ROCKY RIVER HIGH SCHOOL &
ROCKY RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

STUDENT ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK 2026-2027

ROCKY RIVER PIRATES®

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STUDENT ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES PARTICIPANT RULES

GENERAL STATEMENT

All students are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of school organizations such as athletics, 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.

Students who wish to participate must be willing to accept the guidelines, rules and regulations of the sport/activity. Such guidelines shall include rules that govern attendance at practice/meetings, requirements for earning awards, training rules, academic eligibility, and any other statements concerning contests, practice sessions, or performances, some of 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 student's participation.

Participation in the Rocky River Student Athletics & Activities Program is a privilege, not a right. Students can be removed from participation for misconduct, rules violations, or non-attendance in the sport/activity by the coach, the advisor, advisor and/or administration.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Students are to represent themselves, their parents, the coaching staff, and their community in an exemplary manner at all times. By participating in RRCSD athletics or activities, students agree to abide by and be subject to this Athletics & Activities Code of Conduct.

1. The Athletics & Activities Code of Conduct
    a. Applies to all participants in co-curricular, athletics and activities sponsored by the Rocky River City School District (RRCSD), to include students on the injured reserve.
    b. Is in effect upon the initial signing (electronic or otherwise) of the Athletics & Activities Handbook and Code of Conduct.
    c. Is in effect twenty-four (24) hours per day, 365 days per year, including summer and offseason.
    d. Remains applicable until successful graduation.

2. A violation is defined as an intentional or unintentional abuse of the RRCSD Athletic & Activities Code of Conduct including but, not limited to, drug/alcohol/tobacco use (as defined in Board Policy 5530-Drug Prevention and 5512-Tobacco Use Prevention, both of which are available online) and/or acts deemed detrimental to the sport or activity in which the student participates.

3. If a violation occurs outside of the school year, i.e. summer break, consequences will be applied the immediately following school year. For example, if a violation happens in July, consequences will be assessed in August.

4. Any and all consequences related to a violation of the RRCSD Athletics & Activities Code of Conduct will be implemented immediately.

5. Any student serving an Out of School Suspension is not permitted to participate in any athletics or activities on the day(s) of the suspension.

6. Students must be officially in attendance for either the full AM or PM half of the school day in order to participate in athletics or activities that day, unless previously excused by the Principal or Athletic Director.

7. Students are not exempt from receiving/serving detentions because of activity participation or practice.

8. Denial of participation* penalties will be carried over to the next sport or activity in which the student has previously participated if they are not in season at the time of the violation.

9. Coaches and advisors are permitted to implement penalties greater than any stated herein.

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES CONSEQUENCES FOR ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUG VIOLATIONS

Alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) violations:

- Are cumulative during a student's career at RRMS for grades 7 and 8.
- Reset in grade 9, and are cumulative during a student's career at RRHS for grades 9 through 12.
- Affect a student's participation regardless of whether a student is actively participating in a sport or activity at the time of the violation.

Level 1:	20% denial of participation*
Level 2:	50% denial of participation* Outside drug, alcohol or tobacco assessment, the cost of which is paid by the student/parent/guardian
Level 3:	12-month denial of participation*
Level 4:	High school career denial of participation

A student who tested 0.000 BAC will not be subject to discipline directly under the Consequences for Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Violations, and the coach or advisor of the sport or activity will be notified. However, the student could receive consequences as a result of committing acts deemed detrimental to the sport or activity.

SELF-REPORT

A student can choose to self-report a violation of the Athletics & Activities Code of Conduct. A self-report is when the student comes forward and admits a violation of the prohibition against ATOD *prior to any confrontation or inquiry by any school personnel*. *A self-report can be made to school personnel in person, via phone call or via email.*

A self-report will not be considered a first violation; however, the student must follow all of the recommendations of the school administration.

Should a student have a second violation after a self-reported violation, the consequences would follow the First Violation consequences above.

A student may self-report once per year, not to exceed twice in four years.

