



RIDGWAY SECONDARY SCHOOL

ATHLETIC AND ACTIVITY HANDBOOK 2017-2018



Ridgway Athletics Booster Club (RABC)

Purpose and Membership

The Ridgway Athletics Booster Club (RABC) involves parents, and other supporters of Ridgway Athletics, who actively raise funds for facilities, equipment, team uniforms, summer camps, team dinners, Athletic Banquets, post season costs, special events and scholarships. All parents and student athletes are encouraged to participate in the RABC fundraising activities to augment the cost of the athletic programs, which also keep athletic participation fees as low as possible.

The RABC is always in need of parents and community members who would like to become active members by attending quarterly meetings, being a “team mom or team dad”, or helping/coordinating a special event or fundraiser. For more information, please contact Athletic Director, Tracy Hill at thill@ridgway.k12.co.us ; 970.626.5788 (x2501) ; 970.275.3017 for current RABC member names and contact information.

Concession and Other Fundraising

One of the primary RABC fundraising activities is selling food and drinks at all home Middle School and High School events. Team moms and dads coordinate assigned concessions and all team members and parents are expected to help purchase food and drink items to sell and/or staff the concession stand during the events. Other fundraising that team members and parents may assist includes: gym banner sponsorships, community dinners, special events, t-shirt and spirit item sales, and concessions at local fairs, concerts and other community events.

Gym Banner Sponsorship

Gym banners may be purchased from the RABC at any time and are a great advertising opportunity for your business or organization. You can show your support of Ridgway Athletics for \$200 for the first year and \$100 to keep your banner up each following year. Contact the RABC to get your banner ordered or renewed.

INTRODUCTION

This handbook has been prepared to help parents and students understand the district policies and procedures relating to athletics and extracurricular activities at Ridgway Secondary School. We believe that our head coaches/activity sponsors should have the freedom to coach/conduct their particular sport/activity consistent with their particular philosophies. However, in the interests of the total educational program at Ridgway Secondary School, we also believe there are procedures and policies necessary for all staff, parents, and students to follow in order to maintain consistency in our programs. These policies and procedures are outlined in this handbook.

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

A competitive athletic and activities program is a part of the overall educational program and must be closely coordinated with the general instructional program of the school. It must be such that the number of students participating, and the educational aims achieved, justify its inclusion in the overall educational program. It must be based on a spirit wherein participation is regarded as a privileged opportunity. Ridgway Secondary School will follow all Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) rules.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

1. To provide an opportunity to enjoy one of America's greatest traditions, the privilege of competition.
2. To emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play as they relate to the lifetime impact on the participants.
3. To recognize that the purpose of athletics and activities is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well-being of the individual participants.
4. To strongly encourage the development of proper health habits: the non-use of chemicals, including alcohol, steroids, tobacco in any form and other mood altering substances.
5. To exemplify proper self-control at all times, accepting adverse decisions without public display of emotion or dissatisfaction with the officials or judges.
6. To involve a maximum number of students in the athletic program.
7. To stress to all participants the strong correlation between academic and athletic success.
8. To teach new skills and offer opportunities to improve those already possessed.
9. To provide opportunities for lasting friendships with both teammates and opponents.
10. To provide opportunities to exemplify and observe good sportsmanship and learn the benefits of following rules.
11. To give all athletes an early understanding that participation is leadership training, which is a privilege that also carries responsibilities.
12. To provide the athlete with the opportunity to experience the satisfaction of self-service in an attempt to contribute to the development of a feeling of unity and belonging, team pride, teamwork, and the respect for rules and authority.

SPORTSMANSHIP

All participants associated with our school during any contests/events are responsible for conducting themselves in such a manner as to represent the high ideals and principles of our school and community. The adherence to good sportsmanship and good conduct by all is the responsibility of each school. Parents and coaches please remember that students are watching you. Please demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. Be aware that bad sportsmanship from the audience can cause a team to have a penalty.

CHSAA SPORTSMANSHIP PROTOCOL

National Anthem-When the National Anthem is played or the Pledge of Allegiance is recited, students, fans, coaches, and players should stand at attention, remove hats, and face the flag.

