



**RIVERDALE  
EXTRA-CURRICULAR  
CODE  
HANDBOOK  
2024-2025**

# **EXTRA-CURRICULAR CODE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In order for an organization to function smoothly, it must be governed by regulations. These regulations should be clearly defined so that all persons affected understand what is expected. The Board of Education of the School District of Riverdale believes that the parents/guardians and participants should know and support the regulations governing activities.

The *extra-curricular* code is enforced for all 6-12 co-curricular participants. This is a year round (twelve month) code. This is not only something that the Riverdale School District believes in but is a rule enforced by the WIAA.

All students involved in extra-curricular athletic activities. Girls sports offered at Riverdale include cross country, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, powerlifting, softball and track and field. Boys sports offered at Riverdale include cross country, football, basketball, wrestling, powerlifting, baseball and track and field.

All students involved in non-academic extra-curricular activities, including but not limited to Forensics, FBLA, FFA, Student Council, Drama, Leo Club, Library Club, Science Club, Spanish Club, Yearbook, RClub, NHS, Art Club, Senior Class Trip, etc. are subject to the disciplinary procedure of the activity code.

Per this concept, parents/guardians must attend a meeting once during their Junior High Career and once during their Senior High Career, unless the code goes through a revision or the athlete has had a code violation during the past year. Parents must attend with their children who wish to participate in co-curricular activities at Riverdale to review the extra-curricular code. This meeting is meant to provide clear explanations and understanding of the co-curricular code for parents and students and to provide valuable feedback for the Riverdale staff to improve the code from year to year. After this review, the parent/guardian and the participant must sign the handbook card and return it to the school.

## **I. PHILOSOPHY/OBJECTIVES**

The interscholastic activity program is a tool that complements the educational program. It is the goal of Riverdale Public Schools to offer an educational program. It is the goal of Riverdale Public Schools to offer a program of co-curricular activities that will provide opportunities for students to learn skills, good sportsmanship, the importance of teamwork, and the motivation necessary for a young person's maturity.

Participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege; therefore every student should be willing to make sacrifices deemed necessary. Participants are constantly before the public, and their conduct not only influences future participants but also arouses public scrutiny of their moral habits. The participants, along with the help and cooperation of parents/guardians, coaches, advisors, administration, the Board of Education, determine the success of any co-curricular program.

Students shall have the opportunity to participate in the interscholastic co-curricular program if they are willing to assume certain responsibilities along with accepting the dedication and hard work that goes into a successful program. The students must be willing to follow the rules set down by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, the Southwest Athletic League, Riverdale Public Schools, and their coaches. If the individual ever becomes more important than the team, the importance of school activities has been misplaced.

Riverdale School District shall not abridge or impair the right of the student to be admitted to school and to participate fully in curricular, extra-curricular, student services, recreational or other programs or activities because of a student's sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.

## **II. ELIGIBILITY RULES & REGULATIONS**

To represent Riverdale High School and/or Junior High School in any interscholastic competition a participant must meet all eligibility requirements of the WIAA and Riverdale Schools. These requirements are as follows:

### **Age Requirement**

A student shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition if he/she reaches his/her 19th birthday before August 1st of any given school year.

## **Attendance & Scholarship**

1. A Senior High athlete may not exceed eight (8) consecutive semesters in attendance nor have completed more than four (4) years of competition in any sport.
2. A freshman athlete who has not completed all work below Grade 9 is ineligible unless he/she is doing passing work in all classes in addition to Grade 8 make-up courses.
3. A Senior High athlete must be enrolled in a minimum of six (6) credits per year (Alternative Ed Program students must meet WIAA attendance rules).
4. An athlete is ineligible if he/she has graduated from a school offering studies through Grade 12 or equivalent.
5. Students are not allowed to attend or participate in school functions, (to include after-school practices and rehearsals) when they are absent more than one period of the school day on the day of the activity unless the absence is pre-arranged (*pre-excused at least one day prior to absences*), school-related activity, valid professional appointment (must bring back medical note), or family emergency approved by the Principal.
6. Students sent to the office on a discipline referral will not be allowed to participate in after-school activities on the day of the referral. Students present at activities on a day of absence will be directed to leave.
7. A student is not eligible to practice or compete while serving an in-school or out-of-school suspension. Upon satisfactory return to school the athlete will be reinstated with full privileges.
8. Students who are absent from school because of participating in school-sponsored activities (field trips, athletic contests, etc.) will not be counted absent from school. It is the student's responsibility to see that he/she has all assignments and does all make-up work in advance.

