

# **MEYER MIDDLE SCHOOL**



**ATHLETIC HANDBOOK  
2022-23**

**MEYER MIDDLE SCHOOL  
230 N. 9<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
RIVER FALLS WI 54022**

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**ATHLETIC CODE  
(Revised July, 2021)  
MEYER MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## **PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES**

The athletic program constitutes an important phase of learning in the middle school curriculum. The middle school athletic program in grade 7-8 provides definite opportunities that are not duplicated in other school activities or even in later life. Specifically, middle school athletics provides a different level of competition, and gives the athlete an excellent background with a wider range of activities than normal.

Basic objectives of middle school athletic participation in grades 7-8 program are:

1. To give the young adolescent an early understanding that participation in athletics is a privilege that carries with it many responsibilities.
2. To place a heavy emphasis on the teaching of basic skills.
3. To teach students habits of health, safety, and participation.
4. To be competitive while learning self-discipline.
5. To present the opportunity to practice, develop, and observe good sportsmanship.
6. To present the opportunity for the athlete to develop friendships, not only with teammates, but also with opponents.
7. To afford the opportunity for any students to participate in athletics.
8. To ensure that each participant is afforded an opportunity to perform during interscholastic competition.

THE RIVER FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST PUPILS ON THE BASIS OF SEX, RACE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCESTRY, CREED, PREGNANCY, MARITAL OR PARENTAL STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR PHYSICAL, MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, OR LEARNING DISABILITY OR HANDICAP IN ITS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES. FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT ON THE BASIS OF AGE, RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, OR HANDICAP.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

With the privilege of participating in interscholastic athletics, goes the responsibility and individual sacrifice. If the sport is worth having and going out for, the student must be willing to put something into it. Desire and cooperation with teammates and coaches is essential.

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) has charged its member schools to establish regulations governing participation in athletics. While not a member of the WIAA, Meyer Middle School uses the WIAA rules and eligibility standards as a guide in setting the local school procedures for student participation and discipline infractions.

The following is quoted directly from the WIAA Rules and Eligibility (Article XVI – Rules of Eligibility, Section 2.)

“A school shall have a code of conduct for its athletes. The code of conduct should be in place prior to the start of the school year. The code should be developed with the involvement of students, coaches, and administration and adopted by the Board of Education or recognized governing body.”

## **STUDENT CONDUCT – BEHAVIOR**

Students subject to this code shall not engage in behavior contrary to the ideals, principles, and standards of the school.

- A. Any student, who is found in violation of Federal, State, or Municipal laws, will be referred to the Activities Director, Principal or Assistant Principal, and coach of that sport.
- B. Any acts of misconduct occurring at any time may result in ineligibility.
  - 1. Non-exclusive examples of misconduct are as follows:
    - a. Disrespect for teachers, coaches, fellow students, contest officials and other adults.
    - b. Flagrant violation of game rules which causes ejection from a game.
    - c. Acts of vandalism.
    - d. Serious or continued violation of school regulations as designated by the administration.

### **ILLNESS, ATHLETIC INJURIES AND CARE**

- A. In order to participate, all athletes will be required to have the following information on file. All of these will be found on the online registration page.
  - 1. Parental Permission form
  - 2. Physical examination card which attests to the physical fitness of the participant
  - 3. Signed agreement to this athletic code
  - 4. Concussion information sheet read by both parent and athlete
- B. Athletes will attend all practices unless they are ill. If possible, the coach should be notified prior to an absence. The individual coaches will determine excuses for absences other than for illness. If student needs to use practice time for academic reasons, communication should be done with the coach.
- C. Students must be in attendance for all academic and required activities (designated by the school) for the entire school day (7:40 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.) to be eligible to participate in an extra-curricular activity or practice scheduled on that specific day. (The definitions on attendance in the Student Handbook shall apply; the attendance officer shall make determinations on daily attendance.) The administration maintains the right to allow athletes to participate.

