

REYNOLDSBURG CITY SCHOOLS

7244 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

www.reyn.org

REYNOLDSBURG CITY SCHOOLS

Athletic Department

6699 East Livingston Avenue, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

(614) 501-4020

<https://athletics.reyn.org>

Andrew Moore – Athletic Director

Mitchell Ewing – Assistant Athletic Director –Junior High Schools

**OFFICIAL ATHLETIC GUIDELINES AND
CODE OF CONDUCT**

***Referenced in Board Policy 5610.05
Prohibition from Extra-Curricular Activities***



ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

The purpose of interscholastic athletics is to teach discipline, skills, teamwork, self-sacrifice, and to build character. With this purpose in mind, Reynoldsburg High School offers a wide variety of athletic competition for young men and women. Reynoldsburg High School offers the following sports:

BOYS		GIRLS	
Baseball*	Golf	Basketball*	Softball*
Basketball*	Soccer	Bowling	Swimming
Bowling	Swimming	Cheerleading*	Tennis*
Cheerleading*	Tennis*	Cross Country*	Track & Field*
Cross Country*	Track & Field*	Golf	Volleyball*
Football*	Volleyball*	Soccer	Wrestling*
	Wrestling*		

*Denotes sports also offered in some capacity at the Junior High (7-8) level. Baseball, Boys Tennis, Softball and Girls Tennis are all club sports at the Junior High level.

PARTICIPATION FEE:

The Reynoldsburg City Schools Board of Education annually approves the Athletic Participation (PTP) Fee that is required to participate in Athletics. For current participation fee and other time sensitive information, please visit the athletics website at <https://athletics.reyn.org>. Please also be advised that there may be additional sport specific fees that pertain to uniform costs, etc.

UNIFORMS:

Per Board policy, and in an effort to reduce the PTP fees, team uniforms and other clothing items are not part of the athletic budget and are not to be purchased with said fees. Individual sport booster and parent organizations are required to purchase these items.

The Athletic PTP Fees go toward expenses that include, but not limited to: coaches' salaries, school bus transportation to and from athletic contests, officials (referees/umpires), awards, basic equipment needs, etc.

In several sports, the student-athlete may be required to purchase a portion of the game uniforms, which will become their property.

FORMS AND PAPERWORK

In 2015, the Reynoldsburg Athletic Department partnered with FinalForms, an on-line program which enables parents and students to complete and file MOST athlete forms electronically. FinalForms is available for all Raider athletes. The ONLY form that you are still required to actually print, complete, and file with the Athletic Department are pages 4 and 5 of the actual OHSAA Physical Form. These pages of the physical form must be completed by the doctor and by law, we are required to have a signed copy on file. **If not up to date on FinalForms, Pages 4 and 5 of the OHSAA Physical Authorization Form must be given to the coach before tryouts or any conditioning takes place for that respective sport.** Once a student's physical is received by the Athletic Department from your coach, the expiration date will be inputted into FinalForms and then you will receive automatic notifications when your student's forms need to be updated.

We are asking that ALL student-athletes (grades 7-12) and their parents register and use FinalForms at:

<https://reynoldsburg-oh.finalforms.com>

If you have any problems getting logged on, registered, or completing your forms, contact your coach or the Athletic Department and we can send you a step-by-step guide via email.

STUDENT-ATHLETES CANNOT PARTICIPATE UNTIL THE FINALFORMS PROGRAM IS COMPLETED AND SIGNED.

CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT

The Reynoldsburg City School System establishes excellence as a standard and strives to provide an activities program that balances the academic, athletic, extracurricular, and cocurricular needs of our students. Participation in the activities program is a privilege that may be regulated to enhance the experience for all students. Students violating the regulations harm themselves, their activity, and their school.

