



RACINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
RACINE, WISCONSIN

Parent/Student Athletic Handbook & Code of Conduct

Parents and student-athletes are responsible for reviewing this policy and must sign off that you have read, have knowledge of, understand and agree to the policies as stated within.

Revised: July 2017

It is the policy of the Racine Unified School District pursuant to s.118.13 WIS. STATS., and P19, that no person, on the basis of sex, race, creed, color, religion, natural origin, ancestry, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability may be denied admission to any school in this district or be denied participation in, be denied benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extra-curricular, pupil services, recreational, or other program or activity.

This policy also prohibits discrimination under related federal Statutes, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race and national origin), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex), and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (handicap).

If any person believes that the Racine Unified School District or any part of the School organization has inadequately applied the principals and/or regulations of s.118.13 WIS. STATS.,p 19 and/or Title VI (race, national origin), and/or Title IX (sex) and/or section 504 (handicap) or in some way discriminates against pupil on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, mental, emotional or learning disability or handicap, she/he may bring forward a complaint to the :

District Equity Coordinator
Racine Unified School District
3109 Mt. Pleasant Street
Racine, WI 53404



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Parent/Student-Athlete Handbook & Code of Conduct

Parents and student-athletes are responsible for reviewing this policy and must sign off that you have read, have knowledge of, understand and agree to the policies as stated within.

(Revised 7/2017)

Vision Statement

It is the vision of the Racine Unified School District that athletics are an educational tool that encourages all student-athletes to make positive decisions and be engaged in school.

RUSD Athletics - Mission Statement

The athletic programs in the Racine Unified School District (RUSD) are an integral part of the North Star goals. It is a privilege for student athletes to participate in these programs, which are intended to enrich learning and improve/increase engagement in their school, community and fellow student athletes. Athletics also assist in the physical, social and emotional development of student athletes. Additionally, athletics provide opportunities for student-athletes to become their own advocates and work with coaches to set goals, overcome adversity, and work cooperatively to make experiences rewarding.

It is the position of the Racine Unified School District that the involvement in educational-based athletics is a **privilege**, not a right, with accompanying responsibilities and expectations. When a student-athlete participates in athletics they are expected to understand and abide by the rules and regulations as outlined by the RUSD and the WIAA. **“KNOW THE CODE”**.

I. Categories of Participation

For purposes of establishing equitable standards to apply to the athletics offered to student-athletes at Racine Unified School District, the categories of participation are defined as follows:

- Interscholastic Athletic Teams
- Cheerleading
- Pom Poms

II. Requirements to Participate

As a student-athlete, you are not eligible to participate until the following items have been completed and are on file in the Activities Office:

- Practice Permit (Issued by the Activities Office)
- Yellow Athletes Emergency Card
- WIAA Physical or Alternate Year Card
- Concussion Agreement
- RUSD User Fee as set by School Board
- Insurance waiver
All athletes are required to provide proof of insurance. For families without insurance, RUSD offers insurance for purchase. Please see your Activities Office.
- All outstanding athletic equipment returned or paid for.
- Parent/Athlete Rules of Eligibility Sign-Off (back side of physical or alternate card)

III. Student-Athlete Responsibilities

- Comply with Racine Unified School District Athletic Code of Conduct. The student-athlete is responsible to review this policy. The student-athlete and parent/guardian will sign off that they have read, have knowledge of, understand, and agree to the policies in the Athletic Code of Conduct.
- Meet academic standards of eligibility.
- Follow guidelines established by the advisor or coach.
- Meet expectations of all classes on a daily basis unless otherwise excused.
- Comply with RUSD Rules of Eligibility.
- Comply with WIAA Rules of Eligibility that includes, but is not limited to, the following language on undue influence:
“No eligibility will be granted for a student-athlete whose attendance at a school has been the result of undue influence (special consideration due to athletic ability or potential) on the part of any person, whether or not connected with the school”.
- Abstain from using any banned performance enhancing drugs (PED's)

ATTENDANCE:

Student-athletes are expected to be in school, on time, and attending all classes.