## **Academic Eligibility**

A student receiving two (2) or more failing grades (F) during the marking periods (3, 6, & 9 weeks) is academically ineligible. Fourth quarter grades will determine eligibility for the first quarter of the following year. Quarter grades will be applied rather than semester grades. A student may regain academic eligibility during the 3, 6, & 9 week grading periods by passing all courses in which he/she is enrolled.

A student who obtains one (1) failing grade (F) during the marking periods (3, 6, & 9 weeks) will be placed on academic probation. During this probationary period the student is eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities. The student must be passing all courses on the next 3, 6, or 9 week grading period. If the student continues

to demonstrate failing work on the next 3, 6, or 9 weeks grading period, he/she will be declared ineligible to participate for a minimum of 3 weeks and until the student can document he/she is passing all courses in which he/she is enrolled.

***Summer school is a grading period and students may become eligible by passing their failed classes during this session.***

***Students enrolled in summer courses approved by the district through an accredited university or technical college will count towards eligibility status for the fall season.***

When the earliest allowed WIAA game/meet takes place before the first day of classes at a member school, "the maximum ineligibility period shall be the lesser of: a) 21 consecutive calendar days beginning with the date of the earliest allowed competition in a sport; or b) one third of the maximum number of games/meets allowed in a sport (rounded up if one-third results in a fraction)." **NOTES:** An interschool scrimmage does not count as a game or meet for purposes of this rule. If a multi-schooled meet is counted on your schedule as one meet, it also counts as one meet as it applies to the number of meets an ineligible student must sit out. Games/meets at different levels of competition (varsity, JV, freshman) may NOT be combined to reach the number of meets and athlete must sit out.

JH students (6th, 7th and 8th grade) will be granted an extra week of probation in which to secure passing grades. Students will be allowed this opportunity once per school year. For example, a student begins basketball and at the first grade check has two failing grades that would make them ineligible. The student will be notified and have an additional week to get the grades to a passing range. If they do they will gain eligibility, if they still have a failing grade they will be ineligible until the next grade check.

### **Health & Behavior**

1. An athlete may not practice for or participate in interscholastic athletics until the school has written evidence on file in its office attesting to the following:
  - a. A passed physical examination or a WIAA Alternate Permit Card on file in the Athletic Director's office.
  - b. A Riverdale Athletic Code on file in the Athletic Director's office signed by both a parent/guardian and the athlete. Remember, the athlete will abide by the terms of the Athletic Code on a year-round (12 month) basis.
  - c. Sports fee paid for the sport(s) of participation.

2. The WIAA states that an athlete disqualified from a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct is suspended from interscholastic competition for no less than the next competitive event.

**After a school begins WIAA tournament competition, any suspension of an athlete, is an immediate disqualification of the athlete for the remainder of the total tournament series in that sport.**

3. An athlete who becomes involved in problems with police or school officials is subject to athletic disciplinary action regardless of actions taken by other agencies.

4. Punctuality and attendance are required at all practice sessions for all squad members unless excused by their respective head coach. This excuse should be requested before the practice. Unexcused absence from practice(s) will be dealt with at the head coach's discretion.

5. All members of athletic teams are expected to display high standards of social behavior, outstanding sportsmanship, and proper respect for those in authority in school, within the community, and at all athletic contests.

6. Saturday and vacation practices may be held at the Head Coach's discretion with appropriate approval.

7. All athletes are required to travel to and from out-of-town contests with the team. The only exception to this is that an athlete may travel to or from an event with a parent or approved adult if pre-approved by the administration in writing one day before the event. The athlete must be signed out in the presence of one of the coaching staff when leaving the event.

8. All members of athletic squads should be neatly dressed and be clean and well groomed at all times. Athletes are to dress as directed by their respective coaches on game days and when making out of town trips.

9. After consultation with the Athletic Director and/or Principal any violation of items 3-5 may involve a suspension. The head coach of the sport involved will administer the disciplinary action for each violation. Parents or legal guardians shall be informed of the disciplinary action by the head coach.

