

Rutland Middle School Athletic Policy

Philosophy

Rutland Middle School's staff and administration recognizes the value of curricular and extracurricular programs and their role in developing well-rounded, contributing individuals. All students are eligible and encouraged to participate in a variety of extracurricular activities throughout their attendance at Rutland Middle. Parents, family and community members are also encouraged to take an active part of our school to ensure students have the opportunity to excel in many areas of personal development, including academics and athletics.

Inclusion Policy

At RMS every student will be given an opportunity to participate on a school team. At the Grade 6, 7 and 8 levels, a "no-cut" (based on athletic ability) policy exists whereby every student will receive as close to equal playing time in all exhibition, league and playoff games.

Eligibility

Participants in extracurricular activities must be mindful of their school responsibilities and be aware that these come first and foremost. Although academic standing is not a criteria for inclusion/exclusion in extracurricular activities, students with failing grades or unsatisfactory work habits may be asked to attend Academic Intervention (AI) or a suitable alternative (after consultation with classroom teachers, coaches, and/or parents) until the student's academic standing has improved.

Students who fail to live up to the general citizenship and behaviour expectations of the school (as set out in the RMS Code of Conduct) may also be excluded from participation. The RMS Code of Conduct applies to all students during their involvement with any curricular or extracurricular activity including meetings, field trips, practices, games, and tournaments. Students who disregard the Code of Conduct or the guidelines of their coach and/or teacher sponsor may face the same consequences as if they had been in a normal school activity. Students, coaches, and parents should be aware that all restrictions regarding smoking, alcohol, drugs, behaviour and inappropriate language apply to extracurricular activities. Violations of the Code of Conduct occurring at an away game will result in the offending student being returned home immediately (circumstances permitting) with the expenses charged to the parents. In accordance with the RMS Code of Conduct/Discipline Policy, any student suspended for serious offences will not be permitted to play in any games during the suspension. A follow-up by the coach and administration will then determine what further action needs to be taken.

Student Commitment and Responsibilities

- Team members are expected to act in such a way that will bring credit to their team and school in accordance with the RMS Code of Conduct.
- Regular attendance at practices and games is expected for all athletes. If a practice or

game is to be missed for an unavoidable reason, the student must inform the coach, in person, in advance. If a practice or game is missed without an acceptable reason, or without the coach being informed, the student may lose the privilege of being on the team.

- If a student has an unexcused absence from any of his/her classes on a game or tournament day, the student will not be permitted to participate in that day's game(s).
- When a student will be absent from one or more classes due to involvement in an extracurricular event, he/she will be required to have the necessary form filled out, signed by his/her teacher, and returned to the coach PRIOR to the event. Failure to return the form to the coach may result in the student not being able to participate in the event.
- Students will be expected to pay a fair replacement cost for any uniform or equipment which is lost or damaged while in their care.
- Students may be expected to help with scoring, timing, helping, or officiating at competitions.

RMS Athletics Code of Conduct

Before participating in a school sport, RMS students & parents are to agree to the RMS Athletic Code of Conduct.

- a) I realize that it is a privilege to participate in athletic activities at Rutland Middle School. Accordingly, I hereby agree to obey the following regulations and training rules as set by the R.M.S. Athletic Department.
- b) In order to remain eligible to play extra-curricular sports at R.M.S.:
- c) My commitment and involvement in a sport cannot adversely affect my academic grades or work habits to the extent that I am failing one or more subjects.
- d) I must maintain a satisfactory sense of fair play, citizenship and attendance record.
- e) I will conduct myself in an orderly manner, both on and off school premises, in such a way as to bring credit to myself, my school, and family.
- f) In the event that my sport requires a trip away from R.M.S. during class time, I will make an extra effort to ask the teachers' permission to miss/leave class and cooperate with them to get my assignments in advance. If I do not attend school that day then I will not be allowed to participate that day. I understand that attendance in all classes is mandatory.
- g) In all athletic contests played away from R.M.S. I will ride to and from the games in school transportation, unless special arrangements have been made with the coach and school administration.
- h) My conduct and appearance, while travelling to contests played away from school. will be exemplary in all respects.
- i) I will be personally responsible for all school athletic equipment checked out to me and will return it in the same condition when requested by my coach.

- j) I understand that I am responsible for the condition of my uniform and will return it to my coach when required. I also understand that in the event that my uniform becomes lost or damaged I am responsible for the cost of replacement.
- k) I understand that I am committed to a sport for the duration of the season and will attend all meetings, practices and games, unless I have personally notified my coach.
- l) In the event that I cannot fulfill the commitment of my sport, I will personally notify my coach. I understand that failure to do so will result in suspension from further athletic participation at R.M.S. until the matter is cleared up with my coach, the Athletic Director and a member of the Administration.
- m) I understand that smoking is counterproductive to my development as an athlete and general health and that I will refrain from the use of tobacco products in any form.
- n) I understand that the use of any alcoholic beverages or illicit drugs on school based trips will result in suspension from athletics at R.M.S.

Athletic Fees

In an effort to help offset the cost of referees, uniforms, and equipment, RMS will be charging athletic fees for all athletes. The fee structure starts with a base fee of \$50 per sport. The base fee covers sports equipment, uniform replacement, athletic association fees, medical kits, and referees. Coaches who are able to find savings in running their sports teams may charge a lesser base fee after consultation with the athletic director and administration.

Some sports may charge additional fees to cover the cost of tournaments, spirit wear, or additional exhibition games.