MONMOUTH ACADEMY
MONMOUTH MEMORIAL SCHOOL
Home of the Mustangs

Athletic & Extracurricular Handbook
2026–2027

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Introduction

We are excited to welcome you to our dynamic athletic and extracurricular community, where dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship are at the heart of everything we do. This Handbook is designed to provide you with essential information about our athletic program, policies, and expectations, ensuring a successful and enjoyable experience for both student-athletes and their families.

Students and parents/guardians should be aware of all expectations, rules, and policies before deciding to become a member of any team. Participation in any athletic team or extracurricular program is a privilege and with this comes the responsibility of adhering to all Monmouth Academy (MA), Monmouth Memorial School (MMS), Regional School Unit 2 (RSU 2), Maine Principals' Association (MPA), and individual team expectations, rules, regulations, and policies.

In addition to the rules and policies found in this handbook, individual coaches may establish additional rules for their team as long as these do not conflict with any school, RSU 2, or MPA policy. Such rules will be explained to the student participants at the beginning of the season.

Thank you for your partnership and commitment to fostering a positive and rewarding athletic experience!

Eligibility for Participation

Initial Eligibility for Participation: In order to participate on any athletic or extracurricular team at Monmouth Academy (MA) or Monmouth Memorial School (MMS), the student must:

1. Meet all eligibility requirements of the Maine Principals' Association as well as the conference or organization that governs the particular sport or activity.

2. Be enrolled full-time at MA/MMS. A full-time enrolled student is one who maintains regular attendance and is enrolled in, and successfully meeting academic standards, in a minimum of five learning experiences per semester in a program of studies approved by the principal. OR

   Students receiving home-school instruction are eligible to try out for extracurricular activities provided the student resides in RSU 2, the parent/guardian of the student applies in writing to the Principal, and the following requirements are satisfied Is a documented home-schooled student (Board Policy IHBGA):

   A. The student agrees to abide by equivalent rules of participation as are applicable to regularly enrolled students participating in the activity and provides evidence that the rules of participation are being met.
   B. The student complies with the same physical examination, immunization, insurance, age, and semester eligibility requirements as regularly enrolled students participating in the activity. All required documentation must be made available upon request by the school. The school principal is authorized to collect from the student's parent/guardian actual samples of coursework (i.e. assessments, etc.) as they deem necessary in order to make the determination that the necessary academic standards have been met.
   C. The student meets equivalent academic standards as those established for regularly enrolled students participating in the activity and provides evidence that the academic standards are being met.
   D. The student abides by the same transportation policy as regularly enrolled students participating in the activity.

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Required Parent/Guardian & Student-Athlete Participation Documents:

NOTE ⇨ Athletes cannot try-out, practice, and/or participate in any MA/MMS sport until all of the documents listed below are returned.

1. **Physical Examination**: Students cannot try-out, practice, and/or participate in any RSU 2 sport without a current physical on file in the nurse's office. **Physical exams from a certified physician are valid for two (2) years based on the date of the physical exam.** Physicals must cover the entire timeframe of the current season in which sport participation occurs.

2. **Pre-Participation Medical Questionnaire:** This form is completed prior to each sports season to provide up-to-date medical information. This information will be kept confidential and shared only with appropriate school medical personnel, athletic trainers, and coaches as needed for your child's safety.

3. **Proof of Insurance:** The school does not provide health insurance and is not liable for costs that exceed personal health coverage. If needed, "School time" accident insurance can be purchased through this company.

4. **Emergency Information Card:** Students are required to complete and return a "Medical Information Card". All information must be filled out completely.

5. **Pledge:** Student and parent/guardian sign that each is aware and understands the eligibility rules and regulations of MA/MMS and the Maine Principals' Association and that the student agrees to adhere to all expectations, rules, policies found in this Handbook including the Extracurricular Code of Conduct and team rules.

6. Student and parent/legal guardian must read and sign: **"Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk", "Parent/legal Guardian Authorization for Emergency Medical Treatment", and "Student, Parent/legal Guardian Acknowledgement of Concussion Information".**

If students and/or parents/guardian(s) have any questions about any information included in the "Student & Parent/Guardian Athletic Participation Forms", they should ask for clarification from the Athletic Director.

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Academic Eligibility Policy

To be eligible to compete in athletics and/or extracurricular activities students must be demonstrating successful academic progress in all their courses.

If a student is failing more than one class at a 69 or below, they are subject to the academic eligibility rules below.

Eligibility Check Dates 2026–2027

Soft Check: Soft check is a reminder to students that the eligibility check is the following week.
Soft Check Dates: 9/18, 10/30, 12/4, 1/08; 2/12, 3/12, 4/9, 05/7, 5/28

Hard Check Dates: **9/25, 11/6, 12/18, 01/15, 02/26, 03/19, 4/16, 05/14, 06/04**
The final report card will be used to determine fall eligibility.

If a student does not meet the eligibility threshold at the eligibility checkpoint:

1. Athletic Director or the extracurricular advisor/coach will meet with the student to provide a plan template to the student.
2. Athletic Director will notify the parent/guardian that the student has received a plan.
3. Student will develop an academic plan in conjunction with their teacher(s).
4. Student will turn a copy of the plan into the Athletic Director.
5. Student is allowed to participate as normal.
6. Parent/guardian is informed of the plan by the teacher.

If a student does not fulfill the terms of the academic plan after one week:

1. Athletic Director and/or the coach/advisor will meet with the student to review the plan.
2. A teacher can override ineligibility if a student is diligently working with the teacher in the formative stages but has difficulty grasping the concept.
3. **Student is not allowed to participate in games, interscholastic and/or performance competitions.**
4. The student will be reinstated immediately upon earning a passing grade. Teachers have 48 hours from the time of turning a task in to grade it and update the grade in Infinite Campus.

If a student has 2 (two) consecutive weeks of not fulfilling the terms of the academic plan:

1. Athletic Director and/or the advisor will meet with the student to review and tweak the plan.
2. **Student is not allowed to participate in practices, games. interscholastic and/or performance competitions.**
3. If the student, during the term of "suspension", earns a passing score they will be reinstated after 48 hours from the time of turning a task in and earning a passing score.

Notes:

- If a student is failing the same required course at two checkpoints in a row, student will be referred to the school's SAT or MTSS team for an academic plan
- A student who does not meet eligibility requirements at the end of year report card will be required to complete credit recovery or summer school and work towards eligibility in order to be eligible for the fall season. If the school offers the course in the summer the student will be required to take the course in order to be eligible. If the school does not offer a course that was failed the student will start the fall season on an eligibility plan with a determined date to finish up the course.

Extracurricular Activities Covered by the Code of Conduct and Eligibility Policy

- Students who participate in interscholastic and/or performance competitions, including but not limited to Athletics, Academic Decathlon, FBLA, Math Team, One Act Play, Robotics, Jazz Band, Jazz Choir
    - There will be an eligibility check two (2) weeks prior to an interscholastic and/or performance event
- Students elected or appointed to student leadership positions, including but not limited to Student Government, National Honor Society

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Completion of Missed Learning Activities/Assignments/Assessments: Any student-athlete dismissed early from school to attend an athletic event (including practice) is responsible for all learning activities, assignments, labs, assessments, etc. missed. All assignments should be obtained in advance so the student is prepared for the next time the class meets.

