Eligibility/Ineligibility Policy for Academics

An academic eligibility policy has been designed by a committee of faculty, coaches, parents and administration. Listed below are the key components.

1. Students in grades 7-12 failing two or more subjects will be considered ineligible to participate in athletics and the school musical. All classes are considered. (English, social studies, math, science, foreign language, technology, PE, art, chorus/band and other electives).
2. Ineligible time periods will follow the five-week notice and report card dates.
3. Ineligibility lists will be in effect for the full five-weeks.
4. Students can become eligible if they complete a weekly eligibility sheet and prove that they are not failing two or more classes and if they attend a minimum of two help sessions per week with the teacher of the classes that they are failing. Failing two classes = 4 help sessions, failing 3 classes = 6 help sessions (one will have to be after school), if failing 4 or more classes an individualized plan will be developed.
5. Each week during the five-week period the student must follow the process described below:
   a. Attend the required number of Help sessions.
   b. Every Monday ineligible students who wish to become eligible will pick up an eligibility sheet from the principal’s office.
   c. They will see the teachers in the classes that they were failing (those classes at the five-week notice or report card dates). They will get their averages and teachers’ signatures on the sheet.
   d. This sheet must be returned to the principal by 3:00 on Monday.
   e. If the student is not failing two classes, then he/she becomes eligible for that week and receives the privilege of participating in athletics and the musical beginning on Tuesday through the following Monday.
   f. This pass is good for one week. This sheet must be completed weekly. Each week during the five-week period the student must follow this process.
5. If a student completes a weekly eligibility sheet and he/she is still failing two or more classes, then the student must continue to attend the required number of HELP sessions. In return for attending the mandatory HELP sessions and completing the eligibility form, the student will be allowed to practice, but he/she will not be allowed to play or attend games or be in the production until the weekly sheet shows eligibility. Again this is a weekly pass.
6. The Principal and Athletic Director Coordinator will meet with all ineligible students as soon as the 5-week report is generated.
7. The coach/advisor will receive notification of the classes the students is failing.

Extracurricular Eligibility Policy for Athletics, Clubs, and Activities

Participating in a sport or club at Richfield Springs Central School is an honor and a privilege. It is not a right. Since we expect our students who represent us both in the village of Richfield Springs and in the areas to which they travel to be fine examples of upstanding citizens and good representatives of our school, we have listed the following rules and regulations to govern participation in all extracurricular activities, including both
athletics and non-athletic extracurricular. This is what the school expects from students as representatives of the school and the community.

The purpose of these regulations is to familiarize the parents/guardians with the responsibilities a student must assume in order to represent the school in any extracurricular activity. This policy will be in effect during the duration of the student’s participation in any extracurricular activity. If a student violates rules and regulations in one sport or activity, it will affect any other sports or activities in which he/she is involved.

For the purposes of this document, the following definitions exist:

- A SPORT is any athletic activity listed by the NYSPHSAA as a sport.
- An ACTIVITY is any club, and/or a non-credit bearing school-related event such as the musical, color guard or marching band.
- EXTRACURRICULAR APPEALS COUNCIL will consist of the following: principal, teacher elected by faculty, head coach or advisor, student council president, athletic director and/or coordinator, and guidance counselor.

**Standards for Participation in Extracurricular Activities and Athletics**

In an effort to ensure that all extracurricular activity programs at Richfield Springs Central School uphold the general ideals of citizenship, responsibility and sportsmanship, standards of conduct have been established for students participating in any extracurricular or sports program. For the purpose of minimizing ambiguities or misinterpretation of these standards, the following definitions and regulations shall be used as follows:

**Academic Eligibility:** In order for a student to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, the student must maintain a scholastic standing consistent with the Academic Eligibility Policy.

**Citizenship:** School behavior and satisfactory citizenship must prevail at all times. The student will at all times conduct himself or herself properly in both action and speech, on and off school property.

**Sportsmanship:** Students will represent Richfield Springs Central School with good sportsmanship at all times. Students will be expected to treat all coaches, game officials, teammates, spectators, judges, and opponents with respect.

**Participation and Practice:** Students are expected to be at all practices and rehearsals. Students must see the advisor or coach personally if they are to be excused from practices or meetings and must have a sufficient reason for being excused.

**Equipment:** Each student and parent/guardian will assume the responsibility for caring for all uniforms, equipment, and supplies issued to the student by the advisor, coach, or his representative(s) and for returning all such equipment and supplies to the advisor or coach at the conclusion of each season/year.

Parents/guardians and students will be charged the replacement value of any lost or damaged equipment, uniforms, and supplies. Students will not be allowed to participate in another sport or activity until that matter is settled. This responsibility does not, of course, include damage done to the equipment, etc. under supervised use.

**Transportation:** All students will ride to and from extracurricular events held out of the district on school provided transportation. If parents/guardians want their son or daughter to ride home with them, they must first speak to the advisor personally and, secondly, must sign-out their son or daughter using the Student-Athlete Bus Transportation Release Form provided by the coach/school. A student may be signed out by another adult IF there is a
note from the student’s parent/guardian to do so. The adult signing out the student must speak to the advisor personally, and must sign-out the student on the Student-Athlete Transportation Release Form.