#### **Amateur Status**

1. An athlete shall be an amateur in all recognized sports of the WIAA to compete in any sport, and he/she shall become ineligible for all further participation in the school's interscholastic program if he/she:

- a. Accepts reimbursement in any form such as salary, cash, merchandise of any kind or amount, or share of game or season award which is symbolic (non-merchandise) in nature such as trophies, medals, ribbons, plaques, event T-shirts, etc. but may not receive such merchandise items as jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, equipment, balls, watches, rings, billfolds, etc. regardless of their value.
- b. Signs a contract or agreement for services as a participating athlete.
- c. Permits with or without actual endorsement, the use of name, picture, and/or personal appearance as an athlete in the promotion of a commercial or profit-making event, item, plan, or service.
- d. Plays in any contest (school or non-school) under a name other than his/her own name.

#### **Non-School Participation**

1. WIAA rules indicate athletes may not participate in more than two non-school competitions during the school season, in the same respective sport with school approval.
2. Participation in summer athletic programs or camps is allowed if such programs follow current WIAA rules.

### **III. Training Rules/Code of Conduct**

**Adherence to the following training rules is a twelve (12) month requirement and the responsibility of both the athlete and the parents/guardians.**

1. Depictions of bullying/harassment/hate speech on social media networking sites such as Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, YouTube or any other websites are prohibited.
2. Sexting or sending explicit images is a violation of the Riverdale Athletic Code.
3. It is a violation of the Riverdale Athletic Code to use, possess, buy or sell tobacco, alcohol, e-cigarettes, vaping or any controlled substance, and drug paraphernalia.
4. Involvement in any immoral or unacceptable conduct of a serious nature contrary to the ideals, principles, standards, laws and policies of Riverdale Schools, the WIAA and/or local, state, and federal government is a violation of this code. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, stealing, assault, vandalism, hosting a drinking party, or other serious violations of the law.
5. If an athlete is found guilty of a crime, pays ticket forfeiture, or receives a sentence, related to #'s 3 & 4 above, a suspension will be issued.

### **Disciplinary Action**

1. An infraction of Rule 1-4 may result in discipline of said athlete by the head coach.
2. In case a coach must suspend a student from the squad because of violating Rule 1-4 his/her first step is to suspend the student verbally and then to inform him/her of their rights of due process. The coach will then inform the Athletic Director in writing of the suspension, including the name, offense, and other pertinent information concerning the case.

#### **A. First Violation\***

The first suspension will be  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the scheduled contests. If sufficient contests do not remain in that season, the athlete's ineligibility will extend the appropriate number of contests in the next sport in which the athlete participates. Upon suspension of an athlete, the Athletic Director will send a letter to the student's parents informing them of the suspension and of the necessity for one of them to appear with the athlete within one (1) week following the suspension period if reinstatement is desired.

**\*Student Self Referral** - An athlete who wishes to admit a violation and uses the "Self-Referral Form" of the Athletic Code, must complete the form, obtain a parent signature, sign the form, and present the form to the Athletic Director or the Principal no later than 72 hours after the violation occurred. If the violation is a First Violation, and the form is completed accurately, the athlete's First Violation suspension will equal one-sixth ( $\frac{1}{6}$ ) of the scheduled events. Approved community service could reduce first time offences by  $\frac{1}{2}$  the amount. *For example: If a student is suspended for  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the season and chooses to do approved community service, they can reduce their suspension amount to  $\frac{1}{6}$  of the season.*

#### **B. Second Violation**

A second violation represents a flagrant defiance of a known policy, which has been explained to the student and his/her parents at the time of the first suspension. If a second suspension is necessary for one of the above mentioned offences the student shall be suspended for one season. If a student has a second violation halfway through the football season, they would serve the violation for the remainder of the football season and then the first half of the next sports season. At the end of the one full sports season, reinstatement may be granted by the same procedure that was followed during the first violation. During this time the athlete is expected to remain free from any further training rule violations.

The athlete may address the athletic council and ask for early reinstatement. If the athlete is granted early reinstatement by the athletic council the athlete will then serve  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a season suspension. The athlete must also attend counseling or classes related to his/her violation at the athlete's cost. Proof of counseling or class work must be presented to the HS Principal or Athletic Director. The athlete will also be required to perform community service set forth by the athletic council. If another violation occurs the athlete will be moved to the third violation step.

### **C. Third Violation**

A third violation will result in a suspension for a full calendar year. Please note that the appeals process available to the athlete for the first, second, or third suspensions are the same and outlined in IV.

### **D. Fourth Violation**

A fourth violation will result in a permanent suspension for the remainder of the athlete's high school career.

