

River Valley Local Schools



**2020-2021
Athletic Handbook
FOR
Students / Parents / Coaches**

Adopted by River Valley Board of Education 6/11/2020

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River Valley Athletic Information

River Valley Local School District
197 Brockelsby Road
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River Valley High School
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(740) 725-5800

River Valley Middle School
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Mascot: Vikings
Colors: Columbia Blue and Gold

Superintendent
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High School Assistant Principal
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7-12 Athletic Director & Middle School Dean of Students
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John Klingel (9-12)
John Wickersham (7-8)

Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA)
National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)
Mid-Ohio Athletic Conference (MOAC)

For complete information, including schedules, visit
rvk12.org/athletics.aspx

Follow @RiverValleyAD on Twitter for game updates, scores, etc.

I. Athletic Philosophy

With the help of a TEAM made up of parents, students, boosters, staff, and community, the River Valley Athletic Department provides activities for students in grades 7-12 that complement their education in ways not provided by the curriculum. For the athletic program to be successful, there must be tremendous communication and effort from all members of this team.

Athletic participation is a privilege that encourages students to create high quality habits needed for success in the classroom first, as well as on the field of play. Being a part of an athletic team at River Valley will also help prepare students to become productive adults after high school. Coaches, students, and parents who are involved in athletics are at all times expected to model good sportsmanship and set an example that reflects positively on our school and community. At all times, all River Valley teams will “win with honor and lose with class.” These high standards of behavior, scholarship, and citizenship are important to a sound athletic program.

Finally, the athletic program will be conducted in accordance with existing River Valley Board of Education policies, middle and high school handbook rules and regulations, as well as league, state and national association guidelines. As used in this handbook, “student,” “student athlete,” or “participant” refer to a River Valley student who has chosen to participate in an extracurricular program. “Parent” refers to the student’s parent, guardian, or custodian.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to establish expectations for conduct and to provide a resource to parents, coaches, and students of grades 7-12 to refer to as situations arise, and to answer questions related to the athletic department. The policies and procedures within this handbook create a framework that allows stakeholders within River Valley athletics to best work together. Although the handbook is intended to be comprehensive, inevitably situations will occur that are not outlined in this handbook. In addition, student athletes must comply with the Student Code of Conduct set forth in the high school and/or middle school handbook at all times, as well as individual athletic program rules, and the standards of conduct specific to athletes set forth in this handbook.

Coaches, students, and parents are obligated to be knowledgeable and supportive of these policies and procedures. Participation in athletics at River Valley is a privilege, not a right. When joining a team, students are choosing to take on the extra responsibilities and obligations set forth by their coaches, the school, the administrative team, and this handbook. Failure to meet these responsibilities or the requirements of this handbook and/or the school handbook can result in consequences up to and including removal from a team/teams.

Parents and students are required to sign the “**Acknowledgement of Athletic Policies Agreement**” on their FinalForms account stating that this handbook has been read and understood before the student may participate in a sport. Please refer to this handbook throughout the year for all sports.

Beginning with the date that the student and parent(s) sign the “Acknowledgement of Athletic Policies Agreement,” policies are in effect for one calendar year. There is no “off-season” as far as adherence to this handbook. Policies are in effect for student athletes 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and 365 days per year.

III. Governance

1. River Valley Local Schools Board of Education
The Board of Education is the ruling agency for the River Valley Local Schools.
2. The Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA)
River Valley High School and Middle School are voluntary members of the OHSAA and agree to abide by and enforce all rules and regulations promulgated by this association.
3. The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)
The NFHS serves, protects, and enhances the interstate activity interests of high schools belonging to state associations (such as the OHSAA). The NFHS is both a service and regulatory agency.
4. The Mid Ohio Athletic Conference (MOAC)
River Valley High School and Middle School are members of the MOAC. The league promotes and organizes athletic activities among its member schools, including River Valley, Clear Fork, Galion, Marion Harding, Ontario, Pleasant, and Shelby for the 2020-21 school year. Highland will be joining the MOAC in the 2021-22 school year.

IV. General Eligibility

Student athletes are subject to all general regulations and eligibility bylaws of the OHSAA. This includes non-traditional students, transfers, move-ins, etc. Please visit OHSAA.org for more information.

