ROCKY RIVER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

COACH & ADVISOR

HANDBOOK

2025-2026

ROCKY RIVER PIRATES®

Rocky River City School District

STRATEGIC PLAN

2024-2027

Our Mission

Globally Competitive
Exceptional Opportunities
Caring Environment
Successful Students

Beliefs

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.

An exceptional school district demonstrates all of the above.

Goals and Action Plans

COMMUNICATIONS

Effective communication reaches all stakeholders.

1. Clear, timely, and transparent communications about the student and staff achievements, district information, and critical issues are delivered.
2. Updates about the strategic plan are communicated and accessible to stakeholders.
3. Internal communication platforms and practices provide staff with information necessary to deliver exceptional student services.
4. Expanded community engagement provides opportunities to share information and receive input from stakeholders.

CULTURE

The environment for Rr staff promotes them being their best for Rr students.

1. Staff are included in designing processes to build trust and promote the sharing of feedback.
2. A clear, explicit, and well-communicated process is in place for our staff and students to report concerns.
3. Recognition systems are in place that celebrate the dedication and achievements of our staff and students.

FACILITIES

Improve and maintain facilities and infrastructure that support our mission.

1. Safety and security measures are dynamic and constantly evaluated to ensure the well-being of our students and staff.
2. Facilities and infrastructure support a successful student experience.
3. An updated, comprehensive facilities master plan is in place.

FINANCE

Responsible and transparent stewardship of district finances to support our mission.

1. Alternative revenue sources supplement traditional funding sources.
2. Financial practices and planning are in place to support the goals of this plan.
3. Financial practices and planning include operational efficiencies and cost containment efforts, as well as legislative advocacy efforts, to help maximize levy cycles.
4. Dissemination of finance-specific information to all stakeholders supports the communication goal of this plan.

Strategic Objectives

- All students will engage in contemporary, globally competitive curricular and co-curricular programs of excellence.
- All students will achieve their educational goals incorporating the highest international standards.
- All students will participate in a student-centered environment that addresses educational, social, and emotional needs.
- All students will learn through lessons and experience that communication is open, sincere, timely, and responsive.
- All students will attend schools that are state-of-the-art facilities.
- All students will learn in an environment that is technologically competitive on a global level.

STAFF

Recruit, hire, retain, develop, and support a high-quality staff.

1. Hiring practices across all departments include internal stakeholders.
2. Best practices are used to recruit and retain a highly qualified and diverse district staff.
3. Comprehensive systems are in place that ensure all staff members have an awareness of expectations of the highest caliber of ethical behavior and professional standards.
4. High-quality professional development provides staff opportunities to be the best at what they do for the organization.
5. Systems that solicit and integrate the input of internal stakeholders are in place to continually evaluate the organization's practices.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Deliver an exceptional student experience in curriculum and instruction, extracurricular activities, and support services.

1. Instruction and supports are in place that foster each student's academic success and personal well-being.
2. A consistent system is in place that promotes the growth and development of students and reinforces positive behavior and respectful interactions with others.
3. Curriculum and academic options are continuously reviewed and align with student interests, emerging job markets, and life skills development.
4. Clearly defined and communicated opportunities allow students to make informed choices about their journey throughout RRCSD and beyond.
5. Extracurricular programs exist to enhance the student experience and are regularly reviewed to ensure alignment to student interests.
6. A broad selection of nutritious food choices is available.
7. Students develop skills to use technology and be responsible digital citizens in a rapidly changing environment of emerging technology.

TECHNOLOGY

Maintain technology resources and infrastructure that support our mission.

1. Instructional technology elevates the student experience and facilitates effective teaching practices.
2. Cybersecurity policies and practices are dynamic, explicit, and clearly communicated to protect organization systems, applications, devices, data, and financial assets.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Rocky River City Schools Interscholastic Athletics and Activities. We are glad you have become part of our coaching staff and community. We will work hard to assure that your experience will be positive and successful. If you have a question about anything, please contact the athletic office. We are looking forward to great things this year. Go Pirates!

ABOUT THIS HANDBOOK

The Rocky River School District Coach and Advisor Handbook outlines policies and procedures in accordance with the Rocky River City School District Policies and Procedures for interscholastic athletics and activities. Coaches and advisors are expected to know, follow, and support these policies. This handbook also outlines policies and regulations that govern the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Great Lakes Conference.

