

RSU 5 CODE OF CONDUCT

The **Code of Conduct** is designed to reinforce RSU5's Core Values both in school and outside of school. The **Code of Conduct** supports the social, emotional and physical well being of students. Good health is important for student athletes. The use of tobacco, alcohol or other drugs by students not only breaks school rules but local, state and federal laws. In addition, it can interfere physically, socially and emotionally with your academic and athletic performance. Often, student athletes serve as ambassadors of the school and community and, because of this role, are expected to demonstrate responsible behavior. Participation in co-curricular activities and holding leadership positions are privileges, not rights.

Students participating in co-curricular activities are expected to refrain from using or possessing tobacco, alcohol, other illegal substance/drugs, or illegal paraphernalia associated with these substances/drugs. Students will not participate in illegal activities that demonstrate a serious disregard of the RSU5's Core Values including but not limited to theft, burglary, assault, vandalism, and lewd/indecent acts.

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.

Goals

To reinforce and support our schools' health curriculum and the values of our communities.

To build a sense of pride and positive spirit among those who participate in RSU5 co-curricular programs, as well as generating a positive public perception of RSU5 teams and performance groups.

To discourage students from illegal substance use and possession. Early use of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol are associated with higher rates of substance addiction and abuse later in life; higher rates of suicide, adolescent injuries, death, and poor academic performance.

To encourage students who have made poor choices by using illegal substances to come forward, accept responsibility, and get help where needed.

Code of Conduct and Responsible Behavior

This **Code of Conduct** reflects and seeks to reinforce each of the core concepts of ethical and responsible behavior.

- **Respect** - Having the respect for self and others that results in thoughtful decision making.
- **Honesty** - Giving one's word to the school, advisors, teachers and coaches to abide by this **Code**, and following through on that word. (including honesty as it relates to academic integrity)
- **Compassion** - Using this **Code** as an instrument to guide students who are having difficulty with illegal substances to get needed help and reducing the consequence for those who choose this route.
- **Fairness** - Achieving a balance between the offense and the consequence.
- **Responsibility** - Accepting the consequences of one's actions and accepting the responsibilities for others that are inherent in membership on a school team or activity.
- **Courage** - Giving young people a reason to say "no" in the face of peer pressure and reinforcing those courageous decisions.
- **Humility** - Being willing to admit one's mistakes and accept help from others when in trouble.

Prohibited Conduct

- Students shall not use, sell, furnish, be in possession, under the influence, or knowingly be in the presence of any product containing tobacco or alcohol.
- Students shall not manufacture, sell, furnish, possess, use, be under the influence, or knowingly be in the presence of any narcotic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, anabolic steroid, or prescription drug (unless the student has a lawful prescription for that drug and is using it in the manner prescribed); or 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 shall not be in possession of any paraphernalia associated with the use of such substances, the possession of which is a violation of law.
- All of these prohibitions shall apply to electronic cigarette and other devices designed to deliver nicotine through inhalation or “vaping”, or used to simulate smoking
- Students shall not host, voluntarily or involuntarily, a gathering at his/her home where prohibited activities in violation of this Code take place unless the student and/or his parents/guardians immediately contact the police to bring such a gathering to an end.
- Students will not participate in illegal activities including, but not limited to, theft, burglary, assault, vandalism, and lewd/indecent acts.
- The Code of Conduct is not intended to infringe or prohibit the legal use of the substances outlined above within the confines of family events.

Investigation and Evidence to Support Conclusion of Violation

It shall be the responsibility of the administration to investigate thoroughly any allegations or information concerning possible violations of this Code. It shall be the responsibility of the administration to conduct a limited, reasonable investigation of any other possible violations. The student shall be given oral or written notice of the charge(s) against him/her. The student shall be given an explanation of the evidence forming the basis for the charge(s). The student shall be given an opportunity to present his/her version of the incident. It is understood that if any additional information is sufficient to support a finding of a violation, or if the information gathered indicates that it is more probable than not that a violation occurred, that information will be used to support a conclusion of a violation of the Code of Conduct. In all cases where a violation is found to have occurred, a school administrator shall contact a parent/guardian. Minimum consequences for these violations of the Code of Conduct are outlined below and may include additional consequences determined on a case-by-case basis by the coach or advisor and school administrators.