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School Attendance and Participation in Athletic Practices, Games, Events

- **Daily Attendance at School:** Students must be in attendance by **8 a.m.** on the day of the scheduled activity in order to participate. Students absent from school **will not participate or attend** the practice/competition/event scheduled for that day unless the absence is considered excused **and** have received permission from the Principal, Assistant Principal, or Athletic Director to participate. A team member under disciplinary in-school or out-of-school suspension for any reason forfeits their participation rights for practices, tryouts, interscholastic contests, or other team, club, or organization functions while suspended.

- **Dismissal from School:** Students who are dismissed from school for any reason **will not participate or attend** the practice/competition/event scheduled for that day unless the absence is considered excused **and** have received permission from the Principal, Assistant Principal, or Athletic Director to participate.

District Philosophy of Athletics

RSU 2 recognizes the value of athletics as an integral part of the educational program and believes that participation in sports provides unique and significant learning experiences and opportunities for personal growth. Learning in sports is closely related to learning in the classroom. In competition and practice, student-athletes learn skills, strategies, relationships, leadership, self-discipline and responsibility. They also learn the importance of setting goals for themselves and the team, and planning how to achieve those goals.

We also believe that participation in sports is related to physical and emotional health and fitness. Sports provide the incentive for developing and maintaining healthy bodies and active minds; promote habits of exercise and good nutrition; and build self-confidence and a sense of personal responsibility for making healthy lifestyle choices.

School-sponsored athletics are designed to provide instruction and encourage participation in experiences that are not part of the required curriculum. Athletics play an important role in enhancing the overall educational experience and provide benefits difficult to achieve in other areas of education. However, at no time should athletics supersede academics.

Participation in school-based athletics is a privilege extended to a student and is not a right conferred on the student. Students who volunteer to participate in Monmouth Academy and Monmouth Memorial School athletics assume obligations to their team, their coach, their school, their community, and, most importantly, to themselves. This is an important responsibility, as important as winning, because there is an expectation to emulate the highest qualities of honesty, courtesy, dedication, self-sacrifice, and good sportsmanship, both in and outside of school.

Based on these beliefs, we offer students the opportunity to experience developmentally appropriate athletic programs that promote healthy competition, sportsmanship, cooperation, integrity and citizenship.

At the **high school level**, the athletic program is designed to serve the needs of students who have shown that they are developmentally ready for intense competitive experiences.

- **Varsity** student-athletes are those who have achieved the most skill in their respective sport and are ready physically and emotionally for the most competitive level of athletics. The major goal of a varsity team is to reach its full potential. In order to do that, it is not realistically possible for all team members to receive equal playing time. The athletes' playing times are determined by the nature of the sport, the situation, and the coach's judgment. Every team member cannot expect to play in every contest; therefore, it is essential that varsity coaches help each athlete understand and accept their role on the team.

- **Junior Varsity (JV)** student-athletes are those who are working to possess the necessary skill to compete at the varsity level. The main objectives of the JV program are to provide student-athletes with a positive experience and to prepare them with the necessary skills and experiences to move on to the varsity level. Some JV student-athletes may be asked to swing between the JV and varsity levels in the event of the number of players in the program or to gain some varsity experience when the situation is warranted.

At the **middle school level**, the athletic program is designed to meet the developmental needs of students through appropriate interscholastic activities. At this level, athletic programs will emphasize exploration of various sports, the strengthening of fundamental skills, teamwork, sportsmanship, and health and safety. The middle level program promotes opportunities for involvement of all team members in practices and play.

The Goals of Middle Level Athletics Are to

- Provide a range of athletic opportunities for middle school students.
- Provide enjoyable experiences beyond the classroom which allow students to be connected and associated as part of the school.
- Foster personal characteristics which extend beyond the core curriculum. These characteristics include: sportsmanship, leadership, citizenship, communication, time management, dealing with adversity, work ethic, teamwork, developing lifelong relationships, commitment to a healthy lifestyle and life-long personal fitness, dedication & commitment, responsibility, honesty, self-discipline, and respect.
- Develop the basic fundamental skills of each activity for each participant and help each improve in these skills from the beginning of the season to the end.

Middle-level Coaches Work to Achieve These Goals By:

- Considering the gym, field, etc. as their classroom.
- Considering themselves as a “teacher” of the activity they are coaching or advising.
- Having a teaching knowledge of what is needed to teach the appropriate skills.
- Developing written practice plans that will teach the basic fundamental skills that are age and skill-level appropriate.
- Attempting to develop all participants who are part of the activity.
- Attempting to play each activity member an appropriate amount of time based on their effort, skill development, attitude, and ability to apply what they have learned in practice.
- Understanding that they are developing the basic skills that will help student participants improve from the beginning of the season to the end.
- Modeling the type of behavior we expect from our student-athletes. Through their modeling, coaches/advisors strive to teach student participants how to deal with adversity, how to communicate effectively and positively with teammates, opponents, game officials, coaches, advisors, administrators, and parents.
- **Understanding that teaching how to win and be successful is important, but winning is not the main priority at this level.**

Athletic Teams

MA and MMS sponsor a wide-range of athletic teams. Due to the small overall student enrollment of our schools, as well as financial constraints, we are unable to sponsor as many teams as larger schools. Our **school-sponsored teams** are composed of our own student-athletes, compete as MA or MMS, and are funded by the school district.

In an effort to provide additional opportunities for our student-athletes, at times we attempt to partner with other local high schools to offer cooperative teams. Students compete under the name of the high schools involved (i.e. Winthrop/Monmouth). Cooperative teams are funded by parents/guardians, **not** the school. The Athletic Director, in consultation with the Principal and Superintendent, arranges and approves potential partner schools and cooperative agreements. MA/MMS does not provide transportation for cooperative teams. **Parents/legal guardians are responsible for transporting their child to and from cooperative team practices, games, and events.** Students interested in these activities should contact the athletic director for more information.

Athletic Teams offered include:

Monmouth Academy

Fall	Winter	Spring
Boys Soccer	Boys Basketball	Baseball
Girls Soccer	Girls Basketball	Softball
Boys & Girls Cross Country	Cheerleading	Boys & Girls Track and Field
Golf (cooperative) *	Wrestling	Boys Lacrosse (cooperative) *
Football (cooperative) *	Boys Hockey (cooperative)*	Girls Lacrosse (cooperative) *

Monmouth Memorial School

Fall	Winter	Spring
Boys Soccer	Boys Basketball	Baseball
Girls Soccer	Girls Basketball	Softball
Boys & Girls Cross Country	Cheerleading	Boys & Girls Track and Field
Football (cooperative) *	Wrestling	

* Cooperative teams are not financially sponsored by RSU 2; therefore, student-athletes pay a fee stated in the cooperative agreement to participate.

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Athletic Team Participation Guidelines

MA & MMS Team Policy: When a student makes the decision to commit to an MA or MMS team, it is expected that the student-athlete will attend all practices and games/meets/matches (including exhibition and playoffs). In extraordinary circumstances, the "MPA Bona Fide Team Policy" will be adhered to (stated below). School team practices/games/meets/matches should always take precedence over any non-school teams. Participation on more than one MA or MMS athletic team per season is not permitted.

MPA (Maine Principals' Association) "Bona Fide Team Policy": "A member of a school team is a student-athlete who is regularly present for and actively participates in team practices and competitions. Bona fide

members of a school team are prevented from missing high school practice or competition to compete or practice elsewhere.

