



Student Athlete/Parent Handbook

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ROCK HILL SCHOOLS ATHLETICS

Message to Parents and Students

This handbook is to be used by parents and students to ensure that students will enjoy a safe, successful and memorable experience as a student athlete. It is an extension of the Rock Hill School District, the S.C. High School League and establishes team rules and regulations. We believe coaching leadership is to be of the highest quality and provides student athletes examples of exemplary behavior, character, courage and integrity.

Thank you for supporting your student athlete as they participate in athletics in the Rock Hill School District.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Rock Hill Schools Athletic Department is to provide a comprehensive, inclusive, and engaging athletic program that promotes the physical, emotional, and social development of our student-athletes. We are committed to fostering excellence, integrity, and sportsmanship while emphasizing the importance of academic success, personal growth, and community involvement. Through our education-based model, we aim to develop well-rounded individuals who are prepared for success both on and off the field.

Mission Statement

To empower student-athletes to excel both academically and athletically, fostering growth, integrity, and community involvement.

Beliefs

- x **Holistic Development:** We believe in nurturing the physical, emotional, and social growth of our student-athletes.
- x **Academic Excellence:** We prioritize academic success alongside athletic achievements.
- x **Integrity and Sportsmanship:** We uphold the values of honesty, respect, and fair play.
- x **Community Engagement:** We believe in the importance of community involvement and support.
- x **Lifelong Learning:** We encourage a passion for continuous personal and professional development.
- x **Teamwork and Leadership:** We promote the development of strong leadership skills and teamwork.
- x **Health and Wellness:** We prioritize the overall health and well-being of our student athletes.

Claim forms are filed out by the athletic trainer and must be signed by the athletic director. School officials are NOT to file any claims for a student-athlete or his/her parents, this is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian

Responsibilities of the Athlete

Citizenship

The privilege to represent any school in Rock Hill School District on an athletic team should be based on good citizenship, as well as scholastic achievement. In a specific athletic endeavor, the student athlete must be capable of representing Rock Hill School District in the fullest meaning of the term "Good Citizenship" by his or her manners, appearance, dress, conduct and sportsmanship. Only those students who can assume these responsibilities and of being official representatives of our schools will be permitted to be members of any athletic squad.

Conduct

The conduct of a student athlete is closely observed in all areas of life. It is important that your behavior be above reproach in all the following areas:

A. In the Classroom

In the academic setting, a good athlete becomes a good student. As a student athlete, you must plan your schedule so that you give sufficient time and energy to your studies. In addition to maintaining good grades, an athlete should give respectful attention to classroom activities and always show respect for other students and faculty.

B. On the Campus

The way we act and look on campus is of great importance. Athletes should be leaders in every aspect of the educational process. Remember, respect is not given - it is earned.

C. On the Field

All school rules are carried over to the field of competition. Sportsmanship is of the utmost importance to everyone representing our programs.

Student Disciplinary Actions on Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities

An extracurricular activity often entails activities of public interest, visibility, and focus of attention. Students who take part in such activities, in effect, serve as special ambassadors of the school they represent. Consequently, the behavior of those students who choose to participate in these activities draws such public interest and attention that it is unique in its capacity to elevate or diminish the School District's standing in the public mind. Strong public education programs cannot exist without strong public support. Therefore, all students participating in extracurricular activities who are charged by law enforcement authorities with criminal conduct 1 or who engage in other acts of "gross misbehavior", e.g. (A) possession or use of controlled substances at school or at school-sponsored activities, (B) acts of disrespect to a teacher or other school authority, (C) acts of cruelty or violence either physical or emotional, (D) use of profane or vulgar language shall, at the discretion of the principal, be subject to suspension and/or possible exclusion from participation in extracurricular activities.

*The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that random drug testing for students who participate in extracurricular activities is constitutional as long as certain procedural steps are followed. Before taking disciplinary action, pursuant to this rule, the principal shall meet and confer with the student's teacher and extracurricular sponsor(s). The principal's decision shall be final unless reversed or modified on appeal to the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee, in which event the decision of the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall be final. If a student is found to be in violation of the above rule the following consequences shall be applied:

1st Offense: The student shall be suspended from all extracurricular activities for not less than five (5) Consecutive school days. If the offense involves use or possession of a controlled substance, the student is referred to the Keystone program and must complete the program. If, at any point, the student fails to follow all rules and regulations for attendance and participation in the program, he/she will immediately become ineligible to participate in any activity until the program is fully completed. The student's eligibility to resume participation is contingent upon his/her agreement to participate in a random controlled substance testing program for a period of not less than six school months.

2nd Offense: The student shall be suspended from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year. If, however, the second offense occurs with less than nine (9) weeks remaining in the school year, the principal may, if he/she chooses, extend the suspension period to include the first nine (9) weeks grading period of the ensuing school year.

Felony Criminal Charges: Charges of felony criminal offenses brought by law enforcement shall result in immediate ineligibility from all extracurricular activities for a calendar year from the date of the charge. If a student is found not guilty of such charges, he/she shall be eligible, following review by the principal, for immediate reinstatement. If a charge brought forth by law enforcement is of high and serious nature, but may not be classified as a

Communication with Coaches

It is important that parents can meet with and communicate with the coach; however, there are a few rules that must be adhered to:

1. Parents should never approach a coach to discuss a playing issue about their son or daughter, coaching strategy or play calling during or immediately after an athletic event.
2. Parents who are unhappy about playing time should first allow their son or daughter to discuss this matter with the coach first before contacting the coach. If a resolution to this problem has not been met after the player/coach meeting, then the parent may contact the coach. The parent should always talk to the coach before contacting the Athletics Director or Principal. Parents should always schedule an appointment with the coach to discuss such matters. (The student athlete must attend all meetings)
3. Parents who are concerned about any health or safety issue regarding their student/athlete are always asked to please call the coach or the school administration.
4. Final resolution of conflicts in school athletics will lie with the Principal and Athletic Director.

Participation Fees

A \$60 athletic fee will be charged for participation in athletics, annually. This fee just be paid prior to participation. It is permissible for a fee schedule (payment plan) to be set-up with the Athletic Director.

Student Athlete/Parent Contract

Signing this page indicates that I have read and understand the Rock Hill School District
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