This Handbook Belongs to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone:_____

OBJECTIVES

- Provide experiences that will help students become productive citizens and members of our society.
- Enhance our students' self-esteem and self-confidence
- Provide an opportunity to participate as a team member.
- Learn how to follow directions, team rules and regulations.
- Become properly conditioned to perform in your chosen sport.
- Learn the important lessons that can be gained from winning and losing.

THE PROFESSIONAL COACH

Rocky River coaches are a very visible extension of the RRCSD community. It is important that each coach conducts himself or herself in a manner that reflects the philosophy and mission of Rocky River High School. Coaches should always be mindful that they are in a professional position and that their actions and those of their team speak for the Rocky River City School District.

ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT CONTACT LIST

The Rocky River High School District's Athletics & Activities Office is located in the main office of Rocky River High School.

KEY CONTACTS FOR THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

- High School Athletics and Activities Director: Mark Wagner
- Middle School Athletic & Activities Director: Jeff Schultz
- Events Coordinator Rocky River High School: Sarah Nicholson, Josh Wells
- Events Coordinator Rocky River Middle School: Rik Keffer
- Athletics and Activities Secretary Office - (440) 356-6803

KEY CONTACTS FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

- Superintendent: Mr. Adham Schirg - (440) 356-6715
- High School Principal: - (440) 356-6801
- Middle School Principal: Megan Rose - (440) 356-6870
- Middle School Athletic Director: Jeff Schultz - (440) 356-6878

Rocky River City School District
1101 Morewood Parkway
Rocky River, OH 44116

Rocky River High School
20951 Detroit Road
Rocky River, OH 44116

Rocky River Middle School
1631 Lakeview Avenue
Rocky River, OH 44116

CONFERENCE AFFILIATIONS

Rocky River High School is a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). The rules and regulations developed by the OHSAA are designed to protect fair play and promote sportsmanship while ensuring the safety and welfare of all student-athletes. Rocky River City School District agrees to abide by and cooperate with all rules and regulations set forth by the OHSAA.

Rocky River High School is a member of several sport specific leagues:

- Girls Golf – Lake Erie Girls Golf Association (LEGGA)
- Girls Tennis – Northeast Ohio Tennis Association (NEOTA)

Rocky River High is one of eight member schools in the Great Lakes Conference (GLC) and as a member we agree to abide by the athletic and activity bylaws established by the league. Principals, acting upon recommendations of athletic directors, vote on league rules and regulations with the best interest of the student athletes and member schools in mind. The schools that make up the GLC are Bay Village, Buckeye, Lakewood, Normandy, North Olmsted, Rocky River, Valley Forge and Westlake.

ROCKY RIVER HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS BY SEASON

FALL

- Boys Cross Country
- Girls Cross Country
- Boys Soccer
- Girls Soccer
- Girls Tennis
- Volleyball
- Boys Golf
- Girls Golf
- Football
- Cheerleading

WINTER

- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball
- Boys Swimming
- Girls Swimming
- Hockey
- Gymnastics
- Cheerleading
- Indoor Track & Field
- Wrestling

SPRING

- Baseball
- Softball
- Boys Lacrosse
- Girls Lacrosse
- Boys Tennis
- Boys Track & Field
- Girls Track & Field

ROCKY RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS BY SEASON

FALL

- Boys Cross Country
- Girls Cross Country
- Football
- Cheerleading
- Volleyball

WINTER

- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball
- Wrestling
- Cheerleading

SPRING

- Softball
- Boys Track & Field
- Girls Track & Field

HEAD COACH CHECK LISTS

PRESEASON - TO BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE FIRST CONTEST