### **E. Junior & Senior High School Promotion Allowance**

Upon completion of 8th grade, an athlete's Athletic Code Violation status will be reduced by one violation effective the day of his/her 8th grade promotion. Athletes who have received their third violation will be placed on the second violation step; athletes who have received their second violation, will be placed on the first violation step; athletes who have received their first violation, will be placed on the "no violation" step. Students currently attending the high school will have this one-time allowance retroactively applied to his/her suspension status at the time he/she was promoted from 8th grade using the reduction method explained above. Students are subject to the athletic code of conduct during the summer before their 9th grade year even though they have not attended the athletic code meeting before entering 9th grade.

3. If a student is suspended and is scholastically ineligible at the same time, he/she must make up the scholastic ineligibility before the suspension period starts. It is not possible to have two suspensions run concurrently.
4. Suspended students are required to practice with the team while serving their suspension for the first and second offenses. If a student quits the team before the season is over, the entire suspension will be made up during the next sports season he/she participates in.
5. If a student is under suspension from Junior to Senior High School the degree of suspension is to be maintained.

6. Athletic code violations will be reduced by one when entering high school.
7. Students who receive a violation are not allowed to join a sport late to serve the suspension. The suspension would be served at participation in the next full sports season.
8. Any student suspended from a squad for a second offense or who quits will forfeit any letter opportunity for that sport.
9. Students receiving a code violation will no longer be eligible for All-Conference recognition in the sport they received the violation in. *Example: If an athlete received a code violation in the football season, they would not be eligible for All-Conference recognition in football.*
10. Whenever it is necessary for a coach to drop a student from the squad, the coach will pick up the school equipment, move the student out of the team room area, and inform the Athletic Director. Students will be charged for the cost of any unreturned school equipment.

#### **IV. DUE PROCESS PROCEDURE**

For an athlete to be accused of a violation the accuser must, in writing, report the alleged violation to the Athletic Director or Principal not later than ninety (90) calendar days from the alleged incident. This report must include details about the incident and must be properly signed by the person who witnessed the violation.

#### **ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

1. Shall, upon receipt of the written statement, inform the athlete within three (3) school days of the alleged violation (with a copy to the building administrator).
2. If the athlete does not deny the violation the appropriate penalty as outlined in the athletic code will be administered.
3. If the athlete denies the alleged violations, the Athletic Director will convene at the earliest possible time with the Athletic Council.

#### **ATHLETIC COUNCIL**

1. The Athletic Council shall be chosen by the Athletic Director and shall consist of the Athletic Director, the Principal, and five school personnel (which may be employed as a coach, advisor, or a teacher), who are not directly involved in the incident(s) before the Athletic Council.

2. The athlete, parents/guardian, and head coach of that sport shall be present, with the athlete provided the opportunity to testify and present other evidence on his/her behalf.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

If the athlete and his/her parents/guardian are not satisfied with the Athletic Council's decision, a second hearing may be requested before the Riverdale Board of Education.

1. The Athletic Director or Principal must receive, in writing, a request for such a review within fourteen (14) days of the mailing of the outcome of the Athletic Council's decision.
2. The Athletic Director or Principal will forward the appeal letter, along with a copy of the:
  - a. School's formal reply outlining the violation and infraction leading to ineligibility status
  - b. proceedings of the hearing of the Athletic Council

\*\*\*The provisions as outlined above shall be the sole and exclusive remedy for appeal through the procedure of "Due Process" related to the Athletic Code of Riverdale School District.

### **VII. CONCLUSION**

These rules and regulations have been set forth for our athletes at Riverdale Schools to give each athlete the greatest opportunity to become a good citizen. However, of greater importance, the athlete will be building a foundation toward becoming a better person.

Riverdale athletes directly represent themselves, their parents, coaches, school, and community. Therefore, it is expected that all athletes and their parents/guardians will honor and respect our athletic code of conduct as adopted by the Board of Education of the Riverdale School District.



## 2024-2025 High School Athletic Eligibility Information Bulletin

To: Student-Athletes and Their Parents

From: Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association and

Riverdale High School

(School)

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.

This information bulletin is a **summary** of the WIAA OFFICIAL HANDBOOK as it pertains to those rules and regulations. Both student-athletes and their parents should have an understanding of these requirements. Equally important is that student-athletes and/or parents talk to their principal or athletic director if they have any question about these regulations. For additional information on Rules of Eligibility see the WIAA Handbook, or visit the WIAA website at [www.wiaawi.org](http://www.wiaawi.org).

