

R.I. Baker Middle School Athletic Program Expectations



At RIBMS we encourage our athletes to be a BEAR:

Balance Effort Academics Respect

Find **Balance**

- Students are encouraged to find a balance in all aspects of athletics. That includes a balance between school and athletic expectations, lifestyle choices including nutrition, sleep and friends and a social life outside of school sports.

Put in their best **Effort**

- Effort in all aspects. In practice, in games and in school. The focus is not on a specific grade or class, it's on putting their best effort in. Putting in your best effort is good enough, win or lose. Not trying your best is letting your teammates down, win or lose.

Focus on **Academics**

- Academics come first. These athletes are STUDENT athletes. Their best effort in school is expected. That also incorporates expectations for attendance and punctuality.

Show **Respect**

- Respect must be shown to other competitors, coaches, spectators and referees. We cannot control the actions of others, but we can control ourselves. Baker athletes will demonstrate control and focus when engaging with various people and groups in athletics.

RIBMS's main focus is to educate and help develop model citizens out of our students. The focus is on **academics**. Extra-curricular athletics are secondary. The purpose of the athletics program is to provide RIBMS students an opportunity to play extra-curricular sports.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES/VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

At the beginning of volleyball and basketball seasons parents are expected to attend an information session that outlines the academic and behavioral expectations for students. This meeting will also outline parental expectations and may provide an opportunity for parents to meet the coaches. **In order for students to participate, parents must sign an expectations agreement that includes student and parent expectations for the athletic season.**

RI Baker prides itself on providing players with the best possible experience. While players develop athletically, coaches believe that fun and fair play is also important. Please realize that our coaches are volunteers and will do their best to make sure that being involved in Baker athletics is a positive experience

for players and coaches. When addressing coaches, we ask you to do so in a positive and constructive manner. Please speak with the athletic director if you feel that your concerns are not being heard.

During all athletic seasons, parents will abide by a 12/24 policy. This policy states that if there is a concern or problem, it must be dealt with after 12 hours of the incident and within 24 hours of the incident. The goal of this policy is to solve the problem while heads are clear, so that all those involved can move on with their season.

Parents who choose to not follow this policy will be given the following choices:

- 1) The parent will no longer be welcome at any sporting event
- 2) The removal of the athlete from the sport/team
- 3) If a decision has not been made, the administrative team will come to a decision

ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY

In order for students to maintain their position in the extra-curricular sports program, **players must maintain the marks they currently have** or he/she may be placed on **probation**. It also means that students cannot attend practices (even to watch) and any student that helps with sports administration duties will also be halted. It is the intent to relieve the student of any extra-curricular experiences in order that they can concentrate on their school work. If the marks continue to drop or do not reflect what the student is capable of, the player will be **removed from the team**. If and when the player shows improved marks/attitude/effort, the player will be **reinstated** onto the team. The player who is removed from the team will not have a 'replacement' unless coaches and administration agree the circumstance would warrant such a move.

As indicated above, the student athletes must perform academically to **their potential**. This would also include that **all assignments and homework be completed as requested by the teachers**. **Failure to complete assignments and homework will result in the same probationary period being assessed to the student athlete.**

Any student athlete who displays that he/she has a **tendency to miss a lot of school and/or has a tendency to be 'late' for school** from above what would be expected as being normal will also be placed on probation.

It is the responsibility of the **grade level 'pod' to report to the coach and administration** the name of the student athlete not performing to the best of his/her academic ability.

Probation: Is a period of time in which the student is not allowed to participate in practices and/or games/tournaments. This period of time will be determined by the teacher, athletic director and administration.

BEHAVIORAL RESPONSIBILITY

At RIBMS, we expect our student to be ambassadors of our school. Student athletes must adhere to the RIBMS Code of Conduct. If a student athlete violates the Code of Conduct, consequences ranging from: missing practice(s), game(s), tournaments(s), and the possibility of being removed from the team may occur.

Any student who has a history of **'discipline'** problems will be given the opportunity to try out and play on the school team but with strict guidelines.

Any student athlete with a discipline history who makes the school team (has more than one severe 'write up') will be given **no second chances and will be removed from the team.**

While they are representing RIBMS as an athlete, unsportsmanlike behaviors will not be tolerated. He/she will be notified that **one unsportsmanship like act could result in the removal from the school team.** The reinstatement of the student athlete to the team will be left up to the **discretion of the school administration.** Any 'severe' bullying and/or negative behavior during the school day/year of any form, after the student athlete has made the team, could result in the immediate and **permanent removal** from the team. Again, the school administration will ultimately make the 'final call'.

It will be the **responsibility of the administration to monitor and contact the coaches** regarding those student athletes who are being written up in the school tracking system.

PLAYER CONDUCT

As an ambassador of RIBMS, all players will be expected to exhibit good sportsmanship at all times including games, tournaments and practices. If any player exhibits **any type of poor sportsmanship**, the coach and administration will consult and a punishment equal to the behavior will be levied to the discretion of the athletic director and administration. This may include dismissal from the team. RIBMS will demonstrate a **'zero tolerance' policy towards any poor sportsmanship** exhibited by the players. Coaches will be responsible for informing administration of any incidences.

As well, coaches will be expected to role model good sportsmanship. Should any coach stray from this expectation, administration will be called upon to intervene with the appropriate action.