Two waivers per student-athlete per sport season may be granted by the Principal on a case-by-case basis for extraordinary circumstances. (e.g. If a student-athlete is invited to participate in a prestigious weekend event then a waiver may be granted. If a student-athlete is invited to participate in a nationally recognized tournament over a school vacation then that waiver may be granted for that activity. If a student-athlete requests to miss practice every Friday because that student is receiving specialized coaching from an outside team/coach, then a waiver should not be granted because it violates the spirit and intent of the rule.)"

The waivers must be submitted to the Principal in writing a minimum of two weeks prior to the requested waiver date. *Penalty for violation of this policy: 1st Violation--Report violation to MPA office, suspension from play for one regular season game/contest*; 2nd Violation--Report violation to MPA office, removal from team for remainder of season. (Source: Maine Principals' Association 2025-2026 Handbook, Article II Eligibility Rules, Section 2 – Student Eligibility, "D."). *If the violation occurs at the end of a sports season, the student-athlete will be suspended from the first regular season game/contest in the following that the student-athlete competes.

Switching and/or Leaving a Team:

Switching Teams: Students may not switch from one athletic team to another after the first week of the pre-season. During the first week of the preseason a student-athlete may switch to a different team if they speak with the Athletic Director and no athletes were cut from that team.

Leaving (Quitting) a Team: Student-athletes leaving an athletic team after the first two weeks of the pre-season must meet with the coach and the Athletic Director. Failure to meet and provide a reason that meets with the approval of the coach and Athletic Director may result in the student being ineligible for the next sport season. In cases of disagreement among the coach and Athletic Director, the decision of the Principal shall be final.

When a student-athlete leaves a team for any reason, all items issued (uniforms, practice jerseys, warm-ups, gloves, equipment, etc.) to the athlete will be returned to the Athletic Director in good condition within two days. Lost, stolen or damaged material is the responsibility of the student's parent/guardian and their parent/guardian will be charged for its full replacement cost. Substitutions of equipment or uniforms are not permitted.

Removal from a Team or Event (practice, game, etc.): The privilege of participation may be revoked by a coach, Athletic Director, or Principal if students do not conduct themselves in a manner that reflects favorably upon the school. Coaches have the right to take appropriate disciplinary action pertaining to any issue that may arise; however, if dismissal from a team is considered, the coach must obtain prior approval from the Athletic Director. In cases of disagreement among the coach, Athletic Director, and Principal, the decision of the Principal shall be final. The parent/guardian (s) will be notified of the dismissal by the coach, Athletic Director, or the Principal.

Conduct: Athletes who receive technical fouls, yellow cards, excessive penalty minutes, or other penalties for unsportsmanlike behavior may be suspended from game participation and will meet with the Athletic Director to determine an appropriate course of disciplinary action.

The coach, in consultation with the Athletic Director or Principal, may remove students' privilege of participating in any athletic event (practice, game, etc.) for violation of team, school, RSU 2, or MPA expectations, rules, and policies.

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Student-Athletes Responsibilities of Participation: Participation in athletics is not a right but a privilege. As such, there are certain responsibilities associated with that privilege. They include:

- **Responsibility for Academics** – Working hard to achieve success in the classroom, preparing for academic classes, helping create a positive atmosphere in the classroom and school
- **Responsibility to be a Positive Influence in School** – Abiding by school rules, being a positive influence throughout the school community, supporting other school activities and participants.
- **Responsibility to Team** – Supporting teammates, following team and athletic department rules, preparing for success with off-season preparation, accepting the decision of the coaches, playing hard and with passion, respecting the traditions of the program.
- **Responsibility to the Game** – Understanding and playing by the rules of the game, respecting officials and their decisions, respecting the facilities of host schools, behaving the way a guest should behave, being courteous to officials and visiting teams, being modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
- **Responsibility to Community** – Present yourself in the best possible way when in the community realizing your actions reflect on yourself, your family, your team, your school and the community in general.
- **Responsibility to Younger Students** – As a school athlete younger students in our community look up to you. How you conduct yourself will influence how they will behave and act in the future.
- **Responsibility to Yourself** – Doing what is necessary to achieve success in life, following rules, putting forth your best effort in all you do, knowing you gave your best effort to be successful regardless of the outcome.

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Captain Requirements (High School): Designated team captains are **not** required for any team or activity. The Captain designation is a leadership position a student must earn. A Captain is held to a higher standard than a regular team participant. To be eligible to become/remain a Captain a student must abide by the following:

- Cannot have been issued an extracurricular consequence in the past calendar year.
- Cannot have received any failing scores from the most recent grading period.
- Must be cleared for participation before the first practice.
- Any student who has a Code of Conduct violation during the athletic season may lose their Captain position.
- The student must complete the free online NFHS Student Leadership: Becoming a Leader course. Completion of this course does not guarantee that a coach will select a student to be a team captain. Captains might change during the course of a season if a coach so chooses.

Upon completion of the Becoming a Leader course, the student must print completion of certificate and provide it to the Athletic Director. The NFHS Becoming a Leader course requirement only needs to be completed once a high school career.

Practice Attendance: Attendance at every practice is expected. Coaches may establish additional guidelines and expectations for practice attendance. Violation of these guidelines may result in a playing time consequence or dismissal from the team.

Saturdays, Vacations, and Holidays: Varsity athletic teams have deadlines set by the MPA to complete their regular season. Oftentimes weather makes completing games challenging. Please note that at the junior varsity and varsity level regular season games are scheduled on Saturdays, on school vacations, and holidays (as necessary). Athletes and their parent/guardians(s) are asked to recognize this commitment. Absence during vacations may affect an athlete's status on a team.

Conflicts in Student School-based Activities: We want our students to be well-rounded by participating in a wide range of athletics and extracurricular activities. In addition, since our schools are relatively small, we recognize that teams, clubs, and organizations "share" students. At some point a student who chooses to participate in several extracurricular activities will find themself with a conflict of obligations. Our staff attempts to schedule events to reduce conflicts; however, in some cases it is impossible. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with their coach or advisor as soon as possible when a conflict arises. When a conflict arises the adults involved (coaches, advisors) will work with the student to develop a solution so that the student does not feel caught in the middle. A decision will be based on the following criteria:

1. Relative importance of each event (i.e. practice versus competition)
2. Importance of each event to the student
3. Contribution the student can make
4. How long each event has been scheduled

Storm Days - When School is Canceled:

Middle School: All athletic activities will be canceled, postponed, and/or rescheduled. This includes all practices and games.

High School: Depending upon weather and road conditions, and, in the case of a game, the other school's policy, practices and games may take place. After consulting with the Principal & Superintendent, the Athletic Director will communicate if these are canceled or postponed (game) typically by 1 p.m.

Attire and Appearance for Athletic Events: Student-athletes, managers, and other team members represent our school as well as our greater community; therefore, it is important to project a positive image. Proper attire may vary by sport season and will be communicated by the team's coach. Coaches may refuse to take a player to an away contest, or "suit" a player for a home contest, if the student is not dressed per team guidelines.

Use of School-issued Uniforms/Equipment: Uniforms and equipment are the property of the school (RSU 2) and it is expected that all items issued (uniforms, practice jerseys, warm-ups, gloves, equipment, etc.) to the athlete will be returned in good condition. Lost, stolen or damaged material is the responsibility of the student's parent/guardian and their parent/guardian will be charged for its full replacement cost. Substitutions of equipment or uniforms are not permitted.

