



**ROMEO
COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS**

Romeo Community Schools

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT



Lusk Albertson, PLC

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Introduction

Participation in athletic and co-curricular programs within the District is considered an honor and a privilege. This Athletic Code of Conduct is in effect year-round (12 months) and participants are expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner at all times, including at functions that occur off school premises and when school is not in session.

This Code has been developed and implemented to provide a common set of rules for all students participating in District athletics. The Code deals with specific violations that apply to every individual team, but is not intended to be all-inclusive. If an infraction occurs that is not included in the Code, a coach or advisor has the authority to determine the consequence.

Student Code of Conduct

All District students are governed by the Student Code of Conduct. A copy of the District's Student Code of Conduct may be found here: www.RomeoAthletics.com

Athletic Program Philosophy

The goal of education is to help young people to develop physically, emotionally and intellectually. The athletic program at Romeo Community Schools is meant to contribute to this goal by providing our student athletes with opportunities to participate as team members in interscholastic athletic competition. Desirable individual outcomes include the development, not only of physical skills, but of sportsmanship, teamwork, self-discipline, loyalty, tolerance and perseverance.

As an athlete, you are a highly visible representative of your team, your school and your community. You are expected to demonstrate high standards of conduct and sportsmanship as a member of the team. Whether on the court, on the sidelines or just wearing your colors, you will be commended for, or be held responsible for, your actions. Romeo Community Schools expects good sportsmanship, fair play and good citizenship at all times for athletes, coaches, fans and teams. Athletes not in compliance with the Romeo Community Schools Code of Conduct and the Student Athletic Code of Conduct during the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) athletic school year of August through June, inclusive, will be disciplined under the Romeo Community Schools' Code of Conduct and the Student Athlete Code.

Safety

Safety is the responsibility of all involved. Parents, players, coaches and the school should take an active role in assuring our athletic facilities and equipment are in safe condition. Please notify the Athletic Department immediately of any concerns you may have. Together we can maintain quality.

Participation in school athletics is purely voluntary; such activities involve physical exertion and contact and that there is inherent risk of personal injury associated with participation in such activities.

A student who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (i.e. loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems), shall be immediately removed from physical participation and shall not return to the activity until he or she is evaluated by an appropriate licensed health professional who has the ability to recognize and treat concussions and receives written clearance to do so on the MHSAA required documentation. The student will also work with the RCS Athletic Trainer on a return to play procedure. Written medical clearance will then be maintained in the student's CA60 file until he or she is 18 years of age.

Eligibility Requirements

Student-athletes are governed by rules and regulations promulgated by the District, the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), and the National Federation of High School Sports (NFHS), as well as league- and team-specific rules. MHSAA regulations may be found at: <http://www.mhsaa.com> and NFHS regulations may be found at: <https://www.nfhs.org/>. The following comprises the District's eligibility requirements for student-athletes:

Academic Eligibility To be academically eligible to participate in athletics, a student must have successfully passed 6 out of 8 classes the previous semester, of which at least 6 classes must be a grade of C- or better. A student cannot have three negative grades. If the student is ineligible based on the previous semester final grades, the student will be ineligible for participation for the complete following semester.

In addition, for a student to maintain academic eligibility during a semester s/he must be successfully passing with a grade of C- or better in at least 6 of the classes. A student cannot have three negative grades. Academic eligibility will be determined each marking period. If a student does not meet the academic eligibility requirement during a marking period, the student will be ineligible for competition or participation until the requirement is met and no sooner than one calendar week after s/he is determined to be ineligible. The Athletic Director, coach, or sponsor reserves the right to review a student's grades throughout the semester but at a minimum of every five weeks. If a student is found to be at risk of failing, the Athletic Director, coach, or sponsor may impose restrictions or other interventions to ensure academic success. Academic deficiencies, including incompletes and failures from a previous semester, may be made up during a subsequent semester, summer session, or by tutoring. Eligibility may be reinstated when the school accepts the credit earned.

Not meeting the MHSAA Minimum standards of 6 out of 8 classes at the end of the semester will result in the student not being ineligible for the following entire semester. Not meeting the minimum standards of three negative grades at the end of the semester will result in the athlete's ineligibility to compete for the next 60 school days. The student can resume competition on the 61st day.

