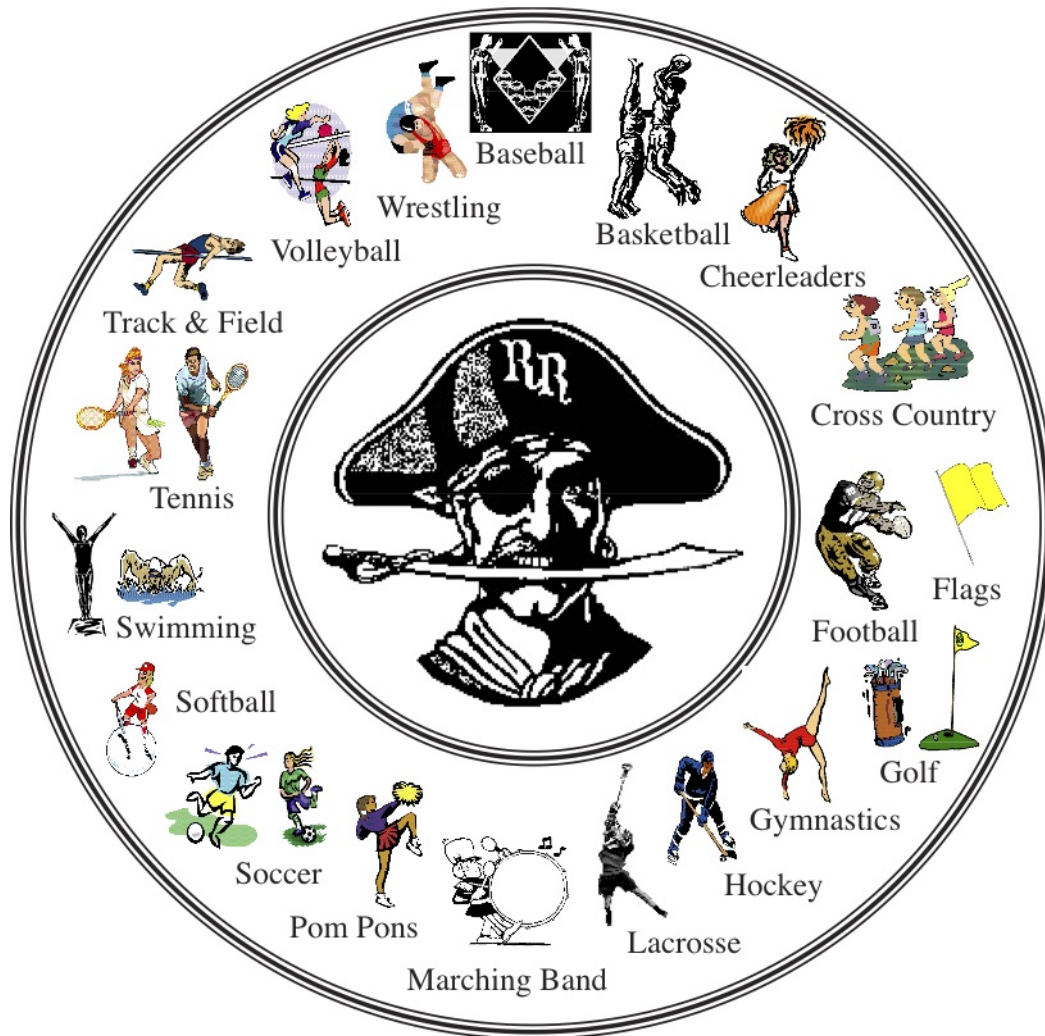


Rocky River High School Rocky River Middle School



2011-2012 Athletic Handbook

Mission Statement



We believe...

- Students are the heart of our purpose.
- Student success requires a partnership among family, school and community.
- A Rocky River education empowers values, inspires curiosity and encourages talents that lead to success.
- High expectations lead to high achievement.
- Lifelong learners thrive as they embrace the changing global society.

