

RIVER RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Co-curricular Code

Mission Statement

River Ridge School District will strive to provide a safe, challenging environment for each individual student by promoting excellent staff development, encouraging meaningful parent involvement, and earning strong community support through honesty, integrity and open communication.

Equal Educational Opportunity

The River Ridge School District Board of Education complies with all Federal and State laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and with all requirements of the U.S. Department of Education. It is the policy of the River Ridge School District Board of Education that no person on the basis of citizenship, race, color, creed, political affiliation, religion or religious affiliation, national origin or ancestry, age, sex or sexual orientation, marital or parental status, pregnancy, physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability, arrest or conviction record, use or non-use of lawful products off the employer's premises during non-working hours, membership in the National Guard, State defense force or any other United States or Wisconsin reserve component of the military forces or any other reason prohibited by the state or federal law shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in employment or in any educational program or activity for which it is responsible or for which it receives financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education.

Adopted by the River Ridge School District Board of Education

May 10, 2006

Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to:

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I. PHILOSOPHY

The River Ridge School District Offers a wide variety of co-curricular activities, both athletic and academic, for students. The Board of Education, Administration, Coaching Staff, and Advisory Sponsors believe that it is a privilege for our students to participate in co-curricular endeavors. We believe that a program of co-curricular activities is a valuable addition to a child's development, both emotionally and physically.

The privilege of participating in all of our co-curricular programs is extended to all boys and girls, providing they are to assume certain responsibilities as outlined in this code. A student's greatest responsibility is to be a credit to the school, the community, and to parents. Therefore, emphasis is placed upon the development of the kind of leadership which will result in:

1. Display of a high standard of social behavior at all times.
2. Display of outstanding sportsmanship.
3. Display of proper respect for those in authority, including teachers, coaches, and officials.
4. Display of real spirit of cooperation.
5. Appropriate dress when attending an activity.
6. Using language which is socially acceptable. Profanity will not be tolerated on or off the field, gym or school facility.

II. ACTIVITIES AFFECTED

All co-curricular school activities are a part of this code. Co-curricular usually means the activity is conducted outside of the school day and participants are not graded, but could include daily activities related to the organization or team.

Examples of co-curricular activities are provided, but are not limited to these activities. Loss of eligibility or returning to good standing occurs in such activities:

Academic Decathlon	Friends Helping Friends	Spanish Club
Art Club	Homecoming Court	Student Council
Athletics	Honors Choir and Band	Show Choir
Dance	Jazz Band	Triple Trio
Drama	National Honor Society	Yearbook
FBLA	Science Club	
FFA	Prom Court	
Forensics	Solo/Ensemble Contest	

III. CO-CURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY

- A. Open to all students' in grades 9-12 that are defined as academically and behaviorally eligible to participate by the guidelines within the code. Students cannot practice or participate in any co-curricular activity without the signed parental pledge / consent form being on file in the office. Students who are 18 years of age or older are not required to have parental consent. This form must be signed every year.
- B. There will be a mandatory meeting for all high school students involved in any co-curricular activity. This meeting must be attended only by students entering their freshman or junior years of high school, or new students to the district. The meeting will be held during the first week in August. A member of the administration will read and explain the code. A parent / guardian must be present, students must sit with their parent / guardian and the student and parent / guardian must sign the code before they leave the meeting. Students who are 18 years of age or older are not required to have a parent present. During sophomore and senior years, only a signed code pledge is required. It must be signed by parent / guardian and student.
- C. Athletes are required to complete additional documents and procedures. Athletes must have the WIAA physical card signed by a physician, or the alternative year card signed by a parent or guardian, on file in the Athletic Directors office before they can participate. They must also complete the IMPACT test every two years, and have the concussion management document signed annually by parent / guardian and student-athlete.
- D. Athletes must also meet all eligibility requirements as outlined in the WIAA Handbook and supplemental handout.

IV. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY (Grades 9-12)

- A. A student who has a grade point average of 1.50 or less, or has a failing grade in any subject area during a nine-week period becomes ineligible for all co-curricular activities for a period of three (3) school weeks (15 consecutive school days). For the 4th quarter – the lesser of 21 consecutive days beginning with the date of earliest allowed competition in a sport or 1/3 of that season, rounded up if a fraction. They would also not be able to participate in any performances, contests or any kind of trips for the period stated above. The student shall be expected to participate in all practices and attend all events, unless the coach or advisor excuses him / her to allow more time for academic preparation. This would not include field trips. At the end of the suspension period, the student's teachers will sign a note stating that the student has regained eligibility. The Athletic Director will be responsible for monitoring the student's status after the suspension period.
- B. Academic co-curricular suspensions will begin the day grades are scheduled to be due and from the date of earliest allowed competition for a fall sport.

