

HOME OF THE PANTHERS



REED-CUSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS PARENT HANDBOOK



MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT

ALL SPORTS

MEETING – TOPICS FOR

Objectives of Participation – The Interscholastic Program serves as an extension of the classroom which attempts to meet certain District 255U student goals through experiential learning opportunities. The athletic program not only enhances, but also reinforces the learning which occurs within the classroom. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right. Therefore, compliance with this code is required by all those who participate in extracurricular activities. By participating in any extracurricular activity, the student agrees and promises to abide by all the requirements of this Code of Conduct with the understanding that violation shall cause the student’s ineligibility to participate in extracurricular activities to the extent as written hereinafter.

Eligibility – Players must be passing every subject on a weekly basis in order to participate in athletics. The eligibility guideline is sanctioned by the IESA. Any athlete marked ineligible a total of (4) consecutive times/weeks during a sport team’s season will be removed from that team for the remainder of the season. A student who is ineligible will not be allowed to sit on the bench or ride to away games on school vehicles.

Forms/Fee – Physicals, code of conduct forms, concussion information sheets, and emergency forms must be completed and turned into the office or coach at the time designated for each sport. A physical is required to try out for any sport. Physicals are good for 13 months. There is yearly \$20 athletic fee as well (covers any sport played for the year).

Code of Conduct - The code of conduct shall be in effect year-round (365 days) beginning the first day of practice allowed by IESA for the fall sports season of the student-athlete’s 6th grade year, and any violations shall accumulate during the years of attendance at Reed-Custer Middle School. When consequences involve student participating in IESA sanctioned activities and other competitive, school-sponsored activities, they must be served in that activity or another IESA sanctioned activity if the offense occurs in the off-season or if the consequence goes beyond the length of the season in which the offense occurs.

Attendance at School – Athletes must be in attendance at least five (5) period in a 10-period day to participate in that day’s contest. For Saturday events, the student must meet the attendance requirements on the preceding Friday.

Attendance at Practices/Games– All players are required to attend all practices and games at times specified by the coach. A note or phone call from the student’s parent(s) must verify any absence. If the absence(s) is/are not verified, it/they become unexcused absences.

Unexcused absences – Unexcused absences from practices and/or games are to be handled as follows by the coach(es): First violation – coach’s discretion for consequence; Second violation – suspension from the next contest; Third violation – removal from team.

Behavior – Any player arguing or exhibiting disrespectful behavior at any practice or contest can be suspended for the next contest. Students receiving 3 school disciplinary referrals during a season may be removed from the team.

Inappropriate Behavior/Smoking/Drinking/Drugs – Possession or use of tobacco products of any kind (including electronic cigarettes), marijuana, alcoholic beverages, or drugs of any form is prohibited (includes drug paraphernalia). Conduct unbecoming of the athlete, school, or community, regardless of whether that behavior occurs at a school activity or elsewhere as determined by the Administrative team, is prohibited.

Occurrence	Consequence	School Service Option
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Step 1	If related to drugs or alcohol, mandatory drug and/or alcohol counseling provided by Reed-Custer counseling staff. ----- - If related to other conduct unbecoming, coach and administration decision.	If related to drugs or alcohol, in lieu of service hours, students will attend an educational session tailored to substance abuse. ----- If related to conduct unbecoming, school service may be required.
Step 2	Forfeit 33 1/3% of season	10 hours school service, and 33 1/3% is reduced to 20%
Step 3	Forfeit extracurricular activities for 180 school days	20 hours school service, and reduction to 90 school days
Step 4	Forfeit extracurricular activities for remainder of student's attendance at RC Middle School	There is no reduction for the 3 rd occurrence

Step Back Provision – If the offending student goes for one calendar year with no further violations, he/she may go back one step, without the School Service Option (Step 2 back to Step 1, or Step 1 back to beginning). This can only be used one time during a student's career at RCMS.

Notes – In effect for 365 days of the year, and consequences carry over from one school year to the next. If a student on Step 1 does not complete the class he or she is assigned to in a timely manner, it may result in placement on the next step and lead to loss of participation in contests. The athletic code only pertains to student participation in extra-curricular activities. If warranted, students are still subject to additional appropriate school consequences according to policies outlined in the RCMS Handbook.

Appeals - Appeals may be made within 3 days of reported incident. This requires a written request by both the athlete and parent, and will be reviewed by the administration. The administration may stay the decision, or modify or dismiss the decision.

Voluntary Admission – If a student voluntarily admits a Code of Conduct infraction to move to step 2, a suspension of 20% of the remaining activities on the schedule will be imposed with no school service requirement.