1. Procure and review the current copy of the OHSAA Policies and Procedures Manual for their sport from the www.ohsaa.org website.
2. Complete preseason rules interpretation meeting for their sport. Online meetings and schedules available at www.ohsaa.org.
3. Plan and schedule a regular program of practice in season. Work with the Athletic Director in scheduling scrimmages.
4. Review all equipment needed for the season ensuring safety and equipment in proper working order. Recommend the purchase of equipment, supplies and uniforms as appropriate.
5. Develop a packet for distribution to parents at the pre-season meeting that contains goals, expectations, practice and game schedules and any other pertinent information.
6. Call a meeting of all candidates prior to the start of the season for that sport.
7. Complete the Google Docs roster worksheet and list all candidates to be team members so that physical and eligibility information can be verified for each student athlete. The head coach is to check for any additions or deletions to this roster worksheet throughout the season. All new student athletes must be cleared through the Athletic Director's office before being issued equipment or practicing.
8. Update rosters throughout the season with the Athletic Department as changes occur.
9. Work with the athletic department to ensure all forms are completed prior to any student athlete participating in any organized team practice.
    - OHSAA Physical
    - Emergency Medical Authorization Form
    - Parent Consent Form
    - Student Athletic Agreement
    - Lindsay's Law sign-off
10. Request transportation through the athletic department for all scrimmages, games, and other team activities that require transportation.
11. Update your webpage to include game schedule, practice schedule and other pertinent information for your program. Update website when new information or changes occur.
12. Coaches must report all student athletes' injuries that require medical attention outside the school to the Athletic Director.
13. Any concerns with equipment, transportation, coaching staff, or any other matters should be communicated directly to the Athletic Director.
14. Student athletes completing one season and moving onto another may have five-calendar days rest from the completion of one season until participation in another.
15. All facility requests for practice and games must be turned into the Athletic Office to be input to FS Direct Facilities scheduling software.
16. All non-district employee coaches must complete the Public School Works modules assigned by the district within 10 days of email notification.

IN-SEASON CHECK LIST

1. Student athletes are supervised at all times.
2. Student athletes are ready promptly for away games.
3. All injuries are reported to the trainer.
4. A coach or assistant coach will be present at the school at least one-half hour before the departure time for away games.
5. All coaches and student athletes appear neat and well- groomed for all trips.
6. All trips leave as scheduled. Ensure transportation times are clearly communicated to student-athletes and parents. Bus times should be posted to the website.
7. All student athletes must ride to an event on transportation approved by the school. Any student who leaves an event with their parents or legal guardian must have a pre-approved transportation release on file in the Athletic Department.
8. Report scores of all contests:
   - Plain Dealer (216-999-5000 ext. 4370)
     results@plaind.com
     Matt Goul - mgoul@cleveland.com
   - West Life
     Brian Love - blove@westlifenews.com or sports@westlifenews.com
   - Prep Scores (800-330-8340)
   - apscores@ap.org
9. Coaches must report all student athletes' injuries that require medical attention outside the school to the Athletic Director.
10. Disciplinary action involving suspension of a team member must be reported to the Athletic Director.
11. Coaches must adhere to the primary sport rule in the Athletic and Activities Handbook for any student athletes playing on more than one team (or level) of any sport in the same season. In addition, student athletes playing on different teams of the same sport in the same season (E.g. freshman playing on both the freshman and JV teams or sophomores playing on both JV and varsity teams), must follow the prescribed number of playing quarters/halves allowed by the OHSAA. Any questions, contact the Athletic Director.
12. All coaches, who are also on the teaching staff, must attend faculty meetings, department meetings, parent and guidance conferences and meetings or conferences called by the Principal or Athletic Director. Make-up meetings are held in the morning prior to school the day following the regularly scheduled faculty meeting.

END OF SEASON CHECK LIST

1. At the close of each season, the coach must list the names of all student athletes who have satisfactorily completed the season on the awards form, indicating whether the athlete has earned a letter, certificate, etc. This list must be given to the Athletic Director.
2. All uniforms and equipment must be collected and returned to the equipment room with an inventory list given to the Athletic Director.
3. All keys issued for the season are to be tagged and returned to the Athletic Director. The head coach shall collect all keys from assistant coaches who are non-district employees and return keys to the Athletic Office by the team awards night.
4. Submit end of season team and individual statistics to the Athletic Director.
5. Sign award certificates within one week of the close of the season.
6. Schedule an appointment with the Athletic Director to submit your season summary and request for awards. During this meeting be prepared to discuss future uniform, equipment, and other program needs.
7. Inform the team about and promote the awards night.
8. All non-district employed coaches must complete a time card reflecting the hours spent coaching, meeting, travel, and all other responsibilities carried out during their coaching employment.
9. All coaches and advisors, regardless of affiliation, are subject to the established evaluation process. District evaluation forms will be utilized.

COACHING CERTIFICATIONS

All coaches are required to have the following certifications on file in the Office of Human Resources prior to the season:

1. Ohio Pupil Activity Permit
2. BCI/FBI Background Check

In addition, you must be current on the following certifications which can be obtained through the RRCSD subscription to Coach's Tool Chest:

1. Fundamentals of Coaching
2. Fraud Reporting
3. First Aid Health and Safety
4. Concussion in Sport
5. Lindsay's Law - Sudden Cardiac Arrest
6. CPR/AED
7. Mental Health Training
8. Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies (PBIS)

KEYS

Coaches will be issued keys to athletic facilities each season. All keys will be returned to the Athletic Director at the end of each season. Keys should be only in the possession of the coach. **DO NOT GIVE KEYS TO A STUDENT-ATHLETE FOR ANY REASON.** Anyone duplicating a Rocky River City School District key will be dismissed immediately.