Philosophy

The philosophy of the Rocky River City School District's Student Activities program is to provide opportunities for students to master skills, increase their knowledge and experience competition at it's highest level under the supervision and direction of qualified coaches/advisors.

Objectives

- Provide experiences that will help athletes become productive citizens and members of our society.
- Enhance our athlete's self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Provide an opportunity in sports to learn to participate as a team member.
- Learn how to follow directions, team rules and regulations.
- Learn the importance of being loyal to both your teammates and the coaching staff.
- Become properly conditioned to perform in your chosen sport/activity.
- Learn the important lessons that can be gained from winning and losing.

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STUDENT ACTIVITY PARTICIPANT RULES

I. GENERAL STATEMENT

All students are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of activities such as performing groups, clubs, service organizations, publications and school teams. By joining a school organization, however, certain standards and expectations are required of students. Students must seriously accept the responsibility and privilege of representing our school and community. This is achieved by displaying sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity above which is required throughout the school day; as defined:

- **SPORTSMANSHIP** - playing fairly, accepting results gracefully, and displaying acceptable conduct at all times.
- **ETHICS** - a discipline dealing with good and evil and moral duty, a moral principle or practice.
- **INTEGRITY** - adherence to a code of values, sincerity, honesty, and candor.

Students who wish to participate in the Activity Program must be willing to accept the guidelines, rules and regulations of the activity. Such guidelines shall include rules in effect such as attendance at practice/meetings, requirements for earning awards, training rules, academic eligibility, and any other statements concerning contests, practice sessions, or performances which may occur during school vacations or holiday periods. The student must put forth effort, which in the judgment of the coach/advisor, will determine the extent of the students' participation.

II. PARTICIPANT RULES

- A. Participation in the Rocky River Student Activity Program is a privilege, not a right. Students can be removed for misconduct, rules violations, or non-attendance in the activity by the coach/advisor and administration.
- B. The Student Activity Participant Rules begin the first day of school (or the first day of official practice, if earlier) and are intact until the last day of the school year. The alcohol/drug/tobacco offenses accumulate throughout the school regardless of whether the participant is currently active or not.
- C. The school discipline code, training rules, and all penalties therein are in effect at all times (24 hours a day).
- D. Any student serving a suspension, either in school or out, cannot participate in any activity on the day of the suspension.
- E. Students must be in school before noon in order to participate in the activity.
- F. Students are not exempt from detentions (either teacher assigned or administrative) or Saturday detentions because of activity participation or practice.
- G. Any student use/abuse of alcohol, drugs, and/or mood altering chemicals ("abuse" meaning purchasing, possession, and/or use) will result in:
- H. Any student use or possession of tobacco will result in:
 - **First offense** - 7 days of non-participation from any/all non-credited student activities.
 - **Second offense** - 14 days of non-participation from any/all non-credited student activities.
 - **Third offense** - removal from any/all non-credited student activities the remainder of the school year.
- I. The number of days of non-participation shall begin with the student's statement of rules violation, administrative decision of rule violation, or completion of the appeal process which results in a decision against the student.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES

Please contact the athletic office with any questions (440) 356-6803

DEFINITIONS

A **sports season** is defined as follows:

- A sports season officially begins on the first day of practice and ends when the school banquet is completed.

An **athlete** is defined as follows:

- An athlete is a student who possesses skill, ability, fitness and conditioning to play the sport of choice. To qualify to play, an athlete must meet both local school district and the OHSAA eligibility rules and regulations.

PARTICIPATION

A high school athlete may participate in more than one sport per season, but must designate his/her primary and secondary sport. Both coaches must be in complete agreement before an athlete would be permitted to participate in more than one sport per season.

EQUIPMENT

School equipment checked out by the student/athlete is his/her responsibility. He/she is expected to keep it clean and in good condition. Loss of any equipment is the athlete's financial obligation.

MISSING PRACTICE

Team members are expected to be present at all practices, team meetings, contests, and special occasions, which may occur during school vacations or holidays unless excused by the head coach.

