

Renaissance Public School Academy Athletic Handbook

Introduction:

Dear parents/guardians,

Welcome to Renaissance Public School Academy athletics. This material is being presented to you because your son or daughter has indicated interest in participation in interscholastic or intramural athletics, and you have expressed your willingness to permit him or her to compete. Your family's interest in this phase of our athletic program is gratifying. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences, which assist students in personal adjustments.

Renaissance Public School Academy feels that the promotion of academic growth, along with athletic opportunities to compete in a properly controlled, well-organized, sports program can meet the students' need for self-expression, mental alertness, and physical growth. Athletics at RPSA are an opportunity for the student athlete to become a more balanced and well-rounded individual.

By joining athletics, students are committing our staff to certain responsibilities and obligations. These responsibilities and obligations include but are not limited to:

- Providing students with a safe environment to grow as an athlete.
- Providing quality instruction on the field of play, in a way that prepares the student for athletic opportunities beyond middle school.
- Providing opportunities that foster character development, sportsmanship, and teamwork.
- Providing adequate equipment and facilities.
- Providing unbiased officials at home events.

Likewise, we feel that you have committed yourselves to certain responsibilities and obligations, as well. We would like to take this opportunity to provide you with a set of policies and expectations for athletics at Renaissance Public School Academy.

We believe athletics is an integral part of the educational experience. We look forward to working with you and watching your student-athlete grow in the classroom and on the field of play.

All Required athletics can be found at the end of this handbook. They are also available online at the bottom of the athletics homepage website under "Resources".

To the Athlete:

Being a part of RPSA athletics is an honor and a privilege. We hope that you will enjoy your time on the playing field and take with you any lessons that you learn when you leave Renaissance Public School Academy.

The policies outlined in this handbook are a guide to successful participation. You will be expected to understand and adhere to the policies herein. It is your responsibility to follow them to their fullest:

1. Respect yourself and each other.
2. Maintain a high standard of excellence in the classroom.
3. Respect all equipment and facilities at our school and any school visited.
4. Respect our school and carry yourself in a manner that reflects the highest standard of character that RPSA embodies.

Mission Statement:

The goal of education is to help young people to develop physically, emotionally, and intellectually. The athletic program at Renaissance Public School Academy will help contribute to this goal by providing our student athletes with opportunities to participate as members of athletic teams.

Athletic Philosophy:

Students are encouraged to be involved in widespread activities at RPSA. Student participation in such activities, including interscholastic athletics, is provided as an opportunity for students as long as they agree to follow the rules and guidelines. Students who violate the guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including removal from team sports activities. These guidelines apply at all times throughout the school year, including offseason and all vacation periods. The guidelines are not limited to the time period in which the student participates in a particular activity, nor are the guidelines limited to student behavior at school-sponsored activities or on school property.

General Information:

The Athletic Department will offer the following sports for each academic school year through an interscholastic competition when and where available:

- 5th-6th Grade Boys' Basketball
- 7th-8th Grade Boys' Basketball
- 5th-6th Grade Girls' Basketball
- 7th-8th Grade Girls' Basketball
- 5th-6th Grade Girls' Volleyball
- 7th-8th Grade Girls' Volleyball
- 5th-8th Grade Cheerleading
- 7th – 8th Grade Track & Field*
- 5th- 8th Grade Boys' and Girls' Cross Country*

*(There are no opportunities for 5th graders for cross country, and occasionally 6th graders (cross country and track and field), to compete at meets, but they may be part of the practice team and may have the ability to participate in a "Fun Run" portion of some events. These events can be found on the cross country schedule – located on our athletics website.)

Intramurals

The athletic department will sponsor intramural sports activities from time to time as an extension and an enhancement of the interscholastic program and its ideals. Students participating in intramurals will be expected to adhere to the student athletic code of conduct as stated in this handbook. Participation in intramural sports is not a right, and the student's teachers and the administration of RPSA can exclude students from intramurals for both academic and behavioral reasons as seen fit.

Activities will be offered to RPSA students on a first come first serve basis. Age ranges may vary depending on the activity offered at the time. Some activities may require students to bring their own equipment. Fees may apply for certain activities offered and will be communicated clearly prior to the activity's start date. All fees that apply must be paid in full by the first day of the activity. Students who do not pay will be excluded until such payment is received.

The participating student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign the RPSA Athletic Contract, as well as the Injury Awareness Form determining that permission to participate is granted and for the purpose of releasing RPSA, its employees, and volunteers from liability in the event of injury. These forms as well as the Emergency Contact Form, which are included at the end of this handbook, must be turned in to the volunteer in charge before any program participation is allowed. These forms can also be found at the bottom of the athletics website homepage, under the heading "Resources".

