

Ripley Middle School Vikings

2026-2027

Student-Athlete Handbook



RMS VISION STATEMENT

Develop a community of learners preparing to be global citizens.

RMS MISSION STATEMENT

Provide a foundation in academics that will enable our students to become individuals who value lifelong learning.

Ripley Middle School Student-Athlete Handbook

This handbook is provided to every student-athlete participating in athletics at Ripley Middle School. This handbook has been prepared in accordance with all rules and regulations governing athletics at Ripley Middle School and set forth by the following organizations: National Federation of High School Athletics, West Virginia State Board of Education, West Virginia Secondary Schools Activity Commission (WVSSAC), and the Administration of Ripley Middle School. Students will also adhere to all local, state, and federal laws. **ALL STUDENT-ATHLETES AND THEIR PARENTS MUST REVIEW THIS HANDBOOK AND SIGN THE APPROPRIATE PAGE TO PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETICS AT RIPLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL.**

All extracurricular activities, including athletics at Ripley Middle School, are a privilege, not a right. Students must understand that academics come first and will not be sacrificed for success on the playing field. Students and parents should read and understand all parts of this handbook.

Athletic programs and coaches at Ripley Middle School are defined as:

Archery – Tina Hamilton
Baseball – Duke Gandee
Boys Basketball – Aaron Rose
Girls Basketball – Craig Waybright
Cheerleading – Channon Richardson
Cross-Country – Elijah Saylor
Football – Mike Lawrence
Soccer – Tyler McCauley
Softball – Jodie Melhorn
Tennis – Sherah Weaver
Boys Track – Kevin McClung
Girls Track – Brooke Hosaflook
Volleyball – Kylie Garrett
Wrestling – T. Luke Parsons

Administration:

Jonathan Melhorn, Principal - jomelhorn@boe.jack.k12.wv.us
Amber Gwinn, Assistant Principal - amber.gwinn@boe.jack.k12.wv.us
Chandra McCoy-Gray, Athletic Director - cmccoy@boe.jack.k12.wv.us

1. Academics and Grades. All student-athletes must have and maintain a 2.0 grade point average (GPA). This is a WVDE policy and cannot be appealed through the WVSSAC. Eligibility will be determined by the student's GPA from the previous **semester**. Fall and winter sports will use Spring GPA from the previous school year. Spring Sports will use the fall GPA of the current year. Winter sports will also utilize the Fall semester grades as needed.

2. Game Day Procedures. Students missing any portion of school on the day of a game will not participate in that day's event. An exception will be made for a legitimate reason (including doctor/dental appointments, funeral, etc.) that cannot be handled outside of school hours. Appointments must be verified by submitting a doctor's note to the school. Students who are absent, serving out of school suspension, or leave school because of injury or illness will not be permitted to participate in activities that evening. *Any exceptions must be approved in advance by either an administrator or the athletic director.*

For Saturday games, students must be present on Friday (the day before the event) and follow the above-listed rules.

3. School Cancellation/Early Closing. If school is canceled due to poor weather or other reasons, practices may be held at the coach's discretion but will not be considered mandatory. Missing a practice on these days will not be held against the student. Coaches will be notified as soon as possible if a game is being postponed or canceled.

4. Detention/Suspension/Social Probation. Student-athletes are expected to be on their best behavior throughout the school day. Students receiving in-school suspension, etc. are subject to disciplinary actions at the coach's discretion.

Students receiving multiple days of in-school suspension may not participate in any extracurricular activity until 3:06 on the day the ISS ends. Again, coaches have the discretion to assign additional disciplinary actions, which may include practice/game suspensions.

Any out-of-school suspension of five (5) or more days and/or expulsion will result in immediate dismissal from the team. Students who reach six (6) or more total days of discipline for the year will immediately be dismissed from the team (see below). The student will be placed on social probation for the remainder of the year; therefore, he/she will not be permitted to be a member of any athletic team for the remainder of the year. The student will not be allowed to attend any events as a spectator due to the social probation. Coaches may choose to assign additional disciplinary actions.

Social probation will be assigned to students who meet the following criteria. Students who receive social probation are not permitted to participate in any extracurricular activities.

- 5 or more unexcused absences for the school year
- Inappropriate behavior at an extracurricular activity

- One 5-day out-of-school suspension **or** 6 or more total days of discipline (OSS, ISS, bus suspensions, lunch detentions)
- Administration discretion

5. ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic devices are **not permitted during practice's, games, or bus trips.**

Phones and other electronic devices must:

- Remain with the athlete's bookbag or athletic bag if they do not have a book bag.
- Be on silent or turned off.
- Remain stored for the duration of the practice or game.
- Must remain in athletes bag for the duration of bus ride to and from event unless the coach gives permission to contact a parent or guardian.

