

RDUSD Student/Athlete/Extra & Co-Curricular Code and Policies 2009-2010 Code Agreement

Athletics means more than competition between two individuals or two teams representing different schools. Instead, athletics is a means of teaching a very healthy way of life. Participation in athletics will help students learn fair play and sportsmanship, promote an understanding and appreciation for good teamwork. The athlete learns that quitting means failure while hard work eventually brings success. With these goals in mind the administration, Athletic Directors, and coaches/advisors have formulated this guide for the use of all concerned. If the athletes of River Delta Unified School District (RDUSD) will live in the spirit, as well as, by the letter of the Athletic Code, pride, victories and successes will surely follow.

Conduct of Students

The conduct of athletes is closely observed in many areas of life. It is important that behavior meets or exceeds these standards in all of the following areas:

1. On the field, participation in the athletic program of RDUSD requires adherence to the highest standards of good sportsmanship. Aspects of good sportsmanship include ensuring fairness in competition and exhibiting respect for the people and institutions associated with athletic contests. In order to promote fairness in competition, a series of rules governing each sport have been adopted. Good sportsmanship requires that athletes adhere to the rules of the game. Further, it requires that athletes comply with the spirit of those rules, which were written to promote fairness. Athletes of RDUSD will be required to comply with the rules of each sport and to further ensure that fairness in competition is not limited by their actions in anyway.

- **CIF Code of Ethics**

It is the duty of all concerned with high school athletics:

- To emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play
- To eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game
- To stress the values derived from playing the game fairly
- To show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials
- To establish a happy relationship between visitors and the hosts
- To respect the integrity and judgment of sports officials
- To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility
- To encourage leadership, use of initiative, and good judgment by the players on a team
- To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well-being of the individual players (student athletes)
- To remember that an athletic contest is only a game – not a matter of life and death for player, coach/advisor, school, officials, fan, community, state, or nation

Athletes should think of their school and not necessarily of personal interest. This means placing the team above the individual and having the interest of the school and the team above all else. Whenever possible, athletes should actively support other sports in which they are not participating by attending those events or contests. Athletes must understand that compliance with the standards of good sportsmanship is an absolute, which is required by athletes experiencing success or failure, victory or defeat. *Athletes, who find themselves unable to comply with these standards, must understand their opportunity for participation shall be limited or removed.*

General CIF Eligibility Requirements For Sac Joaquin & North Section

ARTICLE

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

200. CIF PHILOSOPHY ON STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC COMPETITION

The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), as the governing body of high school athletics, affirms that athletic competition is an important part of the high school experience and that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege. The privilege of participation in interscholastic athletics is available to students in public or private schools who meet the democratically established standards of qualification as set forth by the CIF Federated Council. CIF Bylaws governing student eligibility are a necessary prerequisite to participation in interscholastic athletics because they:

- A. Keep the focus on athletic participation as a privilege, not a right;
- B. Reinforce the principle that students attend school to receive an education first; athletic participation is secondary;
- C. Protect the opportunities to participate for students who meet the established standards;
- D. Provide a fundamentally fair and equitable framework in which interscholastic athletic competition can take place;
- E. Provide uniform standards for all schools to follow in maintaining athletic competition;
- F. Serve as a deterrent to students who transfer schools for athletic reasons and to individuals who recruit student-athletes;
- G. Serve as a deterrent to students who transfer schools to avoid disciplinary action;
- H. Maintain an ethical relationship between high school athletic programs and others who demonstrate an interest in high school athletes;

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I. Support the Principles of "Pursuing Victory with Honor."

201. STANDARDS OF ELIGIBILITY

Only students regularly enrolled in public and private CIF member schools, grades 9-12, shall be permitted to participate in the CIF and shall represent only that school of enrollment except as provided in Bylaws 303, 304 and 306. The CIF establishes the standards for eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics to include the following: (See also related bylaws: 305 – Home Study/Home Schooling; 306 – Independent Study Programs/Schools; 510 – Undue Influence; and the 600 Series – Outside Competition)

- A. Philosophy statement (Bylaw 200)
- B. Accurate information requirement (Bylaw 202)
- C. Age requirement (Bylaw 203)
- D. Eight consecutive semesters requirement (Bylaw 204)
- E. Scholastic eligibility (Bylaw 205)
 - (1) Initial scholastic eligibility (Bylaw 205.A.)
 - (2) Continuing scholastic eligibility (Bylaw 205.B.)
 - (3) Summer school credits (Bylaw 205.C.)
 - (4) Non-traditional programs (Bylaw 205.D.)
 - (5) Waivers of 20 semester credits requirement (Bylaw 205.E.)
- F. Residential eligibility (Bylaw 206)
 - (1) Initial residential eligibility (Bylaw 206.A.)
 - (2) Continuing residential eligibility (Bylaw 206.B.)
- G. Transfer rule (Bylaw 207)
- H. Hardship waivers of the transfer rule (Bylaw 208)
- I. Foreign student eligibility (Bylaw 209)
- J. Discipline eligibility (Bylaw 210)
 - (1) Expulsion (Bylaw 210.A.)
 - (2) Suspended expulsion (Bylaw 210.B.)
 - (3) Transfer compelled for disciplinary reasons (Bylaw 210.C.)
- K. Physical assault (Bylaw 211)
- L. Continuation school eligibility (Bylaw 212)
- M. Amateur status requirement (Bylaw 213)
- N. Hardship waivers of eligibility standards other than transfer (Bylaw 214)
- O. Post-injunctive remedies (Bylaw 215)
- P. Intercollegiate competition (Bylaw 216)
- Q. Graduates (Bylaw 217)
 - (1) Mid-year/spring graduation (Bylaw 217.A.)
 - (2) California high school proficiency exam (Bylaw 217.B.)

202. ACCURATE INFORMATION

A. The CIF requires that all information provided in regard to any aspect of the eligibility of a student must be true, correct, accurate and complete.

B. Student Eligibility – Penalty for Provision of False or Fraudulent Information

(1) If it is discovered that any parent, guardian, caregiver or student has provided false information in regards to any aspect of eligibility status on behalf of a student, that student is subject to immediate ineligibility for CIF competition at any level in any sport for a period of up to 24 calendar months from the date the determination was made that false information was provided.

