

# **Raider MS Baseball Team Policy**

## The Three A's – Attitude, Academics, & Ability

### **Appearance**

- Game
  - o Your uniform should be washed for each game
  - o Game attire will consist of your Raider uniform, turtleneck, current season's game cap, jock/cup, blue socks (if showing), spikes
  - o No jewelry, including braided necklaces, rubber wrist bands
- Practice
  - o Practice gear should be washed when necessary
  - o Practice attire will consist of solid gray baseball pants, Practice jersey, IW hoodie or pullover, game cap (worn frontwards), blue belt, socks, spikes, jock/cup. Shirts will be tucked in.
  - o No jewelry

### **Class Attendance & Grades**

- School Attendance
  - o Excused or Unexcused absences (*see school handbook*)
  - o Tardies (*see school handbook*)
    - Players MUST be at school for EACH PERIOD, ALL PERIOD to avoid the risk of being penalized with a Tardy or Unexcused absence.
    - Players violating this policy WILL NOT PLAY or PRACTICE this day, but will be expected to be at the game or practice.
    - My decision on your playing/practice participation will be based on the daily attendance record.
    - Any disagreement with the daily attendance record should be directed to an Administrator. I DO NOT MAKE THESE DECISIONS. The administrator will discuss any issue or revision with me.
- Grades & Conduct
  - o Your first responsibility will be your classes and grades.
  - o Your second responsibility will be the baseball team.
  - o Attend class regularly and on time
  - o You will NOT have any behavior problems in or out of school
  - o Any problems with academics or behavior should be reported to the coaches immediately
  - o Appropriate penalties will be issued according to the offense (typically extra running)
  - o You will not use any class assignment or exam preparation as an excuse to miss practice, unless that assignment is in direct conflict with the practice session, such as ACT Prep classes.
  - o It is your responsibility to get all assignments in advance from classes you will miss.
  - o If work does not get completed, you will not be released from the class for games.
  - o Three weeks of ineligibility will result in your dismissal from the team (district policy).
  - o The head coach reserves the right to withhold playing time for poor grades that do not result in actual school sanctioned ineligibility. For example, a player having a "D" in class.

### **Conduct On & Off the Field**

- You will be expected to conduct yourself in a first class manner on and off the field
- You will control your emotions at all times
- Inappropriate facial expressions, gestures, body language or comments are inexcusable. This is a severe offense.

- You will refrain from using language that is inappropriate both on and off the field. Failure to respect this standard will result in consequences given at the coach's discretion.
- Conduct that is determined by the head coach to be "Detrimental to the Team" may be cause for dismissal from the team. Examples include but are not limited to – bullying fellow players, disrespect to coaches and teammates, negative attitude, defiance / insubordination to the coach(es) and team policies.
- **We will have a TEAM FIRST mentality, not a ME FIRST mentality.**

### **Practice & Game Schedule**

- Being punctual is the trademark of a winner. Tardiness will not be tolerated.
- There will be NO excuses accepted for being late unless the coaches are notified in advance.
- You must notify coaches. DO NOT have other players talk to the coaches for you.
- If for some reason you will be absent or late to practice, you will talk to the coach in person or by phone. This will be done prior to the scheduled practice or game.
- Raider Time is 15 minutes early. Be responsible and hold yourself accountable.
- You and/or the team will run for every minute you are late to a practice or a game.
- Practice begins at 3:45 on school days unless we have to practice indoors due to inclement weather. Those times are posted on your practice schedule. Players should be ready to begin practice at this time. Be 15 minutes early to everything – games, buses, and practices.
- Pre-Game: players are expected to be dressed and ready to warm up at 3:30 for home games. Players arriving late or who are not prepared to warm up will be held accountable. Reduced playing time or removal from the lineup.
- If you MISS THE BUS, you will not play. Don't expect the bus to wait on you. Missed practices result in reduced playing time.
- Any unexcused absence is a severe offense and may result in suspension or dismissal.
- Players are responsible for listening to the announcements or checking with the coaches concerning practice times and cancellation of games.
- Sign up on REMIND to receive alerts and important messages regarding cancellations or schedule changes.
- Updated game schedules will be posted on <http://il.8to18.com/iroquoiswestms/activities/baseball/b>

### **Injuries & Sickness**

- All injuries and sickness will be reported to the coaches immediately so that treatment can be initiated as promptly as possible.
- If you are injured during a game, we will make an assessment of the type of injury. If your parents need to be summoned before the end of the game, we will do so.

