

# Rochester School District Athletic/Activities Code

## PHILOSOPHY

A student, who makes the choice to become a participant, does so knowing that extra effort, time, and sacrifice are needed for success. With this choice comes the privilege of participating in a well-organized program which is of special interest to him/her and for which the school provides coaches, equipment and facilities. At Rochester, we invite students to become involved with the athletic/activities program to the extent they are able. Along with this invitation is the charge that as participants, students have an obligation to themselves, their school, their teammates, and their student body to represent and maintain high standards of conduct. This athletic/activities code outlines and clarifies those rules that govern the participant.

## OBJECTIVES

This Athletic/Activities Code is designed to establish a reasonable, high standard for participants in co-curricular activities rather than to be punitive and deny access to such activities. Such a standard is a necessary method to help students prevent and solve behavioral problems relating to tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. The code is designed to support students in their choice to avoid participation in illegal and unhealthy activities and to support parents in their efforts to guide children into healthy lifestyles. Students participating in co-curricular activities shall abide by the following rules effective the first day of fall activities. This includes any summer activity, where the student is representing the Rochester School District.

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR ALL ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

Every student has the right to turn out for a sport or activity unless the student is ineligible under W.I.A.A. or Rochester School District regulations.

### Satisfactory Academic Progress

The Participant's grades from the previous term will determine eligibility for the beginning of the next sport. If a student is failing one class from the previous term, they will be ineligible for a period of two weeks from the beginning of the next sport. At the start of a school year (fall semester), if a student is failing 2 or more classes from the prior school year, they will be placed on academic intervention (see Table A).

**Table A**

| Season | Academic Timeline  | Academic Probation Dates                                                                          |
|--------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fall   | Prior school year. | End of 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday in September<br>*End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Week From Start of Season |

\*Middle school athletes only.

**INCOMING NINTH GRADE STUDENT** In the fall, an incoming ninth grade student is not required to meet the previous semester

scholarship rule in 18.7.4 provided they have met all other eligibility requirements. The student's grades will be monitored during the first designated monitoring period established by the school and every three (3) to six (6) weeks thereafter.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT** At the beginning of a school year, a middle schools student that failed to meet the academic minimum as defined in WIAA rule 18.7.4 in the final grading period of the previous school year will be placed academic probation to begin the next school year and will be eligible for contests for the first three (3) weeks of the school year. If they are not meeting academic standards at the end of the three (3) week probation, they will become ineligible for contests for a minimum of one (1) week and remain suspended from contests until they can demonstrate they are meeting the requirements of 18.7.4. With all grading periods that end during a school year, middle school athletes will be placed on a three (3 )week suspension if they do not meet the requirements of 18.7.4.

If a student is failing 2 or more classes from the previous semester/quarter term, they will be ineligible for the first 5 weeks of the next sport (see Table B).

**Table B**

| Season | Academic Timeline                                                      | Academic Probation Dates                            |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Winter | 2 <sup>nd</sup> term (Previous Year) if no Fall sport season completed | First 5 weeks of season<br>*First 3 weeks of season |
| Spring | 1 <sup>st</sup> term (current year)                                    | First 5 weeks of season<br>*First 3 weeks of season |

Term - A term at RHS is a semester. A term at RMS is a quarter.

\*Middle school athletes only.

A satisfactory grade report will have to be furnished to the athletic director in order to be reinstated. Support will be available to students to assist their return to academic compliance and reinstatement to competition and performance.

Students must be passing all classes to participate in any activity. Weekly grade checks will be made beginning in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the current season.

**Students failing one class at grade check will be on probation until the next grade check. If still failing at the next grade check, he/she will be held out of competition until passing all classes.**

Students failing a class at grade check will be ineligible to participate in competition until passing all classes. Students will be allowed to participate in turnouts, practices, and meetings.

## **RUNNING START**

Running Start students must be full time students to be eligible at Rochester High School. It is the responsibility of the Running Start student to complete the WIAA – Running Start Student contract with the Athletic Director and/or their School Counselor prior to participating in any contests.

***If a participant is declared ineligible at the end of a grading period and he/she feels that there were extenuating circumstances he/she may appeal to the Activity Review Board for special consideration.***

**GENERAL RULES:** Students participating in co-curricular activities who violate rules of student conduct may be suspended from competition or performance as a consequence. Parents/guardians/legal custodians will be notified of action(s) under the following provisions.

**COVERED ACTIVITIES:** Co-curricular activities are activities outside of the regular school day: athletics, student government, performance groups, clubs, and other extra-curricular activities not listed.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Students will be held to the standards of this athletic code beginning the first day of Fall practice and/or the first day of school, whichever occurs first, through the last day of school, as well as all summertime school-sponsored activities. Students will be held to the athletic code throughout the remainder of his/her high school eligibility.