- 6. Student Dress and Appearance.** Students will follow the school's policy for dress. Remember, you are not only representing yourself, but you are also representing Ripley Middle School and your family at home and away events; dress appropriately. Coaches may implement additional dress code policies on a team-by-team basis.
- 7. Hazing.** Jackson County Schools, Ripley Middle School administrators, and coaches will not tolerate any form of hazing in locker rooms, buses, or any other location. Incidents of hazing shall be reported immediately to the coach or administration. All incidents of alleged hazing will be investigated and may result in disciplinary action, including possible removal from the team.
- 8. Uniforms.** Once a uniform has been assigned to a student-athlete, it becomes his/her responsibility. Note any damage, discoloration, etc. when the coach assigns the uniform. Any damage or loss will be the student-athlete's responsibility. Replacement is mandatory. Parents/guardians will receive a bill for the replacement cost.
- 9. Transportation.** Bus transportation will be provided to all contests. Students are required to ride the bus to all games/events. However, students may ride home with a parent or guardian provided that the parent/guardian signs out the student with the coach. Students may not ride home with siblings or other parents without a written parental note giving permission.
- 10. Physicals.** All student-athletes must have a physical completed by a physician on the WVSSAC form indicating that they are clear to participate in all activities. The form must be signed in all appropriate areas and be **dated on or after May 1 of the upcoming school year.** The physical will be valid for all sports seasons in that year.

11. Insurance. All student-athletes are required to be covered by a health insurance policy. Jackson County Schools will NO LONGER provide a reduced-cost extracurricular insurance program for those students who are not covered under an existing policy.

12. Eligibility. Students may participate in three (3) seasons of middle school athletics. The student must not become fifteen (15) years old before August 1. The student must reside in the residency area.

WVSSAC rules prohibit a student who is participating in a school sport to participate on a same sport team outside of the school environment. Violation of this policy will result in immediate dismissal from the middle school team. For example: A student playing baseball/softball at Ripley Middle School may not play, enroll, or pay fees in any way to Little League baseball/softball until the middle school season has ended.

Ripley Middle School students are not permitted to play two middle school sports during the same athletic season without prior approval from BOTH coaches. The administration will not overrule a coach's decision to allow or not allow a student to play another sport.

WVSSAC rules require that all student-athletes participate in fourteen (14) practices before participating in a game. Two-a-day practices count as one (1) practice. Scrimmage games count as a practice.

13. Awards and Recognition. Ripley Middle School student athletes are only allowed to accept awards from WVSSAC-sanctioned events. After-game dinners and outings will not be sponsored by Ripley Middle School and are the sole financial responsibility of the organizer/promoter.

14. Drug Testing. Jackson County Schools will be randomly drug testing all 6th, 7th and 8th grade extracurricular participants. To be eligible for the activity, students and parents are required to fill out and sign the appropriate drug testing forms. For more information on the drug-testing program, refer to the Jackson County Schools drug testing policy. [Drug Testing Policy](#)

15. Fundraising. Ripley Middle School athletics are completely self-supporting. The Board of Education provides buses for all away trips, but does not provide funding for equipment, officials, etc. Each team and team member will participate in some type of fundraising during the season to help balance these costs.

16. Ticket Prices. Admission to Ripley Middle School regular season athletic events will be \$5. MVAC tournament events will be \$5 per ticket regardless of age. Tickets, at certain times, may be purchased electronically at the gate. Passes for members of our community 65 years and older may be obtained from the Board of Education (BOE)

- 17. Boosters.** All parents are encouraged to join RMS boosters. The boosters play a vital role in assisting with the cost of equipment, uniforms, etc. Parents of student-athletes are encouraged to work concession stands, on occasion, to help supplement the booster budget. The RMS boosters supply and maintain all concession stands throughout the year.

**RIPLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY PARTICIPANT CONTRACT**

ACTIVITY

YEAR

This contract is made between the Ripley Middle School student participant, parent, coach, and administration

The student agrees to adhere to the following:

1. I will maintain a minimum 2.0 (C Average) grade point average. I understand that the 2.0 GPA is mandatory to be able to participate in any extracurricular activity.
2. I will not use tobacco in any form (smoke, vape, or smokeless) at any time while a member of the team.
3. I will not use drugs or alcohol in any form or manner, nor will I remain in the presence of others while they engage in the use of drugs or alcohol.
4. I will display good sportsmanship and proper respect for my peers, coaches, competitors, fans, game officials, and administrators at all times. Good sportsmanship includes citizenship, proper use of language, self-control, and a positive attitude.
5. I understand that if I get on the Social Probation list, then I will no longer be permitted to practice or play on any Ripley Middle School athletic team.
6. I agree to abide by all rules and regulations established by the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission, Jackson County Board of Education, State of West Virginia, and Ripley Middle School.

I understand that non-compliance in any of the aforementioned areas will result in immediate disciplinary action, suspension, or dismissal from the team as per the student-athlete handbook. Please sign below:

STUDENT

DATE

PARENT

COACH

DATE

PRINCIPAL

SPORT ENROLLMENT FORM

SPORT _____

NAME _____
LAST FIRST MIDDLE GRADE

SPORT PREVIOUSLY PLAYED AT RMS: _____

FIRST NAME OF FATHER: _____ MOTHER: _____

BIRTH DATE: _____

WHERE WERE YOU BORN: _____
CITY COUNTY STATE

SCHOOL ATTENDED LAST YEAR: _____

RIPLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

ATHLETIC INSURANCE

STUDENT NAME: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ (HOME) _____ (CELL)

_____ I currently have health insurance which will cover my child.
_____ No, I do not have insurance and it is my responsibility if an injury
should occur.

***ALL STUDENTS MUST BE COVERED BY INSURANCE BEFORE PARTICIPATING IN
ATHLETICS.**

PARENT SIGNATURE

DATE