- Coaches will monitor the student-athlete's attendance daily and may request a weekly attendance report from the Activities Office, during their sport seasons. Coaches will address any periods of unexcused absence/truancy with the student-athlete. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to follow up with their attendance office immediately if an unexcused absence/truancy is believed to be in error. Unexcused absences/truancies that remain on the student-athlete's attendance record after five (5) school days will carry the following penalty: **One (1) block or more of truancy in one (1) school day will result in a one (1) game suspension.** This suspension will occur on the next available contest following the five (5) school days.
- Student-athletes may not participate in any extracurricular activity - including practice - during/after school on the same day of a full day absence, whether excused or unexcused, unless arrangements are made with the Athletic Director or building administrator before the absence.
- Student-athletes must be in attendance at least one-half of the day of a contest. In extreme emergencies, when an absence extends beyond one-half of the day, student-athletes may request a clearance to participate from his/her Athletic Director or building administrator.
- **Student-Athletes Enrolled In Virtual Options** - Virtual courses are not designed with the idea that the student must be in the same chair at the same hour each day. The online mentor teacher who is located in the student's home school is responsible for utilizing Infinite Campus and keep the student's virtual learning contract to address student attendance.

IV. Parent/Athlete/Coach Expectations and Communications

Parenting and coaching are extremely challenging vocations. By establishing and understanding of each other's expectations, we are better able to accept the actions of both parties and provide greater benefits to the student-athlete. When a child becomes involved in an interscholastic sport, parents and coaches have a right to understand what expectations are going to be placed on the athlete and on each other. This begins with clear communication from the athlete, parent, Coach, and Activities Office.

Communications That Parents/Athletes Should Expect From Coaches:

- The expectations the coaches have for all their team members.
- Location and times of all practices.
- Team requirements, fees, special equipment, game dress, and off-season opportunities.
- The team policy dealing with excused and unexcused absences. (What will the consequence be for missing a practice/game because of vacation, etc.?)
- The RUSD and WIAA requirements for eligibility.
- Teams rules beyond the RUSD Athletic Code.
- The lettering requirements.
- Cut policies (if cuts need to be made)
- The coaches act as a role model for good sportsmanship, by their use of appropriate language, promoting a healthy environment, and safe teaching techniques.
- Well-planned practices.
- A resource for college opportunities.
- Encourage student-athletes to meet all requirements for participation and submit them to the Activities Office in a timely manner.

Expectations/Communications Coaches Should Expect From the Athlete and Parents:

- Actively seek out information regarding start dates for each sports season.
- Ensure all requirements for participation are met and submitted in a timely manner.
- Understand that by your child participating in sports, you as a parent/guardian are assuming an assumption of risk to injury and/or death.
- Notify coaching staff of any schedule conflicts that may occur, well in advance of the date.
- Special concerns regarding coaching expectations. (Practice requirements, etc.)
- Support for the RUSD Athletic Code and all team rules.
- Support all team members and coaching staff. (Team comes first)
- Positive support at games for their son/daughter, their teammates, and coaching staff.
- Exhibit good sportsmanship and appropriate language by the athlete and parents at games and/or practices.
- A great work ethic and attitude at practice and in games. If the athlete has a concern, please see the coach ASAP to talk about the issue at hand.
- Parents should not expect to meet with a coach before or after a game to communicate concerns. Any meeting with a coach is to be scheduled in advance.

Sportsmanship

Athletic programs within our school(s) have earned an outstanding reputation in the area of academics and community sportsmanship. Our athletes and fans have always conducted themselves in a commendable manner. Everyone is very proud of this reputation and works hard at upholding it. Please review the following suggestions for future consideration:

- A spectator represents the school the same as an athlete.

- The good name of the school is more valuable than any game won by unfair play.
- Accept decisions of officials without any dispute.
- Recognize and show appreciation of fine play and good sportsmanship on the part of the opponent.
- Respect the game management at all times as they are there for everyone's safety.
- If you choose not to use good sportsmanship you **will** forfeit your right to be in attendance and **will** be asked to leave.