Cheerleaders/Fans/Spectators

- It is recommended that there be positive cheers only
- Only cheerleaders may use megaphones
- All patrons must wear shirts and shoes (face painting is allowed)
- Cheer and tumbling routines must be in front of your team's student body

Noisemakers

- All artificial noisemakers are prohibited. This includes: cowbells, drums, whistles, horns, plastic clackers, thunder sticks, etc

“CHEER FOR YOUR TEAM AND NOT AGAINST THE OPPONENT”

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Academics are the most important part of the student/athletes school experience. All students, grades 6-12 who wish to participate in extracurricular activities, must be academically eligible. They must meet both CHSAA and Ridgway Secondary School eligibility requirements, which are as follows:

CHSAA (Colorado High School Activities Association) requirements:

1. Students must be enrolled in a minimum of 2.5 Carnegie units of credit per semester. (Students must be enrolled in at least 5 classes)
2. Students must not be failing in more than the equivalent of ½ Carnegie unit of credit. (Students may not have more than 1 “F” in their classes)
3. Any high school student not meeting CHSAA regulations of academic requirements at the semester may regain academic eligibility on the sixth Thursday following Labor Day for the first semester and on the Friday immediately prior to March 10th for the second semester. Students can regain eligibility on these dates only; otherwise, they are not eligible for the entire semester. Academic ineligibility shall not apply to being a spectator at school sponsored activities.

Ridgway Secondary School requirements:

1. A student may receive no “Fs” on their eligibility report and not more than 2 Ds. Grades will be checked weekly on Monday both for high school and middle school students. If these eligibility standards are not met, the student will be ineligible from Wednesday of that same week through Tuesday of the following week (seven (7) day period). It is the student’s responsibility to contact teachers to improve grade(s) by next eligibility check.
2. Middle school students will begin establishment of academic eligibility at the start of each quarter. These students will be given three (3) weeks to establish a GPA at the start of each semester.
3. 9th grade students will begin establishment of academic eligibility at the start of the school year. These students will be given three (3) weeks to establish a GPA.
4. High School students who become ineligible at the end of a school year will serve out their ineligibility period at the start of the next school year. The first eligibility of the school year will be the first Monday after school begins.
5. Any misconduct or infraction of classroom rules or school rules may, at the discretion of the administration, result in ineligibility. The administration may establish and enforce other eligibility requirements for specific activities.
6. In case of teacher error, the school administration/designee will correct the error.
7. If ineligible, the student must still attend practice and may sit on the bench with the team during home games. However, an ineligible student may not travel with the team for away games.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The participation in school sponsored athletics and activities is a privilege that should not be taken for granted. The use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs is prohibited and will result in the following action:

1st OFFENSE – The student will be suspended for 25% of the season in-progress. If the season does not have 25% of the games remaining, then the suspension will carry over to the next sport that the student participates in. The games will be rounded up for the suspension, for example in basketball if there are nineteen (19) games the suspension will be five (5) games. They are not part of the team during the duration of the suspension. The student may not sit on the team bench at games or attend practice.

The consequences will stand unless there is an administrative/student contract, negotiated and agreed upon by the Administration and the student. The intent of the contract is not to lessen the consequences for infractions of the code of eligibility, but to give the student incentive to recognize and change behavior patterns and be a participant in his/her consequences. The consequences may include drug testing, counseling, and community service.

2nd OFFENSE within 4 calendar years – The student will be dismissed from the team. The student/athlete will also be unable to participate in a sport for the subsequent season for a period of time that equals the percentage of the first season that he/she completed prior to the dismissal. For example; if the student incurs his/her second offense three-fourths of the way through the fall season, he/she will not be able to participate in the comparable first 75% of the winter season activity.

If a student/athlete has not used the contract option previously, he/she could initiate a student/administrative contract that would follow all the above procedures outlined in section I, and the ineligibility period would be for a minimum of 20 days.

3rd OFFENSE within 4 calendar years – The student will be suspended from Athletics and Activities for one calendar year. For re-admittance, the administrative/student contract would be required, in addition to counseling that would include drug, alcohol or tobacco education.

The student may petition the Principal for re-admittance to the program after a period of 12 months, if the student participates (at his own expense) in a pre-approved (by school administrator) rehabilitation or treatment program related to the offense. The counseling center must provide a written recommendation for re-admittance before the petition can be considered.

Violation of any policy on tobacco, alcohol and/or drugs out-of-season during the entire school year and during summer sponsored activities will result in a warning from the supervising coach, and he/she and the student will formulate a plan by which the student will demonstrate conformity to the standards by the time the next activity season begins.

Infractions in middle school end after eighth grade. The student will have a “clean slate” beginning in ninth grade.

QUITTING POLICY

There are circumstances that may cause a student to quit a sport/activity for good reason. The student must, in writing, inform the coach and the Athletic Director to leave a sport/activity in good standing. If disagreed upon, the student may appeal to the Principal.

No student will be allowed to participate in the same sport/activity in which they left in unsatisfactory standing with the coach, for one calendar year. In order to participate in another sport/activity the student must get approval from the administration.

HOME SCHOOLED AND OUT OF DISTRICT STUDENTS

In district - home schooled students and students from other school districts which have boundaries contiguous to Ridgway School District may participate in interscholastic activities in this district if the school in which the student is enrolled does not sponsor the particular activity and if the student meets the district’s eligibility requirements of the school the student attends. Such students may be required to pay a fee as a prerequisite to participation, and cannot break the CHSAA transfer rule.