**Injury:** A participant who is under a doctor’s care for any injury will not be permitted to participate until the doctor gives approval in writing.

**Legal tardy or absence:** Absence or tardy from school is legal only when the school attendance officer certifies the absence or tardy is legal. Legal absence or tardy includes the following, but are not limited to:

- personal illness
- required to be in court
- medical appointments
- educational related trip
- family emergency
- pre-approved college visits
- driver’s test

**Illegal tardy or absence:** Absence or tardy from school for any part of the day, which is not approved by the school attendance officer, is an illegal absence or tardy. Illegal absences or tardies include the following, but are not limited to:

- shopping
- needed at home
- visiting
- personal vehicle issues
- vacation
- WORK and/or baby-sitting
- hunting
- over-sleeping

**Truancy:** A pupil whose parent/guardian expects him/her to be in school and who does not attend other than for a lawful reason is truant.

**Rules Governing Absences and Tardiness**

- If a pupil is absent from school due to illegal absence or illness, the pupil is not permitted to practice or participate in any extracurricular or sport event scheduled for that day or night.
- If a student is tardy to or absent from school with a legal reason, he/she may participate. The student must bring a written excuse or the parent/guardian must contact the school nurse by phone stating the reason. If it is a medical appointment, a doctor’s note is required.
- If he/she is tardy due to illegal reasons or illness, he/she may participate that day if he/she arrives by 9:45. This rule applies for two illegal tardies per year. After the second illegal tardy, he/she will sit out that day and any subsequent days he/she is tardy.

**Rules Governing Unacceptable Behaviors**

1. Quitting – Any student who quits an activity or sport or is removed for disciplinary reasons will not be allowed to participate in another activity or sport until the matter is reviewed. For sports, the Extracurricular Appeals Council will be convened as soon as possible at the request of any of the people involved. The Council has to meet and grant approval before the student can participate again. For activities, advisors will be given the discretion about further participation.
2. Students will not use or possess any tobacco products.
3. Students will not drink or possess alcoholic beverages.
4. Students will not use or possess stimulants, depressants, steroids, or drugs not prescribed by a doctor.
5. Any other reasonable rules may be established by the advisor or coach who would protect RSCS from activity by student participators which could be deemed detrimental to the team or group, the school, or the community. These rules
   • must be written and submitted to and approved by a school principal and/or athletic director one week before the activity or sports practices start.
   • must be attached to the contract signed by the student and parent.
   • must also list a reasonable penalty for violation.
6. Any student who has ISS or OSS for the day will not be allowed to participate in any sport or extracurricular activity that same day.

Advisors’ and Coaches’ Actions for Violations of Rules
Any violations of 2, 3, or 4 above will result in the following actions:

First Violation:
   • Immediate two week suspension from all athletic contests and activities.
   • If there are no contests or performances in that two week period (for example preseason), the student will be suspended from the very next contest/performance.
     Students will be required to continue to practice and will attend any contests or performances, dressed in school clothes (not uniforms), and sitting with the team or the advisor.
   • He/she will be required to participate in educational activities related to alcohol, tobacco, and drug issues by the end of the two-week suspension period.
   • Violations at the end of the season or activity schedule will be carried over to the next season or time in which the student chooses to participate.

Second Violation: The student will be dropped from all activities and sports for a complete calendar year. If, after being suspended from participation for a calendar year, that student has no further violations for one more calendar year, he/she will be given a “clean slate.” The punishment for that student’s next violation would revert to the original two-week suspension.

If a student is arrested or convicted of a crime, he/she will be immediately removed from the team or activity. The Extracurricular Appeals Council will review any student arrested for any reason. Any investigation of the facts of off–school grounds conduct will be undertaken to determine whether a conduct rule has been violated. Any such violation will result in the appropriate suspension as per the code described above. It is recommended that the Extracurricular Appeals Council meet as soon as possible to determine final action. The school attorney should be present or consulted on all matters involving this action.

Reporting of Violations: Reports of alleged violations to numbers 2, 3, or 4 above must come from individuals listed below and must be investigated. These reports should be made in writing to the principal and/or athletic director within three school days of the incident.
   • any district employee or school board member
   • any adult acting as a chaperone or assisting with a school activity at the request of a district employee
   • any law enforcement officer or agency
   • a parent/legal guardian of the athlete involved.
Reports of alleged violations from persons other than those mentioned above must be made in writing by a person who has first-hand knowledge of the incident. These reports must be investigated if it is determined that the allegation has merit.

**Appeals Process:**

It is the student’s right to appeal rules governed by the Extracurricular Eligibility Policy for Athletics, Clubs, and Activities, which is comprised of administrators, teachers and coaches. The Extracurricular Appeals Council has the authority to make exceptions to the rules in cases of extraordinary circumstances.

In making appeals, the following chain of command is in effect: Advisor or coach, Extracurricular Appeals Council, Superintendent, and Board of Education. Students or parents/guardians who wish to appeal the decision must follow the chain of command.

*BP 7045, 7051, 7051.1, 7053 & 7053.1*