END OF SEASON REPORT

Each head coach must submit an end of season report at the conclusion of each season. End of season report addendum at the end of handbook.

FITNESS EDUCATION

No student-athlete will be excused from fitness education classes. If a student cannot participate in fitness education classes, he or she will not be eligible for interscholastic practice or competition.

T3 PERFORMANCE/WEIGHT ROOM

Rocky River City School District employs T3 Performance to run our strength and conditioning program. T3 Performance staff work with head coaches to develop in-season and off-season training programs for athletes.

FACILITIES

Requests for the use of Rocky River facilities should be submitted to the Athletic Office at least one (1) week prior to the beginning of the season. The Athletic Office must be notified of any additional requests or changes to the published schedule at least 24 hours prior to the change to ensure the Facilities Department can be prepared to staff the building as needed.

The entrance to the athletic facilities are located at the Wagar lobby. An alarm system is functioning on these doors and a fob for entrance will be provided to coaches as necessary. When leaving facilities, ensure all lights are off and all doors are properly locked.

The entrance to the athletic facilities at Rocky River Middle School are located by the main office. An alarm system is functioning on these doors and a fob for entrance will be provided to coaches as necessary. When leaving facilities, ensure all lights are off and all doors are properly locked.

AWARDS NIGHT PROTOCOL

- Welcome – by the Athletic Director and Principal.
- Introductions of school officials who are present – Superintendent, Central Office Staff, School Board Members, Principal, Assistant Principal (s), Athletic Director.
- Athletic Director remarks, and special awards in conjunction with school administration.
- Break into individual team awards rooms.

HEAD COACH ROLE AT TEAM AWARDS

- Introduce all coaches present.
- Thank you to appropriate people who have helped throughout the season. (Training staff, transportation, maintenance staff, parent volunteers, film, statisticians, timers, etc.)
- Each student athlete, student trainer, student manager, and all other student helpers should be introduced and acknowledged individually when presented with awards and certificates of participation.
- Awards nights should be focused on the student athletes and the accomplishments of the team for the season. If student-athletes wish to acknowledge coaches the remarks should be brief (1 minute or less) and remarks should be reviewed by the head coach or Athletic Director prior to the Awards night.

PARENT-COACH COMMUNICATION

The most important meeting you will have, as a coach is your parent meeting. It is an opportunity to be proactive with the athletic department and team rules, policy and expectations. This meeting is held in conjunction with the Athletic Department preseason parent and athlete meeting.

Sample Agenda

- Welcome
- Introduction of coaches
- Program philosophy
- Team rules
- Athletic Handbook
- Coaches/parent expectations
- Preseason/tryout information
- Practice & Game Schedules
- Cut procedure if applicable
- Breakdown into varsity, junior varsity, frosh teams
- Thank you

These are a few guidelines that will help you to prepare for this extremely important meeting.

COMMUNICATION PARENTS SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOU:

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations the coach has for the players on the team
- Location and time of practices and games
- Team requirements: fees, special equipment, weightlifting
- Procedures to be followed should your child be injured during participation
- Student misconduct that results in the denial of your child's participation

COMMUNICATION COACHES SHOULD EXPECT FROM PARENTS:

- Concerns should be expressed directly to the coach
- Notifications of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- Specific concern with regards to a coach's philosophy and/ or expectations

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH PARENTS

- The treatment of their child- mentally and physically
- Ways to help their child improve
- Concerns about student athlete's behavior

COMMUNICATION MATTERS LEFT TO DISCRETION OF THE COACH

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling

PROTOCOL FOR COMMUNICATION WITH COACH & ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

- Student-athlete should talk directly to coach about concerns
- If Student-athlete is still unclear or unsatisfied, parents should call to set up a meeting with the Athletic Director, Parents, Student-athlete, and Head Coach present.
    - This protocol will be reviewed in the preseason meeting.

ROCKY RIVER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNICATION POLICY

EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

All email communications between coaches and athletes must be via a district-provided email address. Head coaches who are not otherwise employed in the district will receive a sport-specific email address, such as ***rrhsboysgolf@rrcs.org***. This email account may be shared with assistant coaches at the discretion of the head coach. The district has provided students with an email address. This student email address is the only one that coaches should use to communicate with their athletes. ***(Example: 24smith.john@rrcs.org – the number at the beginning is the year of graduation)*** RRCSD policy prohibits coaches with communicating with student athletes via text messaging.

