I. THE PURPOSE OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The athletic program is an important part of today’s educational experience. Athletes are exposed to many situations that enhance their total education. They will be exposed to the relationship of work and sacrifice in order to achieve. They will experience the joy of winning and disappointment of losing, while learning to accept both with grace and good will. Athletes learn that few goals are attained with ease where hard work and dedication are necessary. The purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well being of the individual players.

The athletic program is a privilege offered by the school and community outside the regular school day. With the privileges come responsibilities. All students who accept the responsibilities are encouraged to participate in interscholastic athletics at Red Jacket Central School.

II. PHILOSOPHY

A. Modified (Grade 7/8) - This program of competitive sports focuses on the fundamentals of the game and team play, rules, training, and basic skills. At this introductory level, a large emphasis is placed on academics, sportsmanship, chemical-free lifestyle, and socio-emotional growth along with commitment and dedication. A smaller emphasis is placed on winning and maximum participation is desired. All participants, as long as they are in good standing as a team member, will be played in every game. It is recognized, however, they may not all play equally in each game.

B. Junior Varsity (JV) - The Junior Varsity level of competition is the program where there is an increased emphasis placed upon academics, team play, physical conditioning, and refinement of basic skills. Winning at the Junior Varsity level is considered important and participants should be taught how to cope with game situations and how to win and lose properly. It is recognized, however, that playing time is at the discretion of the coach.

C. Varsity - The Varsity level of athletic competition is the culmination of the High School Athletic Program. Team play, sportsmanship, leadership, role modeling, individual physical ability, motivation, and mental attitude are all very important aspects of competition at the varsity level. The team definitely plays to win the contest but varsity contestants should accept the fact that important lessons are to be learned from losing. There continues to be as strong emphasis on academics, sportsmanship, chemical-free life-style, and community service. It is recognized that not all participants will play in every contest.

III. OBJECTIVES

A. TO PROVIDE physical activity that will increase strength, skill, coordination, overall fitness, and good health for our students. Athletes need to stay in top physical condition. By abiding by the rules established, the athlete will increase his/her ability to meet the rigorous demands of athletic competition.

B. TO ENCOURAGE student participation in athletics and help develop positive mental attitudes toward competition, school, and the community. Our athletes represent the school, the community, their parents and, most importantly, themselves, and should conduct themselves accordingly.

C. TO TEACH the student to accept the many responsibilities of his/her participation.

D. TO TEACH sportsmanship, pride, school spirit, and fair play so the student may always keep winning and losing in its proper perspective. The athlete should first strive for the goals of the team and consider his/her personal goals second.

E. TO TEACH that hard work, diligence, and supreme effort are ingredients for success.

IV. SPORTSMANSHIP

A. Good sportsmanship is a top priority for the Manchester-Shortsville Central School District. Displaying proper conduct is a concern that includes all participants, coaches, parents/guardians, and spectators. All participants, coaches, parents/guardians and spectators are expected to:
1. Emphasize the ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play
2. Stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
3. Show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
4. Establish a happy relationship between visitors and hosts. There is an expectation of mutual respect
   and professional conduct.
5. Respect the integrity and judgment of the sports officials.
6. Achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of
   eligibility.
7. Encourage leadership, use initiative, good judgment, and self control by players on the team.
8. Recognize the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional
   well being of the individual players.
9. Remember that an athletic contest is only a game, not a matter of life and death for player, coach,
   school, fan, community, state, or nation.

B. Section V and Red Jacket Central School have instituted the following policy to ensure the development of
   and the understanding of the importance of proper sportsmanship and fair play: Any Red Jacket student-
   athlete who is ejected/disqualified from a contest will be automatically suspended for a minimum of one
   game. The game(s) is to be the next game(s) played and may be carried over to the player’s next season. In
   individual sports, a multi-day contest is considered to be one contest. A conference between the player and the
   Athletic Director will take place before eligibility is restored. Scrimmages are not considered contests.

C. Any student spectator ejected from an athletic contest for unsportsmanlike behavior will be barred from future
   contests in accordance with Section VI of this handbook, Consequences Involving Suspension.

D. Athletes who are ineligible to compete due to academic, disqualification, or disciplinary reasons must attend
   all competitions with the team. Exceptions are students who have been suspended from school.

V. REGULATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

All participants are responsible for reading, knowing, and abiding by all the rules of the Red Jacket Sports
Athletic Department Handbook. These regulations pertain to any Red Jacket student that participates in any sport,
from 7th grade through 12th grade, which is recognized by New York State Public High School Athletic
Association, Section V, or approved by the Manchester-Shortsville Board of Education. Regulations are in effect
from the first day of Fall practices as a student enters the 7th grade in August through graduation day in June in
the 12th grade, twenty four hours a day, both in school and out, during both the school year and summer vacation,
regardless of whether the athlete is participating in a sport during that season. Suspensions carry over from season
to season and school year to school year.

A. Regulation violations which will result in suspension.
   1. There will be no insubordination regarding directives or instructions from anyone. Insubordination,
      bullying, profane language or harassment will not be tolerated toward coaches, teammates or other
      students. Violations will result in reprimand, suspension, and/or dismissal. Insubordination as defined
      in the Student Handbook is a failure to follow any directive or request of a staff member, or disrespect
      toward a staff member.
   2. There will be no use or possession of tobacco products of any form.
   3. There will be no use or possession of alcoholic beverages.
   4. There will be no use or possession of illegal substances.
   5. There will be no use or possession of illegal performance enhancing drugs to include steroids.
   6. There will be no possession of drug paraphernalia.
   7. Any evidence in the form of any electronic media (cell phones, blogs, websites, etc) may result in the
      penalty of the violations for participation in interscholastic athletics.
8. Any student in attendance of an event where prohibitive behavior occurs (drinking, drug use, etc) shall be found in violation of these regulations.

9. The violation of use of non-prescribed prescription drugs (i.e. use of another person’s inhaler) will result in the following:
   - First Offense: Reprimand
   - Second Offense: Suspension

10. Team Captains found in violation of the above 9 regulations will forfeit the duties, responsibilities and title of Captain for that season.

B. Regulation violations which MAY result in suspension:

1. Use of vulgar, obscene, or offensive gestures or language will not be tolerated. Violations will result in reprimand, suspension, or dismissal depending on severity of the offense by the coach or administrator.

2. **Unexcused absence** from practice will not be tolerated. When an athlete will be absent from practice, prior permission must be obtained from the coach of that sport. This is not necessary when the athlete is absent from school. Violations will result in reprimand, suspension, or dismissal depending on severity of the offense.

   As defined in the Student Handbook, the following are legal reasons for absence: illness, sickness or death in the family, impassible roads due to weather, religious observance that cannot take place outside of regular school hours, required court appearances, quarantined for dangerous disease, doctor’s appointment, approved college visitations, cooperative work programs, military obligations, DMV appointments. All other reasons for absence may be judged by the attendance officer or principal regarding its validity. Illegal absences include oversleeping, visiting friends, hunting, babysitting, vacations, shopping, etc.

3. **Family Vacations**: When parents and student-athletes choose to take family vacations during the sport seasons, it must be understood that time missed by the student-athlete can affect team chemistry and personal conditioning. Student-athletes who miss more than 3 consecutive practices or competitions for vacation will have their position or playing time adjusted and must practice one (1) day for every two (2) days of practices/contests past the 3 days that are missed before competing in the next contest. If the student misses only one day past the 3 days of practice/contest, they still must practice one day before playing in the next contest. Coaches shall make every effort to inform parents and student-athletes of the season’s schedule as far in advance as possible.

4. **Unexcused tardiness** will not be tolerated. Athletes are expected to be at practices, meetings, and contests at the designated time set by the coach. Violations will result in:
   - First offense: Reprimand
   - Second offense: Suspension, length of time determined by coach

5. **Curfew**: Athletes will be home by 10pm, or an earlier time designated by the coach, the night before a contest. The violation of this rule will result in disciplinary action as determined by the coach.

6. **Transportation**: All players must be on time for the team bus for all away games and must ride the team bus to all away contests. All parents are strongly encouraged to have their son or daughter ride the team bus home from team contests. However, with written approval from the Athletic Director or Building Principal prior to departure, a student may be released to parent or legal guardian. A parent or legal guardian is the only person the athlete can be released to. No student athlete will be allowed to drive himself/herself to or from contests. Coaches are not allowed to sign students out from an event. No one is allowed to ride the player bus unless they are a member of the team unless specific individual written permission is granted by the Athletic Director.
7. **Misconduct** in locker or shower areas or on the team bus, home or away, will not be tolerated. The appearance of the locker and shower areas is the athletes’ responsibility. Violations will result in suspension, dismissal and may be required to pay restitution as determined by the Athletic Director.

