or on PRAS high school sponsored teams.
14. Student-athletes, after beginning practice and/or participation with a team, may not transfer to another sport's team within that same sport season without permission and not after the first week of practice. A decision will be made by the athletic director/building principal with input from both coaches involved, if a transfer will be allowed within the first week of practice. Students who transfer sports would be required to make-up missed practice days within the sport they wish to join prior to being eligible for interscholastic competition.
15. Students who have outstanding charges, or have not returned uniforms, from previous sport's seasons, will not be allowed to participate in any current season competitions.

### Attendance Regulations for Student-Athletes

1. An athlete must be present in school for the entire day on the day of an interscholastic competition or practice session (an unexcused absence will result in the student-athlete not being allowed to participate in games or practice). This rule can be enforced on a subsequent day to coincide with attendance reports. Requests for exceptions to the attendance policy are to be made by the parent or legal guardian prior to the student's absence. *Exceptions can be granted by the building principal or athletic director without prior approval in the occurrence of school-related functions, medical appointments, unexpected or emergency situations.*
2. An athlete who is suspended from regular classroom attendance (this applies to both in-house and out-of school suspensions) may not practice or take part in interscholastic competition that evening and/or throughout the duration of said suspension - nor may they attend any athletic function or event during the time of their suspension.
3. An athlete, after signing out of school due to illness, may not return after school for a practice session or game.
4. Absences from a contest and/or practice sessions are excused only for illness, death in the family and other emergencies at the discretion of the Coach and/or Athletic Director. Additional attendance policies may be established by the individual coach or sport team and included within their team rules. Mandatory practice sessions may be conducted on scheduled school days. Non-mandatory practice sessions may be conducted on non-school days – Students choosing not to attend practice sessions on non-school days, must understand the loss of learning along with the loss of skill development and personal growth that could potentially occur as a result of their absence from practice.
5. There will be occasions when the student-athlete will have a conflict of responsibilities. We will not excuse athletes from practice for routine conflicts which, with prior planning, can be scheduled around practice sessions and contests. (See 4, Attendance Regulations,).

6. Academics are most important, however, each athlete must make every attempt to arrange their academic obligations so that they do not conflict with scheduled practices and contests.
7. At no time are Pine River Area School athletic coaches expected to excuse a student-athlete from their responsibilities as a team member so they (the student-athlete) may participate in a non-MHSAA sponsored athletic activities, employment obligations, social functions or the like.

### Equipment Regulations for Student Athletes

1. Every athlete is responsible to maintain properly all athletic clothing and equipment assigned to them. If clothing and/or equipment are not returned to the coach at the end of the season or returned damaged, the athlete will be charged replacement costs on all items not returned. An athlete with fines outstanding from a previous sport season will not be allowed to begin the next sport season. Charges will be carried over and collected prior to clearance for graduation.
2. All participants are expected to furnish their own practice gear (attire proper for physical activity such as t-shirts, shorts, socks, etc.).
3. The Athletic Department will not be held responsible for personal equipment lost or damaged due to student negligence.
4. No school athletic department equipment is to be used for daily wear, physical education classes or activities other than the sport for which they were issued.

### Locker Room Rules and Requirements:

1. All money and valuables are to be locked in lockers issued to the athlete. Lockers are issued by physical education staff members.
2. Each player is to keep his/her own equipment in his/her own assigned locker, and no equipment exchanges will be tolerated unless sanctioned by the coach in charge.
3. No athletic equipment, player clothing, school books or other personal property is to be left on the floor or in unlocked lockers in the locker room before, during or after practices and/or games.
4. "Horseplay" in the locker room is not permitted.
5. Student-athletes are not to be in the locker room during practice sessions unless given permission by a coach or adult school employee.

### Transportation Regulations

1. Transportation to away contests will be by school bus, school van or school car. Exceptions will be granted only by the athletic director/building principal or designee, and will follow the Board of Education transportation policies. Transportation to away contests will vary from round trip bus service to drop-off bus service (in the case of some specialty events, transportation will not be provided. The level of school-provided bus transportation will vary among programs and be dependent on day of competition. Financial status of the District and the Athletic Department

will determine the level of school-provided transportation for all away interscholastic athletic contests.

2. All athletes will leave and return with the team (when round trip bus service is provided). There are three possible exceptions:

**[Coaches reserve the right to require athletes to return home on the team bus.]**

- A parent or legal guardian, after providing written documentation to the coach, may take their son or daughter home following the completion of a contest. It is expected that the student-athlete will return home with the parent or legal guardian who signed them out and not with any other individual.
- The principal or athletic director may grant exceptions in unusual circumstances.
- A parent or legal guardian, after providing written documentation to the athletic director, may request their child ride home with another athlete's parent/adult. Student-athletes will not be given permission to ride home with other high school student drivers or friends as drivers, etc.