PLAYER FEES

Any student who makes any of the RIBMS teams must meet the following **two criteria** in order to play:

- (1) **all 'school fees' must be paid in full before the first game of the season arrangements for payment can be made through the office.** E.g. Post dated checks, payment plans, etc.
- (2) **pay a user fee of \$157.50 per Senior team sport**
- (3) **pay a user fee of \$126.00 per Junior team sport**
- (4) pay a user fee for **individual sport** (cross-country run, badminton, track and field)***

*** user fees will be based on the cost of transportation and number of competitions

Students will have the opportunity to fundraise an offset athletic cost. The school fees would still have to be paid in full in order to play on the school teams. As some sports, i.e., volleyball and cross-country begin prior to Walkathon, parents would need to provide a cheque for the sports their child or children are involved in then if fundraising has been completed, that cheque would be returned.

PRACTICES

All players must attend all practices. Success in practice is the key to success in games. Any non-attendance **must be communicated to and cleared with the coach prior to the practice.** Students with absences from practices must provide a **'valid reason'** for the absence. Parent and/or doctor notes will be required.

Any student who misses school on a day of practice **will not be expected nor will they be allowed to practice with the team.**

The coach, in conjunction with administration, will deal with a player who misses a practice without a valid reason. **Possible consequences** could range from the student not playing the next game(s) to the said player being removed from the team.

Prior to the year starting, players will be involved in practicing two times per week. Once the league begins, players will be typically involved in a minimum of one practice between games. As the finals approach, some coaches may push to have more practices.

ABSENTEEISM ON GAME DAY

Any player who **misses school on the day of a game** will **NOT** be permitted to play in that game. Should the player miss school on Friday and this falls on a weekend tournament, the said player will **not be allowed to play in the tournament period.** No possible exemptions except for:

1. doctor note – obviously something is wrong
2. significant family event which must be validated by administration

DEDICATION

It is expected that all players will demonstrate a level of dedication to the team and the coaches, **by attending all practices and games.** Dedication is a prerequisite to playing time. Absence from either practices or games **should be reported to the coach in advance**, by the student or parent. Coaches can expect a **reasonable** explanation for any absence. Players who are sick are encouraged to stay home and get healthy. Any student who makes the team should be **'committed'** to the team. Any student trying out and making the school team should check out all **potential conflicts** so that they know in advance that they can make a **100% commitment to the team.** Should there be conflicts (i.e. dance, hockey, etc) the student athlete should make the decision that **benefits the team first** and that might be to **not play** for the school team. Coaches and team members rely on everyone to **'be there'** for the good of the team. If the student athlete cannot guarantee this commitment or dedication to the team then they should refrain from playing.

UNIFORMS

The team's **coaches** will be responsible for handing out player uniforms prior to games and then collecting all uniforms after the games. We'll be seeking a parent volunteer who will take on the role of laundry for the team. No uniforms should go home with any student athlete. If a uniform is lost, the student will be charged \$100 and will not be issued a new uniform until this fee is paid.

TRANSPORTATION

R.I. Baker Middle School will be using Palliser **buses for transportation** to all league games and the Friday of all tournaments. Bussing is the district's preferred mode of transportation to ensure the safety of all student athletes.

Parents are welcome to transport their own children to and from games, as long as this is communicated to the coach and athletic director who will be loading the players on the bus. According to district policy, parents may **not** transport players, other than their child, unless they have completed a criminal record

check, drivers abstract, have two million liability and have written permission from the child's parent who they are transporting.

ATHLETIC AWARDS

RI Baker will be hosting an athletic awards ceremony in June to reflect on our seasons and recognize our athletes. Award recipients will be chosen by coaches along with the athletic director(s). The awards presented will include:

Athlete of the Year

Awarded to the student who displays leadership, work ethic, sportsmanship, and school pride during sporting events. These athletes are positive role models for all others and are excellent representatives of RI Baker athletics. These awards will combine athletics excellence with a commitment to a variety of sports, the winner must participate in at least 3 different school athletic programs. At least one male and one female will be chosen.

Most Improved (in cross country, volleyball, basketball, badminton or track and field)

Awarded to the player on your team who has shown the most growth throughout the season. Someone who demonstrates high levels of coach-ability and is committed to improving their skills in the sport.

Heart and Hustle (in cross country, volleyball, basketball, badminton or track and field)

Awarded to the player who is dedicated to being the best that they can be day in and day out. This person should be someone who demonstrates a passion for their sport, as well as a superior work ethic in practices, games and outside of the sport.

All Around Player (in cross country, volleyball, basketball, badminton or track and field)

Awarded to the player who, in the opinion of the coaches, makes the greatest contribution to the team through their unselfish loyalty and outstanding performance. This person always gives their best effort during practices and games and encourages others to play better. This person contributes to the team's success and is well respected by coaches, teammates, and opponents.

*** Please keep these pages for future reference.

**R.I. Baker Middle School Athletic Program Expectations
2023- 2024 Parent/Guardian – Student Agreement
VOLLEYBALL SEASON**

Student Athlete's name _____ (please print)

My son/daughter (name) _____ and I/we (parents/guardians) have read the athletic program expectations. Having reviewed this document, we are aware of and understand what the expectations are. We hereby agree to the document and will refer to it should further questions/concerns arise.

Signature of parent/guardians _____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

Signature of student athlete _____ Date _____

VOLUNTEER EXPECTATIONS

In order to help your child's athletic program run smoothly, we ask that you sign up for one or more volunteer opportunities, which will be outlined at the parent meeting. **Student athletes MUST have an adult representative at the parent meeting and must have an adult representative meet the volunteer expectations in order to play on a team.**

Date: _____

I _____ agree to attend the Parent Meeting and volunteer in one or more roles during the season this year.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____