

REEDS SPRING HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

The purpose of this guide is to provide a statement of philosophy of interscholastic athletics for the Reeds Spring Public School System.

It is the philosophy of Reeds Spring Public School System that a quality program of interscholastic athletics shall be conducted as an integral part of the learning program in the district. As many activities as possible will be offered at as many skill levels as personnel (both adult and student) and facilities will permit.

Objectives of the athletic program at Reeds Spring High School include the opportunity for students to:

1. Develop the ability to think both as individuals and as a member of a group
2. Develop self-discipline and emotional maturity
3. Develop social competence
4. Learn the value of conforming to rules
5. Learn respect for the right of others and for authority
6. Gain recognition and prestige

EQUIPMENT

Students are responsible for the equipment issued to them. They will pay for the abuse and destruction of any school equipment. They are financially responsible for all equipment or gear issued by the school that is not properly returned. Payment or return of gear must be made before a student progresses from that sport or activity to the next sport or activity season. Uniforms and practice gear are expected to be worn only for the purpose for which they have been issued.

SUPERVISION

No school activity practice or game performance shall be held without a sponsor or coach. No student should attempt to practice or play unless the coach or sponsor is there to supervise. Students are not to begin warm-ups or workouts before the coach or sponsor arrives. For safety reasons, students are not to use school equipment without proper supervision. (Violators are subject to removal from the activity.)

INSURANCE

The School District of Reeds Spring makes available insurance coverage for all athletics. Insurance forms are available in the office.

PHYSICAL EXAM

All students who participate in the interscholastic program at RSHS must have physical examination given by a physician. Beginning Aug. 2019 physicals are good for two years only if the MSHSAA Pre-participation Evaluation Form is used. This form can be found on the school website, MSHSAA.org, or in the high school office. These forms must be turned into the coach/sponsor prior to beginning the activity.

In addition to the physical exam students must turn in the annual MSHSAA Pre-Participation Document that includes a section on interim medical history, Parent permission, Insurance Verification, Student Agreement, Concussion Education Material parent/student signature, and emergency contact information. This form can be found on the school website, MSHSAA.org, or in the high school office. This form must be turned into the coach/sponsor prior to beginning the activity.

Student athletes may not receive equipment, practice, or play until the completed forms are on file in the athletic director's office.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation for interscholastic activities is to be arranged through Lance Gosch, Activities Director. Team member's travel a unit on school district vehicles. The principal and coach must approve in writing any exception to the rule.

DEFINITION OF ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility to participate in activity contests between schools is a privilege that is attained by meeting standards cooperatively set for this purpose by member schools of the Missouri State High School Activities Association.

ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

1. Bona Fide Student

In order to represent your school, you must be a bona fide student and meet all eligibility requirements. You must be regularly attending classes and you must meet the academic requirements in MSHSAA By-Law 2.3 and those of your school.

2. Citizenship

You must be a creditable citizen. Creditable citizens are those students whose conduct - both in school and out of school - will not reflect discredit upon themselves or their school.

NOTE: Conduct involving law enforcement must be reported to your principal or athletic director immediately as your conduct may affect eligibility or contest outcomes.

3. Sportsmanship

If you commit an unsportsmanlike act while participating in an event, you could become ineligible.

4. Academics

You must have earned, the preceding semester of attendance, a minimum of 3.0 units of credit or have earned credit in 80% of the maximum allowable classes in which any student can be enrolled in the semester, whichever is GREATER, at your school.

For your current semester, you must be enrolled in and regularly attending courses that offer 3.0 units of credit or 80% of the maximum allowable credits which may be earned at your school, whichever is GREATER.

Credits earned or completed after the close of the semester will not fulfill this requirement. Summer high school courses for FALL academic eligibility may count provided the course is necessary for graduation or promotion or is a core subject course, and credit is placed on the school transcript. No more than one unit of credit in summer school shall be counted toward fall eligibility.

Students promoted for the first time into 9th grade are considered academically eligible for the first semester after promotion.

Do not drop courses without first consulting with your school principal, athletic director or counselor to determine whether doing so will affect your eligibility.

Along with the semester academic requirements a student must maintain a 1.666 GPA each Grading Period to be eligible to participate in a school sponsored competitive activity.

5. Age Limits

If you reach 19 years of age prior to July 1, you will be ineligible the next school year.

6. Entering School

You must enter school within the first 11 days of the semester in order to be eligible that semester.

7. Recruiting of Athletes

You will be ineligible for your career at a school if you are influenced by a person to attend that school for athletic or activities purposes. You may, however, return to your original school and be ineligible for no more than 365 days.