TRANSPORTATION

- All athletes must travel to and from athletic contests via school transportation. **Exceptions may be made only with advance requests to the Athletic Director.**
- A transportation fee of \$47.00 is charged to those students whose names are submitted on the official team/activity roster. Head coaches/advisors are to collect the fees and deposit the money (checks and money orders preferred) with the cashier. The transportation fee for Middle School students is \$42.00. As of 1/1/09, the Rocky River City School District will be charging a \$15.00 returned check fee for each returned check we receive due to NSF, stop payment, account closed or any other reason that is not the fault of the District.

ATTENDANCE

Students must be in school **before noon** in order to participate in an activity later that day.

PHYSICAL EXAMS

Any student trying out for an athletic team at RRHS must undergo a physical examination. **No one will be permitted to participate without a physical examination on file in the Athletic Office.**

Exception: If the pre-participation athletic evaluation is conducted between May 1 and June 1, the pre-participation evaluation, signed by the medical examiner, is valid for one calendar year plus the remainder of the next school year.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

The Rocky River City School District will operate in accordance with the Ohio High School Athletic Association's rules, regulations, and policies as they pertain to academic eligibility. The Board permits students in grades 7 through 12 to participate in interscholastic co-curricular activities if they meet the following criteria:

A high school student must:

1. Currently be enrolled and must have been enrolled in school during the immediate preceding grading period
2. Have received, during the preceding grading period, passing grades in a minimum of 5 one-credit courses or the equivalent which count toward graduation; and
3. Have earned, during the preceding grading period, a minimum grade point average consistent with the Ohio High School Athletic Association minimum standard.

Semester and yearly averages and semester/final exam grades have no effect on eligibility. Students deemed ineligible at the onset of the sports season will not be able to participate in any games or contests. The eligibility or ineligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth school day of the next grading period.

Exception: You are permitted an earlier start date to restore eligibility for students who had their grades evaluated prior to the start of the fifth school day after the end of the grading period.

A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from the eighth grade must have passed 75% of those subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled.

RESIDENCE

A student is eligible at the school located in the OHIO school district where the parent or legal guardian resides when all other eligibility standards are met. If your parent/legal guardian lives outside of Ohio, you are not eligible unless you meet one of the exceptions to the residency bylaws. When there has been a change of custody, the student must reside in the same school district with the legal guardian.

CITIZENSHIP

Students are expected at all times to represent themselves, their parents, the coaching staff and their community in an exemplary manner.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Students who wish to participate in the Activity Program must be willing to accept the guidelines, rules, and regulations of the activity. Such guidelines shall include rules relevant to attendance at practices and meetings, requirements for earning awards, training rules, academic eligibility, and any other statements concerning contests, practices, or performances that may occur during school vacations or holiday periods. The student must put forth effort, which in the judgment of the coach/advisor will determine the extent of the student's participation.

Participation in the Rocky River Student Activity Program is a privilege, not a right. Students can be removed for misconduct, rules' violations, or non-attendance in the activity by the coach/advisor and administrator.

MEDICAL RELEASE

If an athlete is injured, it is recommended that the athlete see a doctor. He/she must have a doctor's release before he/she can practice or compete in athletic contests.

NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION

Participation by an athlete in a non-interscholastic program (tryouts, practice or contest) while a member of a school squad in the *same sport* is PROHIBITED. An athlete becomes a member of a squad by participating in an interscholastic contest (scrimmage, preview or regular season contest).

DEFINITION OF A NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC TEAM

Examples of non-interscholastic teams include, but are not limited to, Sunday School, Church, Intramural, Y.M.C.A., Stop, Hi-Y, C.Y.O., F.F.A., City Recreation, All-Star, A.A.U., Club, any non-interscholastic team, or any combination of players involved in team play.