- Uniforms are issued for game use only and are not to be worn in physical education classes or for personal use.
- Uniforms are not to be worn by anyone other than the athlete for whom it was issued.
- If a student leaves a team, all issued team items must be returned within two school days.

Students will not be allowed to participate in the next activity until all equipment, uniforms, practice jerseys, travel suits, etc. have been returned and full payment for loss and/or damages have been submitted. In addition, in order to participate in graduation ceremonies, all equipment, uniforms, etc. must have been returned and full payments for loss and/or damages must have been submitted.

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Transportation to/from Contests/Events (Games, Meets, Matches, etc.): Students **must** travel to/from the game/event via school-provided transportation unless prior arrangements have been made with school administration. Only a parent/legal guardian may transport students. Any departure from utilizing school-provided transportation will release RSU 2 from any and all liability.

1. A parent/guardian may transport their **own** child back from the event if the following condition is met:

    a. At the game/event the parent/guardian **must** sign-out their child with the team coach.

2. Under extenuating circumstances, and with prior approval, a parent/guardian may grant permission for their **own** child to be transported back from an event with another parent/guardian if the following conditions are met:

    a. Three days prior to the event the parent/guardian completes, signs, and returns to the Athletic Director the RSU 2 Single Contest/Event Transportation Release to a Non-Parent/Guardian Form

    and

    b. At the event the non-parent/guardian must sign-out their own child **and** the child they are transporting with the team coach.

Notes:

- A student may **not** transport themself without **written prior approval** from the Athletic Director, Assistant Principal, or Principal.
- Students may **not** transport other students to/from contests/events
- Students-athletes who violate this rule may be suspended from the next regularly scheduled contest.
- MA/MMS does not provide transportation for cooperative teams. **Parents/legal guardians are responsible for transporting their child to and from cooperative team practices, games, and events.**

Picking up Students from Practice: Students must be picked up within ten minutes of the scheduled practice ending time. If a student is picked up more than ten minutes after the conclusion of practice three times, the student may be removed from the team.

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Team Fundraisers: Any class, club, or athletic team fundraiser must be **pre-approved** by the building Principal and Superintendent before it may begin. **The fundraiser may not begin prior to full approval.** Forms indicating the purpose and nature of the activity, the advisor, and the dates of the fundraising activity must be submitted to the Principal. Forms may be downloaded from the school's web page or can be obtained at the main office.

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Maine Principals' Association Name, Image, and Likeness Policy: A student-athlete may profit from the use of their own name, image, and likeness (NIL). Such permissible activities include commercial endorsements, promotional activities, social media presence, and product or service advertisements.

No one employed by a member school, including coaches, teachers, and administrators, may be involved with a student-athlete's use of the NIL.

Student-athletes are prohibited from making any reference to a member school or the Maine Principals' Association (MPA) when engaging in any NIL activity. Student-athletes may not endorse or promote any third-party entities, goods, or services during team activities. Student-athletes may not wear the apparel or display the logo, insignia, or identifying mark of an NIL partner during any team activities.

Student-athletes are prohibited from engaging in any NIL activities involving the following categories of products and services:

- Adult entertainment products and services
- Alcohol products
- Tobacco products
- Cannabis products
- Controlled dangerous substances
- Prescription pharmaceuticals
- Casinos and gambling, including sports betting, the lottery, and betting in connection with video games, online games, and mobile devices
- Weapons, firearms, and ammunition

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Information: The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) oversees athletics for nearly 1100 academic institutions in the United States. The NCAA is organized into three divisions (I, II, III), each of which has different requirements for initial eligibility. Student-athletes who may be participating in competitive athletics at one of these schools should be aware of the initial eligibility requirements for the division to which that college or university is assigned. Students who may be recruited to play Division I or II must register on-line with the NCAA Eligibility Center. The NCAA Eligibility Center is responsible for determining initial eligibility of all student-athletes and confirms the amateur status of all participants.

Divisions I and II require that students earn a grade point average of 2.3 or higher in core subjects identified on the NCAA Eligibility Center website. As a general rule, the "4 x 4 Rule" is a good one to follow when scheduling high school classes – four core areas (English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies) for each of the four years of high school. In addition, for Divisions I and II, prospective student-athletes must achieve SAT or ACT scores that are at or higher than the figure listed on the sliding scale for their high school GPA in the core subjects. Those scales are available at the Eligibility Center website. For more information or assistance on the guidelines of the NCAA, please contact your school counselor.

Pregame, Halftime, & Locker Room (& other places teams gather) Music: Music that is played must be appropriate for our spectators that range from young students to grandparents. In addition, it must be appropriate for a school setting. The following must be adhered to:

- All pregame and halftime music must be reviewed and approved by the Athletic Director
    - If asked, the lyrics to music must be provided to the Athletic Director for review
- No song can have any "bleeped" out words
- Lyrics must contain no profanity or sound-alikes; no words that violate protected classes; and, no reference to sex, drugs, alcohol, or violence

- Any music played at any event must be played via a non-student device by the school personnel in charge.

Awarding of Monmouth Academy Varsity Letters, Pins, and Awards: In order to receive any letter, pin, or award, the athlete must complete the particular sport season in good standing. Participation in conference, regional, and state tournaments and contests is considered part of each sport season.

A Monmouth Academy athlete may earn:

Varsity Teams

- Two varsity letters per high school career (a big "M") (must qualify)
- Repeat varsity letter winners are awarded a varsity letter certificate and metal pin
- A certificate of participation is given to those athletes not earning a varsity letter

Junior Varsity Teams*

- A certificate of participation

Other Awards a Monmouth Academy Student-Athlete May Earn:

- Senior Dedication Award (plaque) – Senior must have participated in the same sport for four years at MA
- Other awards vary by coach and program (some programs choose not to present individual awards)

Varsity Letter Requirements: (Games played are defined as Varsity regular and postseason MPA tournament games.)

- Baseball/softball: players must participate in 1/2 of total innings played. Basketball – players must participate in 1/2 of total quarters played
- Cross-Country: runners must participate in at least 70% of the total number of regular season meets and must place in the top seven team positions in these meets, or place in the top seven (for M.A.) in the State Meet
- Cheerleading: participants must cheer at/in all events (games & competitions) to which the varsity cheering team is assigned, unless excused by the coach
- Football: players must play in 1/2 of total quarters played
- Golf: participants must participate in 70% of matches played
- Hockey: participants must play in 1/2 of total periods played
- Soccer: players must participate in 1/2 of the total halves played. Tennis – players must participate in 1/2 of total matches played
- Track & Field – participants must participate in at least 70% of the total meets and must qualify for participation in the conference championship
- Wrestling – participants must receive 15 team points during the regular season matches.

Note: A varsity coach may award letters to athletes who do not meet the specific criteria of the sport for any of the following reasons:

a. Athlete was injured during the season and would have earned a letter otherwise
b. Athlete was a senior and participated in at least two seasons and received the recommendation from the coach of that team.
c. Student served as a manager, scorekeeper, or statistician for at least three seasons and received the recommendation from the coach of that team.

Awarding of Monmouth Memorial School Certificates: In order to receive an award certificate, the athlete must complete the particular sport season in good standing. Participation in conference and/or regional contests is

considered part of each sport season. A middle school athlete may earn a Monmouth Memorial School Certificate of Participation.