V. Getting Started

In order to participate in any school-sponsored tryout, practice, or contest, a student must meet the academic eligibility requirements set forth in this handbook, must not be in violation of the behavior expectations or substance abuse policy set forth in this handbook, the Student Code of Conduct, and Board policy, and must have the following items on file in the office:

- a. OHSAA Physical Form
- b. First half of Pay to Participate Fee due on closest school day to the following dates:
 - i. September 1 – Fall Season
 - ii. December 1 – Winter Season
 - iii. April 1 – Spring Season**Second half of fee due by first post-season contest, or last regular season contest, whichever comes later.

...AND, parents and students must sign the following items on FinalForms:

- a. Informed Consent Form for Drug Testing
- b. Athletic Insurance Waiver
- c. Ohio Health Consent to Treatment Form
- d. HB 639 Emergency Medical Form
- e. Ohio Department of Health Lindsay's Law & Concussion Sign Off Forms

- f. Acknowledgement of Athletic Policies Agreement Form

VI. Team Selection

Tryouts for athletic programs are open to all students providing they meet the standards for participation outlined in this handbook. In certain sports, more students try out than can be kept on a team, and cutting students from a team is necessary. This is a difficult process and all coaches realize that sensitivity and communication are essential. Coaches have discretionary authority in choosing their teams, and placing students on JV or Varsity levels. Students may move between JV and Varsity as a season progresses at the full discretion of the coaching staff.

Going into a season, if coaches deem that cuts may be necessary, there must be a tryout start and end period. Throughout this tryout period, each sport's coaching staff will evaluate team prospects and decide which students will be placed on the team. Making the team in previous seasons is not a guarantee of making the team in a current season. Students who do not make the team should be informed in person by the coach.

VII. Disciplinary Procedures

Parents and students are required to sign the “**Acknowledgement of Athletic Policies Agreement**” stating that this handbook has been read and understood before participating in a sport. Please refer to this handbook throughout the year for all sports.

In addition, each student and a parent/guardian should be present for one OHSAA pre-season meeting, as well as a team meeting after teams are chosen where the coach shall explain the program rules. A copy of those rules should be provided for students to review. Missing these meetings does not void any rules or policies listed in this handbook, or any individual program rules or policies. Coaches have the right to handle discipline up to and including suspension from contests and/or recommendation for removal from the team in accordance with program rules and policies.

When a disciplinary situation occurs that could result in a student being removed from a team or activity, the athletic director shall complete a “**Notice Of Intended Removal**” form before a decision is made. This form shall state the nature of the violation and be signed by the Athletic Director and the student. The Athletic Director will then hold an informal hearing where the student is provided an opportunity to ask questions and present their side of the situation. Following this hearing, the athletic director will inform the student of the disciplinary action to be taken.

VIII. Attendance

In order to participate in a given day's practices or contests, a student must be present for at least half of their scheduled classes for that day. The High School or Middle School Principal, Assistant Principal, or Athletic Director may waive attendance guidelines when an excused absence is deemed necessary. Excused absences are outlined in the River Valley student handbook.

IX. Transportation

Students are expected to travel to and from a contest, scrimmage, etc. on school-provided transportation unless a waiver has been signed in accordance with this section of the handbook. If school bus transportation will not be provided in a particular instance, the coach or other River Valley administrator will communicate with students and parents on a case-by-case basis about the transportation to be provided. No student may be transported by private vehicle (either being driven or driving themselves), unless the parent has communicated with the athletic director or building principal and obtained approval for this exception, and the River Valley Transportation Waiver has been completed and submitted to the athletic director or building principal.

X. Parent/Coach/Athletic Director Communication

It is reasonable to expect that situations will arise that would call for discussion, explanations, or simply dialogue between parents and coaches. It is the recommendation of the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the philosophy of the River Valley athletic department that those discussions occur at a scheduled time away from practice/game situations. The emotional ups and downs of pre/post-game situations for students, parents, and coaches dictate that this is not the most productive time for discussion of strategy, playing time, difference of opinion, etc.

Therefore, it is the policy of the River Valley athletic department that conference times between parents, coaches, and students be arranged on non-game days at the convenience of all parties involved.

