

## Athletic/Co-Curricular Eligibility Policy

The RSU 14 Board of Directors maintains the philosophy that extra-curricular and co-curricular activities, including athletics, are an extension of its instructional program. Further, the Board maintains that it is a privilege, not a right, to participate in any given activity. With the privilege of participating in school activities comes the responsibility to maintain high academic, conduct, and ethical standards.

Sports, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities create an environment in which to instill core values such as discipline, respect, responsibility, fairness, trustworthiness and good citizenship. Positive competition and a spirit of excellence are defining values promoted through activities in school. The RSU 14 student must always keep in mind that a contest is only an event, designed and conducted to promote the physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well-being of the individual. The student must also realize that it is a privilege to participate in school programs and always remember they are representing their family, school, and community. Students who participate in athletics and co-curricular activities are subject to additional rules and sanctions as described in the RSU 14 Parent/Student Athletic/Co-Curricular Guide.

The RSU 14 athlete/student agrees to adhere to the Student Code of Conduct. At any time, an RSU 14 athlete/student does not abide by the Student Code of Conduct, they can expect to be disciplined.

### I. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- A. All regulations of the Maine Principals' Association (MPA) concerning eligibility for interscholastic activities shall be enforced.
- B. In addition to the MPA requirements, RSU 14 requires all students to pass all classes, per grading period. (Grading period defined as Quarter / Trimester Grades.) A student who fails one class will go on probation for three weeks. The student may practice with their team / participate in the club/activity during the probation period, but may not participate in any competitions. At the end of the three weeks, the student must be passing all classes. (Verification form circulated by student and returned to Athletic Administrator/Co-Curricular Advisor.) If the student is failing any classes at this time, they become ineligible. (Grading period is defined as Quarter / Trimester Grades.)
- C. *Quarter / Trimester Grades Eligibility:* A student who does not meet the requirements stated in A-B will become ineligible. Ineligible is defined as not being allowed to practice, play or participate in any manner with their team / activity. If tryouts are required for an activity while the student has been deemed ineligible, the student may try out for, but not participate in meetings, events / competitions once the team / group has been chosen.
- D. Students who are ineligible may begin practicing one week prior to the end of a grading period. They must turn in a signed form to the Athletic Administrator / Co-Curricular Advisor, stating the student is in good standing with all their teachers.
- E. An incomplete will not count as a passing grade for credit. Catastrophic illness or injury accounting for an incomplete may require special consideration by the Principal, Athletic Administrator, or Co-Curricular Advisor. A withdrawal failure recorded on the permanent record will count as a failure for academic eligibility.
- F. Fourth quarter / trimester grades from the previous academic year will be used to establish eligibility for the next Fall athletic season / co-curricular activity season.
- G. This policy will apply to all athletic activities / co-curricular and extra-curricular activities sponsored by RSU 14, as listed in Exhibit A.
- H. For students who did not receive a 2.0 or higher during the preceding quarter, the student must meet at least two of the following criteria in all current courses or learning experiences to be considered eligible.

The student is demonstrating proficiency on a majority of the academic standards.

The student is demonstrating proficiency on a majority of the habits-of-work standards.

The student is participating in an intervention program which includes all applicable in-school, out-of-school, and vacation intervention programs designed to get the student on track to demonstrate proficiency on all expected standards by the end of a course, learning experience, or grade level.

Students who are determined to be ineligible shall be placed on academic probation and assistance. The district believes that students on academic probation should be given multiple opportunities to meet academic eligibility requirements in ways that address the student's distinct learning needs and support that allow for a reinstatement of eligibility if the student is able to demonstrate measurable progress towards proficiency.

All students placed on academic probation will be required to develop a plan with appropriate teachers, coaches, counselors, administration, parents or guardians. The Athletic Administrator will be with all ineligible students to articulate the expectations of their eligibility and to help support their plan.

The ineligible student will be given three weeks to demonstrate progress and satisfy the eligibility criteria of this policy. During the initial three-week probationary period, students may attend games or performances, but they are not allowed to participate in MPA sanctioned activities. (Refer to B)

If the student satisfies the eligibility criteria during the probationary period, the student will be reinstated for full participation in the athletics and co-curricular activities at the end of the three-week period.

*Special Consideration:* With Administrative approval, special consideration could be given to individuals with extenuating circumstances. An appeal may be made to the Principal if a student believes extenuating circumstances have impacted their ability to pass a (one) course. Students must be able to document a learning difficulty, efforts to access assistance and/or other interventions.

#### Windham And Jordan Small Middle School Eligibility Expectations

- A. The programs at WMS and JSMS shall provide instruction and encourage participation in a wide variety of activities and promote citizenship in all experiences. Students must realize that it is a privilege to participate in the school's activities and that he / she is representing the school and district.
- B. To be eligible at the middle school level a student must maintain an average of 2.0 in all courses. Students who have received a score lower than 2.0 will go on probation for three weeks. During the probationary period, students will need to demonstrate that they are working to bring the score to 2.0 or higher. Also in the probationary time frame a student can still practice with their team but cannot play in any games. Failure to bring the score to 2.0 or higher by the end of the probation period will result in the student being removed from the sport or activity. Grades will be determined on the previous reporting period (quarter / trimester) and that grade check will be determined by the school principal.