V. TRAINING AND ELIGIBILITY RULES

This conduct code includes boys and girls in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) and will apply to all co-curricular activities. Students found to be in violation will serve penalty for both athletics and other co-curricular activities. One will not take precedence over the other. The violation and penalty in writing will be given to the student, along with their rights to appeal to the co-curricular code committee.

A student is required to follow the school's co-curricular code of conduct on a year-round (12 months) basis and will encompass the entire high school career of a co-curricular participant. WIAA eligibility rules are also in effect on a year-round basis.

VI. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

The following types of conduct are determined to be violations of the co-curricular code:

1. The use, possession, buying, or selling of alcoholic beverages and/or hosting a party where alcohol is served.
2. The use, possession, buying, or selling of controlled substances, street drugs, and performance enhancing substances (PES) and/or hosting of parties where such drugs are present. Illegal use of prescription drugs not prescribed to the user or any sale of prescription drugs.
3. Possession or use of any type of tobacco and tobacco related products, including possession or use of e-cigarettes, vape pens, JUULS and the like.
4. Attendance at any gathering or party at which there is illegal activity. This would include, but not be limited to, use of illegal drugs or consumption of alcohol by any persons who are not of legal age.
5. Offenses including theft/vandalism or disorderly conduct. Offenses that result in injury or bodily harm to another individual. School suspensions or expulsions as a result of:
 - Verbal, physical or sexual harassment of another student, school employee, or school representative.
 - Chronic unexcused absences/tardiness or leaving school without clearance.
 - Any unlawful "non-felony" action. This would include: disorderly conduct (swearing/gesturing obscenely in public building or at a teacher and/or staff member). Even if the student does not get a ticket, this is a misdemeanor offense and can be punished by the administration through the student handbook and the activities code as conduct unbecoming of a co-curricular code participant.

6. Any student who conducts him / herself in a fashion that violates school rules, according to the student handbook, will serve a penalty deemed appropriate by the Athletic Director, Administration, Head Coach or Advisor. (Examples of such behaviors could include, but are not limited to: truancy, abuse of or destruction of property, disrespect, insubordination, fighting, inappropriate use of social media, etc.)

VII. REPORTING PROCEDURES

Activity Code violations may be observed or reported by administrators, faculty, parents, law enforcement or any other non-student adult. Students may report themselves but may not report other students, unless the violations occur on school property or at a school function. If a violation occurs outside a school function, a student may report the incident through a written statement submitted by their parent or guardian. Suspected violations reported require a signed written report including the date, time, place, individuals involved, and description of the incident to the Athletic Director or building principal. After the written report is filed, the code committee will interview the accused to determine if the incident did occur.

Any such report must be received within 30 days from the occurrence of the alleged violation. An exception may be made to this time line by school administration for serious offenses. If a violation is substantiated by reasonable grounds, the established penalties will be imposed. Generally within five (5) school days of receiving the report the student and parent/guardian will be informed in writing and/or by telephone of the nature of the accusation and penalty. The student will be on suspension during any appeal process that might follow.

If a student is requested to appear in front of the code committee, the parent or guardian will be notified in a timely fashion if a violation has occurred.

A co-curricular code committee will be assigned on a rotational basis each school year to address violations. The committee will include the athletic director, principal, a school teacher, a coach and one co-curricular advisor (non-coach).

VIII. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. Students must be in school a full day of a contest or event unless excused for a dental or doctor appointment, funeral, or have permission / approval from administration. The administration may waive this rule if prior arrangements are made by the student.
2. Students are expected to be in attendance the day after a Monday through Thursday event or contest unless excused for a dental or doctor appointment, funeral, or have permission / approval from the administration. Students who develop a “pattern” of tardiness or absences (more than two in a season) after Monday through Thursday events / contests will be suspended from the next scheduled contest or event.

IX. CONSEQUENCES FOR ACADEMIC CO-CURRICULAR

A. First Major/Minor Offense / Second Minor Offense

The student is banned from participation for a period of one (1) calendar month for an academic co-curricular suspension. Students are still required to attend any scheduled events during the suspension.

B. Second Major Offense / Third Minor Offense

This offense will result in a suspension of twelve (12) calendar months from the date of suspension.

C. Third Major Offense / Fourth Minor Offense

This offense will result in suspension for the remainder of their high school eligibility.

X. CONSEQUENCES FOR ATHLETIC CO-CURRICULARS

Athletes are still required to practice and attend any scheduled events during the suspension of both major and minor violations. If an athlete goes out for a sport in order to use up suspension time, he/she must remain in that sport for the entire season, or the suspension will remain in effect into the next season.

The length of suspension will be determined by multiplying the number of regularly scheduled events, not counting tournament games, by the percentage of the season for which they are suspended (major & minor). This number will be rounded up if a fraction.