(2) If it is discovered that persons associated with the student or the school (coach, teachers, parents, friends, etc.) provided false information in order to fraudulently gain favorable eligibility status for a student, that student is subject to immediate ineligibility for competition at any Section member school at any level in any sport for a period of up to 24 calendar months from the determination that false information was provided whether the student was aware of the fraudulent information or not.

(3) Any contests in which a student or students participated based on false information or fraudulent practices regarding eligibility status shall be forfeited according to the guidelines set in accord to the rules of the CIF Section.

203. AGE REQUIREMENT

No student, whose 19th birthday is attained prior to June 15, shall participate or practice on any team in the following school year. A student, whose 19th birthday is on or before June 14, is ineligible. Each Section may waive this provision so long as criteria for such a waiver shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. Such a waiver would not grant more than four years (eight semesters) of eligibility; AND
- B. Such a waiver would not grant more than four years' participation in any sport; AND
- C. That a hardship exists that, in the judgment of the Section, requires a waiver. "Hardship" is defined in Bylaw 214; AND
- D. A decision to deny such a waiver by the Section Commissioner may be appealed only to the Section and in accordance with the provisions set forth in State CIF Bylaw 1100.

203.1 If the age of any person is protested, the burden of proof shall rest upon the person protested, and he or she must submit to the Commissioner convincing proof of his or her correct age.

203.2 Any athletic contests in which an ineligible student has participated either intentionally or unintentionally, involving both team and individual sports, must be forfeited. A statute of limitation of one calendar year from the last league contest will apply. This would apply to any practice, league, playoff game, match, meet or sanctioned event. Report of such forfeiture must be filed with the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section office.

203.3 A Sac-Joaquin Section Appeals Committee may waive the 19-year-old age requirement utilizing the criteria established in bylaws 203, 214 and 1109.

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205. SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY

A. Initial Scholastic Eligibility

In order to be eligible, any student entering from the eighth grade into a CIF four-year high school, a junior high or a junior high under the provisions of Bylaw 303, must have achieved a 2.0 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale in enrolled courses at the conclusion of the previous grading period.

205. A. (1) Probationary Period

The governing board of each school district, private school or parochial school may adopt, as part of its policy, provisions that would allow a student who does not achieve the above requirement in the previous grading period to remain eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics during a probationary period. The probationary period shall not exceed one semester in length, but may be for a shorter period of time, as determined by the governing board of the school district, private school or parochial school. A student who does not meet the above requirements during the probationary period shall not be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletics in the subsequent grading period. For the purpose of determining the maximum length of a semester, the measure shall be the maximum number of days comprising a semester as used in that school during the year in question.

205.B. Continuing Scholastic Eligibility

(1) Minimum Requirements

A student is scholastically eligible if:

a. The student is currently enrolled in at least 20 semester credits of work;

(i) Non-Traditional Programs

In schools where other than traditional semester programs are offered, the principal of each individual school shall be responsible for determining the equivalent of 20 semester credits.

(ii) Physical Education Credits

Credits earned in physical education may count toward the 20 semester credits of work requirement.

(iii) Accelerated Programs

Students studying on an accelerated program that includes one or more advanced (either high school or college) courses while enrolled in high school may substitute enrollment and passing grades in these courses for one or more required 20 semester credits of work; evaluation of these courses is to be done by the high school principal.

b. The student was passing in the equivalent of at least 20 semester credits of work at the completion of the most recent grading period;

c. The student is maintaining minimum progress toward meeting the high school graduation requirements as prescribed by the governing board;

d. The student has maintained, during the previous grading period, a minimum 2.0 grade-point average, on a 4.0 scale, in all enrolled courses.

(2) Probationary Period

The governing board of each school district, private school or parochial school may adopt, as part of its policy, provisions that would allow a student who does not achieve said educational progress in items (c) or (d) above in the previous grading period to remain eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics during a probationary period. The probationary period shall not exceed one semester in length, but may be for a shorter period of time as determined by the governing board of the school district, private school or parochial school. A student who does not achieve said educational progress as defined in items (c) or (d) during the probationary period shall not be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletics in the subsequent grading period. For the purpose of determining the maximum length of a semester, the measure should be the maximum as used in that school.

(3) Grading Period

The grading period is that time when all students in a school are graded. If two grades are given at the end of a grading period, scholastic eligibility shall be established according to the grade issued for credit.

(4) Incomplete Grades

A grade(s) of "Incomplete" shall not be considered a passing grade under this bylaw unless, by operation of a school grading policy, said "Incomplete" grade shall become a passing letter or (numeric) grade without further achievement or accomplishment by a student, at a certain time. When an "Incomplete" grade is issued which does not automatically become a passing grade, as indicated immediately above, such "Incomplete" grade shall not satisfy the requirement of this bylaw until academic deficiency which gave rise to such "Incomplete" grade shall have been satisfied and a passing grade has been substituted for the "Incomplete" grade. Upon such substitution, the substituted grade shall be considered in determining scholastic eligibility as established by evaluation of previous grading period grades and the substituted grade. A scholastically ineligible student may become immediately scholastically eligible upon such evaluation.

205.1 A student is eligible in his current regular school grading period until the start of the new regular school grading period.

205.2 A student ineligible one regular grading period cannot play until the start of the next regular school grading period.

205.3 Any athletic contests in which an ineligible student has participated intentionally or unintentionally, involving both team and individual sports, must be forfeited. A statute of limitation of one calendar year from the last league contest will apply. This would apply to any practice, league, playoff game, match, meet or sanctioned event. Report of such forfeiture must be filed with the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section office.

205. C. Summer School Credits

Summer school credits shall be counted toward making up scholastic deficiencies incurred in the grading period (semester) immediately preceding. Summer school courses failed shall not impair an athlete's scholastic eligibility achieved in the semester immediately preceding. A course taken by contract or independent study during the summer must meet the following four criteria:

(1) The course(s) must be approved by the local board of trustees as a valid part of the district's school program;

(2) The student receives a passing grade in the courses taken;

(3) The personnel providing the instruction and course supervision are approved by the board of trustees;

(4) The school credit is recorded on student's transcript.