OHSAA Bylaw 10-3-3 allows athletes to try out for, practice and compete in non-interscholastic programs prior to and after the school season during the school year under the following conditions:

1. The number of players from the same school squad (roster) is limited to: 5-Soccer and Field Hockey; 4-Baseball and Softball; 3-Volleyball and Ice Hockey; and 2-Basketball. This rule is not in effect from June 1 - July 31. Football squad members are prohibited from non-interscholastic participation except from June 1 - July 31.
2. A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic team in a national qualifying tournament after July 31 until the team is eliminated, but no later than Labor Day.
3. An athlete may have no contact with the school coaching staff in a non-interscholastic program except from June 1 - July 31.

PENALTY: The maximum penalty for violation during the school season for any athlete is ineligibility for the remainder of the school season. The maximum penalty for violation of the out-of-season regulations, for any athlete except a senior, is ineligibility for the ensuing season; for a senior, ineligibility for all sports for the remainder of the school year.

SPORTS CAMPS/ INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

Athletes in all OHSAA recognized sports are subject to the Instructional Program regulations. These include:

1. Camps, clinics, workshops, etc. that involve team play may be attended from June 1 - July 31 only. Team play is defined as any activity of individuals with more than one player opposing one player.

2. There is no limit on the number of players from the same school participating on the same team from June 1 - July 31.
3. Individual skill instruction may be received at any time in individual or group lessons.
4. An athlete may have no contact in an instructional program with the school coaching staff except during the season of the sport or for 10 days from June 1 - July 31.
5. Football - From June 1 - July 31, members of a football squad may play in non-contact football contests and attend non-contact team football camps.

OPEN GYM

An "Open Gym" is a facility in which the doors or gates are unlocked and open for unstructured free play, and no one is restricted from observing the play. The school may designate the sport to be played.

Athletes may participate provided:

1. Participation is not limited to a select group of students from within a school.
2. There is no designation of who shall play on which team or who shall play whom except by the students who participate.
3. Regulation timing is not kept.
4. Written scoring is not kept.
5. No individual invitations, oral or written, are extended.
6. There is no coaching or instruction.

These regulations pertain to both school and non-school facilities. Please note: Athletes shall not be required to attend open gyms.

Penalty: The penalty for violation is ineligibility for interscholastic athletics not to exceed one year.

TRANSFERS (All Bylaws subject to change per OHSAA referendum vote)

- Bylaw 4-7-1 – The transfer bylaws apply to all students enrolled in grades 9-12 These bylaws apply to all schools, both public and non-public.
- Bylaw 4-7-2 – If a student transfers after the first day of the student's ninth grade year or after having established eligibility prior to the start of school by playing in a contest (scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament contest), the student will be ineligible for one year from the date of enrollment in the school to which the student transferred. A student is considered to have transferred whenever the student changes from that school in which the student was enrolled as a ninth grader to any other school regardless of whether the school from which the student transferred or to which the student transfers is public or non-public, member or non-member or whether the high schools are within the same district.
- Bylaw 4-7-2, EXCEPTION 1 – If the parents or legal guardian have made a bona-fide legal change of residence from one public school district to another public school district, the student may enroll in either the public school within the boundaries of that public school district that includes the new residence of the parents or legal guardian or any non-public school, and be immediately eligible insofar as transfer is concerned.