Attendance Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes during the school day but are required to attend a minimum of 4 hours if they plan to participate in athletics during the same day or evening. Exceptions must be approved by a building administrator.

Attendance at practice sessions is necessary to prepare students physically and mentally for competitions. Team members are expected to be at all practice sessions and scheduled competitions. In the event it is impossible for a participant to attend a practice session or competition, the participant should make prior arrangements with the coach or sponsor for an excused absence. Unexcused absences may result in the student being withheld from all interscholastic athletic contests for up to one week from the date of the unexcused absence.

Students dismissed early from school for an athletic contest are responsible for all missed work and should be in good academic standing. Students should inform teachers ahead of time when they will be dismissed from class.

Dual Participation Students wishing to participate in more than one sport or co-curricular program within the same season must make prior arrangements with the appropriate program sponsors, coaches and/or building Athletic Director to resolve any potential participation conflicts.

A student who has participated in any athletic contests as a member of a school team cannot participate in the same sport in the same season in any athletic competition outside of and not sponsored by the school.

The exception to this rule is individual sports athletes who may participate in 2 individual sports' meets or contests at any time in any sport season while not representing his or her school. A student may not compete in any "all-star" contests at any time in any sport not sponsored by the MHSAA during the school year unless it has been approved by the Athletic Department via the MHSAA. A student violating rules in this section will be ineligible to participate in athletic contests and scrimmages for a period from a minimum of the next three contests to a maximum of one school year, depending on the violation.

Past experiences has shown that it is difficult for students to participate *simultaneously* in both a school sport and an out-of-school season sport, such as AAU. However, if a student elects to participate in a school sport and an out-of-season sport, the following terms and conditions should apply:

1. School Sports take priority
2. Complete attendance at all school practices and contests is required
3. Cannot participate on the same sport during the same season.

Summer and Off-Season Programs

A wide variety of sports, clinics, and training programs are offered to students during the summer months and off-season by colleges, organizations, or individual coaches. Since these programs are held in the summer and off season and are voluntary, students will not be required to enroll in these programs as a condition for membership or placement on the athletic team for the succeeding school year or sport season.

The first full week in July (exact dates are set by the Athletic Department by March 1st of each year) is a dead period. There can be no contact between athletes and coaches. This means no practices, conditioning, games, scrimmages, fundraisers, camps or clinics are to be held.

Conduct Expectations

The health and safety of our students of is of primary importance. Enforcement of this section will take place year-round and shall include violations of this Code that occur outside of regular school functions. Each individual athletics program may establish and enforce additional rules and penalties. These rules must be in writing, approved by the Athletic Director and/or building principal, and shared with all participating students and parents.

Substance Use

Students participating in athletic and co-curricular programs are prohibited from the use, possession, or transmittal of tobacco, vape, alcohol, illegal drugs, or any drug substance not prescribed to the student by a doctor.

Conduct

Students are expected to demonstrate the highest level of conduct at all times. All students participating in athletic and co-curricular programs are to display sportsman-like control of their words and actions during practice, competition, and spectator conditions toward their teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, sponsors and other spectators.

Consequences for Violating the Athletic Code of Conduct

Sanctions for violating the Athletic Code of Conduct are set forth below. In the event that the Code or other school policies do not cover unanticipated situations that arise, the administration reserves the right to establish such rules, conditions, and penalties to respond effectively to unanticipated or unique circumstances. A single violation may be deemed severe enough by the District to warrant the enforcement of a single violation as if it were a second or third violation. The District's Athletic Director or a building administrator and/or his/her designee may suspend or exclude a student from participation in any program. The following offenses will be an accumulation for their high school years.

First Offense. After confirmation of a violation (by the student, their parent/guardian, or a school official), the student will not be allowed to participate in practice, scrimmages, meetings or contests during the suspension for a minimum of 10 school days (or team meeting dates). The suspension will include a

minimum of at least 1 game.

Second Offense. After confirmation of a second violation (by the student, their parent/guardian, or a school official), the student will not be allowed to participate in any practice, scrimmages, meetings or contests for the remainder of the current MHSAA calendar year for all athletic teams.

