

Section 9 Rantoul Township High School Athletic Code

Participation in athletics is a privilege and not an absolute right of Rantoul Township High School (RTHS) students. Those who participate in athletics have a responsibility to favorably represent the school and community. Student athletes are expected to conduct themselves both in and out of school in a manner appropriate to their responsibilities as representatives of the school and district. If a student fails to comply with the terms of this code, the privilege to participate in athletics may be lost in accordance with the terms of this Athletic Code. The following rules are set forth by the Athletic Department for all RTHS students who participate on any RTHS athletic team, cheerleading squad, or dance squad.

These rules are in effect from the beginning of fall practice of the athlete's freshman year until the student-athlete completes eligibility or graduates, whichever is later, and are approved and supported by the RTHS Board of Education. Violations of the Athletic Rules will result in the appropriate consequence being assessed as per the "Penalties" section of this Code. Violations include:

1. Falsification of a signature on the Athletic Code, Athletic Permit, or Athletic Physical; or
2. Theft or vandalism of property, in or out of school or while on suspension from school. It is conclusive evidence of such action that the student has entered a plea of no contest or has been convicted of such an offense by legal authorities; or
3. Any behavior or action which is negligently or intentionally injurious to a person or property or which places a person or property at risk of injury or damage; or
4. Smoking or use of smokeless tobacco; or
5. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages; or
6. Use or possession of illegal drugs or misuse of prescription drugs to include look alike substances; or
7. Choosing to remain at a site where illegal drugs/alcohol is being served; or
8. Gross violations of the tenets of fair play and good sportsmanship; or
9. Any action that is detrimental to RTHS and/or the community.

All potential violations will be considered by the athletic director and the athletic committee if necessary. The athletic committee will determine if the infraction is indeed an athletic code violation. The athletic committee will be determined before the start of the school year.

Reporting Athletic Rule Violation

The athletic code record and consequences are cumulative beginning with the student athlete's first admission to the school and the signing of the athletic code by the student and the parent for the first time throughout the student's high school athletic career. The policies are in effect on or off campus throughout the entire calendar year, including weekends and summer. Suspension for violations will start from the point of discovery of the violation. If the athlete is suspended during a season, he/she must complete the season in good standing in the sport in which the suspension is being administered. Athletes who are unable to complete the sanction during the course of the current sports season shall complete the sanction during the next sports season, as long as the sport is completed in good standing.

Self-reporting

An athlete or parent may voluntarily admit an athletic code violation to the Athletic Director, Coach or Administrator provided that:

1. Self-reporting may be used each time a student-athlete may have violated the athletic code and will benefit the student-athlete in determining the appropriate consequence.
2. A student or parent must voluntarily self-report his/her infraction within forty-eight (48) hours of the infraction. No provision is made for weekends or holidays. The report must be within 48 hours with no extension
3. The report must come before the Athletic Director, Coach or Administrator has learned of the event independently of the self-reporting within the first 48 hours of an incident or the first school day whichever comes first.
4. Self-reporting shall serve as substantial evidence for enforcing consequences as outlined in this policy.

First Offense

For a first offense in violation of any part of the Athletic Code, the athlete will be suspended for one-third (1/3) of the total contests in his/her current sport season or the first scheduled sport in which the individual participates. For purposes of this section, regular season contests only will be counted. If a suspension is not completed by the post-season, the suspension will continue throughout the post-season and will still be completed in the next regular season as set forth above.

If a student self-reports as defined above, the suspension for the first offense may be reduced from one third (1/3) to one fifth (1/5) of the contests. In the event of a self-report as defined above, the offense will be expunged from the athlete's record if no further offense is committed within two (2) calendar years from the date of the first offense.

During any suspension, the athlete must attend all practices and contests and follow all requirements for the sport successfully as set out by the coach for the entire season. Failure to successfully complete the season will void any suspension served and the suspension will remain in effect as if no contests have already been served.

Second Offense

A second violation of the athletic code will result in a suspension from one-half (1/2) of the scheduled contests for the current sport season or the first scheduled sport in which the individual participates. For purposes of this section, regular season contests only will be counted. If a suspension is not completed by the post-season, the suspension will continue throughout the post-season and will still be completed in the next regular season as set forth above.