**ATTENDANCE:** Students shall be in attendance at school for the entire day to be eligible to participate in, or practice, interscholastic events on that day. In case of doctor/dental appointments, funerals, school trips, etc., normal attendance procedures are to be followed. If their absence is not cleared in advance, their participation is up the discretion of the administration.

**CONDUCT:** A student-athlete shall follow all rules established in the RSD Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook and by his/her school at all times while they are eligible or potentially eligible to participate in high school athletics, including, but not limited to time, such as summer breaks, vacations, and non-school days, and regardless of whether the student athlete is not currently participating in a sport. Failure to follow these rules may result in athletic discipline consequences including, but not limited to loss of playing time, suspension or dismissal following a review by the school's administration. Conviction or adjudication of any criminal acts, or being charged with criminal acts if school officials determine the conduct involved in the charge occurred, is also a violation of the Athletic Code.

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** All members of athletic programs in RSD have a responsibility to use social media in a positive, appropriate manner. Items including comments, photos, images and videos that are derogatory, demeaning, taunting or unsportsmanlike toward opponent/team/school/community/teammate/team and/or coaching staff are considered detrimental to the purpose of the athletic programs of the RSD. Individuals making such improper use of social media will be subject to appropriate team and/or school discipline. Comments, videos, images and photos on social media can be used as evidence of athletic code violations and lead to athletic disciplinary consequences.

**HAZING:** Any humiliating or dangerous activity expected of a student to belong to a group regardless of their willingness to participate will be considered an act of hazing and will not be tolerated in the athletic programs of the RSD. Violators will be subject to the consequences

found under the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) and Harassment rules of the RSD and may also be subject to further athletic disciplinary consequences following a review by the school's administration.

**SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS:** Participants, who are suspended from school shall not participate nor attend any other school activity, etc. for the duration of the suspension. Any single violation of school rules which is of a serious nature (as determined by the administration) shall be considered a violation of the code. Discipline may include, but is not limited to, suspension of one or more games, or loss of varsity letter.

*Any participant who is serving in-school suspension, short term suspension, or long term suspension from school will not be allowed to practice or compete until the suspension has ended. A participant assigned after school detention must complete the detention prior to practicing or competing. The issue of repercussions regarding practice time lost due to after school detention will be handled by the individual coach.*

**TRAVEL:** Participants will travel to and from contests with the team on the designated bus/van. Participants may ride home with the student's parent or guardian with a signature of the parent and permission of the coach. A "face to face" release of the participant by the coach to the parent must occur. Failure of the participant to comply with this policy can result in suspension from travel and participation for future activity events.

***Any exceptions to the travel policy of traveling to contests on the provided transportation must be cleared by the Principal/Athletic/Activities Director prior to the event.***

**ACTIVITY SPECIFIC RULES:** A student shall observe any additional rules stipulated by the coach/supervisor of each particular activity, provided that such rules do not alter or reduce any provision of this code. Additional rules not covered in this code must be approved by the Athletic/Activities Director and distributed in writing to participating students and parents prior to the first day of turnout for the particular activity.

**LETTER POLICY:** In order to qualify for a letter, the participant must meet the requirements set forth by the coach of that particular sport. The athletic letter is the property of Rochester High School and in the event that a participant violates any of the rules of the Rochester High School Athletic/Activities Code while displaying his/her letter, the Athletic/Activities Director has the authority to revoke the awarding of said letter. Any participant who is not eligible at the end of the season or has quit the team will not receive a letter.

**CLEARANCE PROCESS:** All participants must have the following prior to participation:

- a. Valid A.S.B. card.
- b. Signed parent permission slip.
- c. Up-to-date Physical (within 24 months) (athletes only).
- d. School insurance or an equal value personal policy (athletes only).
- e. Completed emergency medical release information (athletes only).
- f. Meet W.I.A.A. residence, age, previous semester and amateur standing requirements (athletes only).
- g. Paid all "Play to Participate" fees or appropriate waivers accepted.

- h. Running Start or alternative education contract (if necessary)

**QUITTING A SPORT:** A participant who quits a sport may not turn out for another sport in that season unless mutually agreed upon by the coaches involved.

### **CARE OF A.S.B./SCHOOL EQUIPMENT**

Issued Equipment: School equipment checked out by the participant is his/her responsibility. It is expected to be kept clean and in good condition. It is the participant's responsibility to keep issued equipment locked in assigned lockers when not in use. They will be responsible to supply their own locks. Loss of or damage to issued equipment will be the participant's financial obligation. No participant will be allowed to participate or practice in another sport until all previously issued equipment has been returned or proper restitution is made.

Fees/Fines: Athletic participants are expected to have no unpaid fines or fees. Athletic participants with unpaid fees/fines will not be allowed to participate in contests until all fees and fines are cleared.

Wearing issued equipment: Issued equipment is to be used ONLY while participating within the activity, practice or during the scheduled contest.

