

**RANDOLPH EASTERN SCHOOL CORPORATION  
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY REGARDING ATHLETICS  
PHILOSOPHY**

It is the belief of the Randolph Eastern School Corporation that students who choose to participate in athletic activities must uphold the high standards of their school and conduct themselves in a way that will always be a credit to the Corporation.

**I. DEFINITION OF TERMS FOR THE ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

A. The Union City Jr/Sr High School student athlete includes all young men and women who represent a team that engages in interscholastic **athletic** competition and further includes cheerleaders, student managers, and statisticians. This would include all student athletes enrolled in Grades 5-12 in the Randolph Central School Corporation.

B. Controlled Substance is any illegal substance or drug, in any form as defined under Indiana Law, including alcoholic beverages, tobacco, intoxicants, and marijuana. This also includes legal drugs which are illegally used and unlawful possession of controlled substances as defined by I.C. 35-48-1-9.

C. Confirmed Violation (any of the following)

1. A communication from the office of the Prosecuting Attorney indicating probable cause to support the filing of criminal information or a petition of delinquency alleging possession, transfer, or use of a controlled substance.
2. A finding by the administration based upon the preponderance of evidence that a violation of this substance abuse policy has occurred. Due process will be given before a decision is reached, including:
  - a. A written or oral statement of charges;
  - b. If the student denies the charges, a summary of evidence against the student will be presented; and,
  - c. The student will be provided with an opportunity to explain his/her conduct.
3. A positive test through the Randolph Eastern Voluntary Drug/Substance Abuse Testing Program.
4. Self-Reporting—It is the intent of Union City Jr/Sr High School to assist students with the development of responsibility for their actions and to encourage honesty. Therefore, any student athlete who voluntarily reports his/her violation of the substance abuse policy before becoming the subject of or a party to a pending investigation will be granted leniency on his/her first offense (with the exception of a felony charge). The student will serve a lesser penalty for the infraction than stated; he/she will be suspended for 10% of the contests (or at least one). The self-reporting clause may only be used one time during the student's career at the school.

#### **D. CONDUCT AND TRAINING RULES**

The following rules will apply to all boys and girls who are involved in the inter-scholastic athletic program at Union City Jr/Sr High School. These rules are in effect 365 days a year. It is the responsibility of all coaches to assist in the enforcement of these rules. Once a student and their legal guardian have signed the athletic policy acceptance form on the last page of this handbook that student is considered an athlete and will be held responsible to this policy for the remainder of their athletic career at Union City Jr/Sr High School.

#### **II. SCOPE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY**

The provisions and penalties of this policy shall be imposed without regard to whether the violation was related to a school event and regardless of the day of the week on which the violation occurred. All provisions and penalties of the Substance Abuse Policy shall be cumulative in nature and shall apply throughout the student's enrollment in junior high school, whether continuous or not. When a student leaves junior high school, eligibility will be restored and any violations which occurred during a student's enrollment in the junior high school shall not affect future high school eligibility; however the summer after the eighth grade year, the student shall remain under the jurisdiction of the SAP policy. Should a violation occur, the suspension/probation shall be administered at the high school. In high school, provisions and penalties shall again be cumulative in nature and shall apply throughout the student's enrollment in high school, whether continuous or not.

#### **III. SUBSTANCE ABUSE RULE**

No student shall use, consume, buy, sell or transfer any controlled substance at any time. If an athlete is **present** at a party or gathering of people where alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs are being used or school rules and/or municipal laws are being violated, he/she is encouraged to leave immediately; otherwise he/she may be found guilty by association.

#### **IV. PROCEDURE AND GENERAL PROVISIONS**

A. Any penalty imposed under this policy shall apply to any and all athletic activities in which the student is participating at the time such penalty is imposed, and to any athletic activity in which the student normally participates during the term of the penalty. In the event the student is not participating in an athletic activity at the time a violation of this policy is confirmed, the penalty will apply to any subsequent athletic activity in which the student normally participates and shall remain in effect until successfully served and the student successfully completes participation in an athletic activity for the full term of the activity and is in good standing.

B. Once a violation is confirmed; the suspension period shall begin immediately and last until the student regains eligibility.

C. If the penalty is not completed during the school year, the remainder will carry over into the following school year.

D. The Building Level Athletic Director shall be responsible for athletic teams and shall monitor the students involved in athletic activities.

E. It shall be the primary responsibility of the athletic director, coach and building principal to implement and follow the provisions of this policy.

F. Upon receipt of information which would lead the athletic director to believe a violation has occurred, he/she shall take the following action:

1. Inform the student of the allegations constituting the grounds for invoking this policy.
2. Provide the student with an informal opportunity to explain the alleged conduct.
3. Notify the parents by telephone or by mail.

## **V. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY OR OTHER MISCONDUCT**

A. First Violation:

1. The student shall:

- Be ineligible to participate in 25% of the regularly scheduled athletic activities (maximum of 5 games).
- (Along with parent) be given the names of counseling and assistance agencies that the family may contact for help.
- During the period of suspension remain on the team roster and is to attend games/practices (after gaining limited participation status with a clean drug test if it is a DRUG TESTING POLICY infraction) if so instructed by the coach.
- Upon successful completion of the suspension period, regain full eligibility to participate in athletic activities without further intervention.