Appropriate concerns Athlete/Parent May address with Coaching Staff:

- The treatment of the athlete mentally and physically.
- Ways to help their son/daughter mentally and physically.
- Concerns about the athletes' behavior in school/practices/games.

Inappropriate concerns for Parents to discuss with Coaches:

- An individual's playing time.
- Team Philosophy/Strategy.
- Play selections.
- The make-up of the team and the decision as to who plays on what team.
- Other members of the team, other parents, and other coaches, unless it affects the welfare or safety of the student athlete.

Process of Resolving Athletic Concerns

Student-athlete/parental concerns **must** be addressed by using the following order of communication:

- Communication with coaching staff
- Activities Director
- Directing Principal
- Deputy Superintendent
- Superintendent of Schools

V. Application of the Handbook/Code of Conduct

****THIS HANDBOOK/CODE IS IN EFFECT TWELVE (12) MONTHS A YEAR****

The Parent/Athlete Handbook & Code of Conduct will be in effect for each student-athlete for their entire athletic career, at all times (including summer), in all locations, including non-school activities, from the date of his/her signature on the Parent-Athlete Rules of Eligibility Form in the back of this Codebook.

Conduct violations will result in penalties, which are consistent with those identified within this code, as determined by the Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools, Area Superintendents, Directing Principals, Athletic Directors, and Coaches in RUSD.

Each coach also has the prerogative to establish and implement additional guidelines (team policies) specific to his/her particular team. These additional guidelines cannot supersede the rules and consequences established in the Code.

All LEVEL II-LEVEL V violations of the Code will be progressive and cumulative beginning with a student-athlete's initial participation in a sports

VI. Conduct Violations & Suspensions

When a Code violation occurs, the Head Coach, Coach in charge, Sub-school Principal, or the Directing Principal has/have the obligation, individually/collectively, to issue a formal suspension through the athletic director, verbally or in writing. Suspension takes effect at the time that the verbal notification is given to the student-athlete or written notification is mailed to his/her address of record, whichever is first. NOTE: In most cases, a guardian has the same rights and responsibilities as a parent.

Conduct Unbecoming of an Athlete

- Any conduct or acts which are generally considered to be unbecoming of a participant representing his/her school, (which includes, but is not limited to, criminal behavior, hazing, bullying/cyber bullying or possession or distribution of inappropriate/indecent digital images) will be penalized on the tiered suspension levels listed below (LEVEL II-LEVEL V). Upon investigation, the Athletic Director will determine the appropriate level of disciplinary action.
 - **Hazing:**
Wisconsin Anti-Hazing Law
948.51 Hazing

(1) In this section "forced activity" means any activity which is a condition of **initiation** or admission into or affiliation with an organization, regardless of a student's willingness to participate in the activity.

(2) No person may intentionally or recklessly engage in acts which endanger the physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of **initiation** or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating in connection with a school, college or university. Under those circumstances, prohibited acts may include any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, forced confinement or any other forced activity which endangers the physical health or safety of the student.

(3) Whoever violates sub. (2) is guilty of:

(a) A Class A misdemeanor if the act results in or is likely to result in bodily harm to another.

(b) A Class E felony if the act results in great bodily harm or death to another.

RUSD coaches will not permit, nor will RUSD student-athlete's stage, any type of "initiation ceremony" or hazing for athletes at any time and at any level. This prohibition includes any athlete giving other athletes haircuts, shaving other athletes, locker/shower pranks, etc. Any acts of hazing should be reported to the Athletic Director for investigation and appropriate disciplinary action. (Hazing violations could also result in a team forfeiture of contests.)

- **Use of Social Media (E-mail, Facebook, Twitter, SnapChat, etc.):**
 - **Bullying:** Social media bullying is very serious and may be considered a crime. RUSD Athletics strives to provide a safe, positive learning climate for student-athletes in the schools. Therefore, it shall be the policy of RUSD to maintain an educational environment in which cyber bullying in any form is not tolerated and is strictly prohibited. Any acts of cyber bullying should be reported to the Athletic Director for investigation and appropriate disciplinary action.
 - **Evidence:** Any identifiable image, photo or video that implicates a student athlete to have been in possession or presence of drugs or alcohol, portrays use of drugs or alcohol, shows conduct unbecoming of an athlete or a crime, can be used to establish a violation of the Code of Conduct.