This bulletin does not discuss specific penalties for all violations. The reason is that penalties vary depending upon the nature of the violation. In addition, schools often have established penalties or periods of ineligibility, which are greater than the minimum prescribed by WIAA rules.

There also are exceptions and other permissive provisions in some rules. Student-athletes and their parents should discuss all athletic eligibility related situations with the school principal or athletic director who, if necessary, will get a decision, interpretation, or opinion from the WIAA office.

**Student-athletes, as well as parents are asked to read this bulletin, and then sign it and have their signature statement (attached) on file at their school prior to practicing and competing. Reading and signing this form is a condition of participating in interscholastic athletics at WIAA member schools. It does not guarantee a student-athlete's athletic eligibility nor does it give rise to any contractual rights, direct or indirect, to student-athletes or their parents.**

These are WIAA eligibility rules, which are current for the 2024-2025 school year:

### AGE

A student shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition if they reach their 19th birthday before August 1 of any given school year.

### ACADEMICS

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 school issued grade reporting period. Note: Some member schools adopt code and academic policies and other participation requirements which are more stringent than WIAA minimum requirements. In those instances, the school's requirements prevail and must be applied as written.

### ATTENDANCE

A student-athlete is eligible for interscholastic competition at a member school if they are carried on the attendance rolls as a duly enrolled full-time Grade 9, 10, 11 or 12 student in that member school. (Subject to satisfying all other eligibility requirements.)

Note: A full-time student is further defined as one where the member school is responsible for programming 100% of the student's school day. The student is eligible for like or similar awards, privileges and services as all the other students and meets all obligations and responsibilities as other students, without exception.

- A. A student must complete eligibility in the four consecutive years starting with Grade 9, unless there are documented extenuating circumstances and a waiver has been provided.
- B. A student is ineligible if they have graduated from a school offering studies through Grade 12 or its equivalent.
- C. A student who graduated in May or June retains eligibility for any portion of a spring athletic schedule not completed by the end of the academic year. Mid-year graduation ends athletic eligibility on the last day of attendance.
- D. A student is ineligible if they have not been enrolled in some school by the 17th day of a semester or trimester, except upon request of a school in special cases involving sickness, accident, military service, social services assignment, e.g.
- E. A student-athlete may not participate in school sports in more than four different years, and a student-athlete may not participate in the same sport more than one season each school year.

### DETERMINING RESIDENCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

A full-time student, whether an adult or not, is eligible for varsity interscholastic competition only at the school within whose attendance boundaries their parents reside, within a given school district, with these additional provisions:

- A. Board of Education approved full-time student(s), paying their own tuition and residing full time with parents in their primary residence shall be afforded eligibility. Transfer students are subject to provisions outlined in the transfers section of this document and in the Senior High Handbook.
- B. The residence of a student's guardians shall determine eligibility in cases where both parents of a student are deceased. The execution of guardianship papers in situations where one or both parents are living does not by itself make a student eligible.

- C. In the event of a divorce or legal separation, whether pending or final, a student's residence at the beginning of the school year shall determine eligibility, except in situations involving transfer after the fourth consecutive semester following entry into grade 9. For the purpose of this rule, attendance at one day of school and/or attendance at one athletic practice shall determine 'beginning of school year.' Under this rule, a student who transfers after the beginning of the school year shall be ineligible at the new school unless approval is granted by the Board of Control in accordance with the transfer and/or waiver provisions as described in the WIAA HS Handbook.
- D. A student whose tuition is paid by the school within whose attendance boundaries parents reside or by the state and is enrolled in a district approved program may be eligible at either school (first priority to school of residence) but (a) may not participate at both schools in the same year and (b) academic ineligibility accompanies student upon transfer. Transfer restrictions may also apply.
- E. A student whose tuition is paid by the school within whose attendance boundaries parents reside or by the state or who is participating full time in a legislated open enrollment option must meet all statutory timeline requirements. This provision extends the opportunity to decline attendance at the new school and continue at their school of residence. If the student begins the school year at the new school and then transfers back to school of residence after attending one or more days of school or one or more athletic practices, they shall be subject to transfer provisions as outlined in the transfer Section of this document.
- F. A student may continue being eligible in the same school even though parent(s) and/or student move from within that school's attendance boundaries, provided enrollment is continuous (unbroken in that school).
- G. After a student-athlete has not participated and/or has had their eligibility restricted for one calendar year due to reasons relating to residence and/or transfer, they become eligible.
- H. A student-athlete will not be eligible if their attendance at a particular school resulted from undue influence (special consideration because of athletic ability) on the part of any person.
- I. A student-athlete who has been declared ineligible at a school for disciplinary reasons, academic reasons or due to another State Association's provision retains that ineligibility status if they transfer to another school.
- J. Except in situations involving transfer after a student's sixth consecutive semester, a full-time student whose residence in a given district and attendance at a member school does not conform with any of the provisions outlined above shall be eligible for nonvarsity competition only, for one calendar year, unless a waiver is provided as outlined in the WIAA HS Handbook under Waivers. Transfer students are subject to transfer provisions as outlined in the transfer section of this document and in the Senior High Handbook.