*Student-Athletes will be penalized for failing to follow transportation regulations. Depending on the nature of the offense, the penalty can range from game/practice suspensions to total dismissal from athletics.*

All athletes, when being transported to away contests, will follow bus regulations as set forth in the Board of Education transportation policies. Exceptions will be granted in the following areas:

- Music - may be played with headphones secured to both ears (music containing profanity, etc. is not permitted at any time).
- Food/beverages - may be consumed respectfully in transit (proper disposal of containers wrappers, garbage, etc., is expected).
- Electronic games - will be allowed provided they can be played in a "silent mode".
- Other - needs approval of the athletic director/coach
  - Listed exceptions to be monitored by coach(s) and/or responsible adult.
  - Listed exceptions are a privilege and can be taken away if standards are not met.
  - Students/athletes accept responsibility for personal items.

**Athletic Injuries and Insurance:**

1. Pine River Area Schools do not assume financial responsibility for medical, hospital or ambulance expenses incurred because of athletic injuries. Student-Athletes are encouraged to have their own insurance coverage.
2. Pine River Area Schools may offer, through a vendor, an insurance plan for student-athletes to purchase (determined on a yearly basis).

**General Athletic Department Information:**

We offer the following interscholastic sport programs to all students, grades 9 -12

## GIRLS SPORTS

Basketball.....Winter  
 CO-ED Soccer.....Fall  
 Cross Country.....Fall  
 Cheerleading..... Winter  
 Volleyball.....Fall  
 Track.....Spring  
 Softball.....Spring  
 Sideline Cheer .....Fall

## BOYS SPORTS

Football.....Fall  
 Soccer.....Fall  
 Cross Country.....Fall  
 Basketball.....Winter  
 Wrestling.....Winter  
 Track.....Spring  
 Baseball.....Spring

We offer the following interscholastic sport programs to all students, grades 7 – 8

\*designates those available to 6th grade beginning 2016-17 school year

## GIRLS SPORTS

Basketball.....Winter  
 \*Cross Country.....Fall  
 Volleyball.....Fall  
 CO-ED Wrestling.....Winter  
 Track.....Spring

## BOYS SPORTS

Football (Club).....Fall  
 \*Cross Country.....Fall  
 Basketball.....Winter  
 \*Wrestling.....Winter  
 Track.....Spring

As an athlete, you are not permitted to participate in interscholastic competition until the following items have been completed and are on file with the Athletic Director:

1. **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION** - must be completed prior to your 1st day of practice. The physical form must be signed by both the physician and parents or guardians. Parents must also sign the Parents' Consent section on the physical exam form. MHSAA physical exam forms will be available in the Main Office during the entire summer and school year. You may receive your physical any time after April 15th, for the upcoming school year. Record of this examination must be on file in the athletic office. Students are encouraged to keep a copy of the physical examination for their records.
2. **INSURANCE** - Athletes are encouraged to have medical insurance coverage. Pine River Area Schools does not provide medical insurance coverage for student-athletes. Pine River Area Schools does not assume financial responsibility for medical, hospital or ambulance expenses incurred by student-athletes.
3. **ATHLETIC CODE AGREEMENT** - An athlete must have on file in the athletic director's office an athletic code agreement signed by both the student and their parents or legal guardian. Due by the 1st contest



4. **ACTIVITY FEE** – \$50.00 fee payable – due by the 1st contest. There is a \$100 max participation fee per student, a \$200 max per family. Financial assistance is available to families showing need. Waivers must be requested to the athletic director.

### **MHSAA Eligibility Requirements:**

1. **AGE** - you are not eligible for interscholastic competition if you turn 19 years of age prior to September 1 of the current school year. Age limitations are also in place for 7-8 grade student-athletes.
2. **SEASONS OF COMPETITION** - You must not have competed for more than 4 consecutive first and 4 consecutive second semester seasons.
3. **SEMESTER OF ENROLLMENT** - You must not have been enrolled in grade 9-12, inclusive for more than 8 semesters. The 7th and 8th semesters must be consecutive. Enrollment in a school for a period of 3 weeks or more counts as a semester. Participation in 1 or more interscholastic athletic contests also constitute a semester of enrollment.
4. **AMATEUR STATUS** - You must not accept awards for athletic participation in the form of cash, merchandise certificates or any other type of negotiable documents or items of merchandise. You may not be paid for your sport participation.
5. **Limited Team Membership** – you may not participate in any athletic competition not sponsored by your school which would be considered the same sport during the same season (ie: you cannot play in competition on an outside basketball team during the school basketball season).