Tiered Suspension Levels:

LEVEL 1

- Any behavior that results in a **full day** of in-school suspension (ISS) **during the season** of participation will result in a one (1) contest/competition/performance suspension. This penalty must be served on the **NEXT** contest.

- Minor misconduct/misbehavior and/or failure to follow school rules that results in an out of school suspension **during the season** of participation will result in a one (1) contest/competition/performance suspension. This penalty must be served on the **NEXT** contest once the student returns from suspension.

****NOTE**: FOR ALL LEVEL 2 - LEVEL 5 Conduct Violations & Suspensions:**

- If the suspension occurs out of season, the suspension will carry over to the next available season of participation.
- Any remaining number of contests of the suspension not served during the regular season, not including post-season, of the activity will be applied at the beginning of the next sport season in which the student-athlete participates.
- A participant, who is ineligible for the first contest of WIAA post-season play, will remain ineligible for the remainder of post-season play.
- If the participant in violation chooses not to complete the season, the assigned penalty will not have been officially served. The student-athlete athlete must complete the next season in good standing to regain eligibility.

LEVEL 2

All **LEVEL 2** penalties carry a **25%** of current/upcoming season's contests, limited to four (4) total occurrences. This penalty must be served on the **NEXT** contest once the student returns from suspension.

- **Gross misconduct:** Includes, but is not limited to: Out of school suspensions defined as trespassing, physical/verbal/sexual assault or abuse, disorderly conduct, fighting, possession of/use of inappropriate/hazardous/indecent materials, dangerous community behavior affecting the school, gang related activities, theft, vandalism, inappropriate or obscene materials in locker, fire regulations, gambling and possession of a weapon (If expulsion is given for a weapons violation, the athletic suspension would then move to a LEVEL 4.).

LEVEL 3 - Alcohol, tobacco, and drug related Code violations

- **1st AOD Offense** – **50%** of current/upcoming seasons contests.
- **2nd AOD Offense** – Student-athlete will not be allowed to participate for the **remainder of his/her high school career**. The student-athlete may request an appeal for reinstatement after one (1) calendar year.

- Buying, possessing or using alcohol, tobacco, drugs or facsimiles/look-a-likes thereof.
- Smoking anything
- Misuse of prescription or over the counter medication
- Organizing, hosting or having gatherings where the consumption of alcohol or the use of controlled substances takes place.

LEVEL 4 – Expulsion From Schools

- Any student-athlete who is expelled from a school will not be allowed to play for **one (1) full calendar year from the date of the expulsion.**
- If a student-athlete out on expulsion is given an early reinstatement athletic eligibility will be determined 50% suspension from next participating sport.

LEVEL 5 – Extreme Violations

- Felony charge and/or conviction.

Student-athlete will not be allowed to participate for the **remainder of his/her high school career.** The student-athlete may request an appeal for reinstatement after one (1) calendar year.

Varsity Sport	Maximum # of Contests					Varsity Sport	Maximum of Contests				
Baseball	26					Softball	20				
Basketball	22					Swimming	14				
Cheerleading/Poms	9 (fall) 22 (winter)					Tennis	14				
Cross Country	11					Track	20				
Golf	14					Volleyball	15				
Football	9					Wrestling	14				
Max. # of Contests	7/8	9/10	11/12	13/14	15/16	17/18	19/20	21/22	23/24	25/26	
25%	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	7	
50%	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	

VII. Appeals & Reinstatement

Requesting an Appeal:

Athletic suspensions based on In-School and Out-of-School suspensions may **not** use the Athletic Appeals Process.

For suspensions not based on In-School or Out-of-School suspensions, a participant and/or the parent(s) or guardians may appeal, if they can provide significant evidence that the facts of the case are in question.