DENIAL OF PARTICIPATION*

1. Denial of participation will only be served in a sport or activity that the student has previously participated in during the prior school year, either within RRCSD or at another school district the student attended the prior school year.
    a. Official proof will be required of full participation in a sport or activity occurring outside of the RRCSD.
        i. Full participation is defined as:
            1. for athletics-completion of the season as a rostered player
            2. for activities-a full year of official participation as a recognized member of the activity in question.
        ii. Official proof is defined as written documentation from the school district where the student participated in athletics or activities, and the official proof:
            1. outlines the student's level of participation in the sport/activity;
            2. includes all associated team/club/activity rosters; and/or
            3. includes all attendance records.
2. Student participation in sports or activities, either within RRCSD or at another school district the student attended, will be given the same consideration as participation in sports and activities within RRCSD.
3. Athletics will take precedence over activities. If a student participates in both athletics and activities simultaneously, denial of participation will be assessed in the athletic arena.
4. For athletic teams, denial of participation is based upon the OHSAA maximum number of contests allowed per season, per sport.
5. Practices, scrimmages, camps, and previews will not be considered for denial of participation requirements. Denial of participation requirements can only be met during the specific sport or activity's regular season or session officially sanctioned contests.
6. Proof of participation in, not the results of, an outside drug, alcohol or tobacco assessment performed by a licensed professional will be required, and must be presented to the principal, in order to return to participation in the sport or activity.
7. No academic penalty will be assessed to a student who has been denied participation in a sport/activity.
8. Coaches and advisors are permitted to implement greater penalties than stated in the Athletics & Activities Code of Conduct.

STUDENT ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES INFORMATION

DEFINITIONS

A sports season is defined as follows:

- A sports season officially begins on the first day of practice and ends when the school awards night 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 Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) eligibility rules and regulations.

AGE LIMITATIONS

High School: Once a student attains the age of 20, the student will no longer be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition notwithstanding where that 20th birthday falls in relation to the sports season.

Middle School: If a student is fifteen years of age prior to August 1, the student 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 thereunder, 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.

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 administrator, faculty member, or other employee of the school district shall encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate any hazing activities. 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 lesson the prohibition contained in the statement.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

The following are OHSAA bylaw requirements that the Rocky River City School District subscribes to as on OHSAA member school:

The Rocky River City School District will operate in accordance with the OHSAA'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:

- Students must currently be enrolled and must have been enrolled in school during the immediately preceding grading period.
- Students must have received, during the preceding grading period, passing grades in a minimum of 5 one-credit courses or the equivalent which count toward graduation.

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.

ATTENDANCE

Students must be officially in attendance for either the full AM half or full PM half of the school day in order to participate in athletics or activities that day, unless previously excused by the Principal or Athletic Director.

- RRHS:
  - AM half day is from 7:55 a.m. - 11:16 a.m.
  - PM half day is from 11:20 a.m. - 3:08 p.m.
- RRMS:
  - AM half day is from 8:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
  - PM half day is from 11:45 a.m. - 3:18 p.m.

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 $400.00 per award.

EQUIPMENT

School equipment checked out by the student/athlete is their responsibility. They are expected to keep it clean and in good condition. Loss of any equipment is the athlete's financial obligation. It is recommended that a lock is kept on lockers at all times.

MEDICAL RELEASE

If an athlete is seriously injured, he/she must have a medical practitioner's release before he/she can practice or compete in athletic contests and practices.

If an athlete is returning to play following a concussion, they must have a medical release to return to play and follow the Return to Play protocols from Cleveland Clinic Sports Health.

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.

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).

NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC TEAM DEFINITION

Examples of non-interscholastic teams include, but are not limited to, Sunday School, Church, Intramural, Y.M.C.A., Stop, HiY, 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 NAME, IMAGE, LIKENESS RESOURCE CENTER

Beginning in November 2025, OHSAA member schools approved a measure allowing Ohio student-athletes to enter into agreements and receive compensation for the use of their name, image, and likeness (NIL). For more information visit OHSAA NIL Resource Center or contact the Athletic Office.

OHSAA TRANSFER BYLAWS

If a student transfers at any time after the fifth 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/jamboree, Foundation game or regular season/tournament contest), the student shall be eligible, insofar as transfer is concerned, ONLY until the first 50% of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests (including all scrimmages, preview/jamboree/Foundation games) have been competed in those sports in which the student participated (participation being defined as playing in a contest) during the 12 months immediately preceding this transfer. This transfer consequence shall remain in effect until the one-year anniversary of the date of enrollment in the school to which the student transferred, at which time the student is no longer considered a transfer student.

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 831, the decisions of contest officials are final.

OPEN GYM

An "Open Gym" is a facility in which the doors or gates are unlocked and open for unstructured free play. The school may designate the sport to be played. Athletes may participate provided:

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

- 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.

PARTICIPATING IN TWO SPORTS DURING ONE SEASON

POLICY

- 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

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

PHYSICAL EXAMS

Any student trying out for an athletic team at RRHS and RRMS must undergo a physical examination. No one will be permitted to participate without a physical examination on file in the Athletic Office. Physical examinations are good for thirteen months from the examination date.

REMOVAL FROM OR QUITTING A SPORT

An athlete who quits a team after the first game or match will not be allowed to participate in any open gym, conditioning or practices with another sport until the sport he/she quit has been completed.