D. Scholastic Eligibility for Students in Non-Traditional Programs

In schools operating on other than the traditional program (i.e., for schools such as those with a modular or flexible scheduling, special programs for the physically-disabled, or continuous progress programs) the principal shall certify as to the scholastic eligibility of each student based upon satisfactory progress in accordance with the standards defined above. Students may apply college course units to satisfy the 20 semester periods of work requirement and the grade point average requirement. (**NOTE:** For crediting purposes the grading period closes with the last day of school in the given grading period. In determining eligibility, one grading period does not end until the next one begins.) Students who are eligible for differential standards of proficiency pursuant to Section 51412 of the Education Code are covered by that section.

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E. Waiver of the Requirement of Passing 20 Semester Credits of Work

Each CIF Section may waive the requirement of passing in 20 semester credits of work during the regular school grading period immediately preceding that of competition, PROVIDED:

- (1) Serious illness, injury or attendance in special schools (as referenced in Education Code Sections 59000 et seq. and 59100 et seq.) prevents the student from meeting one or more of these requirements; OR
- (2) The student has been traveling abroad with the consent of the student's parents and circumstances prevented further school attendance; OR
- (3) The student is returning from an American abroad school attendance program; OR
- (4) The student is returning from school attendance abroad because of a valid change of residence by the student's parents or legal guardian; OR
- (5) The student is required to remain out of a U.S. school because of exceptional hardship, (See Bylaw 214 for definition of hardship); AND
- (6) That the student was eligible under all rules in the semester immediately prior to his/her absence; AND
- (7) All other rules such as age and number of seasons of sport shall apply.

A decision to deny such a waiver by the Section Commissioner may be appealed only to the Section and in accordance with the provisions set forth in State CIF Bylaw 1100.

205.4 The CIF Sac-Joaquin Section has authorized the commissioner to make the interpretations implementing Bylaw 205.E.

206. RESIDENTIAL ELIGIBILITY

A. Initial Residential Eligibility

A student has residential eligibility upon initial enrollment in:

- (1) The ninth grade of any CIF high school, a CIF junior high school, or a junior high school under provisions of Bylaw 303; OR
- (2) The 10th grade of any CIF high school from ninth grade of a junior high school in California.

B. Continuing Residential Eligibility

(1) A student retains residential eligibility as long as he/she is continuously enrolled in the CIF member high school in which the student initially enrolled; OR

(2) A student changes schools with a valid change of residence by the student's custodial parent(s) or guardian(s) provided there is a valid change of residence.

a. Valid Residence

A valid residence is defined as the location where the student's parent(s), guardian(s), or caregiver(s) (with whom eligibility has been established) live with that student and thereby have the use and enjoyment of that location. A student (with the student's parent(s), guardian(s), or caregiver(s) with whom eligibility has been established) may only have one valid residence at one time.

b. Valid Change of Residence

Determination of what constitutes a valid change of residence depends upon the facts in each case, however, to be considered, the following facts must exist:

(i) The original residence must be abandoned as a residence by the immediate family; AND

(ii) The student's entire immediate family must make the change and take with them the household goods and furniture appropriate to the circumstances. For eligibility purposes, a family unit may not maintain two or more residences.

(iii) The change of residence must be genuine, without fraud or deceit, and with permanent intent; AND

NOTE: A student whose family makes a valid move into a new school boundary (see iv. below) is immediately residentially eligible for varsity competition. A subsequent move into a different school boundary by the family (or other family members) during that same school year will result in the student being declared ineligible until cleared for competition by the Section Commissioner.

(iv) Evidence must be submitted that a valid change of residence has occurred. Evidence may include:

- Operative telephone and utility service at the student's new residence and terminated at the former residence;
- Utility service receipts; Proof of paying for utilities at the new residence including phone, gas, electricity, water, cable television and garbage collection;
- Proof of submitting a change of address to the U.S. Postal Service to receive mail at the new residence;
- Proof of transfer of the parent's and age-appropriate student's motor vehicle registration;
- Proof of changed address on the parent's and age-appropriate student driver's license;
- Voter registration listing the new address;
- Real estate documents indicating and verifying a change of residence (sale and purchase, for instance);
- Proof of entering a long-term lease;
- Court documents indicating a change of residence;
- Property tax receipts;
- Rent payment receipts;
- Declaration of residency executed by the student's parent or legal guardian;
- Other documentation that a Section or school district may require that establishes that a person is living at the new address.

(3) School Choice Following a Valid Change of Residence

A student, whose parents, legal guardian(s) or caregiver with whom the student was living when the student established residential eligibility at the prior school move from a residence in public high school attendance area "A" to a residence in public high school attendance area "B," has a choice among continued attendance at the previous school, attendance at School "B," or attendance at a private school. The student is eligible if the student remains in School "A," or if the student enrolls and attends class immediately or no later than the beginning of the next school year, in school "B" or a private school.

206.1 School B could be the private school located in the student's residential area or if no private school is located in that attendance area; it could be the private school of the student's choice, even though he/she does not reside within the attendance area for the private school.

(4) Return to Previous School

When a student eligible in School "A" transfers to School "B" and is residentially not eligible, the student may return to School "A" and be residentially eligible provided the student did not participate in an interscholastic athletic contest while at School "B" and provided the student's parents, legal guardian or caregiver still reside in School "A's" attendance area. (**NOTE:** The Section may require some paperwork.)

(5) Intra-district and Inter-district Transfers/Open Enrollment

Each Section shall adopt rules and procedures that address eligibility pursuant to the provisions of the State Education Code Sections 35160.5(b)(1) and 48300 et seq. ("open enrollment" and school choice legislation). However, only the Section Commissioner shall make all final determinations of transfer eligibility. (See also Bylaw 207.B)

206.2 The CIF Sac-Joaquin Section does not utilize this bylaw for eligibility. Refer to Bylaw 207 for transfer eligibility and hardship waivers.