If a student receives a score below a 2.0 on any course in the last quarter of their 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade year they will not be eligible for participation in sports or activities beginning in the fall as last quarter / trimester grades will determine fall eligibility.

## **II. GENERAL RULES OF RSU 14 ATHLETICS**

- A. All athletes must meet the eligibility requirements as set by RSU 14 and the M.P.A.
- B. All athletes must have permission to play by parent or guardian.

- C. All athletes must have a current medical examination prior to initial participation on file at the Middle Schools or the High School. An exam is current for a period of two years from date of exam.
- D. All athletes must have proof of insurance before participating in athletics.
- E. All athletes must abide by the training and participation rules set up by the coach.
- F. As representatives of your team, school, and community, the athlete's appearance will be neat at all times. The appropriateness of an athlete's dress or appearance will be left to the coach and school administration.
- G. All athletes must travel to and from the game with the team. An exception to this will be permitted for valid reasons, but only under the following conditions: the parent or guardian must present themselves personally to the coach to pick up the student, the parent or guardian must sign the Athletic Transportation release form. These conditions must be met by all athletes regardless of the age of the athlete. It is the intent of the School Board that this privilege not be misused, but the School Board recognizes that there are times when team bus travel from a game could cause a hardship.

### **III. INSURANCE**

- A. No student in RSU 14 schools can participate in an authorized Maine Principals' Association athletic activity without adequate coverage as provided by a protective accident insurance policy.
- B. RSU 14 schools have an available accident insurance plan, for a small cost, which will provide the required coverage.
- C. The athlete is presently protected by an adequate insurance policy which contains the necessary requirements and provides coverage for injuries resulting from participation in the athletic activity named: therefore, RSU 14's available insurance plan is not needed or desired.
- D. In the event that the necessary coverage for the athlete contained in the insurance policy presently in existence terminates or ceases to provide the required protective coverage, the principal of the schools shall be notified immediately.
- E. It is agreed that the State of Maine and the RSU 14 schools shall not be responsible or liable for injuries to the student resulting from the participation in the athletic activity.

### **IV. ATTENDANCE TO SCHOOL**

- A. No student shall take part in a practice, game, event or activity on a day when they have been tardy, absent or dismissed from school.
  - 1. Since it is understandable that emergencies do occur, the following adjustment to this rule have been made:
    - a. A student will be allowed one tardy per sport season co-curricular season, for any reason other than illness, if the student arrives before the end of Block 1 / Period 1.
    - b. Any tardy that occurs after Block 1 / Period 1 will result in a student not being able to participate on that day.
- B. Exceptions to the above rule will take place if the reason for the infraction is a professional appointment that must be scheduled during the school day. (doctor, dentist, driver's license test, senior pictures, etc.) An appointment card must be turned in at the office for any such appointment.

- C. The Principal or his/her Designee has the right to adjust for extenuating circumstances when necessary.

**V. STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

It is the philosophy of the RSU 14 Board of Directors that all students should conduct themselves properly in the school academic environment. The following infractions are listed with the athletic / co-curricular consequence.

- A. *Late Night Detentions* – A late night detention for any reason other than A or B will result in the athlete / student not being allowed to participate on the day of the next prior-scheduled contest / activity / meeting / practice.
- B. *Multiple Late-Night Detentions* – will result in the athlete / student not being allowed to participate in prior scheduled contests, games or events for a one-week period. Any following offenses will result in dismissal from the team / activity.
- C. *Suspensions / In-School Suspensions* – Any suspension of more than one day will result in the athlete / student not being allowed to participate in contests / events / activities / meetings / practices for a two-week period. A second suspension of more than one day will result in team dismissal / dismissal from co-curricular activities for sixty (60) school calendar days.

It is required that all athletes / students be in attendance with their team / club at all contests from which they have been suspended.

- D. *Substance Abuse Violation* – Refer to the Drug & Alcohol Use by Students Policy (File Code: JICH) and the Regulation JICH-R for Substance Abuse consequences.
- E. Infractions will be accumulated from the time a student enters high school until they receive their diploma.
- F. Failure to comply with the recommendations of the DART Team will result in dismissal from the activity/sport.

Cross References:                      Drug & Alcohol Use by Students (JICH and JICH-R)  
   Student Code of Conduct (JICDA)  
   Tobacco Use & Possession (ADC)

First Reading: August 16, 2017

Second Reading: September 6, 2017

**EXHIBIT A**

**High School Clubs / Activities**

All Sports  
Chamber Singers  
Musicals / Plays  
One Act Plays

**Middle School Clubs / Activities**

All Sports  
Musical / Plays