- Bylaw 4-7-2, EXCEPTION 2 – If the student is the ward of a court-appointed guardian, and there is a subsequent change in that guardian, the student shall be eligible in the district of residence of the new guardian or at any non-public school provided the student lives with the guardian. Likewise, if the student is a child of parents who are either divorced or have had their marriage dissolved or annulled and there is a court ordered change of custody, the student shall be eligible in the district of residence of the new custodial parent or at any non-public school provided the student lives with the new custodial parent. For purposes of this exception, the term “parent” means the biological or adoptive parents of the student or, as the case may be, the person to whom parenting rights and responsibilities have been allocated pursuant to court order. In the event a student has been temporarily or permanently removed from the home, “parent” means the person or government agency with legal or permanent custody.
- Bylaw 4-7-2, EXCEPTION 3 – If, and only if, either one of the parents in a Shared Parenting Plan, notwithstanding any provision therein to the contrary, makes a bona-fide legal change of residence **from one public school district into another public school district**, the student shall be immediately eligible insofar as transfer is concerned **in the public school located in the residential district of either parent or any nonpublic school.**
- Bylaw 4-7-2, EXCEPTION 4 – The school closes.
- Bylaw 4-7-2, EXCEPTION 6 – Subject to the provisions of exception 7 below, a student may transfer to a different school and be eligible provided the superintendents of both districts enter into a written agreement that consents to the attendance and specifies that the purpose of such attendance is to protect the student’s physical or mental well-being. Only one such exemption shall be permitted in any four school years. The student shall not be eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner upon submission of the exemption form.
- Bylaw 4-7-2, EXCEPTION 7 – A student shall be entitled to one transfer back to the public school district with which the student’s parent residence is located regardless of from where the student is transferring. **HOWEVER**, if the student utilizes this exception, the student will no longer be able to utilize the superintendent’s agreement exception set forth in Exception 6 in Bylaw 4-7-2.
- Bylaw 4-7-2, Allow a transfer back to the non-public high school when a student has been forced to use Exception 7 to transfer into the public high school in the parents’ district of residence. Among the stipulations would be that the student must have made a commitment to the type of non-public education selected in grade nine as evidenced by continuous enrollment in a non-public school of that type from grade six through eight, and that the transfer must be made into the same non-public school in which the student began grade nine.

OHSAA UNSPORTSMANLIKE PENALTY

Any student ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant foul play shall be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the athlete shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection

(one contest in football). If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the student shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the student participates. A student under suspension may not sit on the team bench, enter the locker room or be affiliated with the team in any way traveling to, during or traveling after the contest(s).

A student who is ejected a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport. A student, who has been ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct for the second time in the season during the last contest, shall be ineligible for a period of time/number of contests subject to the discretion of the OHSAA Commissioner. The period of ineligibility shall commence during the next sport in which the student participates.

It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this regulation is enforced. When an ineligible student is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. This regulation shall apply to all regular season and tournament contests and shall in no way limit the discretionary authority of the Commissioner as specified in the OHSAA Tournament Regulations. In accordance with OHSAA Bylaw 8-3-1, the decisions of contest officials are final.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG VIOLATION

Any student who violates the school's Code of Conduct relative to the use/abuse of alcohol, drugs, and/or mood altering chemicals ("abuse" meaning purchasing, possession, and/or use) will be subject to:

First Offense during High School Career – A conference will be held with the student, parent, building administrator, and Director of Athletics and Student Activities to review the allegations for violation of the code of conduct. At the parent's discretion

1. The student will receive the consequence of denial of 20% of the contests in the sport that he or she is involved in all-academic activities, or
2. Attend an Eduvention program and follow the prescribed recommendations of the Eduvention counselor.
3. Attend an Eduvention program and follow the prescribed recommendations of the Eduvention counselor or if the student has already been through Eduvention by the Rocky River Police Department can, with the approval of the school district, attend a drug assessment with a certified drug and alcohol counselor, which require the participation of the parents and student. The cost of such an assessment would be the responsibility of the parents. A certificate of attendance would be required after the session is completed.

Second Offense during High School Career – Outside alcohol and drug assessment with a certified drug and alcohol counselor and denial of participation of 20% of the contests in any sport he or she may be involved in all non-academic activities. The cost of the alcohol and drug assessment is the responsibility of the parents.

Third Offense during High School Career – Denial of participation in all non-academic activities for one (1) calendar year.

Fourth Offense during High School Career – Denial of participation in all non-academic activities for the remainder of high school career.

SEMESTERS OF ELIGIBILITY

When enrolling in grade 9 the first time, one has eight semesters of athletic eligibility, taken in order of attendance, whether one participates or not.