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206.3 The CIF Sac-Joaquin Section has not established any rules or procedures for granting immediate eligibility for intradistrict and interdistrict transfers (See Bylaw 207).

207. TRANSFER ELIGIBILITY

A student who participates in an interscholastic athletic contest or is enrolled in and/or attends a school for 15 school days or more shall be considered to have been "enrolled" in that school and shall be classified as a transfer student if the student subsequently enrolls at another school.

A. A student may have transfer eligibility provided the student moves from any school to a CIF school due to:

- (1) A valid change of residence (See also Bylaw 206.B) from one school attendance area to the attendance area of the new school by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) with whom the student was living when the student established residential eligibility (Bylaw 206.A) at the prior school; OR
- (2) A ruling by the Board of Education of a school district that has two or more high schools provided the change of schools is not the result of disciplinary action; OR
- (3) A family decision to transfer the student prior to the first day of the student's third consecutive semester (typically the first semester of the sophomore year) of attendance since the initial enrollment when the following conditions are met:
 - a. This is the first transfer of this student since his/her initial enrollment in the ninth grade; AND
 - b. The student is not transferring as a result of a disciplinary situation (See also Bylaw 210); AND
 - c. The student was scholastically and otherwise eligible at the former school immediately prior to the transfer; AND
 - d. The CIF Form **510** Pre-Enrollment Contact Affidavit is completed verifying that there is no evidence of the use of undue influence (recruiting) by anyone associated with either school; AND
 - e. The CIF Form **207** Athletic Transfer Eligibility Application and CIF Form **510** Pre-Enrollment Contact Affidavit has been approved by the Section.

f. Under this bylaw, no student shall be eligible to participate in the same sport at two different schools in the same school year unless the student changed schools as a result of a valid change of residence by the student and his/her custodial parent(s) or guardian(s).

B. All ninth grade students who are transferring for a second time or any 10th, 11th or 12th grade students who transfer without a valid change of residence, will have limited eligibility for one year from the date of transfer (see item "a." below):

(1) A student who transfers from a school located in the U.S., a U.S. Territory, a U.S. Military Base, or Canada (to be referred to as School A) to school B, without a change of residence on the part of his/her parents, legal guardians, or caregiver with whom the student was living when the student established residential eligibility, from school attendance area A to school attendance area B, shall be residentially eligible for all athletic competition EXCEPT varsity level competition in sports in which the student has competed in any level of interscholastic competition during the 12 calendar months preceding the date of such transfer. (defined as LIMITED ELIGIBILITY).

a. Based on the conditions below, the student shall be ineligible for all sports for one calendar year unless otherwise noted.

- (i) A student who was scholastically ineligible at their previous school will not be eligible to compete at the new school until the requirements in Bylaw 205 are met and the new school has completed a grading period to verify that the student has met the CIF and school district scholastic eligibility requirements.
- (ii) A student will be declared ineligible for one calendar year from the date of transfer if he/she is transferring for disciplinary reasons as defined in Bylaw 210.
- (iii) There is evidence of the use of undue influence by someone associated with either school in order to retain or secure this student's enrollment.

207.1 Approved attendance area for CIF competition is defined as a boundary area. A student has residential eligibility upon initial enrollment in:

- a. The ninth grade of any CIF high school, a CIF junior high school or a junior high school under the provisions of Bylaw 303, OR
- b. The 10th grade of any CIF high school from the ninth grade of a junior high school.

207.2 Any athletic contests in which an ineligible student has participated either intentionally or unintentionally, involving both team and individual sports, must be forfeited. A statute of limitation of one calendar year from the last league contest will apply. This would apply to any practice, league, playoff game, match, meet or sanctioned event. Report of such forfeiture must be filed with the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section.

207.4 Any student whose address has been falsified in order to achieve residential eligibility will be ineligible in all interscholastic athletic competition for a period of one year from the date the infraction is verified. This bylaw does not apply to junior highs.

1. **AMATEUR STANDING RULE** – Article 4, Sections 400 and 401, generally states that the CIF Federated Council shall bar a student who violates the CIF amateur or award rules from CIF competition in that sport until appeal and reinstatement occurs
2. **OUTSIDE COMPETITION** – Article 6, Section 600, states that a student on a high school team becomes ineligible if the student competes in a contest on an "outside" team, in the same sport, during the student's high school season of sport which results in all contests being forfeited that the student participated.
3. **ALL-STAR COMPETITION** – Article 9, Section 900, states that any student taking part in a prohibited All Star contest or similar contest shall be barred from All CIF athletic contests.

- ▶ **Note:** Because the penalty for allowing an ineligible athlete to participate is severe (forfeiture of all contests in which the athlete participated), any athlete living outside of the school boundaries should notify the coach/advisor or their High School of his/her residence at the beginning of the season, so that any necessary forms and approvals are on file. An athlete who is dishonest about their residence places an entire team in jeopardy. Any athlete who moves out of the attendance area, but the student remains in a RDUSD school must immediately report the change of residence to the coach/advisor, Athletic Director and the RDUSD school attendance offices. CIF bylaw 200 E (1), states that, any parent, guardian, caregiver, or student who provided false information in regards to any aspect of eligibility status of a student, that student is subject to immediate ineligibility for CIF competition at any level in any sport for period of up to twelve (12) calendar months from the date the determination was made that information was false or provided. CIF bylaw 200 E (2), states that, if it is discovered that persons associated with the student or the school (coach/advisor, teachers, parents, friends, students, etc) provided false information in order to fraudulently gain favorable eligibility status for a student, that student is subject to immediate ineligibility for CIF competition at any level in any sport for a period of up to twelve (12) calendar months from the date the determination was made that information was false or provided whether the student was aware of the fraudulent information or not

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Academic Eligibility

River Delta Unified School District's school administrators, athletic directors, coaches/advisors, take the rules regarding co-curricular and extracurricular participation seriously and are responsible to insure compliance with local, regional and state guidelines for each activity. These guidelines are annually reviewed to determine eligibility requirements. All students must maintain complete eligibility at all times to represent RDUSD in conferences and competition.