If a student self-reports as defined above, the suspension for the second offense may be reduced from one half (1/2) to one third (1/3) of the contests. In the event of a self-report as defined above, the offense will be expunged from the athlete's record if no further offense is committed within two (2) calendar years from the date of the second offense.

During any suspension, the athlete must attend all practices and contests and follow all requirements for the sport successfully as set out by the coach for the entire season. Failure to successfully complete the season will void any suspension served and the suspension will remain in effect as if no contests have already been served.

Third and Subsequent Offenses

A third violation or subsequent offenses of the Athletic Code will result in the student being suspended from RTHS athletics for 1 calendar year from the date of the suspension. Once a third offense has been determined, then the process for possible reinstatement will follow the guidelines outlined here. A third and subsequent

violation will require a meeting with the athletic director, athletic committee to be determined before the start of the school year, the parents of the student-athlete, and student-athlete. The meeting will be the opportunity for all parties involved to discuss how the student-athlete can become successful, not in sports, but in life. The parents and student-athlete will come up with a plan designed to get the student-athlete the support necessary for success in the future. The plan will be approved by the athletic committee along with the athletic director and will be put into place immediately upon approval. The student-athlete must successfully fulfill the plan in order to be considered for reinstatement for RTHS athletics after the suspension for a period of 1 calendar year. Once the plan has been successfully completed, the athletic director and athletic committee will determine if the student-athlete can be reinstated for athletics at RTHS. The athletic committee's decision is final on third and subsequent violations and no appeal can be made to other levels of administration including the Board of Education for District #193.

In the unfortunate event that a student incurs two violations in the same season, the consequences will run consecutively rather than concurrently.

Judicial or Law Enforcement records

If a violation is discovered by receipt of information from judicial or law enforcement records and the student has not admitted or reported the offense to the athletic director, coach or administrator, the athlete can be suspended from participation for one calendar year from the discovery of the violation by the school. This is true of a first or second violation.

Appeal Process – For 1st and 2nd Offenses Only

In the event that a student feels that they have not received a fair and impartial hearing or judgment or has received a penalty that is excessive or is not within the guidelines of the Athletic Code, they may use the following appeal process:

Level I

A written description of the basis for appeal and remedy sought shall be presented to the principal. This description must be presented within one week of the assessment of penalties for the violation at issue. The principal shall investigate the details of the issue and respond in writing to the request for appeal within two weeks.

Level II

If the student-athlete filing the appeal is not satisfied with the disposition of the issue at hand, they may present a written description of the basis for a Level II appeal to the Superintendent. After investigating the facts surrounding the incident the Superintendent shall respond in writing within two weeks from the date of the Level II appeal.

Level III

If the student-athlete is not satisfied with the response from the Superintendent, a written appeal may be filed with the District #193 Board of Education. Such appeal will be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. The student-athlete may be invited to address the board in a closed session. Decisions of the Board shall be considered final.

Absence from School on Day of Activity

An athlete who is absent from school after noon on the day of an activity is ineligible for any activity on that day unless the absence has been approved in writing by the athletic director. Exceptions may be made by the coach: 1) for a medical absence pre-arranged with the coach or 2) for a death in the athlete's family. An athlete who has one or more trancies or who has been suspended from school may be suspended from participation in athletic activities by administration.

Eligibility

To retain athletic eligibility, an athlete must have passed 7 classes of academic course work in the semester preceding his or her athletic eligibility and must have passed 7 classes of academic course work in the week preceding his or her athletic eligibility.

Definition of a Contest

A contest is defined as the date the event takes place not the number of games. For example, if a team competes in a Saturday tournament with three matches, that will count as one contest. A double header will count as one contest. A holiday tournament in which a team plays multiple games in a day will count as one contest.

Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries

Student athletes must comply with Illinois' Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act and all protocols, policies and bylaws of the Illinois High School Association before being allowed to participate in any athletic activity, including practice or competition.

A student who was removed from practice or competition because of a suspected concussion shall be allowed to return only after all statutory prerequisites are completed, including without limitation, the School District's return-to-play and return-to-learn protocols.