Third Offense. After confirmation of a third violation, the student will be dismissed from participating on all athletic teams for the remainder of his or her high school years

Appeal Procedure Appeals of any section of this Code must be in writing and initiated by a student or his/her parent. Appeals must first be directed to the District's Athletic Director.

- A request for an appeal shall be made in writing within three days of the assignment of the consequence. Written appeals must include the rationale(s) for appeal.
- The student and/or his/her parents/guardians and affected teachers, sponsors, or coaches have a right to be present at all appeals hearings and must be notified in advance of the time and place. Both the student and the administration have a right to present witnesses at all appeals.
- Based on review of the appeal, the District's Athletic Director will adjust, revoke, or sustain the action.
- The student is not eligible to participate in competition or activity during the appeal process.
- In cases where action was taken directly by the District's Athletic Director and/or cases where dissatisfaction exists with the results of the appeal hearing, a secondary appeal may be made, within three days of the conclusion of the first appeal, in writing to the principal. The secondary appeal must be held within three days of receipt of the appeal. This is the final level of appeals.
- The student and/or parent/guardian will be notified of the results of the secondary appeal within 24 hours. This decision is final.

Physical

A student must have a valid physical examination by a physician certifying that the student is fully able to compete in athletics. This physical must take place on or after April 15th of the previous school year to be used for the current school year. The student shall not participate in any athletic event until the completed form has been turned into the athletic office.

Pay to Participate

In order to maintain a full athletic program, the Board of Education has established an athletic participation fee. The per season rate for high school athletics is set at \$195 and the per season rate for middle school athletics is set at \$125.

Financial aid is available. Students qualifying for the Federal Child Nutrition Program or Free and Reduced Price School Meals are eligible. If the student qualifies for free meals, the participation fee is only 25% of the full rate, \$49 for high school students and \$31 for middle school students. If the student qualifies for reduced meals, the fee is set at 50% of the participation fee, \$98 for high school students and \$63 for middle school students. Information about a student's financial needs is strictly confidential. A student's family must sign a release and complete the Athletic Application form.

The Athletic Participation Fee is due five days after the team is selected. Once your athlete has been notified that he or she has made a team, the payment is due five working days later. For teams that do

not cut players (football, cross country, wrestling, track, tennis and swim), the athlete must pay the athletic fee by the fifth day of scheduled practice. Payment not received in the Athletic Department Office by 2:30 p.m. on the fifth day will result in your child not being able to take part in any team activities (practices, scrimmages or games) until the fee is paid. High School Cheerleading and Dance Teams will be considered one season.

Students participating in self-funded sports (bowling, ice hockey, lacrosse, some Middle School teams) are not required to pay the RCS Athletic Participation Fee. Students in self-funded sports will be required to pay 100% of their assigned club participation fee once they are selected for the team. No refund will be given.

Coaches cannot accept applications and/or fee payments. Payment is only accepted online through PaySchools or arrangements can be made in the Athletic Office.

Refunds of Participation Fee

Refunds of the Athletic Participation Fee will not be given for the following reasons:

1. Voluntary withdrawal.
2. If the athlete is removed from a team for disciplinary reasons.
3. If an athlete becomes academically ineligible.
4. For contests that cannot be rescheduled.
5. If full allotment of games cannot be scheduled.
6. Violation of MHSAA, District, School, Athletic & team policies, rules, regulations & requirements.

Refunds of the Athletic Participation Fee will be given in the following cases:

1. If the student suffers a season-ending injury which precludes him or her from participating any further. A medical authorization letter from a physician must accompany such requests. A portion of the participation fee will be returned based on proration of the remaining season. The return portion cannot be less than one-half of \$195.
2. Cancellation of a team due to low enrollment.

Payment of participation fee does not give athletes or parents any control over any conditions of the team. Payment of the participation fee in no way guarantees any playing time of an athlete, except required time for middle school.

Transportation To And From Athletic Events

When Romeo Community Schools can provide transportation to student athletes, the teams will be notified of the scheduled departure time. In that case, all student athletes are expected to ride the bus to and from the contest as scheduled unless they have a signed written note from a parent in the Athletic Department Office prior to the trip. In addition to the note, the parent will need to call the Athletic Department Office in advance in order to verify the note. Parents can also sign out their athlete with the coach after the contest.