It is the policy of River Delta Unified School District and CIF, that students who desire to participate in the interscholastic athletic programs, co-curricular, or extracurricular activities, make satisfactory progress toward graduation. To be eligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic program or RDUSD sponsored extracurricular activity, the following rules apply in addition to all CIF or other organizational requirements:

- All students participating in co-curricular and/or extracurricular activities must maintain a **minimum of a 2.0 grade point average (GPA), with NO "F" grades**. Credits earned shall be factored when determining GPA for eligibility.
- Incomplete (I) grades shall be computed as "F" grades for eligibility purposes.
- Eligibility is based on final grades from each of the following grading periods for grades 9-12: Quarter 1, Semester 1, Quarter 3, and Semester 2 (Second (2nd) and fourth (4th) quarter eligibility is determined by the first (1st), and third (3rd) quarter grades. First (1st) quarter and third (3rd) quarter eligibility is determined by the previous semester grades.) **Grades earned at the end of the 8th grade year must be 2.00 for all incoming Freshmen per Sac Joaquin and North Section CIF.**
- Student participants may attend summer school to make up a failing grade. They must take and pass the same level course with the same course title they failed during the spring semester. Students may also repeat a required course to improve their grade. Ten (10) credits may be transferred from summer school programs.
- Eligibility for transfer students will be based on grades/transfer eligibility earned at the last grading period.
- Any student who is declared ineligible because of earning below a 2.0 GPA, an 'F', or both at the end of the grading period will be declared ineligible for a minimum of 4½ weeks from the Monday that eligibility is determined. Grades of ineligible students shall be checked on the Monday following the date that progress reports are posted. If the GPA is greater than or equal to a 2.0 with NO 'F's, the student will be transferred to probationary status until the next eligibility date.
- If a student is on a probationary contract, he/she must present a grade verification form that shall have a letter grade assigned to each course the student is enrolled in by the teacher. This completed form is due on Wednesday of each week to the Athletic Director, and will determine academic eligibility the following week. Students shall only be allowed one (1), probationary period during their attendance high school - Any violation of this procedure is considered a violation of the probationary contract.
- Students who are ineligible, and their contract grade report is 2.00 and no F's for the graded week of the probationary contract, will continue to practice with the team, or participate in alternative activities (such as tutoring). **Ineligible students, or students on probation, cannot participate in competition/activities or travel with their team.**
- An appeals committee will be available to any student participant who is declared academically ineligible, but feels he/she has a legitimate reason for academic deficiency. The committee will consist of an administrator, the athletic director, and two teachers who do not advise or coach the student.

OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS – Along with other academic eligibility criteria, students shall have on file with the school's attendance office the following documents before they become eligible to participate.

- **Physical Examination** – Article 3, Section 306 stipulates that a student must have an annual physical examination, or a statement from by a medical practitioner, certifying that the student is physically fit to participate in athletics is required before a student may try out, practice, or participate in interscholastic athletic competition. A student will be excused from this physical examination provided there is compliance with the Education Code provisions concerning Parents' Refusal to Consent. In order to be accepted by RDUSD, the physical must be completed **after July 1**, of the school year in which the student plans to compete. This documentation shall be submitted to the school attendance office prior to the conditions outlined above in Article 3, Section 306.

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- **Insurance** – California State Law (C.C. Section 32220-24) states that every high school athlete, while participating in athletics, must be covered by:
 - A \$1,500.00 (minimum) policy of medical and hospital insurance
 - A \$1,500.00 (minimum) policy for accidental death
 - If the family insurance plan does not meet the State Education Code requirements, an insurance plan is available. This application can be picked up at the high school's attendance office.
 - The parents must have written verification listing the name of the company, policy number, expiration date, students name and the amount the insured student. (A copy of the policy is advised.) This documentation shall be submitted to the high school's attendance office prior to the conditions outlined above in Article 3, Section 306.
- **Power of Attorney** - This documentation shall be submitted to the school's attendance office prior to the conditions outlined above in Article 3, Section 306.
- **Student and Parent Statement** – The student/athlete must complete the statement testifying they have read "the RDUSD Student/Athlete Handbook" and "Power of Attorney" forms. This documentation shall be submitted to the school's attendance office prior to the conditions outlined above in Article 3, Section 306.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

- The student is to attend all classes regularly and punctually. In RDUSD, academics come first and anything else is second. A student who does not attend class or cuts jeopardizes their education, eligibility, and position on the team. Any unexcused period absences during the school day make the student ineligible for that days practice, meeting, or other event.
Students must attend a **full day of school** on the day of the event or contest to be eligible to participate on the day of the event or contest. If the event or contest falls on a non-school day, the student must have attended the last regular scheduled **full day of school** to be eligible to participate in the event or contest on the non-school day unless the student has a legitimate excuse arranged at least 24 hours before the event or contest. This arrangement shall be made with the attendance office with approval of the Athletic Director, Vice Principal or Principal. A written note is mandated explaining the nature of the absence for part or all of the day in question; the student/athlete is required to bring a written medical note to verify a medical appointment to the attendance office.

PRACTICE ATTENDANCE

1. Students who participate in athletics, and are expected to maintain good attendance.
2. Students are expected to attend all practices and contests unless they are absent from school due to illness or their coach/advisor excuses them. Students shall communicate with the coach/advisor when they cannot attend a practice, contest, or event.
3. Unexcused absences from practice or failure to maintain good attendance may be cause for removal from the team.
4. Coaches/advisors may adopt individual rules for practice, event, or contest attendance to reinforce and strengthen existing rules.

CARE OF EQUIPMENT – Equipment is provided which represents a substantial expenditure, thus, it shall be cared for and handled properly for financial reasons and to insure safety of the student/athlete.

1. All equipment shall be inventoried, numbered, and checked out by coach/advisor.
2. The student/athlete shall return the same piece(s) of equipment checked out them.
3. Equipment shall be returned in the same condition it was issued. Normal wear of the equipment is expected and determined by the coach/advisor.
4. The student/athlete is responsible for the security of their equipment and uniforms. The student/athlete will be held financially responsible for the replacement of lost, damaged, or stolen equipment or uniforms. In some cases, particularly with game uniforms, the replacement fee may be higher than the original purchase price because of the special processing and printing that is required to duplicate the uniform.
5. All lost or stolen equipment and uniforms will be reported. Any student found wearing or in possession of stolen equipment or wearing equipment reported as stolen may be charged with possession of stolen property and subject to both school rules.

