



A Message from our Director of Athletics

Renton School District Athletic Mission

To provide wholesome opportunities for student-athletes to develop from their experiences into well-rounded individuals capable of their full potential in a diverse ever-changing society. We recognize the value of a program of athletics as an integral part of the total school experience to all students of the district and to the community. Athletics can provide a structure for students to make positive decisions. For some students, athletics provide the motivation to get good grades, stay in school, and steer clear of drugs and alcohol. Being part of a team can provide a sense of family, with a caring coach and teammates offering support, discipline, direction, and encouragement toward achieving personal goals.

Middle school is a critical time in a child's life, and choices made at this age can impact a student for years to come. Athletics is one avenue for directing students toward a successful future.

The Renton School District Athletic Department would like to thank all parents/guardians for their support. We appreciate all that you do so that your student can have a well-rounded middle school experience through participation in athletics.



PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

- ❖ To encourage all students to participate in an activity that is enjoyable, stress reducing and non-threatening.
- ❖ To assist individuals in developing human relation skills, sportsmanship, teamwork and acceptance of others' abilities.
- ❖ To provide an opportunity for interested students to increase and develop their athletic skills with physical activity and team participation.

Middle School Athletic Program

The middle school sports program is structured so that all students may participate if they choose. The emphasis of the program is on *participation, citizenship, skill & development and sportsmanship*. Unlike a high school sports program, there are no official league standings or champions, and no letter awards given. The sports program is currently divided into four seasons. The first season includes boys and girls soccer. The second season includes boys and girls basketball. The third season is comprised of boys and girls volleyball and boys and girls wrestling. The final season is boys and girls track and flag football. The program runs Monday through Thursday and activity buses are provided for athletics as well as for other student activities.

Each season is divided into two parts. The first part of the season includes training, conditioning and intramurals while the second is for interschool competition. A “traveling team” will be selected for the interschool competition.

Students participating on teams must learn and follow the rules of the sport. All rules will be uniformly enforced throughout the district to be consistent and fair. Participants will be expected to give their best effort at all times and follow their coaches’ instructions. The program encourages the promotion of positive relationships with students from other schools.

Eligibility

Academic success must be your first priority in school. Students must meet the following criteria to be eligible to participate in athletics in middle school in the Renton School District.

- ❖ The student must receive a grade of two (2) or higher in a minimum of five (5) out of six (6) classes.
- ❖ The student must accumulate a minimum of 15 effort skills points and 15 community skills points.
- ❖ Grades will be checked at the beginning of the season for initial eligibility and at least once more during the season. It may be necessary to limit participation should your school work fall below an acceptable level.

Residence

The athlete/student must compete in the school she/he is assigned by the student placement office. If the student is transferred to another school by school authorities or by change in residence then she/he must participate in the new school attended. Tally High School, home school, and private school students may be eligible to participate in their resident area school but transportation to the school will not be provided.



Medical / Insurance Requirements

No physical examination is required for intramural or interschool competition. However, the school district strongly recommends that each student have an annual physical exam.

Any student that has a medical condition considered as life threatening and has medication for this condition is required to carry this medication at all times!

If a change in the physical condition of a student occurs during the school year which might prevent or limit participation in a sport, the parents must notify the school immediately.

Parents need to purchase supplemental accident insurance if the student is not covered under a medical and dental policy.

Approval to Play

In order to turn out or compete, a student must register through the online registration system and sign off that they have reviewed and / or completed the following:

1. Complete the online registration
2. Turn in a completed Pre-participation History / Physical Examination form to your school ASB/Athletics office. (Recommended but not required for middle school.)
3. Purchase a school ID card with ASB sticker.
4. Fines must be cleared in order to tryout and participate on an athletic team.
5. All athletes who wish to participate in after school athletics must be covered by either a Student Accident Insurance Program or a separate insurance program.

PARTICIPATION

Dress and Appearance

Athletes are expected to meet Renton School District standards of dress and personal appearance. Certain uniform requirements will be expected during competition and will be clarified by your coach.

Attendance

The student must adhere to the following attendance regulations including, but not limited to:

- a. Attendance at School - Students who are absent all or part of a school day are not eligible to compete or practice that day unless the absence is excused. If excused, the athlete may participate if he/she is in attendance for one half day or more or if approved by the Assistant Principal and/or Principal.
- b. Absence from Practice – An athlete is expected to attend all team practices unless excused for illness or by prior approval. If an athlete is absent from practice and not excused, the athlete will be ineligible to participate in the next contest.

School Property

Student athletes are expected to respect and care for school equipment issued to them. School equipment can be used or worn only while participating with the school team. All equipment should be returned within one week after the last contest of each season. A fine is charged for missing or late equipment return.

Team Performance

Middle school coaches are responsible for all decisions relating to the abilities of athletes, assignments to positions and team strategies. Students or others who question a coach's decision, disrupt the team's progress and negatively affect team morale and performance may be eliminated from team competition, or be required to have an administrative meeting before attending future events.

CITIZENSHIP

All student athletes are expected to follow school and district rules. Anyone violating these rules may be removed from the team, depending upon the seriousness of the offense.

Sportsmanship

Sport participants are expected to display positive sportsmanship. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Fighting, arguing, obscene gestures and vulgarity (swearing) are unacceptable and are grounds for disciplinary action which could include normal school disciplinary procedures and/or removal from the team.

Suspension and Referrals

If a student is suspended for a violation of school or district policy, he/she may not participate in turnout or competition during the suspension. The administrator or coach may deny a student's participation in a turnout or competition for receiving office referrals related to school/district policy violations

ATHLETIC COURTESY

Student athletes are highly visible persons and are representatives of their schools. Public opinion is formed about the school as well as the individual by their attitude, appearance and behavior. Once a student commits to being a part of a school team, they must behave appropriately.

Student athletes are expected to:

- ❖ Act courteous and hospitable to visiting teams.
- ❖ Show respect for the integrity and judgment of officials and accept their decisions without question.
- ❖ Participate fully to the limit of their ability, regardless of discouragement as a true athlete does not give up.
- ❖ Behave modestly when successful and be gracious in defeat.
- ❖ Be courteous and respectful toward the property of the schools you visit.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities:

Parents and family are the foundation of all school activity programs. Parents and spectators need to model appropriate behavior for the participants.

- ❖ Please review this guide with your participant.
- ❖ Display only positive encouragement at all school activities.
- ❖ The safety of all spectators requires that those who display inappropriate behavior attend a meeting with school administration, to determine their future attendance at school events.

The Renton School District has established the core values of Service, Excellence and Equity. These values drive our programs. We ask you to keep these values in mind as you and your athlete participate in the athletic program. Have a great year!