The goal of intramural sports is to build skills at the lower grade levels in preparation for middle school interscholastic competition, as well as offering opportunities for everyone to participate in athletics in a less competitive environment.

Athletic Fees for Interscholastic Athletics

Students will owe a fee of \$80 per sport for each sport that they participate in. In the event that a student is no longer with the team for any reason, Pay to Participate fees will **not** be refunded.

Students, who qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch program, may apply for an athletic scholarship to the Athletic Boosters. This form should be turned in to the school's business manager (Mrs. Reihl) for approval. Students that receive this scholarship will have half of their athletic fees paid for by the Athletic Boosters in exchange for one evening of volunteering at a home athletic event for each sport that their child participates in. Families will still owe the remaining \$40 balance prior to their student competing in athletic events. If the parent/guardian chooses to not volunteer at a home athletic event, the scholarship then becomes null and void and the parent/guardian must pay the remaining athletic fee balance. Families will find the required form on the school's website – athletics page, under "Resources". Volunteer schedules will be made available prior to each sport's opening event.

For example: If your child receives a scholarship for cross-country, the parent/guardian may volunteer to work at a home basketball game (or other home sporting event).

Game Entry Fees

Entry fees for all athletics events are as follows:

- \$3 per adult (age18 years +)
- \$2 per child (age 17 years under to age 6)
- Free Entry for anyone age 5 years and under
- \$12 Max Family Charge
 - A family consists of parents/guardians and children.
 - Extended family (grandparents, etc.) excluded.

Participation Criteria

Before each student will be allowed to participate in practice or contests, he/she must:

1. Complete the Athletic Physical Form, and all other required forms attached to this document and turn them into the coach before the first practice of the sport he/she is participating in for the current school year. A sports' physical must be obtained, each school year, annually. Athletics physicals are in good standing from April 16 to April 15 of the following year.
2. Pay any required "Pay to Participate" athletic fees. **(please turn fees into the office)**
3. From this point, the student athlete must follow the Athletic Code of Conduct and meet the Eligibility Requirements stated below in order to remain a member of the team.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Students that are ineligible will not be allowed to compete in athletic contests, until they have regained eligibility. Students that are ineligible to compete are expected to attend all practices and games, as they are still a member of the team.
2. The student must be in attendance at school for a part of the school day to be considered eligible to play on that day. (Students that leave during the school day must have an approved excuse in order to participate that day.)
3. During the season, any student charged with an unexcused absence from school or practice will be ineligible for the next game. Absences will be deemed as excused accompanied by a medical note from a doctor or a contact from the parent(s)/guardian(s) requesting excused absence at the coach's discretion.
4. Students that are not showing progression toward proficiency on any standards will be deemed ineligible for interscholastic athletic competitions. These decisions are based on teacher discretion. Students that have Individual Education Plans (or 504 plans) must be working towards their educational goals at the discretion of their special education or general education teacher.
5. Teacher, administrator, or parent/guardian concerns over student progress in the classroom will take priority over eligibility requirements and may require the student athlete to meet academic or behavioral goals to remain eligible.
6. The student must not be in violation of school rules, as determined by an administrator. The student must also be in adherence to the Athletic Philosophies from page 2 of this handbook. In the event that violations occur, the administrator will determine the consequence and eligibility of the student athlete.
7. It is within the coach's rights to remove students from competition for unsportsmanlike conduct, inappropriate behavior, and unexcused absences from games and practices.
8. Student's that are academically ineligible are expected to be actively working towards eligibility.

Injuries

Athletes that are too injured to practice or that have sustained an injury are not allowed to participate in athletic practices or events until they have medical clearance from a doctor. A parent/guardian letter, written on physician stationery or otherwise, is not an acceptable release to return to play or practice. In addition, an injured athlete is required to attend practices and events and remain on the sideline for the purposes of team morale, so as not to miss any important team information. Athletes that do not adhere to these guidelines will be subject to athletic suspension beyond their return from injury. Non-injury related absences from practice sessions or contests may be discussed with the coach or administrator and deemed excusable at their discretion.

Athletic Code of Conduct

Being a student athlete at Renaissance Public School Academy carries a tremendous responsibility. Since the conduct of athletes is closely observed in many areas of life, a very important responsibility of the student athlete is to act in a mature, respectful, and responsible manner at all times.

1. On and off the field of competition the student athlete's behavior must always be beyond reproach, exhibiting good sportsmanship and showing respect for the opponent, the officials, the coaches, the fans, teammates, and everyone present.
2. In the classroom the student athlete must try to be a good student. Student athletes are expected to put forth their best effort in the classroom as well as on the practice field.