- Requested meetings generally shall include parents and coaches, and it is strongly suggested that the student athlete be involved in these conversations. In most situations, misunderstandings will be ironed out at this time.
- Coaches determine playing time or strategy. Meetings shall not be used to attempt to persuade a coach to change his/her determination.
- If the meeting ends amicably, but conflict or disagreement is not resolved, parents and/or coaches may meet with the athletic director and/or building principal. **This will generally only be permitted after the initial meeting with the coach has taken place**
- In no instance will confrontational behavior in anger or at inappropriate times be tolerated.

XI. Academic Eligibility

Grades 9-12:

- Student scholastic eligibility for participation is based on the immediately preceding 9-week period. The student must have passed 2.5 blocks of academic courses, or the equivalent, all of which must count towards graduation. In addition, students must have maintained a grade point average of 1.0 during the immediately preceding 9-week period. (Note: PE only counts as $\frac{1}{4}$ credit towards the 2.5 block standard of eligibility)
- Eligibility of 9th grade students for the fall grading period is based on the student having passed 4 classes during the final grading period of their 8th grade year.

Grades 7-8:

- Student scholastic eligibility for participation is based on the immediately preceding 9-week period, in which the student must have passed 4 classes.

- Scholastic eligibility of 7th grade students during the fall grading period is not considered, as long as they are enrolled in school.

All Grades:

- Summer school grades/credits may not be used to substitute for failing grades from the last grading period of the regular school year.
- In accordance with OHSAA Bylaw 4-4-3, eligibility or ineligibility for the first grading period starts at the beginning of each fall sport's OHSAA season.
- In accordance with OHSAA Bylaw 4-4-3, the academic eligibility or ineligibility of a student other than in the first grading period continues until the start of the fifth school day of the next grading period, at which times the grades from the preceding grading period become effective. Holidays and school breaks **do not** count towards the five-day total. Faculty in-service, calamity days, and regular school days do count.
- In accordance with OHSAA Bylaw 4-4-3, a student coming off of academically ineligible status may become eligible five calendar days after the end of the grading period if an administrator can verify the passing grades.

XII. River Valley Athletics – Participant Prohibition on Alcohol, Tobacco, and Illicit Substances

Participants are expected to refrain from using and/or possessing tobacco and using, selling, and/or possessing alcohol or illicit substances at all times. This also applies to possession of any associated paraphernalia and look-alike paraphernalia. This is a 24/7/365 policy, with participants found in violation being subject to the same consequences as for a positive drug test result under the drug testing policy in section XIII of this handbook, regardless of the location of the violation, or the student's age at the time of the infraction. They may also be subject to discipline under the Student Code of Conduct, as applicable

XIII. River Valley Local Schools – Drug Testing Policy for Grades 9-12, Including Students with Driving Privileges And Participants in Athletic/Extracurricular Activities

1. Purpose of Policy

Participation by students in athletics and non-athletic extracurricular activities offered by River Valley Schools is a privilege, not a right. Likewise, permission for students to drive to school is a privilege, not a right. **High school students** who choose to partake in these privileges will be expected to refrain from using alcohol, tobacco, and illicit substances and will be subject to random drug and alcohol testing as set forth in this policy.

The River Valley Local School District Board of Education is concerned that high school students of the District are or may be using alcohol and illicit substances. Such usage threatens the health and safety of the student using the alcohol or illicit substances, other students, and the community at large. The Policy institutes a program of deterrence for high school athletes, extracurricular participants, and students given privileges to drive to school, reflecting the Board of Education and community's strong commitment to establishing a drug-free and alcohol-free school program.

The purpose of this program is fourfold

1. Provide for the safety of all students.
2. Undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing a legitimate reason for students to refuse to use alcohol, tobacco or other illicit substances.
3. Encourage students who use alcohol and/or illicit substances to participate in an appropriate treatment program.
4. Prevent the impact drug and alcohol use has on the learning centers of the brain, allowing students to work towards their full academic potential while enrolled in River Valley Local Schools.

2. Applicability of Policy

This testing policy applies to all high school students who choose to obtain privileges to drive to school and/or participate in any extracurricular activities during the school year at River Valley Local Schools. Consequences for violation of the policy will be cumulative during grades 9-12.

3. Relevant Definitions:

Participant: Any student participating in a River Valley School District athletic program or extracurricular activity and any student choosing to obtain privileges to drive to school. This includes student cheerleaders as well as students participating on club teams.

