

Philosophy of the Athletic Program

The Philosophy of the Athletic Program is to provide a well-rounded program with opportunities for all students to participate in the sports of their choice.

This includes providing an athletic program that will achieve the following objectives:

- The student will improve and maintain physical fitness (strength, endurance, agility, neuromuscular coordination, balance, and flexibility).
- The student will develop an appreciation for athletics and other related activities through participation.
- The student will attain desirable health knowledge and safety practices.
- The student will learn the importance of scholastic achievement as a prerequisite to athletic competition.
- The program encourages qualities of self-control, self-confidence, self-discipline, dedication, leadership, loyalty, good sportsmanship, teamsmanship, and respect for others.

Athletic Participation Rule

If any athlete, male or female, is going to compete in a school-sponsored athletic sport (any sport), he or she must be enrolled in their prospective athletic period. This is not done as a punishment, but rather to keep things fair and consistent with all athletes. A good work ethic is valuable in each and every sport, no matter the specificity. The only possible exception to this rule would be a scheduling issue, where the student athlete has a conflict during the athletic period. Then, only the Athletic Director can give the needed permission to excuse the athlete from the athletic period.

All athletes must be in an off-season program prior to the sport they wish to participate in, unless prior arrangements have been made with the Head Coach or Athletic Director.

To eliminate conflicts with practicing times, athletes should adhere to this involvement pathway:

Fall Sports: football or volleyball, and/or cross-country

Winter Sports: basketball **or** soccer, and/or power lifting

Spring Sports: softball/baseball **and/or** soccer, and/or track, golf, tennis

***An athlete must choose between participating in soccer and basketball. Due to the overlap in season, an athlete cannot play both. Athletes participating in winter team sports (soccer/basketball) can still participate in spring team sports (softball/baseball) but will not start the spring team sport until the winter team sport season ends.**

Absence from Practice/Games

If an athlete is going to miss a practice or a game, it is the responsibility of the athlete to call or text the coach and let them know they will not be present. If an athlete does not call it is an **unexcused absence**. If the athlete does call it is considered excused. The coach will designate punishment for their own TEAM. Both excused and unexcused absences will make up the needed conditioning that was missed and **can affect game playing time.**

All Varsity athletes are NOT to miss any district games for other outside activities (school related or not). Doing so can lead to suspension of the rest of the season and/or continuation into the next sport.

Each head coach may choose to enforce stricter guidelines for their sport and will be approved to do so by the Athletic Director.

Student Insurance

Rice CISD provides student Insurance for all athletes. This insurance is only a Secondary Insurance policy.

Each Athlete is responsible for their own Primary Insurance policy.

If an athlete goes to a doctor or emergency room on their own, they must notify the Head Coach or Trainer and they **MUST** have a written insurance form from the Athletic Director or the Athletic Trainer. It is then the parents and/or medical personnel's responsibility to file the claim.

Alcohol and Illegal Drug Use

Alcohol and drug use will not be tolerated within the athletic policy at Rice CISD. There is a standard set of punishment phases assessed to the student athlete, each in accordance to the specific problem. Each problem will be handled by the Athletic Director, the school principal, and/or the Superintendent to assess punishment or removal from the program.

Random Drug Testing

During the School year, Rice CISD will have RDT (Random Drug Testing). Please be aware that failure to cooperate could lead to dismissal. **District policy will be followed if positive drug testing occurs.**

Riding Home Policy

Each athlete will ride home on the bus unless there is a parent at the game who signs out the athlete from a coach. If you want your child to ride home with another adult, you must have a written note given to the coach the day of the game before they leave.

For the protection of all, NO PHONE CALLS or TEXTS will be honored!

Grooming & Dress Code

All athletes are expected to maintain a high standard of appearance and will follow the Rice CISD Dress Code. Athletes are expected to look like athletes. If the hair becomes a distraction by color, length, or style, the Athletic Director will request that it be changed. This is done so all athletes representing Rice Consolidated will be looked upon with the utmost respect. The athlete will need to change his/her appearance according to the Athletic Director and Administration expectations or be removed from athletics. The Dress code adopted by each campus principal will be enforced.

The basic rules:

1. Earrings are subject to UIL rules per contest of each sport.
2. NO SAGGING.....
3. Hoodie off in the building.
4. Wear school issued clothes every day in athletics.
5. School issued clothes must stay at school.
6. Proper closed-toed shoes must be worn to be eligible to participate.
7. No cell phones out during school hours.