A written request for an appeal hearing must be made to the Athletic Director within five (5) consecutive school days from the date of the suspension letter. The letter must include the statements of evidence on which the appeal is based. The participant remains on suspension during the appeal process.

Requesting a Reinstatement:

Athletes who received a LEVEL 4 or 5 penalty are eligible to appeal for a reinstatement hearing after one (1) calendar year from the date of the athletic suspension by providing a written request for an appeal hearing to the Athletic Director. The participant remains on suspension during the appeal process.

The Appeals/Reinstatement Committee:

The Appeals/Reinstatement Committee will meet to hear the appeal within ten (10) consecutive school days of the request. The Appeals/Reinstatement Committee will be made up of the following individuals from the involved school:

- The Athletic Director will be chairperson and will have no vote.
- One (1) administrator not involved in the case.
- Four (4) professionally certified district employees selected by the Athletic Director.

Appeal/Reinstatement Hearing Procedures:

Participants must be present and represented by their parent/guardian or student advocate.

The chairperson will review the procedures to be followed during the hearing and answer any questions that will clarify those procedures.

The Athletic Director who issued the suspension will give:

- The specific charges against the participant in written form.
- A summary of the overall situation and details of the incident using witnesses if needed to substantiate the violation.
- The nature of the disciplinary measures taken as a result of the violation.
 - FOR REINSTATEMENTS ONLY: Athletic Director will provide attendance and discipline reports from the course of the year the athlete was on disciplinary suspension. (NOTE: These reports **will** be factored into the determination of future eligibility.)

The participant or his/her representative(s) may ask questions and/or present his/her involvement in the incident using witnesses, to bring out facts, clarify points of dispute and/or to serve as a defense.

The Appeals/Reinstatement Committee members may ask questions necessary to bring out facts or clarify points of dispute.

Each party will summarize his/her position for members of the Appeals/Reinstatement Committee.

Appeals/Reinstatement Decisions:

Within five (5) consecutive school days of the hearing, a decision will be made regarding the appeal/reinstatement. This decision will be determined by a simple majority of the five (5) voting members of the Appeals/Reinstatement Committee. It will be the responsibility of the Chairperson to inform the participant of the decision. *NOTE: A taped transcript of the appeal/Reinstatement hearing will be made as a record of the proceedings.*

****THE DECISION OF THE APPEALS/REINSTATEMENT COMMITTEE WILL BE FINAL.****

VIII. Athletic Awards System

Student-athletes who participate have an opportunity to earn athletic awards. In order to earn awards, the student-athlete is required to complete their season in good standing, which is determined by the coach. Listed below are the awards that student-athletes are eligible to earn:

- 9th Grade – Numerals
- 10th Grade – Patch
- 11th Grade – Initials
- **LETTERING**
9th -12th Grade student-athletes are eligible to earn a varsity letter in their sport by meeting the requirements set forth by the coach in their team policies. Once a student-athlete earns a varsity letter, they will be given a chevron for every subsequent letter they earn.
- **Scholar Athlete Medals:**
Scholar-Athletes are determined by the Activities Office, and given to student-athletes based on their G.P.A. from the most recent grading period. A student-athlete must earn a 3.5 G.P.A. during that grading period to qualify for this award.

IX. Academic Eligibility for Student-Athletes

A student-athlete must meet school and DPI requirements defining a full-time student and have received no more than one failing grade (including incompletes) in the most recent grade-reporting period. The RUSD Athletic Administration will determine a mutually agreed upon date for the grade checks.