Example of "off-season": A Reed-Custer Middle School student is found guilty of being in possession of an electronic cigarette (commonly known as a vape) in September. The student then joins the Track team in March. The student would be subject to the steps listed above.

Example of "beyond the length of the season": A Reed-Custer Middle School student-athlete is found guilty of being in possession of an electronic cigarette (commonly known as a vape) with 1 game remaining in a 15-game season. If the student were to be on Step 2 above, the remainder of the 33% or 20% suspension would be served in the student's subsequent IESA sanctioned season.

Rides – Rides should be at school no more than fifteen (15) minutes after practice ends.

Riding Home from Away Games – Any athlete not riding the bus home from an away contest MUST have his/her parent(s) sign them out on a release form before leaving.

Transportation Change Request – If a student is to ride home with someone other than his/her parent(s), the student MUST give the coach the transportation change request form from his/her parent(s) that includes the name of the person who is to take their child home. A school administrator must sign this transportation change request form before giving it to the coach.

Squad Selection/Playing Time – Squad cuts during tryouts may be made in a sport based on criteria developed by the respective coaching staff concerning skill level, competitiveness, work ethic, coachability, and possible contribution to the team. **Sixth Grade sports** are used for players to learn the rules of the sport, develop basic skills, and determine if they would like to continue in the sport. **Seventh Grade sports** will further develop skills of the athlete, increase the intensity of competition, prepare athletes for the Eighth Grade level, and place more emphasis on winning. The main purpose of the **Eighth Grade level** is to develop skills of student-athletes and allow players to set individual and team goals and strive to achieve them. However, the main focus of Eighth Grade athletics is to have a successful and winning program, and to prepare student-athletes for high school athletics. Playing time at any level is not necessarily going to be equal. Playing time is a coaching decision, and should be treated as such. Please see “Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches.”

Practices – All practices must be held during the legal calendar dates for that individual sports. Practices on Sundays and holidays are discouraged, and attendance at such practices cannot be made mandatory. Monthly and/or weekly practice schedules will be placed on file with the administration. Any changes in such schedules will be communicated. Practices must be kept to the time constraints specified on the schedules. From 3:00 PM until 3:30 PM on Monday through Friday, academic help, if needed, is always the first choice that a student-athlete should make. Practices will be closed.

Uniforms – All uniforms and equipment are the property of Reed-Custer School District 255U. Proper care is to be given to the uniforms throughout the season. Please follow all washing and drying instructions carefully. Uniforms are to be worn by players only on game days and for athletic contests. If any equipment or uniform is lost or damaged, then he/she must pay the full replacement cost of that item(s). The district allows a student to modify his or her athletic or team uniform for the purpose of modesty in clothing or attire that is accordance with the requirement of his or her religion or his or her cultural values or modesty preferences. A student is not required to receive the prior approval of the school board for such modification.

Communications You Should Expect from Your Child’s Coach

1. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the team.
2. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
3. Procedures should your child be injured during practice or contest.
4. Discipline that results in denial of your child’s participation.

Communication Coaches Should Expect from Parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach’s expectations.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches

1. The treatment of your child mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child’s behavior.

If you have an appropriate concern to discuss with a coach, the procedure you should follow:

1. Call to set up an appointment with the coach.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the MS Assistant Athletic Director, Chad Klover: (815)458-2868, or the District Athletic Director, Chuck Anderson: (815)458-4130.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote resolution.

What can a parent do if the meeting with the Coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Director of Athletics to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.

Responsibilities of interested parties at contests – You may have heard the following statement: Let the parents cheer, the coaches coach, the players play, and the referees/umpires officiate. Reed-Custer athletics strongly believes in, and adheres to, this manner of conduct. Watching another person coach your child may be one of the toughest aspects of parenthood, but please remember that the coach has been given full authority to coach your child at contests and practices. Please appropriately cheer your heart out for your child and the team, but leave the coaching and officiating to the people who have been charged with these responsibilities. Please note that the IESA has changed its policy for parents that are ejected from contests: “Any fan ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct will be required to complete the NFHS Sportsmanship course before he/she can return to future contests. Previously, there were no penalties for a fan who was ejected.”

Website Info – For latest contest information, please visit rc255.net, click on “Middle School,” click on “athletics,” click on the “8to18” banner, find your child’s sport, and click on “schedule and results.” A travel guide is posted if you visit rc255.net, click on “Middle School,” and click on “athletics.” Also if you click on the Image Group banner, you can access action photos with the password cu\$ter#255 . These photos can be purchased by contacting Image Group.

Reed-Custer Middle School Athletics does not discriminate with regard to race, color, national origin, gender, or disability.