

# EXTRACURRICULAR CODE

## Ripon Middle School / Catalyst Charter Middle School

**Introduction** - Interscholastic athletic competition is one component of the extracurricular program available to students at Ripon Middle School. Program objectives can best be achieved through activities which encourage the broadest kind of participation, development of responsibility, and encouragement of team spirit. As a result, extracurricular programs are designed so that all students have an opportunity to participate in actual interscholastic game competition. It is important that participants attempt to maintain a level of behavior which is above reproach because the conduct of a student is closely observed by other students. The privilege of participation in extracurricular activities is closely associated with performance in the total school environment.

**Extracurricular Philosophy** – The mission of middle-level extracurricular activities is to provide an enjoyable educational experience for young adolescents based on their developmental characteristics and needs. The development of the young adolescents' self-esteem, citizenship, responsibility and skills in cooperative and leadership behaviors are positive outcomes of appropriate middle-level extracurricular programs. These programs should be enjoyable, vigorous and safe, and should occur in a positive climate with appropriate adult leadership and support. Effective middle-level extracurricular programs are coordinated with other school and community activities to offer additional opportunities for young adolescents to explore varied interests. Middle-level extracurricular activities are an essential part of the total educational process and an excellent opportunity for the home, school, and community to work together.

### **Program Goals**

**Goal 1:** Extracurricular activities at the middle school are a privilege. In order to be eligible to participate, a student must meet identified academic and behavioral standards.

**Goal 2:** The developmental characteristics of young adolescents should provide the foundation for middle-level extracurricular program philosophy and goals.

- a. Programs should provide a variety of activities that allow for participation and exploration. Emphasis should be on development of individual skills and cooperative group behaviors.
- b. Extracurricular activities should offer an opportunity for young adolescents to transfer and reinforce learning from academic areas while improving social, emotional, and physical skills.
- c. "Fun" is an important reason given by young adolescents for participating in extracurricular activities. Young adolescents are not varsity level or professional participants.
- d. Extracurricular participation for young adolescents should build positive self-esteem.

**Goal 3:** Coaches, parents, athletic directors, administrators, school board members, and community leaders need to be knowledgeable about the characteristics and needs of young adolescents, as well as appropriate coaching strategies and role model behaviors for them. The program's philosophy and expectations should be supported by all those involved in the program.

- a. Adults who coach middle-level extracurricular activities must support district wide policies and regulations.
- b. Middle-level extracurricular program should attempt to prepare/develop the skills of all participants. Approximate drills/skills continuity within any program with all coaches presumed to be providing communication leadership.
- c. The school district and/or community program must provide support for coaches, particularly when parents question coaching practices that follow the program's philosophy and objectives.
- d. Abusive and foul language has no place in extracurricular programs. Coaches, parents, participants, and fans must recognize their responsibility to model appropriate behavior for young adolescents.
- e. Equipment and facilities should be specifically designed to provide for a safe and healthy extracurricular experience for the young adolescent.

**Goal 4:** The program should be open to all young adolescents and provide a positive experience. All young adolescents should have the opportunity to participate, play, and experience skill improvement. Formation of teams should be determined by the number of young adolescents interested in the program.

- a. A well-designed extracurricular program responds to a variety of needs. Program directors, coaches, parents, community members, and teammates need to know that youth participate in activities for many reasons. Coaches must be sensitive to the individual needs of participants.
- b. When large numbers of young adolescents are involved in an extracurricular program, coaches should include all team members as equally as possible.

**Goal 5:** Each activity should have a predetermined season. Extracurricular activities, including practice schedules, should be flexible, with concern for student conflicts and family schedules. Schedules should allow young adolescents to participate in a variety of programs that may occur during the same season.

- a. The length of seasons and number of contests per season should be designed to provide young adolescents the opportunity to participate in a number of different activities. At this age, young adolescents should not focus on any one activity, sport, or other interest. Young athletes need experiences that encompass a wide range of activities. This should be a period of exploration rather than specialization. Scheduling extracurricular activities for young adolescents during later evening hours on school nights is not appropriate.

**Participation** is the primary goal of the middle level program. Programs should promote cooperation, sportsmanship, and personal improvement along with skills.

- a. Middle-level athletics should reward positive effort regardless of the outcome of the game.
- b. Awards and certifications should reward participation, not individual accomplishments or team standings. All-star teams, most valuable player, trophies, plaques, and individual recognition will not be permitted. At the completion of the season, coaches may report team win/loss records.