AWARDS

Awards will be given to each high school varsity participant at the end of each season who has met the lettering criteria of that sport/activity.

1. The minimum requirement to earn a letter is to play in 50% of all varsity games.
2. A 9-inch letter “R” will be awarded the first year in each particular sport/activity after the lettering criteria is met. In addition, a sport/activity emblem insert & bar to be affixed to the letter will be awarded.
3. After a participant has been awarded a major letter, anytime the participant earns another major letter, he/she will receive a bar to be attached to the major letter he/she previously received.
4. Any member of a team that is a state champion will receive a 4-inch patch indicating his or her accomplishments.

5. If the requirements of a letter are not met, a certificate of participation will be awarded.
6. Any junior or senior who participates in a varsity sport but does not meet the requirements for lettering can be considered for a letter at the discretion of the coach. This can also be applied to a student athlete who has played on Junior Varsity in years prior to being a senior.
7. A violation of the athletic code of conduct will make the student ineligible for a letter.

EQUIPMENT/UNIFORMS

All equipment and uniforms that are checked out to the student through the school must be turned in at the end of the season in good order. It is the responsibility of the student to turn in their gear (washed) to their coach or the RSS office within one week of the completion of the season. Lost uniforms or equipment must be purchased at the replacement cost. The student is responsible for the cost. Athletes will not be allowed to participate in another activity until all previous uniforms are turned in. If uniforms are not turned in by the time frame a fine will be assessed at one dollar a day. For most teams, uniforms are checked out to the student for the season. Students must supply their own athletic shoes.

OTHER GUIDELINES

- Jewelry may not be worn by players at any game or practice for athletes.
- Students must attend school for ½ day in order to participate in that day's game/event. For games/events on a non-school day, students must attend ½ day the previous day.
- Students are expected to come to school in "game day dress" on the day of a game/event or the day prior to a game if the game is on a non school day. Standard game day dress means slacks or skirts/dresses. Ties are optional. Coaches may also opt for alternate game day attire for the team.
- Public displays of affection are not permitted at school or at games.
- All participants must travel with the team to the game/event. It is highly recommended that players travel back to school with the team. If it is necessary for the student to leave the game with his/her parent (PARENT ONLY), a note must be given to the head coach PRIOR to the bus leaving RSS.
- No food or food money is provided by RSS for regularly scheduled games/events. Please send food and water with the students. Remember that for some events, students are gone over five (5) hours!

- If a student or parent has a complaint, they should first discuss their complaint with the coach. If they are not satisfied, then discuss it with the Athletic Director. If they still are not satisfied, they should discuss it with the Principal. If they are still not satisfied, they should discuss it with the Superintendent. And, if they are still not satisfied, they would go to the School Board.
- CHSAA has a transfer rule: Inquire about this rule if you are moving or planning to attend another school during your high school years. This rule can adversely affect your playing time if you change schools.
- CHSAA has an amateur status rule: do not compete with or against professionals; accept money or sign a professional contract; compete under an assumed name; accept cash or merchandise award for demonstrating athletic ability.
- CHSAA has an outside competition rule: as a member of any high school team, a student may practice or compete in that sport during that sport season in a non-school event with prior written permission of the principal.
- CHSAA has a Sunday no contact rule: no contact between a coach and a player is allowed on Sundays during the school year unless it is for a social, academic, or service related activity that is strictly voluntary.

PARTICIPATION

Prior to participating in the first practice in any sport/activity at Ridgway Secondary School students must turn in to the school secretary all of the following information:

- **Physical Examination & Parent Permit** – A record of a signed physical examination.
- **Signed Athletic Emergency/Consent Form**
- **Signed Warning to Students and Parents**
- **Signed Student Eligibility Information Form**
- **Copy of Insurance**
- Participation Fee paid
 - \$50 per activity for RHS
 - \$25 per activity for RMS
 - \$150 maximum to be paid per family per year
 - Provisions are in place for families experiencing financial hardship. Please visit with the principal or athletic director to discuss.
 - RSS students participating in other districts activities will pay those districts fees.
 - Students that do not attend RSS but participate with RSS activities will pay the RSS fees.
 - No refunds after the first contest for any reason.

PROCEDURE FOR TURNING IN PAPERWORK AND FEES:

BRING COMPLETED PAPERWORK, COPY OF INSURANCE, AND YOUR REQUIRED FEE PAYMENT TO THE RSS OFFICE AND GIVE TO THE OFFICE PERSONNEL. YOU WILL RECEIVE RECEIPT OF PAYMENT AND A PINK SLIP. THE PINK SLIP NEEDS TO BE GIVEN TO THE HEAD COACH.