Major/Minor Protocol Violations and Consequences:

1. Major Violations:

- Use/possession/buying/selling of alcohol and/or illegal drugs.
- Hosting of parties where alcohol and drugs are present.
- Use/Possession of tobacco products (smoking, chewing tobacco or snuff) and tobacco related products.
- Illegal use/sale of prescription drugs.
- Offenses including felony, theft, vandalism, serious misdemeanor, disorderly conduct.
- Expulsion or suspension of a student from school as a result of verbal, physical or sexual harassment of another student, school employee, or school representative.
- Offenses that result in injury or bodily harm to another individual.

Major Violation Consequences:

- 1. First offense is 33% of the season**
- 2. Second offense is one calendar year**
- 3. Third offense is remainder of high school career**

2. Minor Violations:

- Attendance at any gathering or party at which there is illegal activity. This would include, but not limited to, use of illegal drugs or consumption of alcohol by any persons who are not of legal age.
- Unexcused absence on day of contest/performance.
- Chronic unexcused tardiness or leaving school without clearance.
 - Any unlawful “non-felony” action occurring on school premises.Disorderly conduct (swearing/gesturing obscenely in public building or at a teacher and/or staff member) even if the student does not get a ticket this is a misdemeanor offense and can be punished by the administration through the student handbook and the activities code as conduct unbecoming of a co-curricular code participant.

Minor Violation Consequences:

- 1. First offense is 10% of the season**
- 2. Second offense is 25% of the season**
- 3. Third offense is one calendar year**
- 4. Fourth offense is remainder of high school career**

* If a co-curricular code participant goes from a major to a minor violation or vice versa, then the next step in each column will be implemented. Example: If your first offense is in the major category and your second offense is in the minor category, then you will drop to step three in the minor category. If you have two minor category offenses and commit a major offense then you would drop to level three and be done for your high school career.

Honesty Clause: To promote honesty, a first offense, and first offense only can be reduced through self-referral made by the co-curricular code participant. A self-referral must be made in writing to the Athletic Director by 10:00 a.m. the next working day following an infraction. Working days are considered to be Monday-Friday year round, unless it is a holiday. Infractions taking place on the weekend must be reported by 10:00 a.m. on the following Monday. This is a one time chance to get a reduced consequence. If it is used for a minor violation, it cannot then be used for a major violation sometime in the future. If a person has already committed a major/minor violation and did not turn themselves in, they cannot use self-referral on their next offense.

Self-referrals will reduce the penalty 10%. A first offense minor penalty is reduced to nothing. A first offense major penalty is reduced to 23%. The minor penalty is recorded as having committed a first offense, but the penalty is reduced to no loss in contests or performances. The next offense will be handled as a second offense in either the minor or major categories depending on the infraction.

3. Coach's/Advisors Protocol

- Non-compliance with curfew, grooming or bus travel.
- Unexcused absences or tardiness to practice and events.
- Violation of coach's rules or disrespect to head coach, assistants and advisors.
- Any action a coach/advisor determines to be inappropriate behavior.

Consequences: These are handled by the head coach/advisor (with help if necessary from the Athletic Director and/or Administration) and can lead to game/event suspensions or expulsion from the team.

XI. CO-CURRICULAR APPEALS PROCESS

1. If the student or parent / guardian wishes to appeal the initial decision made by the code committee, they must do so in writing within five (5) school days of receiving the committee's decision.
2. If the committee agrees to an appeal, the appeal will go back to the original code committee. Students must be present at the appeal. The presence of a parent / guardian is not acceptable without the presence of the student.

XII. CO-CURRICULAR TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS

1. The school district is liable for the safety of students participating in school sponsored activities.
2. Student spectators are the responsibility of the school district when they ride to the event on school-provided transportation.
3. Participating students are required to ride in school transportation. The administration may determine emergency situations.
4. In all cases, students who ride school transportation to events are required to return to River Ridge on the same transportation. Exceptions may be made on the return to River Ridge upon a parent's written request. Students cannot be excused to go home with friends, boy / girl friends, etc. It is felt by the River Ridge School District that, win or lose, the ride home on the bus as a team is something all athletes should experience.

XIII. AWARDS

- A. Lettering – The head coach of each sport determines which individual(s) has earned a letter in his / her respective sport. Once an individual has earned his / her first letter, he / she will receive a chenille letter and the pin representing that sport. After the individual has earned his / her pin for a sport, a service bar will be awarded for each following year of lettering.
- B. Senior Plaques – The senior boy / girl must letter in at least one athletic co-curricular during their senior year to be eligible to receive his / her senior plaque.
- C. Post Season Awards - If you have a co-curricular violation during the season that you are eligible for post season recognition (All-Conference, All-Star, All-State), you will not be eligible for nomination of such awards. If the violation occurs after the All-Star selection, you will not be allowed to participate in the All-Star event.

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