8. Amateur and Awards Standards

An athlete must maintain "amateur standing" 365 days a year in the sport concerned in order to participate in interscholastic athletics – the following restrictions govern the receipt of awards in both interscholastic play AND non-school competition/participation.

After entering a member school, you will become ineligible in the sport concerned if you receive any of the following PROHIBITED awards for participating in an athletic contest or being an athlete:

An award of cash, a gift-certificate/gift-card or an award that is the equivalent of cash is PROHIBITED for amateurs.

Merchandise which exceeds a manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) of \$250 is PROHIBITED for amateurs. However, there is no value limit in regard to awards which are symbolic in nature, such as medals, ribbons, trophies, plaques, etc.

Awards should be approved in advance by your school.

Commemorative jewelry may be presented by the school (i.e. championship ring or necklace) (no value limit).

9. Non-School Competition

You may not practice for, or participate with, a non-school team or in any organized non-school athletic competition and for your school team in the same sport during the school sport season. Contact your school's athletic director for specific details in regard to individual sports (swimming & diving, tennis, golf, cross country, track & field, wrestling).

You may participate on a school team and a non-school team in different sports during the same season; however, you may not practice for the non-school team or participate in organized non-school athletic competition on the same day that you practice with or participate for the school team without prior approval of your school administrator.

You must receive approval in advance from your school principal or athletic director in order to miss school time to practice for, travel to or compete in organized non-school athletic competition.

You will become ineligible in any sport in which you play as a member of a junior college, college or university team.

Before you join a non-school team or enter any non-school competitive athletic event, your school principal or athletic director should be consulted to make certain these standards are met.

10. College Auditions and Tryouts

You may participate in an event conducted by a college or university during the school year under certain conditions. Consult your athletic director.

You may participate in a college tryout, audition or evaluation event conducted by a private organizer for a specific sport outside the school season of the sport concerned.

You may not miss school time to travel to or participate in the event unless your absence is approved in advance by the school administrator.

NOTE: See your administrator before signing up and agreeing to attend any such events.

11. Residence Requirements

A student may be eligible at the public or nonpublic school located in the district in which the student's parents reside. In the case of a public multiple-school district, a student may be eligible at the school designated for the student to attend, based on parents' residence, by the board of education.

12. Transferring Schools

If you transfer schools, you will be ineligible for 365 days, unless your circumstances meet one of the exceptions listed in the MSHSAA Residence and Transfer Rules (By-Law 3.10). Make an appointment with the school's athletic director to review these exceptions. Several, but not all, are described below.

Always check with your school principal or athletic director before you transfer to determine whether it will affect your eligibility.

Discipline follows a student to a new school. Being expelled from a school also causes 365 days of ineligibility for a student.

You shall become ineligible for 365 days if you transfer to another school for athletic reasons.

This is only a partial list of standards, but these are the rules that generate the most questions. All standards of eligibility are listed in the MSHSAA Handbook. The principal and the activity director in conjunction with the Missouri State High School Activities Association will interpret any special cases that develop.

REEDS SPRING HIGH SCHOOL

ACTIVITIES CITIZENSHIP CODE

Interscholastic activities are a definite part of the overall school program. Students who choose to try out and are selected to represent the school assume an obligation not only for themselves, but also for those they represent.

Participation in school activities is a privilege, granted you meet the MSHSAA eligibility standards. According to MSHSAA eligibility standards, participants must be good citizens in their school and community. More specifically, any student who represents his/her school in interscholastic activities must be a creditable citizen and be judged so by the proper school authority certifying the list of students for competition.

It is understood that citizenship eligibility cases are handled on an individual basis at the school level by the coach/director, athletic administrator, principal, parents and player. However, it is also felt that system-wide guidelines will assist in the uniform handling of such cases.

Any incidents which occur that are not covered by these guidelines, will be reviewed on an individual basis and decisions related to penalties will be made by the administration and head coach/director.

It is the philosophy of the Reeds Spring School District that a quality program of interscholastic activities shall be conducted as an integral part of the learning program. Students should receive training in sportsmanship, motivation, self-discipline, loyalty, leadership and a winning attitude.

Generally, in our school system, activities participants have conducted themselves in a manner in which both the school and community can be proud. By establishing the following guidelines, it is felt that all involved will know what is expected of them and "striving for excellence" will be the final result.

Making the Grade:

MSHSAA Eligibility

Grades 9-12: Students must be enrolled in and attending courses that offer a minimum of 3 units of credit. Students must have earned 3 units the preceding semester.

Grades 7-8: Students must be enrolled in a normal course load for your school. You also must have been promoted to a higher grade level at the end of the previous year, not having failed more than one course the previous semester.