### **Equipment Care & Locker Room Procedures**

- You will be responsible for any equipment issued.
- Report any broken or damaged items immediately.
- Keep all items locked up when not in use.
- All trash needs to be picked up and disposed of properly.
- No spikes will be worn in the school or on the bus.
- Do not track mud into the school or bus. Clean spikes off in the grassy area on the side of the school, not the front sidewalk.
- Your equipment requires first-class care and you will be held financially responsible for anything that happens to it.

### **Bench Rules & Bus Rides**

- No one other than Raider personnel shall be near or around the dugout area anytime during the game.
- The coaches see you practice every day. We know your tendencies and will help you make adjustments.
- Raider players not playing in the game will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and watch the game.
- Goofing around or distracting teammates or coaches will not be tolerated.

- Players that do not take the game serious will be dismissed.
- The team will be fully dressed (except spikes) before stepping off of the bus, for all away games.
- Bring your own food and drinks for double-headers. Food and drinks may be on the bus provided the bus driver agrees. Any messes that occur will be cleaned up or this privilege will be revoked.
- The bus will not stop at restaurants, convenience stores, or gas stations after games. Plan accordingly and bring a post-game snack or beverage.
- A sign out sheet will be taken to all AWAY games. The parents of any players who are not wishing to ride the bus home must sign the sheet.
  - o Players may ONLY be signed out by their own parents for release.
  - o If another player is to ride home with another parent, a note must be given to the PRINCIPAL and HEAD COACH prior to the game.
  - o The head coach also reserves the right to make everyone ride the bus home.

### **End of Season**

- Players are responsible for returning all equipment issued to them during the season.
- Players will be held financially responsible for any lost or damaged equipment.
- All financial obligations of the players must be taken care of before the first game (hats, turtlenecks) and within one week after the end of the season (anything lost or damaged).

### **Chain of Command**

- Players who have questions about playing time should approach the Head Coach. If the situation does not get resolved, then a parent meeting with the coach may be set up. The Athletic Director will be present for meetings at school.
- Parent meeting will be set up no less than 24 hours after a contest if one is requested after a game.
- Parents: If you feel an issue needs to be addressed, first talk to your child and have him approach the head coach. If you still have a concern, you should approach the head coach, respecting the 24-hour policy. DO NOT discuss issues or concerns with my coaching staff. This places the assistant coach and the player in a difficult situation. The assistant coaching staff in no way speaks for the head coach. Assistant staff comments made to you will have no bearing on my stance toward playing time or any other matter. All coaches will make daily evaluations of players: playing time, effort, attitude, etc. The head coach makes the final decisions.

### **Internet & Social Media**

- EVERYTHING you write or put onto social media may be viewed by ANYONE. You do not always know the intentions of people reading your comments or viewing your images, which may get reported to school officials or coaches.
- Regardless of your intentions, comments may be interpreted as inappropriate or offensive to someone.
- DO NOT write, post comments, or post images about opponent's players, parents, coaches, fans, or school. Allow your actions on the field to speak for you.
- DO NOT write, post comments, or post images about IW players, coaches, or school that may be, in ANY WAY, interpreted as negative.
- Any violations of this policy may result in administrative actions by the school, game suspensions, and/or removal from the team.

### **Fundraising**

- Neither the district nor the IW Boosters can fund all equipment coaches may find necessary. Budgets are limited and fundraising money is beneficial to our program.
- Fundraising is used to purchase practice and game equipment, uniforms, and other supplemental team gear. Money is not just set aside. Coaches identify an objective (i.e. team bags) and a net fundraising goal is set to meet the cost of that objective.
- Players are expected to participate fundraising. After all, this money goes back to you.
- Players who do not feel it is in their interest to participate should not necessarily expect to benefit from some gear purchased through other players' hard work fundraising, such as the purchase of team bags or items

discounted to the team because of fundraising (i.e. using fundraising money to lower the cost of team hats or pullovers purchased by individual players).

- Fundraising will not influence playing time.

