

## **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.

### 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 and Guiding Principle:

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. 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. We fully understand that no one is perfect, and that mistakes will happen from time to time; however, it is what we learn from these mistakes that develop our character and help us grow as individuals. Students who violate the guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including removal from team sports activities at Renaissance Public School Academy.

## General Information:

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

- 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys' Basketball
- 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys' Basketball
- 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Basketball
- 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Basketball
- 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Volleyball
- 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Volleyball
- 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Cheerleading
- 5<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys' and Girls' Cross Country\*

\*(At times, there will not be opportunity for 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade student-athletes to run in meet events. The Renaissance Athletic Department and Coaches have no control of this, as it is determined by the host school. At times, we will not find out until we arrive at the event and open our bib envelope. If this is the case, they are welcome to run in the "fun run", if the host school has one.)

## 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 located on the school's website – athletics page, must be turned in to the volunteer in charge before any program participation is allowed. These forms can also be found on the athletic website under the "Resources" tab.

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. 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. 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.

### Game Entry Fees

Entry fees for all athletics events are as follows:

- \$3 per adult ( age 18 years +)
- \$2 per child (age 17 years under to age 6)
- Free Entry for anyone age 5 years and under

### Participation Criteria

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

1. Complete the Athletic Physical Form prior to the team's first practice session/tryout. All other required forms must be completed and turned into the coach prior to the team's first interscholastic contest. A sports' physical must be obtained, each school year, annually.
2. Pay any required "Pay to Participate" athletic fees.
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.
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. 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 and Guiding Principles 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.

## 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, student athletes are expected to put forth their best effort, as well as on the practice field.
3. The way 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.

### 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 contest. 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. 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 and solve the problem.
2. The student athlete may request a review by the Athletic Director who will arrange a meeting with the coach, and the student athlete.
3. If the decision resulting from the meeting is unsatisfactory to the student-athlete, he/she 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 teams is the sole responsibility of the coaches of those teams. Coaches may bring in the help of the Athletic Director and other coaches to have as many eyes as possible on a tryout. The hope is to judge the talent that is trying out as accurately as possible.

## Transportation

Student athletes and coaches are required to ride the bus to and from away contests. The bus will leave from the RPSA front parking lot promptly at its scheduled departure time. Players and coaches not on the bus at the scheduled departure time will be left at the school and unable to participate in the contest.

\*Extenuating Circumstances: A parent/guardian may request a transportation liability waiver form from the office. If approved by the administration, this form would allow the parent/guardian to transport the student-athlete from **that** event away from the school. This waiver form will only be approved for extenuating circumstances.



## 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.

**Home Games:** 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 Games:** Male athletes and coaches will be required to dress in a shirt and a tie to all away games, and female athletes and coaches will be required to dress in professional attire as well. An acceptable secondary option is appropriate Renaissance athletic apparel that can be purchased by going to MyLocker.com. 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, with the approval of the school's administration.
- Positions will be filled on an annual basis.
- RPSA staff will be given the first opportunity to fill the positions available.
- Coaches will be subject to background checks and fingerprinting.
- 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 30<sup>th</sup>, 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, including practice, 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."

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 website under the "Resources Tab".*

**Renaissance Public School Academy**

## Athletic Emergency Contact Form

Name of Student Athlete: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student Athlete: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student Athlete: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact #3: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student Athlete: \_\_\_\_\_