Excuses for medical appointments, funerals, and act-of-god type emergencies will be accepted; however, illness, tardiness (more than 5 minutes), haircuts, shopping trips, or any other unexcused type absence, or truancy will not be accepted.
- D. All injuries must be reported to the supervising coaches immediately. Should an injury be discovered after the athlete has returned home, the coach or Activities Director should be contacted. The coach will notify parents in the event their son/daughter is injured or hospitalized.
- E. In the event of an injury, the coach will fill out an injury report form and file it with the Athletic Director the next day. This form may provide a source of information if needed for insurance purposes.
- F. Any athlete who was injured and requires a physician's care must bring a note from the physician in order to verify the student is well enough to practice and compete.

## **TEAM TRAVEL**

- A. The school district furnishes transportation to and from all away athletic contests in a school vehicle accompanied by a coach. Any other mode of transportation to contests is not allowed.
- B. However, there are occasions when return trips with parents may be accepted. If this is desired, parents must make contact with the coach at the end of the contest. This permission must be granted by the school Principal, activities director, or coach. A student may only ride home with his/her parent/legal guardian.
- C. The parent/legal guardian giving the ride must make direct personal contact with the coach after the contest before the athlete is excused.
- D. Failure to comply will result in travel restrictions and contest disqualification.

## **EQUIPMENT CARE AND RETURN**

- A. Student athletes shall be responsible for the care, maintenance, and return of all equipment they are issued. Any equipment lost or abused must be paid for by the student to whom it was issued.
- B. Equipment issued to a student athlete may be used only by that athlete. Use of this equipment is restricted to practice and sanctioned school competition.
- C. School-issued practice equipment is not to be used for physical education or personal wear. Continued misuse of equipment in this manner will be cause for turning it in and the student furnishing his or her own equipment.
- D. Each athlete is responsible to take care of his/her equipment, their locker area, personal effects, and personal hygiene throughout the season.

## **SIGNATURE PAGE**

Parent and student signatures on the online registration page are required prior to beginning practice in a sport.

## **APPENDIX I: SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT**

Scholastic achievement should be the prime concern of the student; therefore, failure in a class during any quarter will have an impact in a student's participation in sports and activities.

- A. Students participating in interscholastic athletics in grade 7-8 must maintain a passing grade in ALL of their subjects.
- B. If the student athlete fails to meet his academic standard he/she will be subject to the following consequences:
  - a. Failure in one (1) subject:
    - i. Ineligible for 20% of the interscholastic contests. During ineligibility period the student must attend all practice sessions. Each unexcused practice extends the consequence by one interscholastic contest.
  - b. Failure of two (2) subjects:
    - i. Ineligible for 33% of the interscholastic contests. These failures may be concurrent in the same marking period or cumulative over the student's 7-8

grade experience. Each unexcused practice extends the consequence by one interscholastic contest.

- c. Failure in three (3) subjects (concurrent or cumulative):
  - i. Ineligible for not less than 50% of the interscholastic contests. A student who has accumulated three failures may request in writing a meeting with the Meyer Middle School Athletic Committee to show cause why he/she should be allowed to continue participation in the athletic program. The committee will consist of a middle school coach (of the sport involved if possible), a middle school teacher or counselor (of the student if possible), building administrator(s), and the Athletic Director (or his/her designee).
  - ii. All incompletes must be made up within two (2) weeks or the time specified by the teacher. If they are not made up the grade will be recorded as a failure. Exceptions to this would be long term illness or emergency situations.
  - iii. Consequences for this portion of the code are independent of other consequences outlined in this code.

## **AGE REQUIREMENT**

A student shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition as a member of a team consisting of grade 7 or 8 students if he/she reaches his/her birthday before August 1 of any given school year (7<sup>th</sup> grade – 15; 8<sup>th</sup> grade – 16).

## **APPENDIX II: TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, OR ILLICIT SUBSTANCE USE AND OTHER VIOLATIONS OF THE ATHLETIC CODE**

River Falls School District has adopted the following rules and consequences for violation of these rules. Violations during the summer will carry over to the following school year. Consequences for violations of the activities code apply to all activities in which the student participates. Below are the consequences for athletics and for co-curriculars.

