

SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY rev 1

- I. **Rationale:** Since the inception of River Mill Academy, character and ethics have been foundational goals for the instruction of our students. These goals apply equally to our student athletes. Athletic competition is an educational opportunity that teaches valuable lessons, skills and attitudes that are not possible in the classroom.
- II. **Sportsmanship Defined:** It is expected that our Athletes be gracious in victory, dignified in defeat, and at all times treat game officials, coaches, and opponent athletes with the utmost of courtesy and respect.
- III. **Participation in Athletics:** It is a privilege and should be treated as an honor to represent River Mill Academy in any athletic activity.
- IV. **Unsportsmanlike Behaviors:** These apply during practices, as well as before, during, after all games/competitions.
 - a. **Profanity:** Use of profanity, foul language or obscene gestures demonstrates a lack of self-control and will not be tolerated.
 - b. **Fighting:** Is prohibited at all times, regardless of who threw the first punch.
 - c. **Trash Talking:** Use of any derogatory language that threatens or verbally abuses any opponent (or game official) is not allowed.
 - d. **Inappropriate Physical Contact:** Such as slapping, pushing, shoving, tripping, throwing punches... etc. is forbidden.
 - e. **Arguing with Game Officials:** Respectfully accept their call, even if you do not agree with it. Do not argue with him/her. Immature outbursts (such as throwing balls, kicking chairs, etc.) will not be tolerated.
- V. **Violations:** Violations of these policies will be handled in the following manner and punishments shall be issued whether or not a game official calls a foul and may include suspension from school if the principal deems it a violation.
 - a. **1st Offense:** The athlete will receive a written warning.
 - b. **2nd Offense:** The athlete shall receive a written notice and be suspended from the current game and shall receive an additional one game suspension. (If the offense occurred during a practice, the athlete will be suspended from the next game.)
 - c. **3rd Offense:** The athlete will receive a written notice and be suspended from the team for the rest of the season.
- VI. **Other Punishments:**
 - a. If a River Mill Academy athlete starts a fight, he/she will be immediately ejected from the game and may be suspended from the team for the remainder of the season.

b. If administration determines a pattern is occurring over the sporting season or years, administration may impose additional sanctions.

VII. Documentation: The Coach shall keep written documentation of any/all violations of this policy.

VIII. Implementation: All coaches shall enforce this policy. Oversight of the coaches' execution of this policy rests solely in the hands of the principal. If the principal finds that this policy is not being implemented, the principal shall have the authority to enforce this policy against any student athlete who violates it.

IX. Student Athlete Acknowledgement:

I, _____, affirm that I have read the **Sportsmanship Policy and that I understand what it requires of me to represent River Mill Academy as a student athlete. I also fully understand the consequences for any unsportsmanlike behavior on my part.**

Student's Signature

Date

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Approved by River Mill Academy Board of Directors**



Chairperson



Date