REQUIRED FORMS

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

- Physical Exam Form / OHSAA Authorization Form
- Emergency Medical Authorization Form
- Concussion Information Signature Form

- Lindsay's Law Signature Form
- Athletic / Activities Signature Form
- Student Activity Participant Rules
- Athletic Medical Waiver
- Release and Acknowledgment of Warning by Student and Consent of Parent/Guardian

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.

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.

SPORTS CAMPS / INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

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

- Camps, clinics, workshops, etc. that involve team play may be attended from June 1 through July 31 only. Team play is defined as any activity of individuals with more than one player opposing one player.
- There is no limit on the number of players from the same school participating on the same team from June 1 through July 31.
- Individual skill instruction may be received at any time in individual or group lessons.
- 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 through July 31.
- Football: From June 1 through July 31, members of a football squad may play in non-contact football contests and attend non-contact team football camps.

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.

TRANSPORTATION

All athletes must travel to and from athletic contests via school transportation. Exceptions may be made only with advance requests to the Principal or Athletic Director. A transportation fee of $100.00 is charged to those High School students whose names are submitted on the official team/activity roster. The transportation fee for Middle School students is $95.00. Payment may be made through the payment system used by the District, by check, by money order, or by cash . RRCSD will charge 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. Coaches or advisors who receive check, money order, or cash payments must deposit the money with the athletic director's secretary within twenty-four (24) hours).

LETTER GUIDELINES- VARSITY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

The following guidelines are reviewed but not limited to the awarding of varsity letters. The Rocky River coaching staff has the final determination in awarding or not awarding varsity letters.

FALL SPORTS

Cross Country

- 4 finishes in the top 7 (varsity)
- 3 finishes in the top 5
- Senior Service Award

Boys Soccer

- Played in one half of the scheduled games
- 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

Girls Soccer

- Played in one half of the scheduled games
- Senior Service Award

Cheerleading

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

Volleyball

- Played in one half of the scheduled games
- Senior Service Award

Girls 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

Boys Basketball

- Player played in 40 quarters of scheduled games
- Senior Service Award

Girls 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

Boys 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

ROCKY RIVER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026-2027 CALENDAR

Important Dates

August 18.....Teacher Professional Day
August 19.....First Day of School (1-12)
August 20.....First Day of School (P)
August 24.....First Day of School (K)
September 7 .....Labor Day
October 8.....No School for Seniors (College & Career Planning Day)
October 9 .....NEOEA Day
November 5 .....Family Conference Day
November 6 .....Teacher Professional Day
November 25-27 .....Thanksgiving Vacation
December 21 .....Winter Vacation Begins
January 4 .....School Resumes
January 18 .....Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 19 .....Teacher Record Day
February 15 .....Presidents' Day
March 26.....Spring Vacation Begins
April 5.....School Resumes
May 26 .....Last Day for Seniors
May 27 .....Last Day for Preschool
May 31 .....Memorial Day
June 3 .....Last Day of School
June 4 .....Teacher Record Day

Holidays for 12 Month Employees

September 7 .....Labor Day
November 26 .....Thanksgiving Day
November 27 .....Day After Thanksgiving
December 24.....Christmas Holiday
December 25 .....Christmas Holiday
December 31.....New Year's Holiday
January 1. .....New Year's Holiday
January 18 .....Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 15 .....Presidents' Day
March 26.....Day During Spring Break
May 31 .....Memorial Day
June 18 .....Juneteenth
July 5.....Fourth of July

Contingency Days
June 4, 7, and 8, 2027 are designed as student make-up days.

Adopted: June 26, 2025 Resolution #329-25

(9) AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

(21) SEPTEMBER

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27	28	29	30			

(21) OCTOBER

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(16) NOVEMBER

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29	30					

(14) DECEMBER

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27	28	29	30	31		

(18) JANUARY

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

(19) FEBRUARY

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28						

(19) MARCH

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28	29	30	31			

(20) APRIL

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(20) MAY

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

(3) JUNE

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

JULY

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

School Not In Session

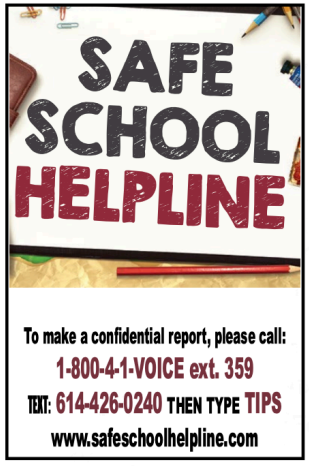
Parent Conference Day

Professional Day

Holiday for 12 Month Employees

T = New Teacher orientation

* = End of Quarter

Grading Periods

First Quarter.....August 19.....October 23 .....= 46 days
Second Quarter.....October 26 .....January 15 .....= 45 days
Third Quarter.....January 20 .....March 25 .....= 46 days
Fourth Quarter .....April 5.....June 3 .....= 43 days