Guidelines for Athlete's Return to Play After Injury

If student-athletes are injured or have other medical circumstances that may affect their participation in athletic activities, the athlete must be evaluated by their family physician and/or the school's athletic trainer and consulting physician in order to be allowed to return to play. If athletes are evaluated by the family physician, students must have documentation stating that they are allowed to return to the specific sport in question. If the Athletic Trainer and/or the consulting team physician have evaluated the athlete, that Athletic Trainer will make the necessary documentation for return to play.

Management of Concussion and Other Head Injuries

What is a Concussion?

A concussion is a brain injury and all brain injuries are serious. They are caused by a bump, blow or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head. They can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. Even though most concussions are mild, **all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications including prolonged symptoms and/or recovery if not recognized and managed properly.** In other words, even a "ding" or a bump on the head can be serious. You cannot see a concussion and most sports concussions occur without loss of consciousness. Signs and symptoms of concussion may show up right after the injury or can take hours or days to fully appear. If your student-athlete reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms or signs of concussion yourself, seek medical attention right away.

Recognizing Concussion:

If a student exhibits any signs, symptoms, or behaviors that make you suspicious that he or she may have had a concussion, that student must be removed from all physical activity, including sports and recreation. Continuing to participate in physical activity after a concussion can lead to worsening concussion symptoms, increased risk for further injury, and even death.

Symptoms May Include One or More of the Following	
• Headaches • "Pressure in head" • Nausea or vomiting • Neck pain • Balance problems or dizziness • Blurred, double, or fussy vision • Sensitivity to light or noise • Feeling sluggish or slowed down • Feeling foggy or groggy • Drowsiness • Change in sleep patterns	• "Don't feel right" • Fatigue or low energy • Sadness • Nervousness or anxiety • Irritability • More emotional than usual • Confusion • Concentration or memory problems (forgetting game plays) • Repeating the same question/comment • Amnesia

Signs Observed by Teammates, Parents/Guardians or Coaches include:

• Appears dazed • Vacant facial expression • Confused about assignment • Forgets plays • Is unsure of game, score, or opponent • Moves clumsily or displays lack of coordination • Answers questions slowly	• Shows behavior or personality changes • Can't recall events prior to hit • Can't recall events after hit • Seizures or convulsions • Any change in typical behavior or personality • Loses consciousness • Slurred speech

What can happen if my child keeps on playing with a concussion or returns too soon?

Student-athletes with the signs and symptoms of concussion should be removed from play immediately. Continuing to play with the signs and symptoms of concussion leaves the young athlete especially vulnerable to greater injury. There is an increased risk of significant damage from a concussion for a period of time after that concussion occurs, particularly if the athlete suffers another concussion before completely recovering from the first one. This can lead to prolonged recovery, or even to severe brain swelling (second impact syndrome) with devastating and even fatal consequences. It is well known that adolescent or teenage athletes will often under report symptoms of injuries, and concussions are no different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents and students is the key for student athlete's safety.

What to do if you think your child has suffered a concussion?

Any athlete even suspected of suffering a concussion should be removed from the game or practice immediately. No athlete may return to activity after an apparent head injury or concussion, regardless of how mild it seems or how quickly symptoms clear, without medical clearance. Close observation of the athlete should continue for several hours. Regional School Unit 2 (RSU 2) requires the consistent and uniform implementation of well-established "Return to Play" concussion guidelines.

"Return to Play" Guidelines

Any student suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury during a school-sponsored athletic activity including but not limited to competition, practice or scrimmage, must be removed from the activity immediately.

No student will be permitted to return to the activity or to participate in any other school-sponsored athletic activity on the day of the suspected concussion.

Any student who is suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury shall be prohibited from further participation in school-sponsored athletic activities until he/she has been evaluated and received written medical clearance to do so from a licensed health care provider who is qualified and trained in concussion management. If necessary, the athlete will be provided with "Return to Play" guidelines by the coach or Athletic Trainer.

You should also inform your child's coach if you think that your child may have a concussion. Remember it's better to miss one game than miss the whole season. And when in doubt, the athlete sits out.

For current and up-to-date information on concussions please visit the CDC Heads-up website.

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Parent/Guardian – Coach Communication Guide

Both parenting and coaching can sometimes be quite challenging. By establishing communication guidelines, we are better able to provide greater benefit to our student-athletes. For communication to be successful, involvement and commitment from parent/guardian(s), student-athletes, and coaches is necessary.

Communication You Should Expect from Your Athlete's Coach

- Coach and program's philosophy
- Individual and team expectations
- Location and times of all practices and contests
- Team requirements (practices, special equipment, off-season conditioning)
- Procedure followed should your athlete be injured during practice
- Any actions that may result in the denial of your athlete's participation

Communication Coaches Should Expect from Parent/Guardian(s)

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach at an appropriate time
- Notification of schedule conflicts well in advance
- Specific concerns with regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations
- Support for the program and positive role modeling at games
- Questions concerning the mission and vision of the overall program

Our goal in education-based athletics is to provide an enjoyable, challenging experience for each student-athlete. However, there may be times when your young adult may have concerns. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged. At the high school level, we encourage your young adult to take the initiative to talk with their coach.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss With Coaches

- Your student-athlete's general welfare
- Treatment of your student-athlete
- Ideas on how to help your student-athlete improve skills or performance
- Your student-athlete's behavior

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may desire. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for the team and all athletes involved. There are certain areas and issues that can and should be discussed with your young adult's coach. Other things, such as those below, should be left to the discretion of the coach.

Not Appropriate to Discuss With Coaches

- Other student-athletes on the team
- Play calling
- Team strategy
- Player/roster spots or positions
- Do not attempt to talk to a coach before, during, or after a game or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent/guardian and the coach, and this situation does not promote resolution nor objective analysis.

Note: Any unacceptable communication made the same night after a game will not be responded to by the coach or Athletic Director.

Addressing Concerns

If you have a concern with a coach, the following procedure should be followed to address the concern:

1. Have your high school student schedule a time to sit down and talk with the coach.

2. Schedule meeting with your student and the coach (middle school or high school). If a coach is not available or does not return calls or emails, contact the Athletic Director.

3. Schedule a meeting with the Athletic Director, coach, student and parent. This meeting shall be facilitated by the Athletic Director.

4. If further dialog is needed, please schedule a meeting with the building Principal, Athletic Director, coach, student, and parent/guardian. The decision of the building principal as a result of this meeting is final.

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Sportsmanship Policy (JJIBB)

Athletic competition should be a healthful, positive and safe experience for everyone involved, conducted in an environment that teaches values and ethics, strengthens the community, promotes competition without conflict and enriches the lives of athletes. Players should learn to handle success with grace and losing with dignity. In order to promote core values such as discipline, fairness, responsibility, trustworthiness and citizenship, everyone associated with athletics, including players, coaches, parents and spectators, is expected to exhibit good sportsmanship during athletic competitions.

A. Participants: In exhibiting sportsmanship, student athletes are expected to:

- Understand and follow the rules of the sport;
- Recognize skilled performance of others, regardless of the player's team;
- Display respect for teammates, opponents, coaches and officials;
- Respect the judgment of officials and accept their decisions;
- Refrain from antics, taunting opponents and using insulting language or swearing;
- Be modest when successful and gracious in defeat; and
- Recognize that their conduct reflects on their school.