#### **DETERMINING RESIDENCE FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS**

A full-time student, whether an adult or not, is eligible for varsity interscholastic competition only if the student is residing full time with parents in their primary residence with these additional provisions:

- A. In the event of a divorce or legal separation, whether pending or final, a student's residence at the beginning of the school year shall determine eligibility except in situations involving transfer after a student's fourth consecutive semester. For the purpose of this rule, attendance at one day of school and/or attendance at one athletic practice shall determine 'beginning of school year'. Under this rule, a student who transfers after the beginning of the school year shall be ineligible at the new school unless approval is granted by the Board of Control in accordance with the waiver provisions as described in the WIAA HS Handbook under Waivers. Transfer restrictions may also apply.
- B. Residing full time with guardians shall determine eligibility in cases where both parents of a student are deceased. The execution of guardianship papers in situations where one or both parents are living does not by itself make a student eligible.
- C. A student may continue being eligible in the same school even though parent(s) and/or student move from within that school's traditional attendance area, provided enrollment is continuous (unbroken in that school).
- D. A student who has been in attendance in a nonpublic, self-contained school (i.e. grades K-12 or 7-12) for at least one complete school year prior to reaching Grade 9 and has not broken enrollment during that time is eligible in that nonpublic school upon entering Grade 9.
- E. Except in situations involving mid-year transfer and/or transfer after the fourth consecutive semester students attending member residential schools shall be eligible at the member school provided they reside at the school or reside full time with parents in their primary residence.
- F. Except in situations involving transfer after a student's sixth consecutive semester, a full-time student attending a nonpublic school but not residing in accordance with any of the provisions outlined above shall be eligible for nonvarsity competition only, for one calendar year, unless a waiver is provided as outlined in the WIAA HS Handbook under Waivers.

#### **TRANSFERS**

A full-time student may be afforded up to eight consecutive semesters of interscholastic eligibility upon entry into Grade 9. **Transferring schools at any time may result in restrictions being imposed on eligibility, or in some cases a denial of eligibility.** For the purpose of this rule, attendance at one day of school and/or attendance at one athletic practice shall determine 'beginning of school year.' These additional provisions relate to transfer cases:

- A. A student who transfers from any school into a member school will be subject to the transfer rules for one calendar year, unless the transfer is made necessary by a total and complete change in residence by parent(s). [The calendar year (365 days) will be determined from a student's first day of attendance at the new school.]  
Unrestricted eligibility may be afforded at a new school at the time of a complete family move. Any student who delays enrollment after a family move is subject to the transfer rule.
- B. Students entering 9th and/or 10th grade at the beginning of the school year and who are within the first four consecutive semesters of high school will be afforded unrestricted eligibility provided all other rules governing student eligibility are met.
- C. Students entering 11th and 12<sup>th</sup> grade are restricted to nonvarsity opportunities for one calendar year. [The calendar year (365 days) will be determined from a student's first day of attendance at the new school.]

