

**Riverview School District
Athletic Handbook
2019-20**



Go Raiders!

Riverview High School Mission Statement

Riverview High School will continually build a community of life-long learners. We choose to reject passivity by holding our students to high standards, expecting greater outcomes, and making no excuses; we will use personalized goals and meaningful plans for the future to teach students responsibility; we will guide students to lead courageously by providing authentic and relevant opportunities for greater potential and purpose; we will grow our students' potential through a multitude of engaging and diverse literacy tasks, in order to develop students that are academically prepared, emotionally mature, and culturally aware.

Riverview Jr. High Vision Statement

Focusing Forward For Success

Objectives of the Athletic Department

Successful athletic programs require higher standards and set higher expectations for its athletes in the areas of academics, citizenship, behavior and sportsmanship. Our athletic program exists as a vital part of the total educational program. It is intended to contribute in a positive manner to the total development of the individuals participating in the program. With the privilege of participation comes responsibility and accountability. Those in the program will be expected to act with dignity, class, and integrity at all times. Since it is a privilege, the coach will have the authority to revoke the privilege when rules are broken. The coaches and athletic director are primarily responsible for implementing these goals and objectives.

Each athlete will realize that the school wishes the athlete to reach his or her very best achievement level, both in life and in interscholastic athletics. With this in mind, the Athletic Department will work to:

- Have a clear knowledge of the Arkansas High School Activities Association Handbook of Rules and Regulations as well as the regulations and policies set forth by the Riverview School District.
- The safety and welfare of the student athletes will always be in the forefront of all of our minds.
- Be positive role models who set high standards of conduct for themselves and their athletes.
- Help athletes develop attitudes that must be a part of each individual for success in athletics and life.
- Maintain maximum participation, maximum competitiveness, and a fiscally sound program.
- Encourage athletes physically, mentally, and socially as they develop an appreciation for sports. They should become aware that this will take strength and courage.
- Include continuous coaches training with constant evaluation and improvement of techniques in order for our programs to be outstanding.
- Develop all programs in such a manner that the end result will be unity, harmony, and success. Mass participation is to be emphasized and encouraged on all levels.
- Constantly motivating all athletes to be better students and people.
- Instill in all athletes the desire to represent their school and community in a manner that will make school administrators, teachers, parents, and the community proud of them.
- Promote diligent preparation. In order to have success, participants must train their minds and bodies to respond effectively to a multitude of situations that may arise during the course of play. This will parallel success later in life.
- Will never place the value of victory above that of instilling the highest desirable ideals and character traits in our student athletes.
- The booster club helps all coaches and teams and is of value to the programs and to the school. Any time they need our help we need to do whatever is within our realm to help them support our student athletes.

Athletic Business

- The head coach of each sport will submit an inventory to the Athletic Director after the close of the season.
- There will be no purchases being made without a purchase order that has been approved by the athletic director and superintendent.
- Money can be received through fundraisers that are approved beforehand, by the Riverview Administration.
- The Athletic Department has accident insurance. The amount paid for an injury is set forth in the school insurance policy. The insurance is secondary or supplemental to any other insurance. Any supervised or sponsored activity will be covered.

Participation Guidelines

- Athletes who do not have a current physical on file cannot practice or play.
- All athletes must be academically eligible according to the Arkansas Activities Association's guidelines.
- Athletes who quit or are dismissed from one sport after the first two weeks of practice, may not start practicing with another sport until the end of the sports' season they have quit has ended.
- Anyone who is participating in extracurricular activities, and has an unexcused absence in any class the day of a contest, cannot participate in that contest. Teachers, Coaches, and Administrators are all involved in checking on this.
- Students suspended from school are not eligible to participate, or attend, in games or practices during the days of the suspension. This includes In-School Suspension.
- *7th Grade* - We encourage all 7th grade students to participate in the sports that are offered. Parents and students need to understand that all athletes will not get the same amount of playing time, but the athletes that are dressed out will get to play. If participation numbers are too large in a sport, some students may not receive a uniform. If this happens, students will still be on the team and will still have responsibilities to support their teams, strive to improve themselves, and be models students during practice sessions. With dedication and continued effort to improve, many young student athletes may contribute to team success in later years. To be eligible for 7th grade, you must be promoted from the previous school year.
- *Jr. High* - Encourages participation but places more emphasis on establishing positive attitudes and winning programs. In some sports, cuts may be necessary, but efforts will be made to keep these at a minimum. Parents and students need to understand that playing time will not be the same for everyone, with some athletes not getting to play in every game. Jr. High athletes will hopefully develop to someday be successful high school athletes in order to help build a solid foundation for high school sports. With dedication and continued effort to improve, many young student athletes may contribute to team success in later years. First semester 8th grade student must be promoted in order to be eligible. The second semester eighth grade student and the first semester ninth grade students meet the academic eligibility requirements for junior high by successfully passing four (4) academic courses the previous semester. First semester ninth grade students must pass four academic classes to be eligible second semester of the ninth grade.
- *High School* - Students are always encouraged and allowed to try out each year for teams of their choosing. In High School Athletics, there may have to be a limit to the number of participants. Playing time will not be the same for everyone, with some athletes not getting to play in every game. All high school students must make a 2.00 grade point average per semester and pass 4 academic subjects to maintain eligibility.