CELL PHONES inside ATHLETICS (outside the school day)

Players may possess and use cell phones. However, phones causing an interruption of team activities will result in a player losing the privilege of using a cell phone during the season. Cell phones are not allowed to be used during practice (and should remain locked in athlete's locker), in locker rooms, in the stands during an event, on the playing field, or bus rides for visitation purposes. They may be used to call home to arrange a pick-up ride after an event. If the phone is picked up at an event for improper use, the cell phone will be returned at the end of the day/night's activities.

Valuables

Every athlete is issued a lock for their personal locker and belongings. There is also a safe in each of the boys & girls athletic office. It is each athlete's responsibility to lock up their personal valuables or give them to a coach to lock in the safe. We encourage students to bring very little money and **NO** devices or other items of value to school. **During an away athletic**

event, it is the athletes' responsibility to turn in cell phones, iPads, electronic devices, or wallets to a coach to prevent stolen items.
WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PERSONAL VALUABLES THAT ARE STOLEN!

Letter Jackets

Letter jackets will be awarded to Varsity athletes only. To qualify, the athlete must be on the Varsity level of competition through the duration of the season. Each head coach from the individual sports will determine whether or not an athlete has earned a letter jacket. The final approval is determined by the Athletic Director. Athletes who are removed from a team or who quit a team are not eligible to receive a jacket. Jackets will only be ordered **twice** a year.

Athletic Discipline Plan

The athletic discipline plan for Rice Consolidated is very simple. It includes firmness, but fairness. The most important part of the discipline plan is its consistency. Every effort will be made to ensure that the punishment fits the crime.

Corporal punishment will be used only in EXTREME Situations. The Parent or Guardian will be notified before this is used. A form granting or denying this use must be signed & returned to Athletic Director.

Types of Punishment:

1. Tire Flips / Running / Sport drills
2. Corporal Punishment (CP)
3. Expulsion from Athletics

1st Offense: Verbal Warning & Tire Flips or CP.

2nd Offense: Athletic Director Meeting w/ Student & Parent & Tire Flips or CP.

3rd Offense: Contract in addition to other options **such as potential removal from athletics**

Offense Examples:

- When an athlete blatantly disrespects a coach or another team member in front of a coach.
- When an athlete is reported (via the weekly grade checklist) to be a behavior problem in the classroom.
- When an athlete fails to comply with locker room protocol (i.e. those who fail to keep their lockers clean and in order according to athletic standards as set by the Athletic Director or head coach of the sport).

Corporal punishment is not to be used in any of the following circumstances:

- Tobacco, alcohol, or drugs
- Any discipline problem an athlete incurs outside school grounds/time (ex. arrest)

Note: All of these problems will be dealt with through the Athletic Director/**Girls Coordinator** who will be responsible for setting up the punishment with an assigned coach.

Each discipline situation is usually a little different from any other one. So, therefore, each major problem will be handled on a fair, consistent, individualized basis and not as a “general rule”. Athletics is a privilege, not a right, and therefore we will remind athletes daily to act as so.

If any assistant coach is unclear or unsure how to handle a particular discipline problem, he/she will check with the Athletic Director for clarification. Problems concerning athletic discipline will be handled by the Athletic Director/Girls Coordinator, who will then inform the Superintendent as needed.

If a special or unique discipline problem should occur involving a student athlete outside the school grounds/time, the Athletic Director and building principal will work towards a mutual solution. If this mutual solution fails, the next step would be to confer with the Superintendent on the matter.

Quitting A Sport or Athletics

Rice athletics aims to provide student athletes with necessary tools needed to survive as an adult in society. Quitting (or the desire to) is something we all deal with at one time or another. We will do almost anything to keep any student athlete from quitting a sport or athletics.

The first step is to counsel with a coach/assistant coach to try and solve the athlete's problem and desire for quitting. The problem is then communicated to the Athletic Director for further options. When a student, after careful consideration to their coaches, teammates, the program, and themselves, decides to quit, then:

The following steps will occur:

- 1) The student will not be allowed to begin another sport until the sport he/she quit has ended.
- 2) The student must have the Athletic Director's permission to begin the next sport following their decision to quit the previous sport.
- 3) The student will not play the sport he/she quit for the duration of their high school career unless cleared to do so by the Athletic Director and that sport's head coach.
- 4) A letter or phone call from the parents to the Athletic Director stating they are aware of the situation will be required.