3. The way student athletes look and act at school and in the community is of great importance. Student athletes should be leaders and fellow students must be able to respect and follow them. Our student athletes may be the only opportunity that other schools, parents, and community members have to judge our school by.
4. The student athlete must also demonstrate respect for and take pride in school equipment and facilities by helping to properly maintain and care for them.
5. Student athletes must adhere to the rules of the game and demonstrate a good attitude regardless of the calls made by officials, or whether their team wins or loses.
6. At practice, the student athlete must show respect to the coach and fellow athletes. To be a team, all must work together.
7. Student athletes must attend all practices in order to remain eligible for athletic competition. If a student athlete misses a practice for any reason, it is the responsibility of the student athlete or parent/guardian to notify the coach (head or assistant), athletic director, or school administrator. An unexcused absence from practice will result in a one game suspension from athletic competition.

Conduct at Athletic Events (Athletes and Non-Athletes)

Renaissance Public School Academy recognizes the importance of good sportsmanship. The following five steps will help everyone to understand their responsibilities at an athletic event. Those who fail to follow these guidelines may be asked to leave the event.

1. Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the contest. The necessity to be well-informed is essential. Know the rules. Expressing an uninformed opinion on the officials, coaches, players, or administrators is detrimental to the sportsmanship that we value at RPSA.
2. Exercise representative behavior at all times. Good sportsmanship requires good character, as your behavior influences others and their perception of our school.
3. Recognize and appreciate skilled performances regardless of affiliation. Applauding for an opponent's good performance displays generosity and is a courtesy that should be regularly practiced. This not only represents good sportsmanship, but also reflects a true awareness of the game by recognizing and acknowledging quality.
4. Exhibit respect for officials. The officials of any contest are impartial arbitrators who are trained and who perform to the best of their ability. Mistakes by all those involved in the contest are part of the game. The rule of good sportsmanship is to accept and abide by the decisions made. This value is critical for students to learn for use later in life. It is our responsibility to recognize that calls by the officials do not determine the outcome of a contest. Our philosophy is that it is the coach's responsibility to communicate with the officials throughout the contest.
5. Display openly a respect for opponents. Opponents are guests and should be provided with the best accommodations and tolerance at all times. Be a positive representative for your school, team, and family.
6. Spectators must keep all aisle-ways and exit doors clear from blockage. Anyone standing or blocking an exit or aisle-way will be asked to please move to a different area.
7. Student athletes at an event, when not playing, must be in their designated area in the bleachers – supporting their peers. Student athletes may visit the concession stand or use the restroom. They are not allowed to volunteer to work during their athletic contest. Student athletes are expected to support their peers in the stands, if they choose to stay. Student athletes will be asked to find their designated area, when not in compliance.

Practice Policy

It is the Athletic Department's policy that practices for all sports will be closed to the public. We ask parents/guardians to remain outside of the gym or practice area until the coach dismisses the team. In the event that a student athlete needs to be picked up early from practice, prior arrangements should be made with the coach.

Reasons for our closed practice policy include:

1. Parents/guardians in the gym or practice area can be a distraction to the athletes and coaches.
2. Parents/guardians in the gym or practice area could result in a violation of the State's Public Acts 342 and 343.

Disciplinary Action

Any athlete or non-athlete whose conduct is detrimental to him/her, the team, or the school during their RPSA career shall be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the coach, athletic director, or administration. Being a member of RPSA's athletic program is a privilege and not a right. Any participant (athlete or not) who does not treat it as such, will lose their privilege to engage in athletics here at Renaissance Public School Academy.

The coach of the sport, the athletic director, or the administration may make temporary suspension of participants at any time. Suspension from a team results in nonparticipation in play/practice or both during the entire period of the suspension.

The coach of the sport, the athletic director, or the administration also has the right to remove students from participation from any or all teams.

Students may be suspended or removed from a team for, but are not limited to, the following reasons:

1. Violations of the Renaissance Public School Academy Student Handbook
2. Violations of school, athletic, or team policies.
3. Personal misconduct that involves police or court action during the school year, either before, during, or after hours.
4. Verbal or physical attack upon any individual.
5. Acts of poor sportsmanship.
6. Prolonged academic ineligibility.
7. Refusing to participate in athletic practices or contests.

Appeal Process

Student athletes will be given the opportunity for a hearing with the appropriate school administrator if the student or his/her parent/guardian indicates the desire for one. A hearing shall be held to allow the student and his/her parent/guardian to contest the facts, which may lead to disciplinary actions. The suspension will be in effect until the appeal process has been resolved.