Self-Reporting Rationale and Definition

In order to encourage personal responsibility; promote communication among students, parents, 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.

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 Counselor, Social Worker, or Conference Team

For any violation of the **Code of Conduct** involving drugs, alcohol, 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 counselor must verify the student’s active participation in the recommended follow-up plan before participation in co-curricular activities may be resumed. If the course of action determined in the follow-up plan is violated and/or the student or parents 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 parents, school resource officer, school counselor, social worker, school nurse, health coordinator, health teacher, coach, and administration.

Consequences for Violations

Violation	Consequences	Self-report consequences
1st offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 total calendar days: 7 days suspension & 7 days probation • While on <u>suspension</u> (1st 7 days), students may not participate in any co-curricular activities. Students 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. • While on <u>probation</u> (2nd 7 days), the student will not be eligible to participate in games, meets, contests, performances, but is still expected to practice and abide by existing school/team/club/activity rules and regulations. Students are expected to attend, but may not dress in uniform for games, meets, contests, or performances • Students may be required to meet with school counselor, social worker, or conference team as outlined above. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 calendar days suspension from all co-curricular activities. After 7 days, the student may return to practices, meetings, games, meets, contests, and performances. • Students may be required to meet with school counselor, social worker, or conference team as outlined above.
2nd offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 total calendar days: 14 days suspension & 14 days probation • While on <u>suspension</u> (1st 14 days), students may not participate in any co-curricular activities. Students 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. • While on <u>probation</u> (2nd 14 days), the student will not be eligible to participate in games, meets, contests, performances, but is still expected to practice and abide by existing school/team/club/activity rules and regulations. Students are expected to attend, but may not dress in uniform for games, meets, contests, or performances • Students will be required to meet with school counselor, social worker, or conference team as outlined above. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 total calendar days: 7 days suspension & 7 days probation • While on <u>suspension</u> (1st 7 days), students may not participate in any co-curricular activities. Students 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. • While on <u>probation</u> (2nd 7 days), the student will not be eligible to participate in games, meets, contests, performances, but is still expected to practice and abide by existing school/team/club/activity rules and regulations. Students are expected to attend, but may not dress in uniform for games, meets, contests, or performances • Students will be required to meet with school counselor, social worker, or conference team as outlined above.
3rd and subsequent offenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two months suspension from all co-curricular activities. • Students will meet with school counselor, social worker, or conference team as outlined above. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One month suspension from all co-curricular activities • Students will meet with school counselor, social worker or conference team as outlined above.

In all cases, the Administration is responsible for making referral to the proper law enforcement authorities.

If a student violates the **Code of Conduct** close to the end of a season or school year and does not serve all of the days of suspension/probation, the remaining days may be carried over and served during the next season or school year.

Loss of Leadership Positions And/Or School Recognitions

Students who violate this **Code** who are elected or appointed school leaders or eligible for team, conference, or end-of-year school recognitions or scholarships must recognize that they may be required to forfeit such roles or lose their eligibility for such awards. Together with school administrators, coaches and advisors will consider prior **Code** violations when selecting future leadership positions and award recipients

Code In Effect

The **Code** will be in effect from the first official day of preseason in the fall (determined by the Maine Principals' Association and usually 3 weeks prior to the opening of school) until either the last day of school or last day of spring sports, activities, or awards night, whichever is later. The **Code** applies to students:

- On or off school property
- While in attendance at school or at any school-sponsored activity on or off school property, or
- At any time or place that such conduct directly impacts the operation, discipline or general welfare of the school and the students.

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

Principal Approved Activities Covered by Code of Conduct

- All students elected or appointed to student leadership positions, including but not limited to Student Council, Class Officers, National Honor Society, etc.
- All students involved in interscholastic competitions of any sort, including but not limited to Athletics, Math Team, One Act Play, etc.
- All students involved in public performances and other principal approved activities, including but not limited to, Drama, Art Club, Technology Club, Fishing Club, etc.

Each year, the administration shall list in the student handbook those activities to which this policy applies.

Cross Reference: JIC – System-wide Student Code of Conduct
 JICH – Drugs and Alcohol Use By Students