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CARE OF EQUIPMENT (Cont)

6. The student/athlete must return or pay for all uniforms and equipment before they can practice or participate in another sport or attend any school event. All school records will be held including report cards, transcripts, and diplomas, if fees are not paid. If the circumstance warrants, in the case of a large sum of money, arrangements for repayment may be made with the Athletic Director, administration, but cannot extend past the eight (8) semesters of eligibility or graduation.
7. The student/athlete who leaves or quits a team prior to the end of the season must turn in all school equipment and uniforms within three (3) days after their departure.

INJURIES

1. All injuries will be reported to the coach/advisor immediately and they will decide if an accident report should be filed at the school site.
2. RDUSD coaches/advisors have basic first aid and CPR training. The coaches/advisors will look at minor injuries such as minor abrasions, cuts, or sprains. In the event of serious injury, the student/athlete should not be moved and medical professionals will be contacted.
3. If a parent, guardian or caregiver is not present when a student is transported by ambulance, a responsible adult will stay with the student until the parent, guardian or caregiver arrives.
4. All coaches/advisors shall have in their possession at all events or contests a binder with all necessary documentation needed to handle emergencies.
5. Students/athletes that have been injured and treated by medical professionals shall not return to active participation until the school has received written permission and clearance from the doctor that allows the student to actively participate.
6. Warning to students/athletes, parents, guardians, and caregivers:
 - Some forms of athletic competition result in physical contact among players, strenuous physical exertion, and numerous other exposures to the risk of injury. By its various nature, competitive athletics may put a student/athlete in situations in which serious, and perhaps fatal accidents may occur. The student/athlete parents, guardians, and caregivers must assess the risks involved in such participation and make their choice to participate in spite of those risks. No amount of instruction, precaution, or supervision will totally eliminate all risk of injury. Just as driving an automobile involves choice or risk; athletic participation by the student/athlete also can be inherently dangerous. The obligation of parents, guardians, and caregivers along with their student/athlete in making this choice to participate cannot be overstated and should be discussed seriously. There have been accidents resulting in death, paraplegia, quadriplegia, and other very serious permanent physical impairment as a result of athletic competition. By granting permission for your student/athlete to participate in athletic competition, you, the parent, guardian, and caregiver acknowledge such risks exist. By choosing to participate, you, the student/athlete, acknowledge that such risks exist. The student/athlete will be instructed the proper techniques to be used in athletic competition and the proper utilization of all equipment worn or used in practice and competition. All students/athletes must adhere to that instruction and shall refrain from improper uses and techniques. If any of the foregoing is not completely understood, please feel free to contact your Athletic Director or Principal for clarification.

TRANSPORTATION / TRAVEL – the district does not provide transportation for most contests that require travel. Students are expected to go and return on the school-provided transportation. The following guidelines will be followed:

1. Transportation vehicles will leave at the designated departure time. Students who are late or miss the departure of the vehicles shall not participate in the event or contest.
2. Bus Transportation: In the event the parent, guardian or caregiver wants to transport their son/daughter home from a contest, it must be arranged by a “face to face” contact with the supervising coach/advisor that has knowledge and can identify the parent, guardian or caregiver. Notes are not accepted, due to the fact they cannot be verified. No other person(s) shall transport a student/athlete in this situation.
3. **Any parent, guardian or caregiver participating in car pools and transporting students or athletes shall complete and have on file with the school, the parent, guardian or caregiver Driver Agreement form which is available in the school office. This agreement allows the transportation of students/athletes to and from events or contests. For reasons determined by the coach/advisor or Athletic Director, the students/athletes may travel in different configurations as assigned. This process can take approximately 10 days for district approval.**

RDUSD Student/Athlete/Extra & Co-Curricular Code and Policies 2009-2010

TRANSPORTATION / TRAVEL (cont)

4. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a mature, responsible manner at all times.
5. Coaches/advisors may adopt individual rules for travel to any event, or contest, which reinforces and/or strengthens existing rules.
6. **Under NO circumstances is a student/athlete to be allowed to leave with another student/athlete nor are they to drive themselves to an athletic or extra curricular event.**

DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO

1. The student/athlete shall not possess or use at any time any alcohol, drug, drug paraphernalia, or steroids. Any violation of this policy results in the student/athlete being removed from the team for the remainder of the season.
2. The Sheriff or Police Department will be notified of any violation of the alcohol, drug, or drug paraphernalia policy. All Education Codes under Reasons for Suspension (48900 a-o and 48900.2-.5; also 48915 a-e), but not limited to, will be followed by RDUSD.
3. If a student/athlete violates the alcohol, drug paraphernalia, or steroid policy a second time, he/she will not be permitted to participate in any athletic or extracurricular event from the date of the second violation through their eight (8) semesters of CIF eligibility.
4. The student/athlete shall not possess or use at any time, any **tobacco products, or tobacco paraphernalia.**
 - The first (1st) offense of this policy, the student/athlete will be ineligible to participate in any interscholastic event, contests, or program for two (2) weeks from the date of the infraction. In addition, he/she shall agree to participate in a parent, guardian or caregiver, coach/advisor, Athletic Director and student conference within one (1) week of date of the infraction.
 - The second (2nd) offense of this policy, the student/athlete will be removed from the team/program for the remainder of the season. In addition, the parent, guardian or caregiver agrees to provide their son/daughter enrollment into a chemical abuse program, which the student/athlete shall agree to attend and complete the chemical abuse program as additional terms of their eligibility for any future RDUSD sponsored program. Written documentation must be given to the school administrator or designee before any future eligibility will be considered by the RDUSD.
 - The third (3rd) offense of this policy, the student/athlete will be removed from the team/program for the remainder of the season and be ineligible for one (1) calendar year from the date of the violation. In addition, the parent, guardian, or caregiver agrees to provide their son/daughter enrollment into a chemical abuse program, which is approved by RDUSD. The student/athlete shall agree to attend and complete the chemical abuse program as additional terms of their eligibility for any future team/program. Written documentation must be given to the school administrator or designee before any future eligibility will be considered.