B. Second Violation:

1. The student shall:

- Be ineligible for participation for one full year. The building principal or his/her designee may reduce the suspension to 25% of the regularly scheduled games (maximum 5 games) with counseling in the Youth Guidance Program. The student Athlete must maintain good standing in the Youth Guidance Program or the original full year suspension will be reinstated .
- During the period of suspension remain on the team roster and is to attend games/practices (after gaining limited participation status with a clean drug test if it is a DRUG TESTING POLICY infraction) if so instructed by the coach.
- Upon successful completion of the suspension period, regain full eligibility to participate in athletic activities without further intervention.

### C. Third Violation:

1. The student shall lose eligibility to participate the remainder of their middle or high school career depending on the student's grade level.

### D. Other Violations that could be or are Criminal in Nature:

If a student athlete engages in conduct that could be or is criminal in nature, the school administration may conduct an investigation of the behavior. Due process will be given before a decision is reached, including:

- a. A written or oral statement of charges;
- b. If the student denies the charges, a summary of evidence against the student will be presented; and,
- c. The student will be provided with an opportunity to explain his/her conduct.

Should the administration, based on preponderance of evidence, determine that a student athlete has engaged in conduct that could be criminal in nature, the administration will determine the penalty to be imposed. Failure of victims, law enforcement, or the Prosecutor's Office to file criminal charges would not automatically absolve the student athlete of the duty to face penalties should the administration conclude, by preponderance of evidence, that the student athlete did engage in the conduct. *Examples of conduct that might fall under this category are theft, vandalism, assault, battery, and other similar behavior.*

### E. Suspension or Expulsion from School

A student athlete who is suspended from school by school administration is automatically suspended and excluded from any athletic activities for the duration of the suspension. Any student athlete who is expelled from school is automatically suspended and excluded from any athletic activities for the term of the expulsion.

### F. Right of School Administration to Impose Athletic Discipline

Notwithstanding the established penalties in this handbook, nothing in this handbook should be construed to limit the rights and abilities of school administrators to impose, after appropriate due process, athletic discipline of student athletes under their supervision. This may include exclusion from practicing, restriction of playing time, and other discipline that is determined to be appropriate by the school administration.

### G. Right of Coaches to Impose Team Discipline

Notwithstanding the established penalties in this handbook, nothing in this handbook should be construed to limit the rights and abilities of coaches to impose team discipline on student athletes under their supervision. This may include exclusion from practicing, appropriate consequences during practices for minor misconduct, restriction of playing time, and other discipline that is determined to be appropriate by the coach.

## VIII. OTHER GUIDELINES

All student athletes must abide by all IHSAA rules and regulations to maintain their athletic eligibility. Any questions regarding IHSAA policies should be directed to the Athletic Director.

1. All athletes must ride to and from athletic events on the bus or other transportation arranged by the coach. A coach can excuse a player to ride home with his/her parents if a travel release form is completed prior to the event. Athletes may ride home with parents only.
2. Any athlete who is suspended according to the substance abuse policy will miss the necessary number of matches, meets, games, etc. In addition, if an event is cancelled or rescheduled because of weather, these events will not be counted as a part of the suspension, and the athlete will miss the next match, game, etc. until the suspension has been completed.
3. All athletes must be enrolled in and passing five (5) high school credit classes each grading period to be eligible.
4. Students must be in attendance during the last half of their school day in order to participate in or attend any extra-curricular activity, contest, event, practice, or meeting held after school on a given day. Exception to this policy must be made by the principal or his designee. Students who are absent because of a funeral, doctor/dentist appointment will usually be given permission to participate in events on that date, depending upon the circumstances.
5. An athlete may continue to practice at the discretion of the coach during the time of his/her suspension.
6. If a violation occurs while an athlete is not currently involved in a sport, the athlete will lose his/her eligibility in the **next** sport season in which they would normally have participated and are ineligible until the suspension has been served. If the violation occurs late in a sport season and the suspension cannot be completed by the end of that season, the athlete shall serve as much as possible of the suspension during the next season in which the athlete normally participates.
7. Reinstatement after each suspension requires approval by the administration.
8. An athlete who has been suspended may forfeit his/her awards in that sport, including a varsity letter award. This determination will be made by the administration.
9. Any student may earn a varsity letter in his/her first year as a manager at the discretion of the coach.

10. Any athlete who quits one sport cannot go out for another sport in the same season without the consent of both coaches.
  
11. All athletes will wear proper attire while in public or in the presence of the opposite sex while participating in practice, conditioning or contests. Proper attire will consist of at least gym shorts and a tank/sport top (unaltered). There should be no or only a minimal amount of midriff exposed. The following items are examples of clothing which will be considered insufficient:  
(Sports' bras, spaghetti straps, cut-off T-shirts, sagging shorts, rolled down shorts, etc.)

**UNION CITY JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC APPLICATION**

I have received the Athletic Handbook and Code of Conduct and I will abide by those rules and regulations. I promise to uphold the high standards of my school and at all times conduct myself in a way that will always be a credit to Union City Jr/Sr High School.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant (Student)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Grade)

\_\_\_\_\_ has my permission, if selected, to participate as a member of an athletic team at Union City Jr/Sr High School. I have read the Athletic Handbook and Code of Conduct and will assist in every way to see that the rules are followed and enforced.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Handbook approved by the Board of School Trustees