Extracurricular: Any optional pupil activity program operated by River Valley School that includes performances or competitions and does not involve a grade.

Athletic Season: In-season start dates will begin as published by the Ohio High School Athletic Association or sanctioning organization and continue until the completion of each sport's final state tournament contest. There are three athletic seasons: Fall, winter, spring.

Non-Athletic Extracurricular "Seasons": An extracurricular "season" begins with the first tryout session (or mandatory activity, if no tryout session) of that program for a given school year and ends on the date announced by the program's adviser or the building principal for a given school year.

Illicit Substance: Any controlled substance or other drug as referenced and included within the scope of Title 21, United States Code Sections 802 and 812, the possession, use, distribution or purchase of which is prohibited by federal and/or state law. This definition also includes all prescribed and over-the-counter drugs being used in any way other than for medical purposes in accordance with the directions for use provided for in the prescription or by the manufacturer. Anabolic steroids, "medical" marijuana, and CBD products that are prohibited under state and/or federal law are included in the prohibition regarding illicit substances.

Alcohol: Any intoxicating liquor, beer, wine, mixed beverage, or malt liquor beverage as defined in the Ohio Revised Code Section 4301.01. The term "alcoholic beverage" includes any liquid or substance, such as "near beer" which contains alcohol in any proportion or percentage. The term "alcoholic beverage" does not include a substance used for medical purposes in accordance with directions for use

provided in a prescription or by the manufacturer and in accordance with school district policy and rules related to the use of prescription and non-prescription drugs, provided the substance is:

- a. Authorized by a medical prescription from a licensed physician and kept in the original container, which shall state the student's name and directions for use; or.
- b. An over-the-counter medicine.

Tobacco: Any product made or derived from tobacco or containing any form of nicotine, if it is intended for human consumption or is likely to be consumed, whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled or ingested by any other means including but not limited to: any lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, bidi, clove cigarette, alternative nicotine products, electronic smoking devices, vapor products, any other smoking product, and spit tobacco, also known as smokeless, dip, chew and snuff, vape pods or devices, in any form, including look-alike products.

Vendor: The medical office or company selected by the Board of Education to carry out this Drug Testing Program, including its agents, employees, and any other individuals or entities who assist the Vendor in processing samples and performing urinalysis.

Designated Official: The individual designated by the District to oversee the Drug Testing Program.

4. Substances for Which Participants May Be Tested

LSD, alcohol, tobacco & vaping-related substances, Marijuana, Cannabinoids, Amphetamines, Methadone, Anabolic Steroids, Methaqualone, Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Opiates, Cocaine, Propoxyphene (Darvon), or any substance included in U.S.C. 802 (6), which an individual may not sell offer to sell, possess, give, exchange, use distribute, or purchase under State or Federal Law. This definition also includes all prescribed and over-the-counter drugs being used in any way other than for medical purpose in accordance with the directions for use provided for in the prescription or by the manufacturer.

5. Procedures For Participants

a. Informed Consent for Testing

At the beginning of each year/season or when a student moves into the District, Participants and parents/guardians/custodians will complete and sign the appropriate **River Valley Local Schools Informed Consent Agreement for Student Athletes/Extracurricular Participants and Students With Driving Privileges.**

No student may participate in any athletic/extracurricular activity and/or receive driving privileges until these forms are properly executed and on file with the School. The Head Coaches, Advisors and Administrators are responsible for distributing the Informed Consent Agreement to participants and parents/guardians/custodians and checking to see that that all participating students and their parents/guardian/custodian properly sign the Informed Consent Agreement prior to the time the participant joins the extracurricular activity, club, organization or begins to drive to/park at school.

b. Urine Drug Testing Frequency

- i. At the beginning of each year/season or when a student moves into the District, all students wishing to participate in athletic/extracurricular activities or drive to school will be subject to urine testing for alcohol and illicit substances at the expense of the participant, which will be completed on a specified date and time coordinated between the District and the Vendor. The

collection process will take place on school property or at a Board of Education approved testing facility.