B. Coaches: In exhibiting sportsmanship, coaches are expected to:

- Recognize that they are role models for students and set a good example for athletes and fans to follow;
- Abide by the rules of the sport, in letter and in spirit;
- Treat all participants with respect;
- Behave with dignity and self-control;
- Respect the judgment of officials and accept their decisions.
- Take corrective action toward any player who intimidates or shows disrespect toward an official or displays unsportsmanlike behavior; and
- Be modest when successful and gracious in defeat.

C. Spectators, Including Parents/Guardians, Students, and Community Members: Spectators attending athletic events are expected to:

- Realize that the main purpose of the competition is the play of the game and that the role of the spectator is one of support;
- Show positive support to the teams and players for outstanding performances;

- Show concern for injured players, regardless of which team they are on;
- Refrain from angry or abusive language or actions toward any player, official, coach or other spectators;
- Refrain from endangering participants or spectators by throwing objects;
- Refrain from heckling, taunting or berating players, officials, coaches or other spectators; and
- Follow all Board policies and rules pertaining to conduct on school property, including but not limited to those pertaining to tobacco, alcohol, drugs and weapons.

School athletic events are school activities that are part of the educational program. An athletic event is not a public forum. The public is invited to attend athletic events for the purpose of supporting the participants on both teams and the schools they represent. Appropriate behavior by spectators, especially adults, provides a positive model for students and contributes to the value and educational purposes of athletic activities. Negative comments and behavior by spectators are inconsistent with the purposes of athletic activities. School administrators and officials have the authority and discretion to remove any spectators who do not comply with rules of sportsmanship.

D. Penalties for Inappropriate Behavior

Student-Athlete (Competitor, Team Member): Student athletes who engage in unsportsmanlike behavior will be subject to penalties described in the Athletic Code or, if the conduct constitutes a violation of Board policy, school rules or the Student Code of Conduct and/or Student Parent/Guardian Handbook, to appropriate disciplinary consequences.

Student Spectators: Student spectators whose behavior constitutes a violation of Board policy, school rules, or the Student Code of Conduct and/or Student Parent/Guardian Handbook will be subject to appropriate disciplinary consequences.

Adult Spectators: Adult spectators who engage in unsportsmanlike behavior or conduct that violates Board policy may be asked to leave the premises and may be excluded from future events. The administrator in charge of the event may seek the assistance of law enforcement authorities if necessary to ensure the safety of participants, coaches, officials or other spectators or to prevent damage to school property.

Assault Upon an Official by a Student: "Any member of the team who intentionally strikes, shoves, kicks, or makes other physical contact with an official before, during, or after an interscholastic contest, as determined by the school, shall be disqualified immediately and shall be ineligible to participate in all sports for one full year. NOTE: Members of the team include player, manager, scorekeepers, timers, and statisticians." (Source: Maine Principals' Association 2025-2026 Handbook, Appendix "T").

Assault Upon an Official by an Adult Spectator: In addition to appropriate legal action, any student or adult spectator who intentionally strikes, shoves, kicks, or makes other physical contact with an official before, during, or after an interscholastic contest, as determined by school administration, will be excluded from future events.

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Extracurricular Code of Conduct

The Extracurricular Code of Conduct (includes athletics) is designed to reinforce RSU 2's Core Values both in school and outside of school. It should be noted, however, that violations occurring at the school or at school-sponsored activities are subject to the added consequences as outlined in the Student and Family Handbooks.

The Extracular Code of Conduct (Code) is intended to support and encourage students to meet RSU 2's core values below:

- **Respect:** Demonstrating respect for self and others.
- **Honesty:** Acting and speaking truthfully.
- **Empathy:** Understanding the feelings and perspectives of others, and using that understanding to guide their own actions.
- **Fairness:** Treating others fairly and impartially
- **Responsibility:** Accepting the consequences of one's actions
- **Perseverance**: Persisting in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success

The Extracurricular Code of Conduct supports the social, emotional, and physical well-being of students. Participation in extracurricular activities and holding leadership positions in school activities and student government are privileges, not rights. It is understood that participation in co-curricular activities is entirely voluntary and that participating students must adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations of the MPA and/or school district's eligibility rules and regulations, as well as any team/activity rules and training guidelines.

Often students who participate in extracurricular activities are before the public, and their conduct not only influences future participants but also increases public awareness of their behavior. Therefore, students who choose to participate in extracurricular activities are held to high standards of conduct and behavior at all times.

Students who violate policies are subject to disciplinary action which may include removal from the athletic team or extracurricular activity, suspension or expulsion from school, or other appropriate measures, including notification to law enforcement.

Length of Extracurricular Code of Conduct: The Code is in effect from the first official day of preseason in the fall (determined by the Maine Principals' Association which is usually 2 weeks prior to the opening of school) until either the last day of school or last day of spring sports or activities, whichever is later.

- If a student violates the Extracurricular Code of Conduct at the end of a sports season and does not serve all of the days of suspension from extracurricular activities, the remaining days will be served at the beginning of the next sports season.

- Violations are cumulative during a student's middle school years but do not carry over to high school. Violations during high school are cumulative.

Captain/Leadership Positions: For any violation of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct, elected or appointed leaders will lose the leadership position for the remainder of the sports season or term of the office. Prior code violations will be considered by coaches and advisors together with school administrators in selecting future leadership positions.

Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment: Bullying and Cyberbullying; Harassment; Sexual Harassment; Retaliation against those reporting such defined behaviors; and, Making knowingly false accusations of bullying behavior is prohibited.

Bullying: Includes, but is not limited to, a written, oral or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof directed at a student or students that:

1. Has, or a reasonable person would expect it to have, the effect of:

    a. Physically harming a student or damaging a student's property; or
    b. Placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm or damage to the student's property; OR

2. Interferes with the rights of a student by:

    a. Creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment for the student; or
    b. Interfering with the student's academic performance or ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities or privileges provided by a school; OR

3. Is based on a student's actual or perceived race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, physical or mental disability, gender, sexual orientation, or any other distinguishing characteristic, or is based on a student's association with a person with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics, and that has the effect described in subparagraph (1) or (2) above. (These behaviors might also meet the criteria for harassment as defined in board policy ACAA: Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students.)

Cyberbullying: Bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, including, but not limited to, a transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted by the use of any electronic device.

Harassment: Harassment of students because of race (including traits associated with those involving hair texture, Afro hairstyles, and protective hairstyles, including braids, twists, and locs); color; sex; sexual orientation; gender identity; pregnancy or related conditions; parental, family or marital status; religion; ancestry or national origin; age; or disability is prohibited. Such conduct is a violation of Board policy and may constitute illegal discrimination under state and federal laws.

School employees, fellow students, volunteers, visitors to the schools, and other persons with whom students may interact in order to pursue or engage in education programs and activities, are required to refrain from such conduct.

Harassment and sexual harassment of students by school employees is considered grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including discharge. Harassment and sexual harassment of students by other students is considered grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion. The Superintendent will determine appropriate sanctions for harassment of students by persons other than school employees and students.