8. **School Attendance Eligibility**
   a) All athletes must be in school at the beginning of the school day (7:48am) in order to practice or compete that day, unless they are legally excused. Each athlete will be allowed only one warning per sports season for being late to class at 7:48am. Any time after the warning, when an athlete is late to school that is not legally excused, will result in suspension from that day’s practice or contest.
   b) It’s necessary for athletes to attend classes for at least four periods during each school day. Lunch and 9th period (for high school students) will not be considered as one of those periods.
   c) If athlete does not meet the required school attendance eligibility requirements, then they may appeal to the Athletic Director first. If the Athletic Director is not available, they may appeal to the building principal.
   d) School attendance - The only reason accepted for legal absence or lateness to school are defined in the Student Handbook. Transportation problems (i.e. automobile problems) will not be tolerated as an excuse.
   e) If there is a contest scheduled for a day school is not in session, the student must be present at school the day prior to the contest in order to participate.
   f) When an athlete is absent from school due to an appointment, they must be able to provide proof of the appointment from the doctor.

9. Athletes are responsible, personally and financially, for all supplies and equipment. If an athlete does not return all equipment in a timely fashion at the end of the season, they will be billed for the replacement cost of the uniform and/or athletic equipment. Any athlete owing equipment or replacement cost will not be allowed to participate in another sport until the equipment has been returned or reimbursement has occurred. Game uniforms issued to athletes are not to be used during participation in physical education classes.

10. No athlete may quit any team after the first two weeks without consent of the athletic director. Any student who wants to quit after the first two weeks of any sports season, may only do so after a meeting with the athletic director, coach, parent and student. Every athlete is expected to participate from the beginning of the sport season until the team has completed all scheduled contests of the sport season. If an athlete quits a team, then reconsiders his/her position and would like to rejoin the team, the athlete may resolve this situation with the coach. Athletes allowed to quit a team will not participate with another athletic team until the completion of the current season. If an athlete is cut from a team and wants to join another, he/she will be permitted to do so.

11. Any student placed on In-School Suspension or Out-Of-School Suspension will be ineligible to play or practice the day of suspension. The student may not attend games or practices on any day in which he/she is on In-School or Out-Of-School Suspension. Athletes placed on In-School or Out-Of-School Suspension shall be subject to a review by the Athletic Director and may face suspension or dismissal.

12. **School Behavior:** All Detention Forms will be made available to the Athletic Director (AD). The first detention in season will result in a warning by the AD. All additional detentions in season may result in suspension from the next scheduled contest.

13. **Physical Education Participation:** Student athletes must be prepared for and actively participate in Physical Education class to be eligible to practice or play in the next held practice or contest.
14. Additionally, if any infraction occurs (for example: arrest or vandalism) that is not specifically covered under these rules and regulations and a coach/Athletic Director/administrator believes it warrants further investigation, then a committee comprised of the coach, athletic director, and administrator shall meet to determine if action needs to be taken.

15. **Academic Eligibility.** The following are criteria for determining academic eligibility.

a) Academic Eligibility for a new school year will be based on the previous year’s performance. Any student not in good academic standing at the end of June has two options: 1. Attend summer school and pass the course or final exam to reinstate “good standing.” 2. Begin the season/activity on probation. For athletics, that means the 5-week probation begins mid-August. The third week of school would then be the first check point for good standing. Any student maintaining satisfactory progress at that point regains in good standing. A student who is failing, however, would then move to the ineligible standing resulting in changes to participation in events.

b) At each five-week grade check and at the end of every marking period, grades will be checked for every participant in athletics. If a student is failing two or more classes at the five-week grade check or at the end of the marking period, they will be placed on academic probation. The Athletic Director will notify in writing the student on probation and parent, within a reasonable time period. The probation period will be from Friday to Thursday.

c) While on probation, the student must do the Student Athletic Progress Reports each week until the student is failing fewer than two courses either at a five-week grade check or the end of a marking period. At anytime during probation, if the student reaches two or more unsatisfactory marks, they will be ineligible for a minimum of one week. The student will remain ineligible until he/she has fewer than two unsatisfactory Student Athletic Progress Reports each week. The ineligible period will from Monday 3:15pm to Monday until 3:15pm. The student will not have to continue to do the Student Athletic Progress Reports, if at the five-week grade check or end of the marking period, they have fewer than two failing classes.

d) During the ineligibility period the high school student-athlete will be required to attend a study hall three times a week and engage in academic work. If the student athlete misses a mandatory study hall then the suspension will be extended until the missed study hall is made up. The student may meet with their teacher in place of a study hall. If the student meets with the teacher, they must supply proof that they met for that time period. The Athletic Director will determine study hall times. Also, the ineligible student must attend all practices and contests during the suspension and will participate in practices and scrimmages only.