- ii. Random testing of students who participate in athletic/extracurricular activities shall be conducted during the defined season for the activity. Random testing of students with driving privileges shall be conducted throughout the school year, as long as the participant continues to wish to exercise the privilege. The District will collaborate with a board-approved vendor to use a system that ensures participants are selected in a random fashion from a pool of those who are subject to random testing. Each team, club or organization may have up to 20% of its participants tested per random selection. Students join the testing pool for an athletic season by participating in the first tryout session/practice on or after the OHSAA start date. Students join the testing pool for a non-athletic extracurricular activity's "season" by participating in the first tryout session/mandatory activity of that program for a given school year. Participants may be tested more than once per season and/or year. Random testing will be unannounced, and the date(s) will be selected by the district and/or vendor and shall not follow any recognizable pattern. A participant refusal to submit to urine drug testing will be considered a positive test result.
- iii. Participants who leave an athletic team for any reason during a season remain in the random drug testing pool until the end of that sport's varsity season (final OHSAA tournament contest).

c. Collection Process

Participants who are selected for random testing must have a picture ID or be identified by the Athletic Director or Principal. No exceptions will be allowed.

The Athletic Director will be responsible for ensuring that all of the testing forms are completed and signed by both parent/guardian/custodian and student prior to testing. No student is to enter the collection site until forms, money and proper ID (or identification by AD or Principal) are presented.

Any Participant selected randomly for urine drug testing who is not in school on the day of testing will be tested at the next available testing time, or during a makeup time which is also unannounced. Participants who cannot produce a specimen will be kept in a secured area to wait until they can test. If they leave this area they will not be allowed to test. They are not to have contact with anyone until after the sample is given. Participants who still are not able to provide an adequate urine specimen at the testing time will be unable to participate or drive to school until the proper specimen is provided.

Arrangements may be made for special collections at a Vendor Collection site with prior approval of the Building Principal or Designated Official. There may be an additional fee associated with the use of an off-site collection point.

The testing program, including the taking of specimens, will be conducted so as to safeguard the personal and privacy rights of the Participant. The test specimen shall be obtained in a manner designed to minimize the intrusiveness of the procedure. In particular, the specimen must be collected in a restroom or other facility behind a closed stall or other divider. The lab technician will stand near the restroom or stall and monitor the tests. Participants are required to follow the directives of the Vendor or the test may be invalidated and/or treated as Adulterated. Specimens are collected as split specimens. No purses, backpacks, bags, cups, drinks, or containers may be taken into the collection area with the Participant. All coats, vests, jackets, sweaters, hats, scarves, baggy clothing, etc. must be removed

before the students enter the collection area. Only shoes, pants and t-shirts or dresses may be worn in the collection area. Any infringement of the rules will result in the student taking the test over. In the event of a positive result, the specimen will be sent to a laboratory for confirmation of results and a certified Medical Review Officer will determine the results.

If the Participant tests positive for one or more illicit substances that are not otherwise illegal, such as prescription medication, the parent/guardian/custodian may be contacted for appropriate documentation to demonstrate that the illicit substance was prescribed for the student or was used according to the over-the-counter drug manufacturer's instructions. If requested, such documentation shall be provided within five (5) working days. Failure to provide requested documentation within the timeline will be considered a positive result.

The following actions of the Participant will be treated as a positive test result:

- Failure to report to the collection site after notification, unless excused by the Building Principal or Designated Official
- Refusal to submit a urine sample when required under the Policy
- Refusal to follow the directives of employees at the testing site with regard to the testing procedures
- Tampering with the sample for testing or attempting to subvert the collection/identification process
- Adulterated samples
- Confirmed positive test results for alcohol or illicit substance
- Aiding and/or abetting another Participant in violating this Policy
- Refusal to submit to a re-test when required following an inconclusive, adulterated, or suspect result

6. Procedures In The Event Of A Positive Result

All drug test results are considered confidential information and will be handled accordingly. Positive drug test results will be reported to a Building Administrator, who will be responsible for notifying the parent/guardian/custodian, Participant, and Designated Official. When using rapid screens, all non-negative screens will be sent out with a chain of custody to a certified laboratory for confirmation. A Certified Medical Review Officer will verify the positive test.

The Vendor's Medical Review Officer may, in his or her discretion, use quantitative results to determine if positive results on repeat testing indicate recent use of alcohol or illicit substances or the natural decline of levels of the alcohol or illicit substances from the body that would suggest usage prior to the student's participation in the Drug Testing Program under this Policy. If the Medical Review

Officer believes, in his or her discretion, that the quantitative levels determined to be above the established cutoffs do not reflect current use, then a negative result may be reported.

