

***RICHMOND SPARTANS***



***ATHLETES HANDBOOK***

# THE PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS AT RHS

The philosophy of athletics at Richmond public schools is such that it is considered an integral part of the school's program of education providing experiences that will help young men and women physically, mentally, and emotionally. Students are stimulated to want to win and excel, but the principles of good sportsmanship prevail at all times to promote the educational values of contests. The element of competition and winning, though it exists, is controlled so that it does not determine the nature of the program. This is considered to be educationally and psychologically sound because of the training it offers for living in a competitive society.

Participation in activities, both as a player and as a student spectator, is an integral part of the student's educational experiences. This participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the team, to the student body, to the community, and to the student himself/herself. In their play, and in their conduct, such experiences contribute to the knowledge, skill, and emotional patterns that they possess, thereby making them a better person and citizen.

# **RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

Eligibility is a privilege to be granted by the school to a student which allows that student to participate in interscholastic activities. Eligibility is not a student's right by law. Precedent setting legal cases have determined that eligibility is a privilege to be granted only if the student meets all standards adopted by the school which enables the school to grant the student such a privilege.

Listed below are major rules and regulations which you must follow in order to protect your eligibility. These rules are in addition to the MSHSAA rules governing your eligibility.

Athletic handbook rules are in effect for all prospective athletes regardless of when their season occurs. Violations that occur outside of school related activities will be considered a violation of the athletic policies.

## ***ALCOHOL***

### **First Offense**

Minimum— Suspension from contests/practice/activities for 10 school days to include at least 1 contest/activity, ten hours of community service completed within 6 weeks.  
Appropriate counseling.

Maximum— Suspension from membership for up to 3 months, forty hours of community service to be completed by the end of the suspension.  
Appropriate counseling.

### **Repeated Offenses**

Minimum— Suspension from membership for 6 months, forty hours of community service to be completed by the end of the suspension  
Appropriate counseling

Maximum— Permanent suspension from membership.

## ***DRUGS***

Suspension from all activities for the current school year.

## ***TOBACCO***

### **First Offense**

Minimum— Warning and sponsor action.

Maximum— Suspension from one practice/contest/activity. Ten hours of community service.

### **Repeated Offenses**

Minimum— Suspension from membership for 3 months. Forty hours of community service.

Maximum— Suspension from membership for up to 12 months.

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## ***VANDALISM/DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY***

### **First Offense**

Minimum— Restitution as appropriate and/or community service.

Maximum— Restitution as appropriate, community service and suspension from practice/contests/activities for ten school days to include at least 1 contest activity and/or membership depending on severity.

### **Repeated Offense**

Minimum— Suspension from membership for 6 months. Forty hours of community service.

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## ***THEFT/RECEIPT OF STOLEN PROPERTY***

### **First Offense**

Minimum— Suspension from contests/activities for 10 days to include at least 1 contest/activity, ten hours of community service to be completed with 6 weeks. Restitution.

Maximum— Suspension from membership for 6 months. Forty hours of community service. Restitution as appropriate.

### **Repeated Offenses**

Minimum— Suspension from membership for 6 months.

Maximum— Permanent suspension from membership

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## ***HAZING AND BULLYING***

In order to promote a safe learning environment for all students, the Richmond R-XVI School District prohibits all forms of hazing, bullying and student intimidation. Students participating in or encouraging inappropriate conduct will be disciplined in accordance with JG-R. Such discipline may include, but is not limited to, suspension or expulsion from school and removal from participation in activities. Students who have been subjected to hazing or bullying are instructed to promptly report such incidents to a school official.

***Hazing***—For purposes of this policy, hazing is defined as any activity, on or off school grounds, that is reasonable person believes would negatively impact the mental or physical health or safety of a student or put the student in a ridiculous, humiliating, stressful or disconcerting position for the purposes of initiation, affiliation, admission, membership or maintenance of membership in any group, class, organization, club or athletic team including, but not limited to, a grade level, student organization or school-sponsored activity.

***Bullying***—For purposes of this policy, bullying is defined as intimidation or harassment of a student or multiple students perpetrated by individuals or groups. Bullying includes, but is not limited to: physical actions, including violence, gestures, theft, or damaging property; oral or written taunts, including name calling, put-downs, extortion, or threats; or threats of retaliation for reporting such acts. Bullying may also include cyberbullying or cyber-threats. Cyberbullying is sending or posting harmful or cruel text or images using the Internet or other digital communication devices. Cyberthreats are online materials that threaten or raise concerns about violence against others, suicide or self-harm.

## ***UNEXCUSED ABSENCES / TRUANCY***

### **First Offense**

Minimum—Sponsor action.

Maximum—Suspension from one practice/contest/activity and sponsor action.

### **Repeated Offenses**

Minimum—Suspension from one practice/contest/activity and sponsor action.

Maximum—Suspension from membership for up to 3 months.