- A student-athlete who becomes academically ineligible may regain eligibility on the 16th scheduled school day by meeting the academic standard, following a period of 15 scheduled school days and nights of ineligibility.
- A student-athlete regains eligibility immediately if incompletes are made up within two weeks after a grade-reporting period.
- A student-athlete may erase ineligibility status related to the last grade-reporting period of the school year through summer school courses in any discipline (including correspondence courses) at the same or some other school, provided that he/she successfully completes not less than the same number of courses, which caused ineligibility.
- The student-athlete who continues to be academically ineligible following the 15-day grade check will be ineligible for the remainder of the sport season or until the next grading period if there is one available during that sport. The student-athlete may still participate in practice during the period of ineligibility.
- A student-athlete who is enrolled in some courses in a university/college or technical college or some similar institution, must receive high school credit which meets the academic standard or have a notation made on his/her high school transcript that he/she successfully met the equivalent of the academic standard between the two schools involved. (*Note: A student-athlete who has been assigned to a technical college by the school district is exempt from the provision requiring physical attendance at least one course each day, provided such a student-athlete continues being carried on the attendance rolls for purposes of state aid.*)
- A student-athlete who is enrolled in any state-approved EEN program and receives no grades for such courses may be eligible if he/she is making satisfactory progress in his/her total school program as indicated by his/her IEP.
- **Student-Athletes Enrolled In Virtual Options** The mentor teacher has the capability of sending weekly progress reports to coaches, parents and administrators. The Pace Chart establishes the number of assignments that must be completed daily, weekly, and monthly throughout the semester course.

The ineligibility status described in section IX., Academic Eligibility, will be adjusted as follows for student-athletes in fall sports, in which the date of the earliest allowed competition is before the first day student-athletes are in class:

- **Fall Sports** – The minimum ineligibility period shall be the lesser of:
 1. Twenty one (21) calendar days beginning with the date of earliest allowed competition in a sport . **--or --**
 2. One-third of the maximum number of games/meets allowed in a sport (rounded up if one-third results in a fraction).

- A student-athlete must maintain enough credits to be “on pace to graduate” in order to acquire eligibility for each sports season. This eligibility requirement will begin with the graduating class of 2020. The credit requirements are as follows:
 - A sophomore must have 5 credits in the fall to be eligible to play and 8 credits after the 3rd semester for spring sports.
 - A junior must have 11 credits in the fall to be eligible to play and 14 credits after the 5th semester for spring sports.
 - A senior must have 18 credits in the fall to be eligible to play and 22 credits after the 7th semester for spring sports.

Grade checks are based upon quarter grades from the most recent quarter/semester finished to determine a student-athlete’s eligibility when the permit is issued.

Fall	2 nd Semester(Previous year) Freshmen come in academically eligible.	
Winter	1 st Quarter (Current year) 1 st Semester (Current year)	Initial Grade check 2 nd Grade check
Spring	1 st Semester (Current year) 3 rd Quarter (Current year)	(No double consequence if played a winter sport) 2 nd grade check

X. WIAA High School Athletic Eligibility Bulletin



WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

High School Athletic Eligibility Information Bulletin

To: Student-Athletes and Parents

From: Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association and the **Racine Unified School District**

Your high school is a member of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association. The following rules and regulations are developed by the member schools of the WIAA and govern the participation by boys and girls in school athletics and in some instances, impact upon sports activities outside the school.

To read more about all policies and procedures, please go to www.wiaawi.org

An example of WIAA eligibility for the **current school year**:

AGE

ACADEMICS

ATTENDANCE

DETERMINING RESIDENCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

DETERMINING RESIDENCE FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

TRANSFERS

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION and PARENT'S PERMISSION

TRAINING and CONDUCT

AMATEUR STATUS

SPORTS ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

USE OF STUDENT IMAGE

******In order to facilitate good communication, all questions regarding athletic participation at your school should be addressed to your Athletic Administrator.***

XI. Alternative Program Participation Policy

- Student-athletes who are placed at an alternative education program from their home school due to disciplinary reasons (i.e.TPA,TEP,etc) will not be allowed to participate in athletics until they return from that program.
- Student-athletes attending an alternative education program for disciplinary reasons and are transitioning to their home school, will be afforded an intake meeting between the home school and the alternative program. **Requests for an intake meeting must be sent to the home school's Athletic Director at least two weeks prior to the start of the season in which the student-athlete wishes to participate in tryouts. ABSOLUTELY NO REQUESTS WILL BE ACCEPTED LATE.** The home school's Athletic Director will meet with the student-athlete, parent/guardian/advocate, program coordinator, and special education teacher (if applicable) at the intake meeting.