- 1. Violations of Controlled Substance Act/ Controlled Substances, use of Illegal/Dangerous Weapons, and Felonies.
  - a. Any student who, through standards of fairness as established by the RFSD Activities Department, is found to be in violation of these provisions of the Code shall be withheld from at least fifty (50) percent of the actual number scheduled by the school for that sport.
- 2. Violations - Any student subject to this code shall not:
  - a. Possess, use, or consume cigarettes, cigars, or chewing tobacco.
  - b. Violate any of the Wisconsin Criminal Statutes as listed by chapter dealing with:

|                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| alcoholic beverages              | crimes against life and body |
| crimes against health and safety | crimes against property      |
| sexual morality                  | gambling                     |
| crimes against government        | disorderly conduct           |
| crimes against animals           | harassment/bullying          |
  - c. Use look-a-likes, including but not limited to, “vapor”, smoking of electronic apparatus, or other substitute forms of cigarettes; containers that may or may not

contain alcohol, etc

- d. Violate any municipal/county ordinance or laws of other jurisdictions in conformity with the previous listed statutes. It is not necessary for a student to have received a ticket to be considered in violation. Consequences for a violation of the above are listed below.

- A. First infraction: The student through athletic department standards of fairness found in violation of the rule will be subject to the following regulations:
  1. Will be withheld from interscholastic competition for 20% of the maximum number of interscholastic contests scheduled by the school for that sport. Any un-served portion of a penalty and/or violation which occurs during the off season will be carried over to the next sport in which the athlete participates.  
NOTE: when using the percentage, any fraction will be rounded up to the nearest whole number (i.e. 20% of 12 = 2.4 or 3 contests)
  2. The athlete must continue to practice. Each practice missed adds one more contest to the suspension.
  3. Counseling concerning the problem inherent in the infraction will be provided to the student in violation of the rule.
  4. Parents will be contacted and informed of the infraction, the penalty, and the counseling procedures initiated.
- B. Second infraction:
  1. The student athlete shall be withheld from all sports for the remainder of that school year. Violation during the summer carries over to the next school year.
- C. Third infraction:
  1. The student athlete shall be withheld from all sports for the duration of his/her 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade experience.
  2. A student athlete may appeal in writing for a meeting with the Athletic committee for reinstatements. The committee must meet within 15 school days after receiving the written appeal and must render a decision within 10 school days after the hearing.

#### Procedures for administering the Athletic Code:

- A. Violation of the code is made known to the Activities Director (AD) or Building Administrator.
- B. Activity Director or designee meets with the athlete to present charges.  
The student will be given the opportunity to be heard.
  1. If the accused admits to the violation or infraction, the Activities Director states to him/her the prescribed action according to the code violation. The athlete serves his/her consequence and returns to competition.

### **APPENDIX III: 7-8 ATHLETIC CODE STANDARD OF FAIRNESS**

- A. Students accused of violating the rules and regulations of this athletic code will be subject to standards of fairness as established by the Athletic Department in the administration of the Code:
  1. The student will be informed of the charges being brought against him/her.
  2. The student may be present, along with his/her parents and/or guardian, if/when the charges are presented.