GENERAL BEHAVIOR – Profanity, unsportsmanlike conduct, or disrespect to any person or institution will not be tolerated. The student/athlete accepts responsibility for their actions both on and off the field or court. An athlete's language and behavior should not embarrass themselves, the parent, guardian or caregiver, the team, the school, the district, or the community. All RDUSD disciplinary rules are in effect.

1. Specifically, throwing of equipment, profanity, or any similar displays of unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated.
2. Defiant behavior and back talk toward any coach/advisor, school employee, or game official will not be tolerated. Any disagreements should be handled in a private professional manner.
3. CIF Article 5, section 522, generally states any student/athlete who physically assaults an official of a game or event official shall be banned from interscholastic athletics for the remainder of the student's eligibility (8 semesters). A game or event official is defined as a referee, umpire or any other official assigned to interpret or enforce rules of competition at an event or contest. A student may, after a lapse of eighteen (18) calendar months from the date of the incident, apply for reinstatement of eligibility to the State Executive Director of CIF.
4. Any student/athlete who steals, damages, defaces, or possesses without permission a teammate's property, RDUSD property, or property from any other school will be subject to discipline outlined under the equipment policy of this document.
5. Any student/athlete suspended from school for any reason will be ineligible for any team/program function, event, or contest during the duration of the suspension for the first (1st) offense. A **second (2nd) violation**, the student/athlete will be ineligible for any team/program function, event, or contest during the duration of the suspension plus an additional five (5) school days of athletic ineligibility from the end of the school suspension. The **third (3rd) violation**, the student/athlete will be removed from the team/program.
6. Each situation will be evaluated on an individual basis by the administration with the appropriate personnel input.

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7. Procedures regarding suspension of a student/athlete from a team/program are as follows:
 - The coach/advisor of the sport/program in progress will inform the student of the infraction.
 - The student will have the opportunity to explain their action.
 - After investigation of the alleged incident and consideration of the facts, the coach/advisor along with the Athletic Director and administrator will take appropriate action which includes notification of the parent, guardian or caregiver and the student.
 - If the parent, guardian or caregiver wishes to appeal the decision, the case shall be presented in writing to the Athletic Director within three (3) school days after the decision was rendered.
 - The Athletic Director and the administration will convene on the matter of the appeal within five (5) school days after the Athletic Director receives the request. A panel consisting of the Athletic Director and administrator will hold a hearing that includes the parent, guardian or caregiver, the student/athlete, along with any additional persons with direct knowledge of the event as soon as it is convenient for all those involved to meet. A decision will be rendered within twenty-four (24) hours of the hearing by the panel.
 - In the event the parent, guardian or caregiver feel it necessary to appeal the panel's decision the River Delta Unified School District Board Policy 1242, 'Complaints Regarding Personnel' procedures must be followed.

Leaving or Quitting a Team – Students are encouraged to participate on athletic teams in the RDUSD. Participation is a commitment by students, coaches/ advisors and administrators alike. Leaving or quitting that commitment hurts all concerned. The coach/advisor's commitment and ability to perform their duties are the responsibility of the Athletic Director and administrators. The student's commitment is first to themselves, then their peers and coach/advisor. The following rules apply to students who leave, quit, or are suspended from the team by the coach/advisor.

1. If a student quits or leaves a team after the first scheduled contest without the permission of the coach/advisor, he/she will be ineligible for another team during that sport season. It is the student's responsibility to notify the coach/advisor they no longer wish to participate as a member of the team. The coach/advisor may request the student to explain the reason(s) for leaving the team. If the coach/advisor agrees that the student can leave the team, the student may do so without penalty. If there is a question over the student leaving the team, the coach/advisor and Athletic Director will meet with the parent(s), guardian or caregiver and the student/athlete to decide the issue. Failure to notify the coach/advisor will result in the penalty being enforced.
2. If a student/athlete is suspended or dropped from a team due to disciplinary reasons, he/she shall be considered ineligible for team events, games or contests during the suspension. If the student/athlete is a member of more than one team during a single season, the suspension affects all teams the student/athlete is a member. The student/athlete is considered ineligible for another team during that sport or season, any off-season programs such as, but not limited to, weight lifting or spring football practice.
3. If an athlete who has quit a team without permission or been suspended or dropped from a team chooses to participate in the same sport the following season, the coach/advisor will have discretion as to whether or not the student has grown and matured in their character, responsibility, and demonstrated the level of commitment that is required to be a member of a team.
4. The student/athlete will forfeit all awards and participation points earned toward any awards.
5. Note: These rules are not intended to be punitive and penalties will be imposed only after careful consideration.

AWARDS

1. The coach/advisor of each sport shall determine and recommend requirements for that sport and assign points to each student/athlete based upon the established awards system within seven (7) school days after the last event or contest of the season to the Athletic Director.
2. Awards points shall only be awarded to a student/athlete if they were eligible to participate the entire season of a sport and have met all requirements of the CIF, Sac Joaquin Section, and **RDUSD Student/Athlete/Extra & Co-Curricular Code and Policies**.
3. The Athletic Director evaluates the accuracy of the awards, approves the list, and submits the list to the appropriate coach/advisor who then presents the list to the Associated Student Body/Student Council or Booster Club for action.
4. After the list is approved, the Athletic Director verifies that all equipment and/or fees have been collected. Any student/athlete with outstanding equipment and/or fees shall not receive awards or recognition.

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POST SEASON NORTH SECTION, SAC JOAQUIN, AND OTHER CIF COMPETITION

The North Section essentially covers most of Northern California except the coastal region. The sheer size of the section causes undo hardships on most member schools of the North Section as it pertains to travel, safety, and 'out of class time' for our students. The concern of the River Delta Unified School District is the safety of our student/athletes and school community while traveling and the amount of time the student/athlete is not in class due to the distance between SVAL schools, the North Section and CIF playoff games. We recognize the importance of athletics as an integral component of a student's educational development and that all students should have an opportunity to participate without undo hardships.