### **Awards for Athletic Participation**

1. You may not accept any award exceeding \$25.00 in value. The award can be a trophy or merchandise. It may not be cash or a gift certificate of any kind.
2. A Scholar-Athlete patch will be presented to student-athletes who maintain a 3.5 gpa during their sport season (1 time only).
3. Special awards may be given to student-athletes at the high school awards assembly each spring.
4. A senior awards plaque will be given to any senior athlete who has earned six varsity letters or more during high school.
5. The athletic department will recognize one senior male and one senior female student as "Athlete of the Year".
6. The award banquet is part of the sport season and attendance is encouraged.

### **Award Schedule for Pine River Student Athletes:**

#### **VARSITY**

- 1st - certificate, 7 inch chenille PR, sports inserts
- 2nd, 3rd, 4th in same sport - certificate and service bar.

#### JUNIOR VARSITY

- 1st - certificate, numerals
- 2nd and 3rd - certificate

#### VARSITY MANAGERS (High School Student)

- 1st - certificate, 7 inch chenille PR with MGR insert (if not a varsity winner)
- All others - certificate and service bar (if not a varsity winner)

#### JUNIOR VARSITY MANAGERS

- 1st - certificate, sports numerals
- All others - certificate

MIDDLE SCHOOL - All awards = certificates

**An athlete who is suspended, for any length of time, during the sport season may forfeit their opportunity to receive awards.**

**Two special awards (plaques) may be given by the athletic department for each individual varsity level sport. Each award to be given based on recommendation from the head coach and approval from the athletic director.**

**Coaches are discouraged from giving specialty awards at the sub-varsity level**

#### *Gifts to Coaches:*

Students and their parents and/or outside organizations are discouraged from presenting gifts to district employees. When an athlete/team feels a desire to present a gift to a staff member, the gift shall be of small monetary value. No employee may solicit or accept any gifts, gratuity or favor that has substantial economic value, or that could be interpreted by others as being of such a nature that it could affect his/her impartiality. Letters of appreciation to staff members shall be considered more appropriate than material/monetary gifts.

#### PINE RIVER AREA SCHOOLS ATHLETIC POLICY HIGHLIGHTS 2016-2017

1. A student-athlete must pass all of their academic classes on a semester basis in order to be fully eligible for the next semester of interscholastic practice and competition. First semester eligibility is based on the grades a student receives during second semester of the previous year. Second semester eligibility is based on the grades a student receives during first semester of the current school year. First semester 6th/7th graders and first semester 9th graders are academically eligible without reference to their prior semester grades for 1st semester only.
2. Eligible athletes will be permitted to practice and/or participate in competition once the following items have been completed and are on file with the athletic director:
  - a. current physical exam – due prior to 1st practice

- b. signed and returned athletic code agreement(s)- due prior to 1st contest
  - c. paid \$50.00 activity fee – due prior to 1st contest
- 3. A student must be present in school for the entire day on the day of an interscholastic competition.
- 4. All team members will "dress as a team" on the day of games.
- 5. Athletes are to travel to away contests via transportation provided by Pine River Area Schools. Athletes may return from an away contest with their parents. A parent or legal guardian, after providing written documentation to the athletic director, may request their child ride home with another athlete's parent/adult. Student-athletes will not be given permission to ride home with student drivers, friends, etc.
- 6. Student-athletes are to avoid the use of tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, "look-a-like" and illegal drugs.
- 7. The Pine River Area Schools athletic policy guide is in effect throughout the calendar year (12 months).
- 8. If you have interpretation questions regarding the contents of the athletic policy guide, please call the athletic director, Mr. Ruppert, at 231-829-3841.

**(TO BE RETURNED)**  
Pine River Area Schools  
Athletic Department

**Consent for Athletic Participation and Insurance Statement**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Male/Female: \_\_\_\_\_

Parental or Guardian Consent For Athletic Participation

**We have read the contents of the Pine River Area Schools Athletic Policies (Online at [pineriver.org](http://pineriver.org)) concerning the conditions which will govern all students who participate in Pine River Athletics. We will see that our son/daughter abides by athletic policy rules and regulations as long as he/she desires to participate in athletics at Pine River Area Schools.**

We also understand that Pine River Area Schools, the Board of Education, administration, and coaching staff does not assume responsibility for injuries sustained by student-athletes in practice or games.

We want our son/daughter to have the privilege of participating in interscholastic athletics during the current school year.

**\*\*Pine River Area Schools/Athletic Insurance Statement**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Our son/daughter, \_\_\_\_\_, is covered by

Medical Insurance through \_\_\_\_\_.

It is hereby understood that our personal medical insurance will be used to cover all financial costs associated with personal injuries that my child may sustain as a result of his/her participation in athletic activities sponsored by Pine River Area Schools.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

***\*\*Every student-athlete who wishes to participate in interscholastic athletics at Pine River Area Schools is encouraged to have medical insurance coverage. Pine River Area Schools does not assume financial responsibility for any medical, hospital, or ambulance expenses incurred by students resulting from their participation in interscholastic athletics at Pine River Area Schools.***