### **Philosophy**

- Philosophy concerning playing time, promptness, attendance, and academics is covered previously in the policy. Being a student athlete is a big responsibility. Being a student should come first and baseball should come second. Juggling both can be difficult. However, it teaches accountability, time management, self-discipline, teamwork, work ethic, and structure. Lessons learned on the field are a great start for a bright future. These lessons are learned in coming together and winning, but some lessons are learned in defeat. As long as an individual or a team does not begin to accept losing, a great deal can be gained. If you approach the game the right way, play it the right way, and respect the game, good things will happen.

### **Code of Ethics**

- See the attached "Code of Ethics for Iroquois West Schools"

### **Summary**

- ALL PLAYERS ARE EXPECTED TO ABIDE BY THE RULES SET FORTH BY THE IROQUOIS WEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK.
- ALL PLAYERS ARE EXPECTED TO CARRY THEMSELVES IN A MANNER WHICH SHOWS RESPECT AND DIGNITY TOWARDS OUR TEAM, OUR SCHOOL, AND OUR NATIONAL PASTIME.

### **Acknowledgement of Team Policy**

- After reading the team policy, the player and parent must sign and date the "Acknowledge and Understanding of Team Policies" page.
- Direct any questions regarding the policies to Coach Rhodes.
- Tear out and return to Coach Rhodes
- Must be signed and returned before a player can participate in practice.

Thank You,

Coach Rhodes  
[rrhodes@iwest.k12.il.us](mailto:rrhodes@iwest.k12.il.us)

Stay up to date & Contact Coach Rhodes.

Visit my website at [www.iwrhodes.weebly.com](http://www.iwrhodes.weebly.com) to get more Raider Baseball information.

Visit the Middle School Baseball site at <http://il.8to18.com/iroquoiswestms/activities/baseball/b> for game schedule updates and additional information.

Sign Up for REMIND for important updates and announcements.

- Online: Go to <https://www.remind.com/join/mshardball>
- Phone: Text the message "@mshardball" to the number 81010
  - o If 81010 does not work, try to text the number (316) 313-4267.

## **CODE OF ETHICS IROQUOIS WEST SCHOOLS**

The Iroquois West family in an effort to bolster school pride and reputation, to promote principles that are an integral part of our society's value system, and to demonstrate outstanding sportsmanship subscribe to the ideals contained in this code of ethics.

### **Contest Behavior**

- Win/lose with dignity
- Congratulate other team members, coaches, fans
- Stay for trophy presentations
- Keep uniform on
- Treat teammates with respect
- React appropriately to referee/official decisions
- Control facial/body expressions
- Retrieve and hand ball to official
- Communication with officials is always respectful and positive
- Follow official's instructions
- Technicals or unsportsmanlike conduct are unacceptable

### **Appearance/Uniform**

- Players will wear the same uniform
- Shirts will be tucked in
- Uniforms should be cleaned and not wrinkled
- All equipment worn should be cleaned (shoes, helmets, hats, etc.)

### **Problem Solving**

- Be positive
- Do things for others that will improve team chemistry
- Help others solve their problems by listening and offering advice
- Understand the weaknesses and strengths of your teammates
- Understand the position of others (put yourself in their shoes)
- Be a model for other teammates
- Do not try to solve a problem when you are emotional – Wait until you are under control. Parents and players should adhere to the 24-hour rule after a game.
- When attempting to resolve a problem with another individual, do so in a one-on-one situation

### **Team Responsibilities**

- Leave all areas cleaner than you found them (lockers, locker rooms, practice areas, game fields, weight room, buses, van, classrooms, etc.)
- Respect team members of other extra-curricular activities (Their activity is just as important to them as yours is to you)
- Team dress will be the same in team sports (uniformity)
- If you borrow something, return it
- Respect the property of others

## Acknowledgment and Understanding of Team Policies

I have read and reviewed, with my son, the Raider MS Baseball team policy. By signing this page, I acknowledge that I understand the team and school policies.

\*Signing does not necessarily acknowledge agreement with team or school policy.

Player's PRINTED Name      x \_\_\_\_\_

Player's Signature              x \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature    x \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Please sign and return to Coach Rhodes before the first practice.

Thank You,

Coach Rhodes