### **Rules of Eligibility**

1. Prior to engaging in practice and/or game activities, a student must submit the following information:
  - a. A completed WIAA physical examination card.
  - b. Proof of insurance or an insurance waiver form.
    - i. Ripon Area School District does not underwrite the cost of accident insurance for participation in interscholastic athletic programs. As a service to parents, however, the school does provide an opportunity to purchase coverage with Student Accident Insurance, which is provided by the Security Life Insurance Company. This is a benefit plan and should not be considered as primary coverage or replacement for health and accident insurance.
    - ii. Parents are encouraged to review their present levels of health and accident insurance to determine if their coverage is adequate. Students participating in the athletic programs must choose to enroll in the benefit plan or sign a waiver declining the need for supplemental insurance.
  - c. A copy of the Extracurricular Code, signed by student and parent.
  - d. Participation fees paid for all activities as needed.
2. **Academic Eligibility** – In order to be academically eligible for extracurricular competition, students must not have failed **in any subject** during the previous grading period. If a student has failed a subject, he/she may be carried on the team roster and participate in practice sessions but will be ineligible to participate in game competition until there is evidence that he/she is passing in **all** subjects. (The student must secure written verification from each teacher twice during the season, prior to the first contest and again at midpoint in the season.)
3. **Conduct Eligibility** – The student is required to follow the code on a year round (12 month) basis. Each athlete and parent must verify the awareness of the rules prior to participation.

### **Training Program**

- a. The State of Wisconsin prohibits the sale and use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and illegal drugs to minors. All students who participate in any extracurricular activities are to abstain from their use.
- b. Hair length and grooming will be determined by the coach of each particular sport, such determination to be compatible with guidelines set by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association.
- c. General conduct in school shall be such as to bring no discredit to the athlete, his/her parents, school or team. Students/parents are encouraged to carefully read and become familiar with the discipline expectations (see Student Handbook).
- d. A student is financially responsible for all school equipment checked out. Students will receive credit on items turned in only if they are items that were checked out to him/her. Students should treat all equipment as if it is his/her own personal property. Upon termination of team membership, all equipment must be handed in immediately.
- e. The Athletic Director will judge the seriousness of any community-related violation and determine the degree of discipline required. Whenever this is needed to take place, parents of students involved will be notified.

### **Due Process Appeal**

All students have the rights given by due process. If, after an investigation by a designated individual and the school administration of an alleged extracurricular violation, the participant is found guilty and still denies this guilt, an appeal is possible. Within five (5) calendar days, the appeal process form must be submitted to the building principal. A ruling of ineligibility will result in implementation of the appropriate penalty. A participant and/or his/her parents may formally appeal the decision in writing to the district administrator, provided an appeal is received within seven (7) days from the first day of such ineligibility. After an appeal has been received, the district administrator will review the matter and will render a decision within five (5) school days.

If the participant's appeal to the Superintendent is denied, the student may make a final appeal to the Board of Education. The appeal to the Board must be made in writing within seven (7) days of the Superintendent's decision to the Clerk of the Board of Education. The Board will render a decision at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

# EXTRACURRICULAR CODE

Ripon Middle School / Catalyst Charter Middle School

## Code Agreement

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Last Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's First Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Grade)

I have read and fully understand the rules and regulation stated in the Middle School Extracurricular Code. My participation in athletic activities is a privilege and not a right. I acknowledge that, as a participant representing Ripon Middle School/Catalyst Charter Middle School, I serve as a role model for all students. Having recognized this, I pledge to honor this code during my enrollment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

I have read and fully understand these rules and regulations and will enforce and uphold them. I understand that failure to do so will result in my son/daughter's ineligibility to participate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

*\*Contracts must be signed yearly in acknowledgement and acceptance of code revisions. The Extracurricular Code applies to ALL school-related organizations/functions. It is the responsibility of ALL students to read the Extracurricular Code, sign the agreement, and return it before being eligible to participate.*

*The Ripon Area School District Board does not discriminate on the basis of race; color; national origin; age; sex (including transgender status, change of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity); pregnancy; creed or religion; genetic information; handicap or disability (in accordance with Policy 3123, AG 3123A, and AG 3123B); marital service; citizenship status; veteran status; military service (as defined in 111.32, Wis. Stats.); national origin; ancestry; arrest record; conviction record (in accordance with Policy 4121); use or non-use of lawful products off the District's premises during non-working hours); declining to attend an employer-sponsored meeting or to participate in any communication with the employer about religious matters or political matters; or any other characteristic protected by law in its employment practices.*

*The district encourages informal resolution of complaints under this policy. If any person believes that the Ripon Area School District or any part of the school organization has failed to follow the law and rules of S.188.13 Wis. Stats., or in some way discriminates on the basis listed above, s/he may bring or send a complaint to the Administration Office at 1120 Metomen St, P.O. Box 991, Ripon, WI 54971.*