e) A student athlete’s eligibility will be reinstated once he/she has received fewer than two unsatisfactories on the Student Athletic Progress Report during the weekly grade checks.

f) Student athletes are encouraged not to quit a team to avoid academic ineligibility. The suspension will carry over to the next sport the student athlete chooses to participates in if he/she quits a team before becoming academically eligible.

g) If there is no school during ineligible period, then the ineligible period will be extended to the next school day.

h) If a student receives a grade of incomplete, this will be processed as a failing grade. Once the grade of incomplete is removed, then it will be processed as a passing or failing grade.

i) If any student has failed two or more subjects on the final marking period of the school year, a student must pass summer school classes until they have less than two failing classes or they must begin the next school year on academic probation.

**VI. CONSEQUENCES INVOLVING SUSPENSION.**

Violations of any of the violations listed in parts V. A. will result in the following:
A. First Offense During Sports Career. In-Season/Out-of-Season - The student athlete shall be suspended for 15 school days following determination of guilt by the Athletic Director. During this time the student athlete must be in attendance at all practices and contests during the suspension and will participate in practices and scrimmages only. Must be in attendance and dressed for the game.

B. Second Offense During Sports Career. In-Season/Out-of-Season - The student athlete shall be suspended for 60 school days. During this time the student athlete must be in attendance of all practices and contests during the suspension and will participate in practices and scrimmages only. Must be in attendance and dressed for the game.

C. Third Offense During Sports Career. In-Season/Out-of-Season - A third offense by any student athlete will result in automatic suspension from all athletic participation for a period of one calendar year from the date of the violation.

D. Fourth Offense During Sports Career. A fourth offense by any student athlete will result in permanent suspension from the Red Jacket Central School Athletic program.

*Violations may be reported to the Athletic Director verbally or via a signed statement. Any public record may be used by the Athletic Director to initiate an investigation.

*Suspensions carry over from season to season and school year to school year. For each suspension, the parents will be notified by mail. Example: If a student is suspended for 15 days with one 3 days remaining in the current season, the fourth day of suspension will commence on the first game/meet of the next sport in which the student participates.

E. Due Process
1. The athlete and parents/guardian will be promptly informed by the Athletic Director of the violation and proposed penalty.
2. Should the participant and/or parent/guardian desire a meeting with the Athletic Director and coach to clarify and discuss the basis on which the penalty is being imposed, a request must be made in writing within 24 hours of notification of the final findings.
3. Should the participant and/or parents/guardian desire, decisions reached under two (2) above may be appealed to the Athletic Review Board, which may be convened at the request of the Athletic Director or athlete.
4. Should the participant and/or parents/guardian desire, decisions reached under three (3) above may be appealed to the Superintendent of Schools.
5. If appealed, the decision of the Superintendent shall be final and binding. The Athletic Review Board shall consist of the following:
   a) Athletic Director (Chairperson) (non-voting)
   b) Administration or representative
   c) Student Government President
   d) National Honor Society Representative
   e) Coach appointed by Athletic Director
   f) Community Representative
   g) A Student Athlete Leader

It shall be the responsibility of the Athletic Review Board to make a determination (majority decision) as to whether an athlete is guilty of an offense, where guilt or innocence is in question, and to impose, reduce or keep the penalty the same, if warranted.
F. **Concern Resolution:** If a concern or question arises with our athletic program, it is recommended that student-athletes and/or parents use the following steps to help resolve the issue:
1. Athlete should contact the coach directly to discuss the situation.
2. If after contact takes place and parents feel further action is needed, then parents should contact the coach.
3. If athlete or parent is not comfortable speaking with coach, they may speak directly with the Athletic Director.
4. If it is felt further action is needed after discussion with the coach, parents and/or athlete, the next step should include contacting the Athletic Director.
5. The High School Principal represents the next step in the process.
6. As a final step, parents and athletes can contact the Superintendent of Schools to further discuss the situation. For this to occur it is important that all previous steps have already been completed prior to contacting the Superintendent.

G. **Amnesty for Middle School Students**
1. Athletes on Middle School (Modified) teams who have been suspended a third or fourth time by the end of 8th grade will not be able to participate in High School athletics during their Freshman year. Any violations after that will result in termination of athletic eligibility for the remainder of High School.
2. Middle School athletes on High School teams (JV and Varsity) will not be afforded the above amnesty once they enter High School.