A. Harassment

Harassment includes, but is not limited to, verbal abuse and other offensive conduct based on race (including traits associated with those involving hair texture, Afro hairstyles, and protective hairstyles, including braids, twists, and locs); color; sex; sexual orientation; gender identity; pregnancy or related condition; parental, family, or marital status; religion; ancestry or national origin; age; or disability. Harassment that rises to the level of physical assault, battery and/or abuse, and/or bullying behavior are also addressed in Board Policies JICIA – Weapons, Violence and School Safety and JICK – Bullying.

B. Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is addressed under federal and state laws/regulations. The scope and definitions of sexual harassment under these laws differ, as described below.

1. Title IX Sexual Harassment

Under the federal Title IX regulations, sexual harassment includes the following conduct on the basis of sex which takes place within the context of the school unit's education programs and activities:

a. "Quid pro quo" sexual harassment by a school employee: Conditioning a school aid, benefit or service (such as a better grade or a college recommendation) on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;

b. "Hostile environment" sexual harassment: Unwelcome conduct based on sex that a reasonable person would determine is so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it effectively denies an individual's equal access to the school unit's education programs and activities; or

c. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking as these terms are defined in federal laws.

2. Sexual Harassment Under Maine Law

Under Maine law, sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature in the following situations:

a. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a student's educational benefits;

b. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by a student is used as the basis for decisions on educational benefits; or

c. Such conduct has the purpose and effect of substantially interfering with a student's academic performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

In the event that an individual feels their concerns warrant further attention, they should contact RSU 2 Affirmative Action Officer/Title IX Coordinator, Kristie Clark, at the Superintendent's Office - 622-6352, aatix@kidsrsu.org.

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Hazing (policy ACAD)**:** Students may not engage in any activity that is considered hazing. Hazing is a forced activity that places a student or student-athlete in a dangerous, embarrassing, degrading, or humiliating situation as a right-of-passage or initiation to a team, club, organization, etc., regardless of their willingness to participate. The school district and athletic department forbids the practice of hazing by student-athletes, coaches, or volunteers. Student-athletes are never required to pass or perform any initiation or ritual to become part of or retain membership on an athletic team or extracurricular activity in RSU 2.

Maine law defines injurious hazing as "any action or situation, including harassing behavior, that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of any school personnel or a student enrolled in a public school." Injurious hazing also includes any activity expected of a student as a condition of joining or maintaining membership in a group that humiliates, degrades, abuses or endangers a student, regardless of the student's

willingness to participate in the activity. No student, including leaders of students' organizations, shall plan, encourage, or engage in injurious hazing activities.

Cell Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices (JICJ)**:** The use of cell phones, cameras, watches, glasses, or any other personal electronic device (PED) as a recording device is **strictly prohibited in locker rooms, restrooms, and other places where privacy is generally expected**. In all other school locations, students are required to obtain prior permission before photographing, video-recording or audio-recording any other person. Cell phones may not be used while on a team bench, team sideline, during a team meeting, or during an athletic contest or practice unless instructed to do so by a coach, athletic trainer, etc. The use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices may be restricted during team travel or at away contests as part of team rules.

Substance Use Violations: Students participating in athletics and extracurricular activities are expected to refrain from using or possessing tobacco, alcohol, other illegal substances/drugs, or illegal paraphernalia associated with these substances/drugs. These are defined in Board policies below. Consequences for violating the Extracurricular Code of Conduct are outlined below.

Drugs and Alcohol (JICH)**:** No student shall distribute, dispense, possess, use or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, fortified wine or other intoxicating liquor. Nor shall a student manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, use or be under the influence of "bath salts;" any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana (including any cannabis derivatives, including but not limited to cannabidiol, synthetic THC-like cannabinoids (dronabinol and nabilone), and botanical cannabis derivatives (cannabis oil; nabiximols) that contain THC, anabolic steroid; any other controlled substance defined in federal and state laws/regulations; any look-alike substance; or any substance that is represented to be a controlled substance. Students participating in athletics and extracurricular activities are expected to not use or possess any tobacco (including vape), alcohol, cannabis derivatives (cannabis oil; nabiximols) that contain THC, other illegal substances/drugs, or illegal paraphernalia associated with these substances/drugs.

Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Devices (ADC): No student shall possess, use, distribute, dispense, or use any tobacco product as defined below:

"Tobacco use" means smoking or the carrying or possession of a tobacco product.

"Smoking" includes carrying or having in one's possession a lighted or heated cigarette, cigar or pipe or heated tobacco or plant product intended for human consumption through inhalation whether natural or synthetic in any manner or any form. "Smoking" includes the use of an electronic smoking device.

"Tobacco product" means any product that is made from or derived from tobacco, or that contains nicotine, that is intended for human consumption or is likely to be consumed, whether smoked, heated chewed, absorbed, dissolved inhaled or ingested by any other means, including but not limited to, a, cigar, hookah, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff or snus. "Tobacco product" also means an electronic smoking device and any component or accessory used in the consumption of a tobacco product such as filters, rolling papers, pipes and liquids used in electronic smoking devices whether or not they contain nicotine.

"Electronic smoking device" is defined more directly elsewhere in Maine law (22 MRSA § 1541(1-A,) as "a device used to deliver nicotine or any other substance intended for human consumption that may be used by a person to simulate smoking through inhalation of vapor or aerosol from the device, including, without limitation a device manufactured, distributed, marketed or sold as an electronic cigarette or so-called vape-pen".

Self-Reporting Rationale: In order to encourage personal responsibility; promote communication among students, parent/guardian(s), and the school; and further educate students about the health consequences of the use of alcohol, tobacco and illegal substances; there are reduced consequences for violations that are self-reported.

Definition of a Self-Report: If a student or his or her parent/guardian initiates the report of that student's violation to a school official (administrator, teacher, coach, advisor) prior to school officials initiating an inquiry into the matter and does so in not more than 48 hours after the actual violation, this will be considered a self-report.

Meeting with Social Worker or School Counselor or Conference Team: For any violation of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct involving drugs, alcohol or tobacco, or illegal activities, the administration may require the student to meet with the school's counselor, social worker or conference team to review the violation and to determine if a follow-up plan is recommended. The school's social worker or counselor must verify the student's active participation in the process before participation in extracurricular activities may be resumed. If the course of action determined in the follow-up plan is violated and/or the student or parent/guardian fails to meet their responsibilities, the student may be placed on suspension/probation for an extended period of time. The conference team may include, but is not limited to, the student's parent/guardian, school counselor, social worker, school nurse, health teacher, coach, and administration.

Consequences for violating the Extracurricular Code of Conduct are detailed on the following page.