### **STUDENT CONDUCT STANDARDS FOR ALL ACTIVITY PROGRAMS**

A student/athlete is expected to be a good citizen at school and in the community.

1. Theft of, and/or malicious damage to, property of the Rochester School District, property of another school district, or property of another student at a time when such property is on a school district premises.
  - 1st Offense: The student will be suspended from athletic/activity participation for 20% of regular season contest limit, and may be reduced to a minimum of 10% of regular season contest limit with payment of restitution of property damage/theft.
  - 2nd Offense: The student will be suspended from athletic/activity participation for 40% of the regular season contest limit.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: The student will be suspended from all athletic/activity programs for the remainder of the school year and all summertime school-sponsored activities.
2. The possession or consumption of tobacco, nicotine or non-nicotine vape and vape products in any form is prohibited.
  - 1st Offense: The student will be suspended from athletic/activity participation for 20% of regular season contest limit, and may be reduced to a minimum of 10% of regular season contest limit provided the student enters and completes an assessment and the prescribed treatment plan from a professional substance program.

2nd Offense: The student will be suspended from athletic/activity participation for 40% of the regular season contest limit and must complete an assessment and the prescribed treatment plan from a professional substance program.

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: The student will be suspended from all athletic/activity programs for the remainder of the school year and all summertime school-sponsored activities.

3. The possession, distribution or consumption of alcohol or marijuana including the possession or use of electronic delivering devices (e-cigarettes, vaporizers, etc.) is prohibited.

1st Offense: The student will be suspended from athletic/activity participation for 40% of regular season contest limit, and may be reduced to a minimum of 20% of regular season contest limit provided the student agrees to obtain an assessment from a professional prescribed substance program, follow the recommendations and get a UA. (All assessments and UA's will be at a cost to the student/parent). Negative results of a second UA will be required at the end of the suspension for the student to become eligible.

2nd Offense: The student will be suspended from athletic/activity participation for the remainder of the season or 60% of the regular season contest limit, whichever is longer and must complete an assessment and the prescribed treatment plan from a professional substance program.

3rd Offense: The student will be suspended from all athletic/activity programs for the remainder of the school year and all summertime school-sponsored activities.

4. The unauthorized possession, sale, and/or use of legend drugs (drugs obtained through prescription) and controlled substances, including anabolic steroids, is prohibited.

1st Offense: The student will be suspended from athletic/activity participation for ninety (90) calendar days or one sports season (WIAA 18.24.2), whichever is longer, may be reduced provided the student requests an appeal in writing to the Activities Review Board and agrees to obtain an assessment and follow the recommendations of the assessment.

2nd Offense: The student will be suspended from all athletic/activity programs for one (1) calendar year.

3rd Offense: The student will be permanently suspended from all athletic/activity programs.

*A student that voluntarily comes forth and indicates that he/she has a drug/use problem will be given a UA and if positive, will be referred to counseling for assessment. The student will be immediately suspended and an appeal will be scheduled within 3 business days with the Activities Review Board to determine the length of suspension. For reinstatement consideration, the student must also agree to follow the recommendations of their assessment.*

5. Attending a function where alcohol and/or other drugs are illegally used is considered a violation of the athletic code. If an athlete attends a function where alcohol and/or other drugs are illegally used, the athlete must make an immediate and reasonable attempt to leave. If the athlete is forthcoming regarding his/her attendance at the function and inability to leave, the athletic director may reduce the sanction based on the results of the investigation.
6. Any form of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying (HIB), including cyberbullying, discrimination, lewd conduct, or sexual harassment is a violation of the Athletic/Activities Code and will be investigated school administration. Any offending student will be suspended from athletic/activity participation for up to ninety (90) calendar days, may be reduced provided the student requests an appeal in writing to the Activities Review Board.

*Students begin each school year with no violations **except in the case of an alcohol or drug violation.** Alcohol and drug violations will accumulate throughout a student's high school career. (One alcohol or drug violation as a freshman and one as a junior are two (2) violations). The Activities Review Board will have access to all career violations during an appeal, regardless of the category of the offense(s).*

## **APPEAL PROCESS**

The student and his/her parents may accept the decision or initiate an appeal. The student and his/her parents have three (3) business days to file a written notice of appeal with the Athletic or Activities Director. A hearing must convene on the appeal within three (3) business days of receipt of the notice of appeal.

The discipline action shall continue during the appeal procedure set forth unless the Athletic or Activities Director elects to postpone such action. The Activities Review Board, consisting of the Athletic/Activities Director, one coach, one activity advisor, and one faculty member (non-coach/advisor) will hear the appeal. Upon hearing the appeal, the student and his/her parents shall leave to allow the Activities Review Board members time to discuss the appeal. Upon completion of this discussion the Activities Review Board will make a recommendation to the investigating administrator, who will not be a voting member of the Activities Review Board.