VII. **OTHER**
A. No athlete may play more than one sport per season, including cheerleading.
B. **Sport Physicals:**
   1. Every student must have an approved sport physical prior to participating.
   2. Sport physicals are good for one calendar year.
   3. Physical records are maintained in the Health Office.
   4. Private physicians can be utilized for a sport physical. Forms for physicals by a private physician are available in the Health Office.
C. All teams are required to be present at all their scheduled contests and post-season play. No team may skip a scheduled contest unless excused by the Athletic Director.
D. **Selection/Classification Program.**
   1. The Selection/Classification program was designed for the mature and exceptionally skilled student-athlete to advance to an upper level. **This program is intended for the exceptional student-athlete only.**

   2. Please note that the Selection Classification process shall not be used for the purpose of filling a high school team. It is the opinion of the superintendent of schools, that if an adequate number of high school students with competent competitive skills exist, an equally skilled 7th or 8th grade student should not bump a high school level student unless at student is truly an exceptional – not because they are able to pass the fitness exam.

   - **State Handbook:**
     Students, teachers, coaches, or parent/guardians may request the director of physical education/athletics to process a student through the Selection Classification screening procedure. Students will not be exposed to the screening procedure without a specific request.

   - **Board Policy:**
The Red Jacket Varsity coach of each sport recommends student-athlete candidates for inclusion in this process. Requests directly from parents or student-athletes are discouraged. In addition, all student athletes are requested to sign up for their current grade level team.

- **State Handbook:**
  The District shall convene a committee, similar to the mixed competition panel, to perform a pre-evaluation assessment of the student to determine if the student has the potential to successfully participate at a higher level of athletic competition.

  - **NYSPHSAA Handbook Necessary Committee membership includes:**
    The school physician, a physical education teacher designated by the principal, and if requested, a physician selected by the parent. In addition to the minimum membership requirements, the committee shall include the high school and middle school principals and guidance counselors, MS/HS nurse and the athletic director who shall serve as chairperson of the committee. The committee’s charge is to determine if the student has the potential to successfully participate at a higher level of athletic competition. If the determination is positive the student/athlete continues with the Selection Classification process. Otherwise, the process is terminated with the committee’s determination final. When a student athlete receives a positive pre-evaluation approval by the committee: The Red Jacket coaching staff will invite appropriate student-athletes to try-out at a higher level when it is determined that the student athlete meets established criteria.

- **Superintendent’s opinion:**
  This means, that once a student has been:
  - nominated by the Varsity coach (Board Policy 7370),
  - has received parent or guardian’s permission,
  - has been rated and approved by the school physician,
  - passed the fitness exam,
  - been rated by the Coach of the specific sport, (ie: examined sport skill set)
  and certified by the Director of Physical Education/Athletics
  shall a student-athlete be allowed to try out.
  Student shall attend no more than 4 high school practices.

  After the tryout period, the Director of Physical Education/Athletics shall complete the Selection/Classification process by completing the Individual Athletics Profile and checking the final athletic placement after all procedures have been completed.

E. **Title IX.** The Board of Education of Red Jacket Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, or special needs in the educational programs or activities which it operates, and is in full compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

F. **Hazing.** Hazing in any form, which is degrading, is strictly forbidden by New York State law. This includes initiations. No student shall conspire to engage in hazing, participate in hazing, or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, personal degradation or disgrace, resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student or person. It is understood that hazing of any kind is not allowed in athletics.

G. **Athletic Awards Night Presentation.**
   1. At the end of the school year, the Athletic Department will present a large number of letter awards and trophies to our athletes. Any violations of the athletic regulations, school policy or general misconduct will be taken into consideration when the coaches select recipients of various awards. Recipients of letter awards are based on the athlete’s contribution to the total team effort. Each athlete not receiving a letter will receive a Certificate of Participation. Senior athletes will not automatically receive a letter. It must be earned.
2. Recipients of trophies for individual sports are selected by the coaches of each sport. The recipients must be more than outstanding game performers. Qualities of sportsmanship, character, leadership and self-discipline and respect for others will weigh as much as game performance. These recipients should not only be respected by all as fine athletes, but also as good citizens of our school. Any athlete dismissed from an athletic team will not be eligible for a trophy or letter in that sport. That athlete will also not be eligible for the Athlete of the Year Award. Athlete of the Year recipients shall meet the same general criteria as any trophy winners. These athletes must letter in a minimum of two sports during the school year.

3. Any athlete who receives a suspension violation will NOT be eligible for a letter in the sport where the violation occurred.