Criteria that will be discussed at the intake meeting include:

1. Academic progress
2. Behavior in school and community
3. School attendance
4. Other documented positive experiences
5. Review of Athletic Codebook

XII. NCAA Eligibility <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>

What is the NCAA?

- The NCAA, or National Collegiate Athletic Association, was established in 1906 and serves as the athletics governing body for more than 1300 colleges, universities, conferences, and organizations. The national office is in Indianapolis, but the member colleges and universities develop the rules and guidelines for athletic eligibility and athletics competition for each of the three NCAA divisions. The NCAA is committed to the student-athlete and to governing competition in a fair, safe, inclusive, and sportsmanlike manner.

What is the NCAA Eligibility Center?

- The NCAA Eligibility Center will certify the academic and amateur credentials of all college-bound student-athletes who wish to compete in NCAA Division 1 or 2 athletics.

Academic Eligibility Requirements:

- High school graduation
- Core course requirement
- Cumulative GPA
- ACT or SAT score

Steps to Achieving Your Eligibility

- Start planning now! **See your counselor!** Know the requirements! Work hard to get the best grades possible.
- Take classes that match your high school's list of NCAA courses. ***The Eligibility Center will use only approved core courses to certify your initial eligibility.***
- You can access and print your high school's list of NCAA courses at: www.eligibilitycenter.org
- If you fall behind, use summer school sessions before graduation to catch up.

Additional Information/Resources

- Check with your Counselors Office for the yearly "Guide for the College-Bound Student-athlete".
- Web address: www.eligibilitycenter.org
- Eligibility Center Registration: Go on-line to: www.eligibilitycenter.org. To create an account, either click on the "New Account" button at the top right of the screen or the cell phone on the left side of the screen.
- Eligibility Center Customer Service: US callers (toll free) 877.262.1492
- www.corecourseGPA.com (custom, web-based software that allows student-athletes, parents, counselors, and coaches, to easily track academic progress towards meeting NCAA Eligibility Center requirements for both Division 1 and Division 2.)

FAQ—Frequently Asked Questions

● What happens if I am truant from class?

Student-athletes are expected to be in school, on time, and attending all classes. If you are marked truant from class, for any part or all of a school day, you will receive a one (1) game/contest suspension. (Page 6)

● What should I do if I was marked truant by mistake?

If you believe you were marked truant in error, it is your responsibility to follow up with your sub-school attendance office immediately. You will only have five (5) school days to get this corrected. (Page 6)

● Can I play if I was absent from school today?

Student-athletes CANNOT play in a game if they were absent from school for one-half or more of the day. Student-athletes CANNOT participate in practice if they were absent from school for the full day. Student-athletes CAN participate in practice if they attended any part of the school day. (Page 6)

● What happens if I have to miss a practice or game?

Inform your coach as soon as you know you will have to be absent. Communication with your coach is very important. Please be aware that coaches have individual team policies about excused and unexcused practice/game absences, which may affect your playing time and ability to earn athletic awards. Know your team policies and follow them. (Page 6)

Frequently Asked Questions/Con't

- **Can I play sports if I fail a class?**

Yes. But, if you fail more than one class on the most recent grading period, you will be academically ineligible to participate in any games/contests for fifteen (15) school days (exception in Fall sports, see page 16). You will still practice with your team during this time, but you won't compete. (Page 15-16)

- **Can I still participate in sports if I get suspended from school?**

In most cases YES, but you will have to serve an athletic suspension. Your period of suspension from games/contests will be determined by the level/severity of your conduct. (Pages 11-12) Our goal is to keep you engaged in school and sports. We want you to participate. We have all made mistakes or poor choices and have had consequences for our actions. Serve your suspension with character and join us back out on the field!