AGE LIMITATIONS

High School -- If an athlete is nineteen years of age prior to August 1, he/she is ineligible that school year.

Middle School -- If an athlete is fifteen years of age prior to August 1, he/she is ineligible that school year.

Exception: If the student is a “child with a disability” as that term is defined at 42 U.S.C. Section 12102 (ADA) and the Regulations promulgated there under, and the student’s specific disability has contributed significantly to the student’s inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Commissioner if, in the Commissioner’s sole discretion, the Commissioner determines that.

STEROIDS

Warning: Improper use of anabolic steroids may cause serious or fatal health problems such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, growth deformities, infertility, personality changes, severe acne, and baldness. Possession, sale, or use of anabolic steroids without a valid prescription is a crime punishable by a fine and imprisonment.

ANTI-HAZING STATEMENT

It is the belief of the Rocky River City Schools that hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and shall be prohibited at all times. No student, including leaders of student organizations, shall plan, encourage, or engage in hazing. Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act, including an act of initiation into any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in the statement.

LETTER REQUIREMENTS

FALL SPORTS

Cross Country

4 finishes in the top 7 (varsity)

3 finishes in the top 5

Senior Service Award

Other special cases as determined by the coach

Boy’s Soccer

Played in most of the scheduled games

Preparation, attitude, sportsmanship, and positive contributions to the soccer team

Senior Service Award

Football

Played in one half of the quarters in scheduled games
Being on a specialty team and contributing to at least 80% of the scheduled games
Senior Service Award

Girl's Soccer

Played in one half of the scheduled games
Senior Service Award

Cheerleading

Participated in scheduled games, positive attitude, sportsmanship, contribution to the cheerleader program

Volleyball

Played in one half of the scheduled games
Senior Service Award

Girl's Tennis

Played in one half of the scheduled matches for a point situation in a contest
Senior Service Award

Golf

Played in at least one third of the scheduled matches
Senior Service Award

WINTER SPORTS

Wrestling

Wrestled in at least one half of the scheduled matches
Senior Service Award

Boy's Basketball

Player played in 40 quarters of scheduled games
Senior Service Award

Girl's Basketball

Player played in 40 quarters of scheduled games
Senior Service Award

Ice Hockey

Played in one half of the scheduled games
Senior Service Award

Gymnastics

Participated in one half of the scheduled meets
Senior Service Award

Swimming

Swimmers and divers must meet a minimum point requirement to earn a varsity letter. Points will be awarded for participation in practices and meets, as well as performance in competition. Specific criteria will be distributed to all athletes and parents prior to the swimming season.
Senior Service Award

SPRING SPORTS

Track and Field

Scored a minimum of 13 team points
Senior Service Award

Boy's Tennis

Participated in one half of the scheduled matches for a point situation in the contest
Senior Service Award

Baseball

Played in one half of the scheduled games
Senior Service Award

Softball

Played in one half of the scheduled games
Senior Service Award

Boys & Girls Lacrosse

Played in one half of the scheduled games
Senior Service Award

Since it is a privilege to be on an athletic team and not a right, the Rocky River coaching staff has the right to reject the awarding of a letter if they feel justified.

Examples are as follows:

- Not attending practices
- Player attitude
- Inappropriate behavior at school
- Lack of commitment to the team and coaching staff

AWARDS

Awards as a result of participation in interscholastic athletics, which may be accepted by the student from any source consists of items, which do not exceed in value an amount established by the Board of Control. The maximum amount is \$200.00 per award.

NON-SCHOOL SUPERVISED ACTIVITIES**Supervised Vs. Non-Supervised Activities**

The school draws a distinction between a non-school related offense and a school related offense.

TEAM CAPTAIN'S POLICY**1st offense – non-school event only**

- If a team captain violates the code of conduct and refuses to attend the Eduvention activities, he/she will be removed from the position of captain for the remainder of the current sport season and will be denied participation for 14 days.
- If a team captain accepts the alternative of attending Eduvention, as opposed to the 14 day of denial of participation, he/she will remain as captain for the remainder of the current sport season.