7. Consequences for a Positive Test

First Violation

- An athlete or extracurricular participant will be suspended for the equivalent of 40% of the contests and/or performances of a multi performance extracurricular activity or season.
- The participant will not be permitted to try out or be involved in any single performance activities for a period of 45 school days.
- A participant who had driving privileges will not be permitted to drive/park a car on school property during the normal school day for a period of 20 school days. Students without a parking permit will not be issued a permit during this time period.
- A participant in multiple activities, i.e., athletics and driving, will have privileges suspended or limited as set forth above in each activity in which he/she participates.
- The participant will be included in the next three random drug tests. **The participant, parents, guardian, or custodian will be responsible for the costs associated with these tests.**
- The student will have to make an appointment with a certified chemical dependency counselor (or at an agency certified by the Ohio Department of Health or the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services) for chemical dependency assessment and then follow the recommendations of the counselor. **The parent/guardian/custodian is responsible for all expenses and for providing the school with documentation that the student completed all recommendations of the counselor.**
- Failure to comply will result in indefinite loss of privilege to participate in/suspension from activities and/or driving privileges until compliance is achieved.

Second Violation

- An athlete or extracurricular participant will be suspended for the equivalent of 100% of the contests and/or performances of a multi performance extra curricular activity or season.
- The participant will not be permitted to try out or be involved in any single performance activity for a period of 45 school days.
- A participant who had driving privileges will not be permitted to drive/park a car on school property during the normal school day for a period of 50 school days. Students without a parking permit will not be issued a permit during this time period.
- A participant in multiple activities, i.e., athletics and driving, will have privileges suspended or limited as set forth above in each activity in which he/she participates.
- The participant will be included in the next three random drug tests. **The participant, parents, guardian, or custodian will be responsible for the costs associated with these tests.**
- The student will have to make an appointment with a certified chemical dependency counselor (or at an agency certified by the Ohio Department of Health or the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services) for chemical dependency assessment and then follow the recommendations of the counselor. **The parent/guardian/custodian is responsible for all**

expenses and for providing the school with documentation that the student completed all recommendations of the counselor.

- Failure to comply will result in indefinite suspension from activities and/or driving privileges until compliance is achieved.

Third Violation

- An athlete or extracurricular participant will be suspended for a calendar year from participation in contests and/or performances of a multi performance extra curricular activity or season.
- The participant will not be permitted to try out or be involved in any single performance activity for a calendar year.
- A participant who had driving privileges will not be permitted to drive/park a car on school property during the normal school day for a period of 180 school days. Students without a parking permit will not be issued a permit during this time period.
- A participant in multiple activities, i.e., athletics and driving, will have privileges suspended or limited as set forth above in each activity in which he/she participates.
- The participant will be included in the next six random drug tests. **The participant, parents, guardian, or custodian will be responsible for the costs associated with these tests.**
- The student will have to make an appointment with a certified chemical dependency counselor (or at an agency certified by the Ohio Department of Health or the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services) for chemical dependency assessment and then follow the recommendations of the counselor. **The parent/guardian/custodian is responsible for all expenses and for providing the school with documentation that the student completed all recommendations of the counselor.**
- Failure to comply will result in indefinite suspension from activities and/or driving privileges until compliance is achieved.

Fourth Violation

- The participant will be permanently suspended from participation in all extracurricular activities.
- The participant will permanently lose privileges to drive/park at school during the normal school day.

8 Self-Referrals

Participants who have never previously had a positive result may self-refer for assistance one time, and only if they have not had a previous violation of this policy. However, such a referral must be made prior to the announcement/notification to the participant of a positive test. A self-referral participant will comply with the consequences of a first-violation within this policy, except that the suspension from activity and/or driving privileges will be reduced to the equivalent of 10% of the contests and/or performances of a multi-performance extracurricular activity or season and there will be

no forfeiture of tryouts and driving privileges. The participant will still be entered into the next three random tests, and must complete the counseling requirements for a first violation.

If there is a violation following self-referral, it will be treated as a second positive result. A Participant may only self-refer one time while a student at River Valley Local Schools.