Substance Abuse Violations and Consequences

Violation	Consequences	Self-report Consequences
1st Offense	14 Total Calendar Days: 7 days suspension & 7 days probation ● During suspension (1st 7 days): Student may not participate in any extracurricular activities. Student may not practice, attend practice or meetings, participate in games, meets, contests, performances, travel to away events on the team bus, sit with the team on the bench or attend any functions. ● During probation (2nd 7 days): Student not eligible to compete in games, meets, performances, but expected to practice and abide by existing school/team/club/activity rules and regulations. Student is expected to attend, but may not dress in uniform for games, meets, contests, or performances. ● Student may be required to meet with school counselor, social worker, or conference team as outlined above.	7 Total Calendar Days: 7 days probation ● During probation: Student will not be eligible to participate in games, meets, contests, performances, but is expected to practice and abide by existing school/team/club/activity rules and regulations. Student is expected to attend, but may not dress in uniform for games, meets, contests, or performances. ● After 7 days, the student may participate in games, meets, contests, and performances. ● Student may be required to meet with a school counselor, social worker, or conference team as outlined above.
2nd Offense	28 Total Calendar Days: 14 days suspension & 14 days probation ● During suspension (1st 14 days): Student may not participate in any extracurricular activities. Student may not practice, attend practice or meetings, participate in games, meets, contests, performances, travel to away events on the team bus, sit with the team on the bench or attend any functions. ● During probation (2nd 14 days): Student not eligible to compete in games, meets, performances, but expected to practice and abide by existing school/team/club/activity rules and regulations. Student is expected to attend, but may not dress in uniform for games, meets, contests, or performances. ● Student required to meet with school counselor, social worker, or conference team as outlined above.	14 Total Calendar Days: 7 days suspension & 7 days probation ● During suspension (1st 7 days): Student may not participate in any extracurricular activities. Student may not practice, attend practice or meetings, participate in games, meets, contests, performances, travel to away events on the team bus, sit with the team on the bench or attend any functions. ● During probation (2nd 7 days): Student not eligible to compete in games, meets, performances, but expected to practice and abide by existing school/team/club/activity rules and regulations. Student is expected to attend, but may not dress in uniform for games, meets, contests, or performances. ● Student required to meet with school counselor, social worker, or conference team as outlined above.
3rd and Subsequent Offenses	Twelve (12) Month Suspension: ● Student is suspended from all extracurricular activities ● Student required to meet with school counselor, social worker, or conference team as outlined above.	Six (6) Month Suspension: ● Student is suspended from all extracurricular activities ● Student required to meet with school counselor, social worker, or conference team as outlined above.

Other Code of Conduct Violations: Students participating in athletic and extracurricular activities are also expected to refrain from activities that demonstrate a serious disregard of RSU 2's Code of Conduct as outlined in the Student & Family Guidebook, as well as local, state, and federal laws. These include, but are not limited to theft, burglary, assault, vandalism, and lewd/indecent acts. Consequences for these violations will be determined on a case-by-case basis by school administration.

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Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action (AC): RSU 2 does not discriminate on the basis of sex or other protected categories in its education programs and activities, as required by federal and state laws/regulations.

Discrimination against and harassment of school employees on the basis of race (including traits associated with race involving hair texture, Afro hairstyles and protective hairstyles such as braids, twists and locs); color; sex; sexual orientation; gender identity; pregnancy or related conditions; parental, familial status; religion; ancestry or national origin; age; disability; or genetic information is prohibited.

Discrimination against and harassment of students on the basis of race (including traits associated with race involving hair texture, Afro hairstyles and protective hairstyles such as braids, twists and locks); color; sex; sexual orientation; gender identity; pregnancy or related conditions; parental, family or marital status; religion, ancestry or national origin; age; or disability is prohibited.

RSU 2 has implemented complaint procedures for resolving complaints of discrimination/harassment and sexual harassment under this policy. Kristie Clark, aatix@kidsrsu.org, (207) 622-6352, serves as the Affirmative Action Officer/Title IX Coordinator for RSU 2.

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Staff Conduct With Students (GBEBB): The RSU 2 Board of Directors expects all staff members, including teachers, support staff, coaches, counselors, administrators, and others to maintain the highest professional, moral, and ethical standards in their conduct with students. For the purposes of this policy, staff members also include school volunteers.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that interactions and relationships between staff members and students are based upon mutual respect and trust; an understanding of the appropriate boundaries between adults and students in and outside of the educational setting; and consistency with the educational mission of the schools.

The Board understands that staff members may interact with and have friendships with families of students outside of school. This policy is not intended to prohibit such interactions, provided that professional boundaries are maintained at all times.

Staff members are expected to be sensitive to the appearance of impropriety in their conduct with students and are encouraged to discuss issues with the building principal or their supervisor whenever they are unsure whether particular conduct may constitute a violation of this policy.

Unacceptable Conduct

Examples of unacceptable conduct by staff members that are expressly prohibited include but are not limited to the following:

A. Any type of sexual or inappropriate physical contact with students or any other conduct that might be considered harassment under the Board's policy on Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students;

B. Singling out a particular student or students for personal attention and friendship beyond the normal teacher-student relationship;

C. For non-guidance/counseling staff, encouraging students to confide their personal or family problems and/or relationships. If a student initiates such discussions, staff members are expected to be supportive but to refer the student to appropriate guidance/counseling staff. In either case, staff involvement should be limited to a direct connection to the student's school performance;

D. Engaging in sexual banter, allusions, jokes, or innuendos with students;

E. Asking a student to keep a secret;

F. Disclosing personal, sexual, family, employment concerns, or other private matters to one or more students;

G. Addressing students with terms of endearment, pet names, or otherwise in an overly familiar manner;

H. Permitting students to address you by your first name or otherwise in an overly familiar manner.

I. "Friending" students or engaging in any other interactions on social media or through digital applications (outside of any school-approved activity);

J. Communicating with students on non-school matters through phone calls, email, text messages, Messenger or any other digital methods, or by notes, letters or any other means (unless the student's parent approves of the activity, e. g, in the context of employment or participation in community activities);

Before engaging in the following activities, staff members should consult with the building principal or their supervisor, as appropriate:

K. Being alone with individual students out of the view of others;

L. Driving students home;

M. Inviting or allowing students to visit the staff member's home;

N. Visiting a student's home, unless on official school business that is known and agreed to by the parent;

O. Exchanging personal gifts (beyond the customary student-teacher gifts); and/or

P. Socializing or spending time with students (including but not limited to activities such as going out for meals or movies, shopping, traveling, and recreational activities) outside of school-sponsored events except as participants in organized community activities.

Reporting Violations

Students and/or their parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to notify the building principal or Superintendent if they believe a teacher or other staff member may be engaging in conduct that violates this policy.

Staff members must promptly notify the building principal or Superintendent if they become aware of a situation that may constitute a violation of this policy.

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Tobacco-Free Schools: Use and Possession of Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Devices (ADC)**:** The Board recognizes that research shows that tobacco continues to be the leading cause of preventable disease and death in Maine and the United States, for both users and those exposed to second-hand smoke. The Board is also aware that a growing body of evidence suggests that the chemicals present in the aerosols ("vapor") produced by electronic smoking devices, may pose significant long-term risks to health, as well the risk of addiction to nicotine.

The Board is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for students, staff, and visitors to the schools, including members of the community who use school facilities for recreational and other purposes. To that end, and in compliance with applicable state and federal laws, all persons are prohibited from smoking and tobacco use in school buildings, on any school grounds (including parking lots), on school buses and school-owned or leased vehicles, and at all school sponsored events at all times.

Use of Closed Circuit Cameras: Students, employees, and visitors should be aware that RSU 2 utilizes video cameras in public areas to assist in maintaining safety and security within the school, in the areas surrounding the school campus, and on RSU 2 transportation. Cameras will be used in a manner that respects individuals privacy as required by law.

Right to Revise: MA, MMS, and RSU 2 reserves the right to change, without prior notice, items set forth in this publication. Such items include, but are not limited to, newly enacted/revised RSU 2 Board policies, newly enacted State and Federal laws, newly enacted/revised school rules, policies, and procedures, Maine Principals' Association policies, conference and/or association policies, and/or typographical errors. This Handbook supersedes all prior versions of the MA/MMS Athletic and Extracurricular Handbook.

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