On the majority of trips, teams will only be transported to the contest but not home from the contest. It will be the responsibility of the parents to arrange for their child's transportation home.

There will be many occasions that Romeo Community Schools will not be providing transportation to or from sports contests. In that event, it will be the parent's responsibility to arrange transportation to and from home or school at the time designated by the coach.

If Romeo Community Schools can provide transportation to and from a contest, parents may have their athlete ride home with another parent as long as they send a note to the Athletic Department followed by a phone call. The driving parent must sign out your child.

Dropping Out Of A Sport

Dropping out of a sport without a valid reason is always considered a serious matter. If an athlete wants to quit any sport, he or she should notify the coach and return all equipment. If an athlete does quit a sport, he or she will not be permitted to try out for another sport until the conclusion of that sport season. The exception would be if the athlete would get the approval of the Athletic Director. Consideration will only be given if it is very early in the season and games have not been played.

Hazing Or Team Initiation

Soliciting, encouraging, aiding or engaging in “hazing” on or in any school property at any time, or in connection with activity supported or sponsored by the District, whether on or off school property, is strictly prohibited.

“Hazing” means any intentional, knowing or reckless act meant to induce physical pain, embarrassment, humiliation, deprivation or rights, or that creates physical or mental discomfort and is directed against a student for the purpose of being initiated into, affiliated with holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization, club or athletic team sponsored or supported by the District. Students who engage in any act of hazing are subject to disciplinary action, up to, and including, suspension or expulsion.

Criminal Conduct

Athletes in the Romeo Community School system shall not engage in any criminal conduct. Such conduct is injurious to the proper operation and general welfare of the School District, its athletic program, students, property, staff, and our community that supports us. Criminal conduct is defined by state law, local ordinances and other regulations which have the force and effect of law. Violation of this section shall include:

1. Engaging in any activity that results in the athlete being charged with a criminal offense, whether a felony or misdemeanor, that occurs whether on or off campus.
2. Engaging in illegal activity or dangerous driving on school property, regardless of whether any criminal charges are filed or prosecuted.
3. Conviction of, or plea of guilty or no contest to, a criminal offense.
4. Serving a sentence or being placed on probation for a criminal offense.
5. Association or involvement with individuals during their commission of a criminal act.
6. Participation in, or pretending or attempting to participate in, a gang or gang-related activities.
7. Engaging in any of the following activities on school property or out in the community: acts of physical violence, illegal possession of a controlled substance or imitation controlled substance, performance enhancing substance or other intoxicant, trespassing, and property crimes including, but not limited to, theft and vandalism.

A violation of this section may result in suspension or expulsion from the athletic program. Alternative or additional restrictions may be imposed if, in the discretion of the administration, they are necessary or desirable for purposes of protecting the safety and welfare of other persons or school property. All court orders regarding bond conditions or no contact provisions must be followed, and the administration may impose rules to effect such orders.

Communication

Research indicates that students involved in extracurricular activities have a greater chance for success during adulthood. We believe Romeo High School’s athletic program helps develop the character traits that promote successful living. Both parenting and coaching are extremely challenging vocations. By

establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of each other, providing greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program. If a situation arises which requires a conference between the coach and the parent, this is encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position.

The following communication can be expected from the coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for your child and other players on the squad
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

Coaches expect the following communication from parents

1. As Romeo High School athletes become involved in the athletic program, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand their wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged
2. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
3. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
4. Specific concerns regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
5. Athlete's health or medical conditions

The following are appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

Parents often find it difficult to accept limitations a coach may place on their child's playing time. Coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches are:

1. Playing time
2. Strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student athletes

When parent-coach conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help reach a resolution to the issue of concern:

1. Call the high school at (586) 752-0300 to set up an appointment with the coach.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director at (586) 281-1145 to facilitate setting up a meeting.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice
4. If the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, a parent may call to set up an appointment with the Athletic Director at (586) 281-1145 to discuss the situation and determine appropriate next steps.

Athletes are encouraged to maintain open lines of communication with their coaches. Student athletes should ask what is expected of them and what they need to do to improve. Athletes are encouraged to talk to the Athletic Director on any problems or situations not satisfactorily covered by the coach.