9. Non-Punitive Nature Of Policy

No participant will be penalized academically for testing positive for alcohol or illicit substances. The results of drug tests pursuant to this policy will not be documented in any student's academic records. Information regarding the results of drug tests will not be disclosed to criminal or juvenile authorities absent legal compulsion by valid and binding subpoena or other legal process, which the River Valley Local School District Board of Education will not solicit. In the event of service of any such subpoena or legal process, the student and the student's custodial parent, legal guardian, or custodian will be notified as permitted by law.

10. Assessment of River Valley's Drug Testing Program

This program will be evaluated at the end of each year to determine whether changes need to be made.

XIV. Behavioral Expectations

As noted above, student athletes are subject to the Student Code of Conduct set forth in the high school and/or middle school handbook, as well as the standards of conduct specific to athletes set forth in this handbook, and individual athletic teams at River Valley. The following offenses may result in disciplinary action by a coaching staff or the River Valley administration, up to and including suspension, removal from the team, or other disciplinary action:

- Unexcused practice absences, or lack of communication regarding practice absences.
- Late arrival for practices, team functions, games or team buses.
- Violation of the transportation policy.
- Disrespectful behavior to any faculty, administrator, or school employee at any site.
- Major offenses, such as assault/fighting, theft, vandalism, etc.
- Rebellious or poor attitude toward any teammate, team manager, or coaching staff member.
- Hazing, bullying, or intimidating other members of a team.
- Profanity directed towards any faculty, administrator, school employee, official, or coaching staff member.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct during a contest or scrimmage.
- Improper care of uniforms, or damaging of district property at home or away sites.
- Any behaviors deemed to be inappropriate by a coaching staff or the administration can be disciplined in accordance with this handbook.

XV. Sportsmanship Expectations

When River Valley students participate in athletics, their conduct reflects on the District and each student is expected to accept the seriousness of this responsibility. Students should refrain from taunting, trash talking, and making derogatory remarks to others. At all times, all River Valley students

are expected to be good ambassadors for our great school and supportive community during athletic contests.

All parent spectators are expected to be mindful of the fact that they are at games to enjoy watching a River Valley TEAM compete against other school's teams. A ticket to a River Valley athletic event is a ticket to enjoy the game, not a license to verbally assault others. Parents need to support students when they have success, but also remember that interscholastic athletics are learning experiences for those involved in a number of different ways. Players and officials have made mistakes during every contest in athletic history, and will continue to do so for all of time. How parents react to these mistakes often dictates how students react, and negative reactions from adults can have a negative impact on a team's ability to succeed. Parents in attendance are expected to be positive role models for their children, other children, and other adults at contests, in accordance with Board policy regulating public conduct and the conduct of visitors on school property and at school events.

Should any parent fail to meet these expectations to the point where an ejection from the event takes place, the individual may be banned from River Valley athletic events for a period of time determined by the principal and the athletic director in accordance with Board policy.

XVI. Social Media

The behavioral expectations and sportsmanship expectations set forth in this handbook apply to conduct on social media as well as in-person conduct. Any social media posts that violate these expectations are subject to discipline in accordance with this handbook (and the Student Code of Conduct, as applicable). Discipline may be issued for social media posts that violate these expectations even if the posts have been deleted. This is a 24/7/365 policy... there is no off-season for appropriate social media usage.

XVII. Students Leaving a Team Mid-Season

Students who are removed from the team and/or students who remove themselves voluntarily from the team will not receive any end of the season athletic awards, and must return all team purchased clothing items such as uniforms, warm-ups, etc. These students are not permitted to attend another sports team's off-season workouts until the team's season in which they left mid-season has been completed. Once a student participates in an official team practice during the OHSAA season, they remain in the random drug testing pool until the end of that sport's varsity season (final OHSAA tournament contest). Additionally, students who are removed from the team and/or students who remove themselves voluntarily are responsible for 100% of their athletic fees after they participate in any scrimmage or contest.

XVIII. College Signings

The River Valley Athletic Department will conduct signing ceremonies on a National Signing Day on dates set by the NCAA for those students signing a National Letter of Intent (not a celebratory signing letter or other similar document), as well as one afternoon signing ceremony each spring, with date to be determined. Students who are not signing a National Letter of Intent or who may be but did not participate on National Signing Day may all choose to sign at this school-sponsored event. Signings to be conducted on dates other than those aforementioned will be conducted at the discretion of each individual student, but may not include River Valley Athletic Department participation.