Delta High and Rio Vista High Schools:

The amount of out of class time' that our student/athlete is subjected to is of great concern to educators in our league and schools. The philosophy of RDUSD and the commitment we share with our community stakeholders is strong, and to insure the safety and educational opportunity of the student/athlete the following guideline will be followed.

- Participation for any RDUSD student/athlete or team in any CIF post season qualifying event or contest, is subject to review and approval from the Athletic Director and/or Site Administrator for each respective school or event.

UNREST POLICY

If a physical conflict should occur at an event or contest on the field or court, the following action will take place. All students/athletes on the field or court shall move immediately to their school's sideline/bench area. All the parent, guardian, or caregiver fans, of RDUSD student/athletes are to remain in the stands, or the sideline/bench area or any other area that has been assigned to them by the host institution. No unsportsmanlike words or actions are to come from any of student/athletes, parent(s), guardian(s), or caregiver(s), fans, coaches/advisors or school representatives. Violation of the above policy can result in disciplinary action from the school administration, Athletic Department, CIF, and/or local law enforcement. It shall be the responsibility of the Athletic Director to inform all High school coaches/advisors their responsibility and action if this event should occur. It shall be the head coach/advisor's responsibility to inform, demonstrate, and practice the above action with the members of their team.

PARENT COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS

Communication that parents, guardians, or caregivers and student/athletes should expect from your coach/advisor(s):

- Philosophy of the coach/advisor
- Expectations the coach/advisor has for your student/athlete and the team
- Location and times of all practices and games
- Team requirements, special equipment, out of season expectations
- Procedures to follow should the student/athlete be injured during participation

Communication that a coach/advisor should expect from parents, guardians, or caregivers and student/athletes:

- Any concerns expressed directly to the coach/advisor
- Specific concerns with regard to a coach/advisor's philosophy and or expectations
- Notification of illness, injury or missed requirements of the student/athlete

Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach/advisor:

- Treatment of your student/athlete, mentally or physically
- Ways to help your student/athlete to improve
- Concerns that involve your student/athlete only

Concerns or issues not appropriate to discuss with a coach/advisor:

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Any student/athlete that you are not the parents, guardians, or caregivers

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If a student/athlete, parent, guardian, or caregiver, have a concern or complaint, it helps to bring it the attention of the correct people. In general, concerns and or complaints are handled best when presented in a clear, non-threatening, professional manner. **All complaints, issues, or concerns shall follow in order the following process.**

1. Every effort is made to resolve a complaint or concern directly with the coach/advisor involved.
2. If the concern is not resolved with the coach/advisor, it should be submitted to the Athletic Director *in writing*, with the complaint or concern explained and what possibly could be done to resolve the issue.
3. If the concern is not resolved with the Athletic Director's decision, it should then be submitted to the Principal of the high school *in writing*, with an explanation of the complaint or concern, any solutions that were offered and what possibly could be done to resolve the issue. The Athletic Director also will submit *in writing* a report of complaint findings, along with solutions that have been offered to resolve the complaint or issue.
4. **In the event the parent, guardian or caregiver feels it necessary to appeal the Principal's decision, the River Delta Unified School District Board Policy 1242, 'Complaints Regarding Personnel' procedures shall be followed. These procedures are available upon request, from the Principal or River Unified School District Office in Rio Vista, California.**

(This statement found below is a copy of the statement and agreement that is found on the next page)

For the student/athlete to be eligible and begin any activity including but not limited to, team practice, competition in contests or events, off season programs such as weight lifting, spring football, or summer leagues, the following shall be completed and on file in high school's attendance office before such participation by the student/athlete.

1. Obtain the Physical Examination form from the high school and have it completed by medical practitioner or doctor, certifying the student/athlete is physically fit to participate in athletics. This completed document shall be provided to the high school's Attendance Office.
2. Obtain the Proof of Insurance form from the high school and complete all sections specified. California State Law (C.C. Section 32220-24) states that every high school student/athlete, while participating in athletics, must be covered by minimal insurance as outlined by Article 3, Section 306, of the CIF Constitution. This completed document shall be provided to high school's Attendance Office.
3. Obtain the Power of Attorney form from the high school and complete all sections specified. This completed document shall be provided to the high school's Attendance Office.
4. All parties involved including the student/athlete and the parent, guardian, or caregiver shall read the RSUSD Athletic Code and Policy Handbook and complete the specified information found below:

"I attest the RDUSD Student/Athlete/Extra & Co-Curricular Code and Policy handbook has been read and reviewed, and that we, the parent(s), guardian(s) or caregiver(s), and the student/athlete will abide and support the policies contained herein. Furthermore, it is understood that failure to comply with all specified rules, regulations, and policies of the River Delta Unified School District, North Section Bylaws, and the California Interscholastic Federation Constitution could result in immediate consequences for the student/athlete including, but not limited to, removal from any or all RDUSD extra-curricular or co-curricular programs.

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE ATHLETIC ELGIBILITY PACKET

(Please Remove This Form From the Packet and Complete)

For the student/athlete to be eligible and begin any activity including but not limited to, team practice, competition in contests or events, off season programs such as weight lifting, spring football, or summer leagues, the following shall be completed and on file in high school's attendance office before such participation by the student/athlete.

1. Obtain the Physical Examination form from the high school and have it completed by medical practitioner or doctor, certifying the student/athlete is physically fit to participate in athletics. This completed document shall be provided to the high school's Attendance Office.
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“I attest the RDUSD Student/Athlete/Extra & Co-Curricular Code and Policy handbook has been read and reviewed, and that we, the parent(s), guardian(s) or caregiver(s), and the student/athlete will abide and support the policies contained herein. Furthermore, it is understood that failure to comply with all specified rules, regulations, and policies of the River Delta Unified School District, North Section Bylaws, and the California Interscholastic Federation Constitution could result in immediate consequences for the student/athlete including, but not limited to, removal from any or all RDUSD extra-curricular or co-curricular programs.

(Please **print** parent, guardian, or caregiver name)

(Please **print** student/athlete name)

(Parent, guardian, or caregiver signature)

(Student athlete signature)

****For all forms contact your high school of participation***