Student-Athletes Responsibilities

- Maintain a positive attitude toward teammates and coaches.
- Develop self-discipline and a good work ethic.
- All injuries which occur while participating in athletics should be reported to the trainer/coach. Best practice is to contact them before going to see a doctor concerning a minor injury. All three parties: coach, trainer, and player/parents should communicate with each other as to the nature of the injury and what steps should be taken next in regards to the injury. If an athlete is under a doctor's care, the athlete will not be able to participate until the doctor has released him/her.
- An athlete should always consult his/her coach before missing practice. Missing practice or a game unexcused and/or excused will be dealt with by each individual coach in their own team rules.
- Athletes will be held financially responsible for the replacement of the equipment if lost or damaged. A list of players who owe money for lost or damaged equipment should be turned in to the building principal. No other equipment should be issued to any person owing money without the approval of the administration. The student will not be allowed to go the next sport until all financial obligations have been met.
- All athletes must travel to out-of-town athletic contests in transportation provided by the athletic department unless previous arrangements are made, and approved beforehand, in exceptional situations. Players can be signed out by their parents/guardians at the event being played in order to have some other form of transportation on their way home. All regular school bus rules will be followed.
- Athletes shall not misuse the internet venues (Social Media/Email, etc...) to reflect in a negative manner on themselves, another player, team, or school. Sending or posting cruel, vulgar or threatening messages on the internet will not be tolerated. Both administration and coaches will consider situations on an individual basis and assign any consequences deemed necessary.
- Release from class is the responsibility of the athletes to see their teacher(s) before they miss because of an athletic event.
- The way an athlete acts and looks is of great importance, thus proper dress, appearance, grooming and personal cleanliness are expected. Athletes should be leaders and role models for fellow students. Proper dress and appearance will be established by the coach and is an ongoing process. The AAA does not allow the wearing of jewelry during any contest and it should not be worn in practice for the same safety reasons.
- Every athlete will be given the opportunity to have a locker. It is the student's responsibility to lock all valuables in their lockers at all times.
- Absolutely no stealing at any time. First offense will result in loss of game(s) and extra conditioning. Second offense you will be dismissal from any team for one year.
- Help keep non team members out of the locker rooms. No one except coaches and assigned players are allowed in the locker room.
- Absolutely no vandalizing of school facilities or equipment at any time. First offense will result in loss of game(s) and extra conditioning. Second offense will be dismissal from any team for one year.

Parent/Supporter Code of Conduct

- Be a positive role model through your behavior at athletic contests.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups.
- Be respectful of all official's decisions.
- Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people.
- Be an encourager to your child at home.
- Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the sport.
- We encourage everyone to follow by the state law and help us reinforce our alcohol, tobacco and other drug-free policies by refraining from the use of any such substances before and during athletic contests.
- Be respectful of all coaching decisions and never question, discuss, or confront a coach either before, during or after a game. Make an appointment the following school day to discuss any situations involving your child.
- -Typical issues that are appropriate for parents to discuss with coaches are: a dramatic change in their child's behavior, specific health concerns of their child, a disciplinary action that results in their child being denied participation in a practice or contest, how that can assist in their child's skill improvement and development, to offer their help on how to support the program.
- Typical issues that are inappropriate for parents to discuss with coaches are: their child's playing time, team strategy or play calling, about any other teammate.
- Be courteous at all times. It is acceptable to disagree, the right way.
- Remember that a ticket to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest. Any failure to abide by guidelines will be subject to include any/all of the following but not limited to: Verbal warning; Written warning; Game Suspension; Season Suspension; Permanent Dismissal From Campus.
- The following procedures should be followed when reporting a complaint:
 1. Contact the coach who had direct supervision of the athlete at the time. (If not resolved)
 2. Contact the head coach of the sport in which the athlete was participating. (If not resolved)
 3. Contact the athletic director. (If not resolved)
 4. Contact the building principal of the appropriate school. (If not resolved)
 5. Contact the superintendent.