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES WEB PAGES

1. Each coach or advisor will maintain a web page on the district website for his or her team or activity.
2. Coaches and advisors are not permitted to have a team/club Facebook page, website, blog, wiki or any other social media account outside of the district-provided accounts. Rather, they are to use the web page or Twitter account provided by the district.
3. Coaches or advisors who require assistance in setting up a web page are to request an inservice from the athletics secretary.
4. The athletics secretary is not available to post information for coaches.
5. If a coach/advisor elects to have a parent manage their web page, the parent must schedule an inservice with Greg Murphy prior to being issued a CMS account.

REQUIRED INFORMATION ON WEB PAGES

1. Coach/Advisor Name(s) and contact information including phone and email.
2. Team/activity overview, expectations, rules, regulations, practices, etc.
3. Parent letter/packet
4. Practice and game schedule information.
5. Links to emergency authorization forms, etc.
6. Link to Arbiter

RECOMMENDED INFORMATION

1. Weekly updates for teams/activities as needed.
2. Links to sport/activity resources

TWITTER ACCOUNTS

Coaches and advisors have the option to use a Twitter account to communicate with students. All Twitter accounts must be set up through the Communication Specialist or the Athletic Director, using the username and password he or she specifies.

- If using a Twitter account, a Twitter feed is to be embedded on the team/club's home page.
- Directions for embedding Twitter feed (https://twitter.com/about/resources/widgets)
  - If you need assistance with this, please contact Greg Murphy (murphy.greg@rrcs.org)
- Students are NOT required to create a Twitter account – this is optional.

UNIFORM PURCHASES

As the Athletic budget allows, Varsity uniforms will be replaced as needed depending on wear and tear. Uniforms will be worn and handed down to the JV level if still in good repair. The Athletic Department will work with the head coach to review and approve all uniform purchases.

Uniforms purchased must stay consistent with primary school colors: Maroon and White.

SCRIMMAGES

The Athletic Director will work with coaches to schedule all interscholastic athletic contests. Any schedule changes requested by a coach will be given consideration. No coach is to reschedule an athletic contest without prior approval of the Athletic Director. Scrimmages must be scheduled within Cuyahoga County or contiguous counties, unless prior approval has been given by the Athletic Director, Principal, Superintendent, or Board of Education based on the travel policy.

TRAVEL/FIELD TRIP PROCEDURES

All athletes must travel to and from athletic contests via school transportation. **Exceptions may be made only with advance requests to the Athletic Director, and a transportation release form on file in the Athletic Office.**

A transportation fee for high school athletes of $100.00 is charged to those students whose names are submitted on the official team/activity roster. The transportation fee for Middle School students is $95.00. Transportation fees will be added to a student's EZ pay account.

OVERNIGHT TRIPS & OUT OF CONTIGUOUS COUNTY CONTESTS

There are times when a team will benefit from travelling out of town for overnight trips for contests and or scrimmages. All overnight trips require Board of Education and Superintendent Approval. To arrange such a trip, coaches must follow these guidelines:

1. Schedule a meeting with the Athletic Director to outline the rationale and scope of the proposed trip. Provide the Athletic Director a tentative trip itinerary including a proposed budget for the trip.
2. Complete an application for a field trip with the supporting documentation attached.
3. Submit application to Athletic Director for signature and discussion prior to submitting to the Central Office.

TIME REQUIREMENTS FOR OVERNIGHT TRIPS

Minor trip: (In-state less than 3 nights.) These trips must be turned in to the high school principal for review 30 days prior to the trip departure date. The trip application must be turned into the Board of Education for review and approval the month prior to the trip at the latest.

Intermediate trip: (In-State or in a bordering state less than 5 nights) must be turned in to the high school principal for review 60 days prior to trip departure, and be approved by the Superintendent and Rocky River Board of Education.

Major trip: (Out of state trips that require charter bus/flight travel) must be turned in to the high school principal 90 days prior to trip departure and be approved by the Superintendent and Rocky River Board of Education. These trips should be planned and organized well in advance of the preseason meeting with parents and student athletes.

EQUIPMENT USE

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. This should be reported to the athletic department with the end of season report.

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: Students 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. 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 subsequent grading period.

SPORTSMANSHIP - OHSAA

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 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.