Steps for Review:

1. The student athlete must have met with the coach involved to try to solve the problem.
2. The student athlete may request a review by the Athletic Director who will arrange a meeting with the coach, the student athlete, and the parents.
3. If the decision resulting from the meeting with the coach, parents, and Athletic Director is unsatisfactory to the parents, they may appeal to the school administration.

Cut Policy

In accordance with our philosophy of athletics and our desire to see as many students as possible participate in athletic programs while at Renaissance Public School Academy, we encourage coaches to keep as many students as they can, without jeopardizing the integrity of their sport.

Obviously, time, space, facilities, personal preference, and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport.

Choosing members of the athletic squads is the sole responsibility of the coaches of those squads. Coaches may bring in the help of the athletic staff to have as many eyes as possible on a tryout. The hope is to assess the talent that is trying out as accurately as possible.

Transportation

It is the responsibility of individual families to transport their student athlete(s) to and from all athletic events. Coaches are employees of the school; therefore, they are not permitted to transport student athletes.

It is the coach's discretion to determine whether or not a student athlete must arrive at the location by a certain time.

Student athletes from A/B teams are not required to remain at an event once their contest is finished. The Renaissance Athletic Department encourages families to remain and support A/B teams; however, we certainly understand those families that choose to take their student athlete(s) home following their event.

Grooming and Dress

Appearance, expression, and actions always influence a person's opinions of athletes, the team, and the school. Once you have volunteered to be a member of a team, you have made a choice to uphold certain standards set forth by the coach and school.

Home Contests: Coaches, with the help from the team, will make a decision on what the players are going to wear to school the day of the scheduled home game. This decision will be made during the week leading up to the game. Students will be required to comply with the decision that was made to maintain a unified look.

Away Contests: All student athletes must arrive at an away destination dressed in their uniform or school appropriate attire. All coaches are required to attend scheduled away events dressed in Renaissance gear or professional attire. All coaches and players are ambassadors of Renaissance Public School Academy. Athletic events may be the only opportunity for other schools to form opinions about our school, and we should embrace the opportunity to show other communities the high standards and values that we uphold at RPSA.

Hiring of Coaches

The following guidelines will be used when selecting a coach:

- Coaching positions will be filled by the Athletic Director and/or Assistant Athletic Director, with the approval of the administration.
- Positions will be filled on an annual basis. .
- Coaches will be subject to background checks and fingerprinting, along with ID and proof of insurance on file at the school.
- Coaches are compensated at a pay scale that is commensurate with area charter schools and our league.

All coaches, employees, volunteers, and other adults involved in RPSA athletics must complete the Concussion in Youth Sports Training in compliance with Public Acts 342 and 343, which went into effect on June 30th, 2013.

Renaissance Public School Academy Athletic Contract

I have read the Renaissance Public School Academy Athletic Handbook and am willing to abide by the conditions therein.

Name of Student (printed): _____

Student Athlete Signature: _____

School Year: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Injury Awareness Section

_____ is a potentially dangerous sport. There is a possibility of physical contact, and there is a chance of injury. Even though this chance exists, I give my child permission to participate in the _____ (sport) season.

Parent/Guardian Initials: _____

Pay to Participate Athletic Fee

The Pay to Participate Fee is \$80 per sport.

Sport: _____ Payment Method (circle): Cash/ Check/ Scholarship

I have reviewed the Renaissance Public School Academy Athletic Handbook and understand that the Pay to Participate Fee paid does not guarantee playing time, control over any conditions of the team or Department of Athletics.

There will be no refunds of the Pay to Participate Fee. An athlete will not be allowed to participate in athletic contests unless all signatures are affixed and the fee has been paid.

Hard copies of the Athletic Handbook are available in the front office of the building and downloadable copies are available on the RPSA Athletic Website. The athletic website can be found at <http://www.renaissancepsa.com> under the tab "Athletics" and the forms can be downloaded under the tab "Resources" from the Athletics Homepage.

I agree to the Pay to Participate Athletic Fee Contract and understand and acknowledge that I have been informed that the Athletic Handbook is available to me.

Parent/Guardian Initials: _____

Please complete the front and back of this form for each sports season and return it to your coach with a completed athletics physical* and payment in order to participate in athletic events.

**An athletics physical will cover all sports in a school year and does not need to be resubmitted for each sport. Any athletic physical form that your doctor chooses to use is fine; however, you can find the MHSAA physical form on our athletics website under the "Resources Tab" on the homepage.*

**Renaissance Public School Academy
Athletic Emergency Contact Form**

Name of Student Athlete: _____

Emergency Contact	Phone Number	Email Address	Relationship to the Athlete

A student shall not participate in any athletics contests until the completed form has been turned into the coach of each sport. In the event that a student participates in more than one sport, an Athletic Emergency Contact Form must be completed for each coach.