The coaching personnel realize there are circumstances that occur in a student's life that leave the option of quitting open for discussion with the Athletic Director. (Ex: disease, pregnancy, etc.) We do not want kids punished for quitting; but we want them to understand that quitting is not an option under our plan, unless it is a very unusual circumstance.

Removal/Suspension

The removal/suspension or quitting of any athlete/person will not be discussed among any athletes/persons except those directly involved.

Communication

Student/Coach Communication: Players, when you first have a question or concern, contact your coach as a first step to problem solving. If we cannot solve the problem, we will then consult the head coach, parents, administrators, etc. as the situation demands.

Parent/Coach Communication: If a question arises, please contact the coaching staff through e-mail. As a coaching staff, we feel that we can respond to concerns more completely and satisfactorily in writing. However, we recognize that some questions and concerns do not need to be addressed in writing and can be solved quickly. Please use the communication method with which you feel most comfortable and that is situation-appropriate. We do ask, however, that you refrain from asking for a conference on a game day.

Communication Chain of Command (in this order):

Assistant Coach
Head Coach
Coordinator
Athletic Director
Campus Principal
Superintendent
School Board

****This year's District Calendar has many Friday school holidays. Please note that athletic practices and events will still take place on Fridays with no school and will be mandatory events for all athletes.**

Requirements for the Rice Athletic Booster Club Scholarship

1. All requests must be neatly prepared and given to the Athletic Director two weeks prior to the Sports Banquet.
2. Anyone applying must have completed 3 or more sports in each of the 4 years in high school. If a person does not finish a sport, it will not count as a completed sport. Participation in cheerleading, manager or video technician counts as a sport.
3. You must be in good standing with the Athletic Department.
4. EACH athlete applying for a scholarship must have completed **32 hours** of duties over the athlete's four year high school career (outside their sport) to help the Athletic Department (Concession stand workers, field maintenance, tournament/meet help, little dribblers, etc.).
5. In addition, a parent (or some adult working specifically for a named athlete) or a combination of the two, must have worked a **minimum of 64 hours** at any of the events listed in Criteria #4 over the Athlete's four years of high school.
6. The Rice Booster Club Reporter/recorder will keep a running record of service hours throughout the year and will use this information to determine eligibility. Scholarships will be presented at the Academic Banquet, and re-mentioned at the Sports Banquet.

Student Contact

You and your child have chosen to participate in extracurricular activities at Rice CISD. Keeping you and your child informed of changes in practice times, arrival and departure times for activities, etc. is very important to ensuring your child's involvement is a positive experience. Students are informed of changes using a variety of methods. Advancements in and the affordability of technology (cell phones, email, etc.) have created another avenue for contact to take place.

Rice CISD is requesting that you approve or deny the use of this method for contacting you and your child.

_____ I APPROVE of Rice CISD employees contacting my child and/or myself regarding extracurricular activities through the following venues:

Parent Cell Number (Texting): _____

Student Cell Number (Texting): _____

Parent Email: _____

Student Email: _____

Please notify Rice CISD Administration immediately if you feel that contact outside the scope of involvement in the activity is made by an employee of the District or if contact was made without your knowledge.

_____ I DENY the contacting of my child or myself regarding extracurricular activities utilizing technology.

Parent / Guardian Signature

Date

While it is the preference of Rice CISD that all parents sign and return this form, failure to do so constitutes a DENIAL of the contacting of a child regarding extracurricular activities utilizing texting or email.

Parent/Guardian Choice of Discipline

Corporal punishment is used by the athletic department as a means of behavior reform. Parent/Guardians who choose for their athlete NOT to receive corporal punishment will receive an alternate type of punishment set by the specific sport's head coach and the Athletic Director, such as TIRE FLIPS or running.

THIS PAGE NEEDS TO BE RETURNED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Indicate below if you want corporal punishment used with your child. If agreeing to the use, you will be contacted prior to the occurrence of corporal punishment.

_____ Yes _____ NO

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Contact # _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

I have read and agree to all terms within the Athletic Policy Handbook.

Student name _____

-Parent/Guardian Signature _____

-Student Athlete Signature _____

For any questions or assistance, feel free to contact the coach of the sport or myself. We can be reached at:

(979) 234-6343 (Boys Athletics)

(979) 234-3531, ext. 1215 (Girls Athletics)

**Respectfully,
Coach Brad Dumont
Athletic Director
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