Reeds Spring R-IV Academic Eligibility

Grades 9-12: A student must maintain a 1.666 grade point average each Grading Period to be eligible to participate in a school sponsored activity. Students who fall below the 1.666 GPA at the end of a Grading Period will be on probation until the next Grading Period. During this probationary period, the student will be allowed to practice and compete in school sponsored events. At the conclusion of the probationary period, if the student has not achieved a 1.666 GPA the student will be allowed to practice but will be ineligible to participate in school sponsored competitive activities until the next Grading Period at which time they must have achieved a 1.666 GPA to be considered eligible. If a student misses class (es) without being excused by the principal, the student shall not be considered eligible on that date. Further, the student cannot be certified eligible to participate on any subsequent date until the student attends a full day of classes (or has an excused absence (s) from class) without an unexcused absence.

Tobacco Products:

Any student using tobacco products will be denied the privilege of participation in all extra-curricular competition for a minimum of one week.

Second offense: restriction from participation for 90 days

Third offense: restriction from participation for 365 days

Alcoholic Beverages:

Any student using or in possession of an alcoholic beverage will be subject to the following:

1st Offense: 10% of regular season competition in the fall, winter and spring activities.

2nd Offense: 50% of regular season competition in the fall, winter and spring activities.

3rd Offense: 365 day suspension of activities. Student may appeal in 6 months.

Students will be allowed to practice.

A season will be designated as the MSHSAA regular season. Does not include post-season. If infraction occurs with anything less than 10% of a season remaining a minimum of 1 event will be missed.

A student's suspension will be for one calendar year from the date of infraction. (For example: an offense occurring in the winter of the sophomore year will carry suspensions through the winter of the student's junior season.)

The enforcement of this policy will be for 365 days a year. This includes when school is in and out of session. Including winter, spring and summer breaks, etc.

Controlled Substance and Narcotics:

Violations/ Consequences: Any student who tests positive or is discovered to have used or had possession of a controlled substance shall be subject to the following restrictions:

FIRST OFFENSE: Suspension of 25% of all regular season (fall, winter, and spring) competition for 365 days from the time of consequences. The student will be expected to practice and meet all group responsibilities, as outlined by the sponsor/coach, but will not participate in contests/performances. If a student, at his or her own expense, participates in 5 hours of an approved substance abuse counseling or rehabilitation program they may have the suspension reduced to 50% of the original number of contests/performances. Students enrolled in a class that involves co-curricular activities will remain in the class during the suspension period and will participate in classroom activities.

If the student/parent seeks to reduce this consequence by scheduling a substance abuse evaluation, all 5 hours must be completed before the student will be eligible to compete/perform. Further, the student must attend the first evaluation session within seven business days of the confirmed test result.

If the first violation is due to a positive drug test, at the next testing event, the student will be retested, if such test is positive, then it will be considered as a subsequent offense. If he/she refuses to be retested, the student will be ineligible for the next 365 days.

SECOND OFFENSE: 365-day suspension from all extra-curricular programs.

THIRD OFFENSE: Permanent removal from all extra-curricular programs.

Student-athletes need to realize that disciplinary action governs all years of participation. For example, a student receiving violation during his/her freshman year, a second violation during his/her sophomore year, a third violation during his/her junior or senior year would constitute a suspension from activities the remainder of his/her years of enrollment.

*Athletics is a privilege and the administration has the authority to deviate from the tiered consequences if extenuating circumstances warrant.

Self-Report Honesty Provision

In order to encourage students to come forward for help when needed and to encourage students to be honest and truthful citizens we have added a "one-time" opportunity Honesty Provision. In regards to controlled substances; a student who self-reports a violation to their coach, sponsor or school authority prior to school knowledge, and who will agree to counseling and rehabilitation and show evidence thereof, may have consequences reduced.

School Law Enforcement Referral:

Any student referred to school officials for school rule violations will be denied the privilege of participation in all extra-curricular activities for a period determined by the principal.

Arrest:

Any student who is arrested for a felony or gross misdemeanor may be denied the privilege of participation in all extra-curricular activities for a period determined by the principal.

ISD/OSS:

Students who receive In-School/Out of School Suspension will be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities during the required ISD/OSS days. Students who receive ISD will be allowed to practice but not participate during this time, however those receiving OSS will not be allowed to practice, or participate.

Summer Infraction:

Students breaking the smoking or alcohol rule during the summer will receive a first offense punishment. Because no sports may be in season during the summer, the first offense punishment for ten (10) days may not affect the student. However, the student will receive a second offense punishment if he/she breaks the smoking or alcohol rules during the regular school year.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Coach Signature