Additional Coaches Responsibilities

- Preventing injury is of utmost concern. Properly instructing our athletes in the appropriate skills of their sports is essential. Also, check the protective equipment and make sure it fits properly. Remember that it is much easier to prevent an injury than it is trying to help someone recover.
- All coaches should strive to maintain a good relationship with the faculty, administration, and other coaches. You cannot expect to gain the respect and cooperation you need from others unless you show an interest in and concern about their areas as well.
- It is imperative as a staff that we all: refrain from the use of profanity; control any emotional outbursts; present ourselves as positive role models.
- Establish unity and loyalty to fellow coaches.
- Athletes will be encouraged by all coaches to participate in as many sports as their interests and abilities will allow. No coach shall ever attempt to influence an athlete to give up participation in one sport in order to devote more time or concentration on another sport. This “recruiting” from another sport will not be tolerated. If an athlete wants to drop another sport, direct them to the head coach of that sport, who will discuss the matter with them.
- The head coach of a particular sport will set any additional team rules. These rules will become the foundation to the procedures for that team.
- It is imperative that coaches provide good supervision in practice sessions, locker rooms, shower areas, training rooms, and all other phases of the game.
- All practices should include: proper warm up; water breaks should be given during warmer weather; be organized to involve a minimum of idle time for the athletes; at any detection of lightning, should be moved indoors.
- Be responsible for the care of the fields/courts, and the cleanliness of the dressing room areas as well as the offices. Special request can be put into the athletic director or head of maintenance if help is needed or special items are to be used or purchased.
- Bus request must be submitted well in advance of the events. You must communicate any schedule changes with the Bus Transportation Director. Follow all procedures set forth by the Transportation director.
- Keep comments to the media positive.

Program Organization

- Sports in session offered by Riverview Public Schools will have priority over all other sports programs.
- “In-Season” sports will always take precedence in the use of facilities. Some teams will need to work together and come up with a schedule for this. Off-season sports are able to use the facilities after the In-season sports are finished each day.
- Athletes will always be encouraged to participate in as many sports as their interests and abilities will allow on any grade level. There will be absolutely no “specializing” in a sport in the 7th grade. You will be considered a 7th grade athlete, or not. The in-season sport will take complete precedence and not until that sport is over (football, basketball, track) will there be an offseason. There will be only one offseason offered in the spring in which everyone will attend and work together. If you can help a sport out, you will participate or choose to be in the classroom.

- If two sports have the same athlete during the same time of year and have conflicting schedules, the athlete and the head coaches will come to an agreement on the sharing of the athlete's time. If no agreement can be reached, then the athlete will need to declare which sport is his/her priority, and that sport will take precedence.
- Each team will have the opportunity to be treated to one team meal that would be paid for by the school. Team meals should be taken either before/after a game and should be approved beforehand by the Athletic Director. This is set up so that teams can go on a long trip and get a meal paid for. Postseason play will be dealt with separately.
- Spring sports (soccer, baseball, softball and track) in Sr. High are offered after school.
- It is essential that team members be present for practice in order to prepare for upcoming games and improve their skills during the off-season. Each head coach will develop the specifics of their absentee policy before the school year starts and do so under the following guidelines:
 1. Absentees will be recorded and kept just like a regular classroom situation.
 2. Excused or unexcused absences will be determined by the head coach.
 3. Additional conditioning will be required for an excused absence to replace lost conditioning and to keep team unity.
 4. Whatever the amount set for an excused absence, double that amount for an unexcused absence.
 5. Any player suspended is considered to have an unexcused absence every day he/she is gone.
- Dropping of a player. In cases of violation of eligibility, training rules, or insubordination, the coaches will advise the athlete and should the situation continue, the student will face possible dismissal from the team. The coach will confer with the athletic director about any dismissal.
- Please see "Student Drug Testing" in the student handbook for the policy set forth by the Riverview School District. Any student in extracurricular activities is subject to random drug test.
- Regular season games as well as other off-season practices will not conflict with Postseason Play. Give every opportunity for our student athletes to go and support each other in Regional and/or State Tournament play.
- Season passes can be purchased by anyone that will get them into any home athletic event. They can be purchased at the ticket gate or through the Athletic Director.
- Staff members and their immediate family (husband, wife, son(s), daughter(s)) will get in free for all athletic events. Other members of staff family will need to pay to get into events or purchase a season pass. Please see the Athletic Director during the school day for any questions/concerns.
- Each athlete listed on an official roster for a Riverview athletic team will be given the opportunity to purchase an all-sports pass for \$10. This pass will allow athletes to be admitted into all Riverview athletic contests. This pass is a privilege of being a member of the Riverview Athletic Department and should not be abused. Any athlete caught giving his/her pass to someone else will have this privilege revoked for the entire school year. If the pass is lost or stolen it is the athlete's responsibility to report this to the athletic director. There will be no reimbursement for lost or revoked passes.
- This handbook is not designed to be totally comprehensive in nature. Other issues not covered may occur and will need to be addressed. The administration of Riverview Schools is committed to ensuring that the athlete has the best possible experience while participating in athletics. Thank you for allowing your child to participate.