1. School attendance is important. Don't use activities as an excuse to miss school. Students who miss any part of the school day of an event without administrative approval will be ineligible to participate. Likewise, students who miss any part of the school day following an activity without administrative approval will be ineligible to participate in the next competition. A student must be in school on Friday to participate on Saturday. ***EVERY STUDENT SHOULD FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS POLICY.*** After missing 8 days in a quarter, the student will no longer be eligible for that quarter.
2. In the event of an out-of-school suspension, the student will not be eligible for activities until he/she has fulfilled the disciplinary requirements established by the administration. This includes practice.
3. In School Suspension will affect the student's eligibility at coaches discretion to compete in a game, contest or performance but not practice.
4. If a student is arrested for a misdemeanor or a felony, the student will be allowed to represent the school in interscholastic activities pending the legal outcome of the case: however, if there is admission of guilt by the student or if after reviewing the case school officials feel there is strong evidence of guilt, e.g. witnesses, which indicate probable guilt, then the school may restrict the student from participation before the legal outcome of the case. Parents and the student are to be informed of any problem through a meeting with the head coach/sponsor and principal if the circumstances warrant his presence.

### **Penalties for violations are:**

Misdemeanor (excluding minor traffic violations) - Up to six months maximum restriction.

Felony—Up to permanent suspension.

Decisions related to penalties will be made jointly by the administration and head coach/sponsor.

5. Verification of the above acts will be made by either the proper legal authorities, a member of the coach staff, sponsor who has witnessed the offense, or the school administration.

**DUE PROCESS.** Participants will have the opportunity to express their side of any incident to which they have been involved. Parents or other appropriate representatives may be involved with students during the due process hearing. If the student is dissatisfied with any decision, he/she has the right to appeal through the following channels:

- A. Athletic Director
- B. School Principal
- C. Superintendent of Schools
- D. Board of Education

## **INTERSCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS**

To be eligible for participation in MSHSAA activities, a student must comply with all regulations established by the MSHSAA. That is, a student must:

1. Be a good citizen in the school and community.
2. Be currently enrolled in and regularly attending courses that offer a minimum of 3.0 units of credit and have earned 3.0 units of credit the preceding semester. Students may count up to 1 unit of credit from summer school toward establishing their eligibility for the fall semester. Only classes, which are required for graduation from the local school may be counted toward meeting the academic requirement. Electives cannot be counted. Students who are enrolled in special education programs will be treated on an individual basis. Eligibility will be determined by satisfactory progress in their special education program.
3. Have entered school within the first eleven days of the semester.
4. Not have reached their 19th birthday prior July 1 of this school year.
5. Have attended the eighth semester immediately following the seventh semester.
6. Not practice for or participate with a non-school team or in any organized non-school athletic competition during the same season in which the student is a participant of a school team.
7. If a student is referred to the Athletic Director for receiving an F or any other grade significantly below a student's potential at mid-term, or at the end of a term, that student shall be assigned to mandatory study hall each day until the classroom teacher is satisfied that the student is again making satisfactory progress. Study Hall shall run from 7:00 to 7:40 a.m.-Monday through Friday. If a student misses a study hall he/she will not be allowed to take part in any extracurricular activity that day.

## **CHANGING SPORTS**

Participants will be allowed to transfer from one sport to another only within the first ten days of practice and provided they have completed the following:

1. Checked in all equipment
2. Cleared all personal obligations
3. Been cleared to transfer by the preceding coach and Athletic Director

After the tenth day of organized practice, if an athlete decides to quit the team, they may not begin organized practice of another sport until the next seasonal sport begins. The same holds true for athletes who are dropped for disciplinary reasons.

## **EQUIPMENT**

Each athlete is responsible for any and all equipment issued to him or her. An athlete will be expected to pay for any equipment lost or stolen. An athlete may not participate in another sport until all obligations to the previous sport have been cleared by the coach of that sport.

## **CONCURRENT ACTIVITIES**

On conflicts between field trips or activities, the student and parents will make the final decision. The athlete must realize that grades may be affected in class and that playing time may be lost if another player beats the other student out due to missing practice. However, an athlete will not be punished by withholding playing time solely because of attending a field trip.

## **VARSITY LOCKER ROOM**

The varsity locker room is to be used only by athletes who are actively participating in a sport that is in season. Each athlete will be issued a locker for each separate season. When the season has expired, the athlete must check out of the locker and be reissued a locker for the next sport season.

\*\*\* All of the schools of the MSHSAA have adopted the standards listed above. Eligibility to participate in school athletics is a privilege granted if a student meets these standards. It is not an inherent right. These eligibility requirements, in addition to any rules of conduct and regulations instituted by a coach, must be met by all athletes who compete interscholastically.

## **OBJECTIVES FOR RHS ATHLETICS**

- 1. Better health and physical fitness**
- 2. The desire to succeed and to excel**
- 3. High moral and ethical standards**
- 4. Self-discipline and emotional maturity**
- 5. Social competence**
- 6. The ability to think as an individual and as a member of a group**
- 7. Realization of the value of group ideas**
- 8. Realization of the value of conforming to rules**
- 9. Respect for authority and rights of others**
- 10. Knowledge of the rules of the games**
- 11. Knowledge of the value that athletics have for the individual and for society.**

It is often thought that when emphasis is placed on educational objectives of athletes there is not an emphasis upon "winning." This thinking is incorrect. Winning, involving the spirit of competition is an immediate objective in all athletic contests, but is not an end in itself. Fifty percent of the teams that take part in athletic games must lose. The desire to win can and should be used to stimulate the achievement of the ultimate objectives. The attainment of these goals will enhance the education of girls and boys and contribute toward the development of better citizens. Therefore, our action directly represents the community, school and personal families.