2nd offense – non-school event only

- A second offense will result in a mandatory 14 days denial of participation and removal as captain for the remainder of the current sport season.

3rd offense – non-school events only

- A third offense will result in the removal as captain for the remainder of the school year

ATHLETIC RECRUITING INFORMATION *Subject to change upon review by the OHSAA

Our goal for student athletes is to provide the best opportunity for competition. We take great pride in our athletic programs and consider them integral to the overall development of our students. Our "River Pride" is evident in each and every athletic program.

Under Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) rules, a student is considered a prospective athlete after entering the seventh grade. However, after enrollment in seventh grade, any attempt to recruit a prospective student-athlete for athletic purposes is forbidden. Any use of influence to recruit by another school outside the school district of a prospective athlete is prohibited.

Prior to enrollment in the ninth grade, a student-athlete may visit a public or non-public high school in contemplation of transfer, as long as that contemplated transfer is consistent with the Board of Education board policy and arrangements for the visit are made through the principal and /or school administrator designated by the Board of Education.

Mass marketing by a school directed to a general population of students does not constitute prohibited recruiting. Marketing to an individual athlete is prohibited, examples being birthday cards, recruiting letters, notes, personal contact, phone calls, etc. If you or your child receives a questionable contact, please inform the head coach or athletic director to ensure your son's or daughter's athletic eligibility will not be jeopardized.

Any violation of the recruiting prohibitions shall cause the recruited student-athlete to be ineligible upon transfer and the school to which the recruited student-athlete transfers shall be subject to sanctions. You need to be aware of these restrictions to prevent your child from running afoul of OHSAA regulations.

The Rocky River Athletic Department conducts an assembly for all 7th and 8th graders in the spring to introduce our head coaches at the high school and distribute pertinent information on our athletic

program. Our head coaches provide information about summer camps, starting dates for respective sports seasons and any other information specific to their respective sport. Time is available at the end of the assembly for prospective athletes to ask questions of the high school coach in the sport they are going to participate in the next school year.

Our high school coaches have major input into the middle school athletic programs in our school district. They attend many games and get to know our players and are readily available to answer questions and provide encouragement.

Hopefully, the above information will assist you in understanding recruiting and also some of the things we do in the Rocky River City Schools to assist your student-athlete in making a smooth transition to the high school.

PARTICIPATING IN TWO SPORTS DURING ONE SEASON

- Policy applies to high school athletes only.
- Policy requires that athletes name a “primary” sport and a “secondary” sport.
- The policy is intended for only a limited number of student/athletes in a “primary” sport that could perform a very *specific* role in a “secondary” sport. For example, a member of the soccer team that could kick for the football team. A member of the baseball team that could compete in the high jump for the track team.
- The policy is NOT intended for athletes to have two “primary” sports.
- All decisions are to be made between the student/athlete and the head coaches of the “primary” sport and the “secondary” sport. Either head coach may refuse a student participation in a “secondary” sport.

Guidelines

1. Student/athlete indicates desire to compete in more than one sport per season
2. Head coaches of sports involved discuss the possibility
3. Head coaches inform student/athlete and Athletic Director of decision
4. Head coaches make arrangements for the following:
 - a. Designation of “primary” and “secondary”
 - b. Game schedules
 - c. Practice schedules
 - d. Scholar/Athlete awards (if necessary)
 - e. Rainouts, Playoffs, etc....
 - f. Communication with student/athlete and parents
5. Head coaches communicate with each other and the student/athlete during the season

REQUIRED FORMS

The following forms must be returned to your coach/advisor before you can practice or officially participate in athletics:

- Physical Exam Form / OHSAA Authorization Form
- Emergency Medical Authorization Form
- Athletic / Activities Signature Form
 - Student Activity Participant Rules

- Athletic Medical Waiver
- Release And Acknowledgment of Warning By Student and Consent of Parent/Guardian