3. The student may contest the charge. The student will be given the opportunity to be heard
  4. The student may be present, along with his/her parents, when the committee reviews the infraction or charge. Following presentation, the vote is by secret ballot on whether he/she is to be found guilty or innocent of the charge as well as the penalty if any. The committee will consist of a middle school coach (of the sport involved if possible), a middle school teacher or counselor (of the student if possible), building administrator(s), and the Activities Director (or his/her designee).
- B. Any student wishing to appeal the decision of the athletic committee must adhere to the following standards:
1. After a ruling of ineligibility resulting in suspension from athletics has been made, an athlete and/or his/her parents may formally appeal the decision in writing to the Athletic Director provided an appeal is received within five (5) days from the first day such an eligibility shall take effect. **An athlete who appeals an infraction and/or penalty shall be ineligible during the appeal process for up to the extent of the penalty.**
  2. The Activities Director, within three days of receipt of such written appeal, shall formalize the ineligibility decision in writing and send a letter, by registered mail, to the parents outlining the specific details relating to the (a) violation or infraction; (b) date of violation or infraction; (c) period of suspension; and (d) any other pertinent information.
  3. After an appeal has been received and the school's formal reply mailed to the parents, a date for a hearing will be established by the Principal, such date to be no later than five (5) days after the receipt of the written appeal of the athlete and his/her parents. Present at the hearing, in addition to the athletic committee of the school, shall be the athlete and the parent(s), and if a rule relation to a specific sport is involved, the head coach of that sport.
    - a. The athlete will be provided with an opportunity to be heard and present other evidence on his/her behalf.
    - b. Proceedings, including the decision, will be put in writing, and a copy of these proceedings will be mailed to the athlete and his/her parents.
  4. If at this point the athlete and his/her parents are not satisfied with the findings of their opportunity to be heard regarding the decision, a second opportunity to be heard may be requested. This meeting will be with the Principal.  
The second request to be heard must be in writing to the Athletic Director or Principal within five (5) days of the mailing of the outcome of the original hearing. A student who is found, under standards of fairness established by the Athletic Department, to be ineligible up to the extent of the penalty during any appeal.  
NOTE: Provisions as outlined in number 3 above, including items (a) and (b), will be applicable relating to any subsequent hearing.
  5. The athlete or his/her parents, if not satisfied with the ruling of a particular hearing at one level, may request to be heard at the next higher level. The next level of opportunity to be heard after the Principal will be with the Superintendent or his/her designee. The final level of opportunity to be heard, after the Superintendent, will be the Board of Education. Requests to be heard must always be in writing to the Activities Director or Principal within five (5) school days of mailing of the outcome of the last such meeting. **The procedures for requesting opportunities to be heard, timelines, and sequence of levels specified above must be followed or the request will be automatically denied. In all cases and at all levels, the athlete who requests to be heard**

**regarding a consequence shall be ineligible during the “request to be heard” process for up to the extent of the consequence.**

6. The provision as outlined above shall be the sole and exclusive remedy for appeal from the rulings referred to in paragraph A

### **INELIGIBILITY**

The minimum period of ineligibility for any violations of the provision of the Code, UNLESS SPECIFIED HEREIN, shall be no less than one (1) contest. After a determination of ineligibility has been made, the athlete will be ineligible for the next scheduled contest and will serve the period of ineligibility on consecutive contest dates. If a contest is cancelled or rescheduled, the ineligibility will move to the next consecutive date until fulfilled.

### **River Falls School District Athletic Department - Parent/Athlete/Coach Expectations**

Parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each other's expectations, we are better able to accept the actions of both parties and provide greater benefits to the student/athlete. When a child becomes involved in a co-curricular activity, parents and coaches have a right to understand what EXPECTATIONS are going to be placed on the athlete and on each other. This begins with clear communication from the athlete, parent, coach, and athletic department.

#### **Communications/Expectations Parents/Athletes Should Expect From The Coaches:**

1. The expectations the coaches have for their children and all team members.
2. Location and times of all practices.
3. Team requirements, fees, special equipment, game dress, off-season opportunities.
4. The policy dealing with excused and unexcused absences. (What will the consequence be for missing a game/practice because of vacation?)
5. The River Falls and WIAA requirements for eligibility.
6. Team rules beyond the River Falls Activities Code.
7. The lettering requirements.
8. The coaches act as a role model for good sportsmanship, use of appropriate language, promoting a healthy environment and safe teaching techniques.
9. Well-planned practices.

#### **Communications/Expectations Coaches Should Expect From the Athlete and Parents:**

1. Notification of any scheduled conflicts that may occur, well in advance of the season. (Vacations, etc.)
2. Special concerns regarding coaching expectations. (Practice requirements)
3. Support for the Activities Code and all team rules.
4. If the athlete has a concern, the parents should encourage their son/daughter to speak with the coach or coaching staff.
5. Support for all team members and the coaching staff.
6. Positive support at games for their son/daughter, their teammates and the coaching staff.
7. Exhibit good sportsmanship and appropriate language by the athlete and parents at games and/or practices.
8. A great work ethic at practices and in games.