HAZING

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, which 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.

ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES DRUG, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO CODE OF CONDUCT

- Level 1
  - 20% denial of participation
- Level 2
  - 50% denial of participation
  - Outside drug, alcohol or tobacco assessment
- Level 3
  - 12 month denial of participation
- Level 4
  - High School career denial of participation

THE ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES CODE OF CONDUCT

- Applies to all participants in co-curricular, athletic and activities sponsored by the RRCSD, to include students on the injured reserve.
- Is in effect upon the initial signing (electronic or otherwise) of the Athletics and Activities Code of Conduct and is in effect twenty-four (24) hours per day, 365 days per year and remains applicable until successful graduation. By participating in RRCSD athletics or activities students agree to abide by and be subject to the Athletics and Activities Code of Conduct.
- Any and all consequences related to a violation of the RRCSD Athletics and Activities Code of Conduct will be implemented immediately. A violation is defined as an intentional or unintentional abuse of the RRCSD Athletic and Activities Code of Conduct including but not limited to: drug, alcohol or tobacco use, as defined in Board of Education Policy 5530-Drug and Alcohol Use and 5512-Use of Tobacco, and or acts deemed detrimental to the sport or activity in which the student participates. A student who tested .000 BAC will not be subject to discipline directly under the policy, and the coach or advisor of the sport or activity will be notified.
- If a violation occurs outside of the school year, i.e. summer break, consequences will be applied immediately following the school year. Example: violation: July 2019, consequences assessed: August 2019.
- Denial of Participation is based upon the OHSAA maximum number of contests allowed per season, per sport.
- Denial of participation will only be served in a sport or activity in which the student has previously participated during the prior school year, either within RRCSD or another school district in which the student attended. Official proof of full participation in a sport or activity occurring outside of the RRCSD is defined as completion of the season as a rostered player and or full year of official participation as a recognized member of the activity in question, will be required. Official proof is defined as written documentation from the school district in which the student participated in athletics or activities which outlines the students level of participation coupled with associated rosters and or attendance records.
- Student participation in sports or activities either within RRCSD or another school district in which the student attended, will be given the same consideration as participation in sports and activities within RRCSD.
- Practices, scrimmages, camps, 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.

- Proof of participation in (not the results of) an outside drug, alcohol or tobacco assessment performed by a licensed professional will be required.
- 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.
- No academic penalty will be assessed to a student under the RRCSD Athletic and Activities Code of Conduct for consequences resulting in denial of participation.
- Coaches and Advisors are permitted to implement greater penalties than stated in the Athletics and Activities Code of Conduct.

SHOWER AND LOCKER ROOMS

The following will be expected:

1. The in-season sports teams have the priority use of the locker and shower facilities.
2. The coaches' room is off-limits to unauthorized personnel. This includes all student athletes and team managers unless invited there for counseling or special instruction.
3. No student is to be given keys to run an errand for a coach.
4. The use of tobacco products by coaches is not allowed in or on school district property.
5. Coaches must be present and provide supervision as long as members of their teams are still present in the building. If parents are aware of the times that practice ends, they can be expected to be prompt and therefore cause no more than minor inconveniences. Parents should be aware of the student supervision times, i.e. Student athletes will be supervised for one-half hour after practice, in writing by the coach at the preseason meeting.
6. The coach, being the last person usually to leave the building or area, must make sure that the following has been accomplished:
    - All showers are turned off.
    - All lights have been turned off.
    - The locker room, playing fields, and gymnasium are in proper order and neat.
    - All doors are locked including the locker room, coaches' room, gymnasium, and outside doors.

SUMMER CAMPS

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 GYMS

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.
7. Participants may be removed for safety reasons.

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

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

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 OHSAA Board of Control. The maximum amount is $400.00 per award.

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 students/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: Rocky River City School District 2015-2016 14 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

ALMA MATER

Where the waters Rocky River blend with Lake Erie,
Stands our noble Alma Mater throned in majesty.
Sing her praises never ceasing
We shall ever cry,
"Thee we honor, Alma Mater Rocky River High."

FIGHT SONG

Oh, when those River boys all fall in line,
We're gonna win this game another time.
Oh, for our football team we're gonna yell.
We're gonna yell and yell and yell and yell and yell.
We're gonna fight, fight fight for every yard.
We're gonna circle round and hit 'em hard.
We're gonna go right through the other side, other side, Rocky River High.
Rocky River, hats off to thee.
To our colors true we will always be.
For our banner maroon and white,