- D. 9th grade students who transfer after the beginning of the school year and with written consent from both schools directly involved shall be restricted to nonvarsity opportunities for the remainder of the school year. Restrictions are removed upon entering 10th grade.
- E. 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who transfer after the beginning of the school year and with written consent from both schools directly involved shall be restricted to nonvarsity opportunities for one calendar year (365 days beginning with first day of attendance at the new school).
- F. In the event of divorce or legal separation, whether pending or final, residence at the beginning of the school year shall determine eligibility for students entering 9th and/or 10th grade.
- G. District policies with respect to intra-district transfer do not supersede WIAA transfer rules.
- H. Unless transfer, including an accompanying total and complete change of parents' residence, is effective at the outset of a semester, a student cannot establish eligibility at their new school until the fifth calendar day of such transfer.
- I. A student who transfers more than once in any given school year shall be ineligible for all interscholastic competition for the remainder of that current school year and will be eligible for nonvarsity opportunities only for the balance of the calendar year. [The calendar year (365 days) will be determined from a student's first day of attendance at the new school.]
- J. A student may not have eligibility in more than one member school at the same time. A parent or parents who move from a primary residence within one school's attendance boundaries, to a secondary residence within another school's attendance boundaries, may be required by the Board of Control to provide evidence of a total and complete move.
- K. A student who transfers from any school, whether or not a member school, with a status of ineligibility for disciplinary reasons, academic reasons and/or as a result of another State Association's regulation or sanction, retains such status at their new school for the same period as decreed by the former school. A student who transfers due to expulsion or removal for disciplinary reason from the previous school is ineligible for the length of the expulsion as determined by the previous school's Board of Education. Note: A student who does not serve a penalty for violation by leaving the state and competing in another state, will be ineligible for the balance of the suspension upon return to the state.
- L. No eligibility will be granted for a student whose residence within a school's attendance boundaries, with or without parents, or 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.

#### **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION and PARENT'S PERMISSION**

A student-athlete whether an adult or not, must have written permission of parents to participate in school athletics, an emergency information form, and they must have a physical examination (signed by a licensed physician, physician's assistant or advanced practice nurse prescriber) every other school year.

A physical examination taken April 1 and thereafter is valid for the following two school years. Physical examination taken before April 1 is valid only for remainder of that school year and the following school year.

#### **TRAINING and CONDUCT**

A student-athlete must follow their school's code of conduct (training rules) on a year-round basis.

- A. A student-athlete who violates their school's code of conduct during the season of a sport (start of practice to final game) must be suspended from competition for a period of time specified in the code (minimum of one meet) if the violation involves (a) possession and/or use of alcohol, (b) possession and/or use of tobacco, including chewing tobacco and (c) use, possession, buying or selling of controlled substances, street drugs and performance enhancing substances (PES).
- B. The member school will determine minimum penalties for violation of any other provisions of its code of conduct, including out of season offenses and for any other unacceptable conduct contrary to the ideals, principals and standards of the school and this Association including but not limited to criminal behavior.
- C. Any student charged and/or convicted of a felony shall, upon the filing of felony charges, become ineligible for all further participation until the student has paid their debt to society and the courts consider the sentence served (including probation, community service, etc.).
- D. A student-athlete who violates their school's code of conduct at times other than during the actual season of a sport must be disciplined by the school, the nature of such discipline to be determined by the school as indicated in its code of conduct.
- E. A student-athlete who violates any part of the school or WIAA's code of conduct resulting in suspension for any portion of WIAA-sponsored tournament competition must be immediately declared ineligible for the remainder of tournament series in that sport. During the WIAA Tournament, an ineligible athlete may not suit up.
- F. A student-athlete, disqualified from a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, is also suspended from the next competitive event at the same level of competition as the disqualification.
- G. Any player who in the judgment of the official, intentionally spits on, strikes, slaps, kicks, pushes or aggressively physically contacts an official at any time shall be immediately ineligible for competition a minimum of 90 calendar days from the date of the confrontation. In addition, the player is ineligible to compete for the first 25% of the next season in that same sport.
- H. A school must provide an opportunity for the student to be heard prior to a penalty being enforced (except for felony charges). If a student appeals a suspension, according to the school's appeal procedure, the student is ineligible during the appeal process.
- I. Schools/individuals are prohibited during the regular season and the WIAA tournament series from practicing for regional, sectional, and state tournament preparation at sites and facilities hosting WIAA tournaments.

#### **AMATEUR STATUS**

A student-athlete must be an amateur in all recognized sports of this association in order to compete in any WIAA sport.

- A. A student-athlete may not accept, receive or direct to another, reimbursement in any form of salary, cash (including gift cards) or share of game or season proceeds for athletic accomplishments, such as being on a winning team, being selected for the school varsity team, or being a place winner in an individual tournament, e.g.
- B. A student-athlete may receive: a medal, cup, trophy or plaque from the sponsoring organization regardless of cost; school mementos valued not more than \$200; an award valued not more than \$100 retail for participation in an athletic contest in a WIAA recognized sport; and may retain non-school competition apparel worn by the student as part of the team uniform.
- C. A student-athlete may not receive compensation or benefit, directly or indirectly, for the use of name, picture, and/or personal appearance, as an athlete because of ability, potential and/or performance as an athlete.
- D. A student-athlete may not receive free and/or reduced rates on equipment, apparel, camps/clinics/instruction and competitive opportunities that are not identical for any and all interested students.
- E. A student-athlete may not be identified (with or without permission) as an athlete, provide endorsement as an athlete or appear as an athlete in the promotion of a commercial/advertisement and/or profit-making event, item, plan, or service.
- F. A student-athlete may not participate in school athletics or in sports activities outside the school under a name other than their own name.