#### **Appropriate Concerns Athlete/Parent May Address with Coaching Staff:**

1. The treatment of the athlete mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help the athlete improve his/her performance and skill level.
3. Concerns about the athletes' behavior in school/practices/games.

#### **Areas That Are Not Appropriate For Parents to Discuss With Coaches:**

1. An individuals playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play selections.
4. The make-up of the team and the decision as to who plays on a particular team.



5. Other members of the team, other parents, and other coaches.

### **The Proper Method To Address a Concern:**

#### **Step One:**

- a. The athlete speaks with the coach. (Would suggest the coaching staff be involved/present when this conference takes place)

#### **Step Two:**

- a. The parent asks for a conference with the coach and the athlete. (If the coach cannot be reached, the parent should contact the athletic director and he will arrange for the coach to contact the parent.

#### **Step Three:**

- a. If the conference between the parent/athlete and coach does not resolve the concern, there will be a meeting set up by the athletic director. The AD will moderate the conference.
- b. The conference will deal with the specific issues that the parent/athlete has. Both parties will be allowed to speak in an uninterrupted manner. The conference will be in a non-threatening environment.

### **Parent-Student Agreement**

I have read the athletic code of the River Falls Middle School. I understand that violation of any of the WIAA or River Falls Middle School regulations will result in action as prescribed. Furthermore, any act in violation of the athletic code that occurs outside the school setting that is brought to the attention of school authorities, will be prosecuted under the athletic code following standards of fairness. Further, we understand that participation in school sponsored extra-curricular activities is a privilege and that all such participation is voluntary. We are aware that playing or practicing to play/participate in any extra-curricular activity can be dangerous, involve many risks and injuries. We understand that some risk is assumed by the participant as a matter of participation. We further understand that some of these activities (e.g. football, wrestling, and gymnastics) involve even greater risk of injury than others and that such injuries can be permanently disabling, crippling, or fatal.

Because of the dangers of participating in such activities, we recognize the importance of following the coach's/advisor's instructions regarding playing techniques, training, and other rules, etc., and agree to obey such instructions.

Participation in sports increases the possibility of coming in contact with the blood and body fluids of other people. At the present time, Hepatitis B and HIV are of the most concern for disease transmission. Student athletes should avoid assisting in any body fluid spills clean up. If blood is splashed in the eyes, nose, mouth, or any open wounds, flush the area with water immediately and talk to your coach/advisor about the occurrence. If you have concerns we suggest you consult with your physician about the Hepatitis B Vaccine.

# RIVER FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTIVITY FEES

## HIGH SCHOOL

\$170 Maximum Individual Fee  
\$300 Maximum Family Fee

ATHLETIC - \$85 Each Individual Sport

NON-ATHLETIC - \$85 Marching Band  
\$60 Each Individual Activity:  
Jazz Band  
Drama  
Costume Carolers  
Forensics  
Mock Trial

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

\$120 Maximum Individual Fee  
\$300 Maximum Family Fee

ATHLETIC - \$60 Each Individual Sport

NON-ATHLETIC - \$60 Each Individual Activity:  
Jazz Band  
Select Choir  
Drama  
Forensics

**Athletics (High School and Middle School)** - Fees must be paid, in full, along with the physical form or alternate physical card and the signed Athletic Code to the activities office at the River Falls High School Activities Office.

**Activities - High School** – Fees must be paid, in full, along with the signed Co-Curricular Activities Code at the River Falls High School Activities Office.

**Activities - Middle School** – Fees must be paid, in full, at the River Falls High School Activities Office.

Checks should be made to the River Falls High School.

A waiver is available to those students who qualify for free and reduced lunch or have unusual circumstances. This waiver is granted by the Activities Office.

**Any questions, please call the activities office at 425-1830, ext. 3710**