- **What happens if I get in trouble or ticketed outside of school, on my own time?**

The Student-Athlete Code of Conduct is in effect for twelve (12) months a year. You are bound by the Code for your entire athletic career. Athletes must refrain from any conduct or acts which are considered unbecoming of an athlete at all times (including summer), in all locations, including non-school activities. If it comes to our attention that you have violated the Code, you will be held accountable and disciplined. (Page 9-10)

- **If my child is at a party and alcohol or drugs are introduced, what should he/she do? Are there implications for just being there?**

Student athletes are required to leave a gathering immediately upon their knowledge of the presence of illegal substances or illicit activities. Failure to do so will result in a LEVEL 2 (25%) suspension. (Page 11)

- **What does AOD stand for? (from Page 12)**

AOD stands for Alcohol, and Other Drugs

- **Can I appeal my suspension from athletics?**

Yes and No. No, you may not appeal your suspension from athletics if it is a result of an In-School or Out-of-School suspension. Yes, for suspensions NOT based on In-School or Out-of-School suspension, you may appeal your suspension if you can provide significant evidence that the facts of the case are in question. Follow the rules for requesting an appeal. (Page 13-14)

- **What happens if I transfer to another school?**

All athletes are INELGIBLE until the Athletic Director clears you for eligibility. There are very strict rules on transfer students. **See your Athletic Director immediately.**

- **Who do I talk to about concerns I am having on my team?**

Always communicate with your coaching staff first. If you are unable to find a resolution, then you should follow the "Process of Resolving Athletic Concerns" on page 8 about appropriate expectations and communications with coaches/parents/athletes.

- **Can I earn any awards for participating in sports?**

Yes, for student-athletes who complete the entire season in good standing (as determined by your coach), you will receive the following participation awards: Freshman-Numerals, Sophomore-Patch, Junior-School Initials. Earning an athletic Letter is determined by policies of your individual coach/team. Student-athletes with a GPA of 3.5 and above on the current/most recent grading period are eligible to earn a Scholar Athlete Medal. (Page 14)

- **What should I do if I want to play sports in college?**

See your guidance counselor as soon as possible. There are many requirements to obtain certification to play at the college level. Start planning now! There are some tips and resources available on Page 18-19, but most importantly, **see your Counselor!**

- **Does my conduct and/or decisions outside of school affect my athletic eligibility?**

The code is in affect all year. Yes, your decisions outside the school community can still impact your athletic eligibility. (Page 9-12)

- **Who should I contact with questions about the Code of Conduct?**

Please feel free to contact your high school's athletic office at any time. The Code was written for the student-athletes and the parents. We want to help you **"KNOW THE CODE"**.



LEGAL WAIVER AND RELEASE

1. I give my permission for my child to practice, compete and represent the school in WIAA and /or approved interscholastic sports.
2. I grant permission for any medical records pertaining to the health of my child to be made available as necessary to the proper school district personnel and appropriate health care providers, including emergency medical personnel.
3. We authorize consent between the athlete, parents, RUSD representative, Ascension Medical Group representative or any healthcare provider to: discuss any pertinent information in regards to current or previous medical conditions, perform necessary evaluative procedures and secure treatment of injuries or medical conditions sustained through participation.
4. We further authorize RUSD representative, or Ascension Medical Group representative to take any necessary action in the case of an emergency. We further authorize transportation by emergency medical service personnel to an emergency management facility and the EMF to treat the condition in the event that we are physically unable to give consent ourselves.
5. We understand that participation in interscholastic activities provided by the RUSD may result in injury, some of which could be serious including, but not limited to: permanent, paraplegia, and death. Participants hold the responsibility to perform only approved safe techniques in practices and games or events.
6. We accept all risks associated with participation while using our facilities or services.

I have read, understand and agree with the codebook. We sign the Parent/Athlete Rules of Eligibility Sign-Off Card (back side of physical or alternate card) voluntarily, intelligently and with full knowledge of its legal consequences. Furthermore, we release RUSD, the members of the RUSD School Board, and their respective employees and agents, and Ascension Medical Group representatives from any liability and or claims of negligence that may occur during participation in any practice and/or event which is in any way related to the interscholastic activity. We further understand that the RUSD does not provide health insurance on behalf of participants in such interscholastic activities, and that the responsibility for medical coverage for any injury or illness sustained as a result of participation does not lie with the District. We understand that this release will apply to myself, and personal representatives, heirs and assigns.