#### **SPORTS ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL**

Athletes may compete in not more than two non-school competitions with prior school approval during each regular sport season. The contest(s) will not count against the individual maximum for the athlete in that sport. Nonschool competition will not be allowed during the respective WIAA tournament series in a sport. Violation of this rule results in loss of eligibility for the remainder of the season (including the WIAA tournament series) and forfeiture of the two non-school opportunities.

- A. WIAA rules do not prevent athletes from practicing with nonschool teams or from receiving private skills instruction during the school season. However, they may not participate officially or unofficially (including "banditing") in more than two nonschool competitions or races, including scrimmages against other teams (with school approval).
  - (1) This restriction applies to normal nonschool games as well as "gimmicks," such as reduced numbers competition (3-on-3 basketball, 6 player soccer, e.g.), specific skill contests (punt, pass, and kick, shooting contests, free throws, 3 point, e.g.), fun runs, etc.
  - (2) During the season, athletes may participate in a skills contest with approval of the school. Specific skill contests (punt, pass, and kick, shooting contests e.g., free throws, 3 point, drive, chip and putt) isolate separate skills outside of the traditional competition setting. The skill contest may not include physical contact or extreme fatigue as the actual sport competition. Fun runs are not considered skills contests. There can be no school coach involvement. All other eligibility rules including amateur status apply.
  - (3) A student who was a member of a school team during the previous year may not delay reporting for the school team beyond the school's official opening day of practice in order to continue nonschool training and/or competition.
- B. During the school year before and/or after the school season of a sport and in the summertime, members of a school's team may voluntarily assemble with their teammates (without school and/or school coach involvement) at their own discretion.
- C. A student-athlete or their parents must pay 100% of the fee for specialized training or instruction such as camps, clinics, and similar programs.
- D. A student-athlete may not be instructed except during the school season of a sport and approved summer contact days by the person who will be their coach in that sport in the following school season. All sports except football are exempt from this rule, BUT only (a) during the summer months and (b) if the program involved is not limited to individuals who are likely to be candidates for the school team in that sport in the following season.
- E. A student-athlete must not participate in an all-star game or similar contest except for summertime activities (a) within the same league or program (e.g., softball game between divisions of same league) or (b) in which a team is selected to represent a league in post-season play (e.g., Babe Ruth league team). Some post-season all-star opportunities may be permitted for 12th graders who have completed high school eligibility in a particular sport. Check with your Athletic Director to be certain.
- F. Schools/individuals are prohibited during the regular season and the WIAA tournament series from practicing for regional, sectional, and state tournament preparation at sites and facilities hosting WIAA tournaments.

#### **USE OF STUDENT IMAGE**

The participation of student-athletes in school and WIAA tournaments may result in the use of student-athlete images in promotion of school and WIAA events.

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



**PARENT-ATHLETE RULES OF ELIGIBILITY SIGN-OFF FORM – 2024-2025**

I certify that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by all of the information contained in this bulletin. I further certify that if I have not understood any information contained in this document, I have sought and received an explanation of the information prior to signing this statement. In signing below, I further acknowledge and understand that no contractual relationship, direct or indirect, is created between the student-athlete or their parents and the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association.

School Name

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Please Print Name

Date

Student-Athlete's Signature

Please Print Name

Date

**This form must be completed and submitted to the Athletic Director prior to a student being declared eligible to practice and compete.**

**AGREEMENT**

Please review this handbook with your Riverdale Junior/Senior High School Student. Students will be held responsible for the contents of this handbook. The handbook contains the following very important items:

- I. Philosophy/Objectives
- II. Eligibility Rules and Regulations
- III. Code of Conduct
- IV. Due Process Procedure

By signing this form, you and your student(s) agree to follow the guidelines, policies, regulations, and rules in this handbook that have been adopted by the Riverdale School Board.

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**Student Signature(s)**

**Date**

**Parent Signature**

**Date**

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