The constitutions and by-laws of the Ohio High School Athletic Association, the Ohio Activities Association and the Ohio Capital Conference govern participation in cocurricular and extracurricular activities within the Reynoldsburg City School System. In addition to those established regulations, the Reynoldsburg City School System's Interscholastic Athletic Board of Control and The Board of Education establishes additional rules and regulations. Students will be expected to adhere to all of these rules and regulations on a continuing basis once they have set the requirements for team or activity membership as defined in Section III, IV, and V of this Code. A continuing basis is defined as including the entire academic year and related summer activities which includes but is not necessarily limited to any contest, meeting, practice, or club activity that is on or off school grounds including weekend and/or summer activities that are part of preparation to participate and/or participation in any cocurricular and extracurricular activity. It is within the spirit and intent of this policy that students will adhere to these rules at all times throughout their school career once they become involved in one of the cocurricular and/or extracurricular activities.

I. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Any unexcused absence on the day of or following contest or applicable activity may deem the student-athlete ineligible for the next applicable contest in athletics or in the case of an activity, one that occurs within the next two weeks following the absence. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Athletic Director.

II. ACADEMICS

In accordance with Ohio High School Athletic Association standards and/or Reynoldsburg Board of Education Policy, all student-athletes must remain in good academic standing. In order for students to be academically eligible, they must meet the following criteria:

Eligibility for each grading period is determined by grades received in the preceding grading period. Semester grades and yearly grades have no effect on eligibility.

To be eligible for athletics at a Reynoldsburg Junior High School, a student must absolutely meet the OHSAA standard of being enrolled in and having passed a minimum of four (4) courses during the preceding grading period and also the RCS standard of a minimum 2.0 GPA in that same grading period.*

To be eligible for athletics at Reynoldsburg High School, a student must absolutely meet the OHSAA standard of having passed a minimum of five (5) one-credit courses (or equivalent in the case of a double blocked class) in the most recently completed grading period and also the RCS standard of a minimum 2.0 GPA in that same grading period.*

All academic eligibility standards will apply at the end of the first grading period of the seventh grade and thereafter:

For eligibility purposes, summer school and other educational options, including College Credit Plus, may not be used to substitute for failing grades received in the final grading period of the regular school year OR for lack of enough courses taken the preceding grading period.

*The RCS 2.0 GPA requirement may be waived for students enrolled in special education programs and/or having a documented IEP or 504 on file, as per state and federal guidelines. Individual students with special circumstances may appeal their case to the building principal or his designee. Students who pass five (5) one-credit courses to meet the OHSAA standard, but have below a 2.0 GPA may be granted probationary eligibility on a one-time basis.

Eligibility Criteria:

GPA is based upon the Districts' method of reporting grades.

A = 4 points B = 3 points C = 2 points D = 1 point F = 0 points

A student's GPA can be recalculated when an incomplete is made up. When computing a GPA for the purposes of this policy, all subjects undertaken by the student and for which a final mark is recorded are to be considered.

A failing mark in any course will not make a student ineligible for participation if that student maintains a 2.0 GPA in all subjects and meets the OHSAA standard of passing a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent which count towards graduation from the previous grading periods. If applicable, the classroom teacher will provide an interim progress report that will put students and parents on notice that the student is subject to potential loss of eligibility. However, it is feasible for a student to be doing satisfactory work at the interim and still fail a course. Students and parents should be aware that it is the student's responsibility to check on his/her progress to ensure that eligibility requirements will be met.

Ineligibility and/or eligibility will commence with the fifth school day following the beginning of each grading period in compliance with the OHSAA requirements.

A student who becomes academically ineligible at any point prior to the awards presentation for the respective sport will forfeit all earned awards for that sport. An appeal hearing with the head coach, athletic director, and principal may be granted if extenuating circumstances exist. Fall athletes who are ineligible from the last grading period of the previous year, are ineligible for all participation for the entire fall season.

Winter and spring athletes who are ineligible for the grading period prior to tryouts/first practice, but are eligible on the first day of tryouts/practice (by teacher notification) are eligible until the next grading period, as per guidelines established by the head coach of their respective sport.

Students should NOT change their course schedule or drop a course without first consulting their guidance counselor, coach, or athletic administrator to determine whether it will affect their eligibility!

III. TEAM/ACTIVITY MEMBERSHIP

1. Team/activity membership is determined by attendance at mandated sessions, academic standing, compliance with all school rules and regulations, general attitude and conduct, athletic ability or activity selection or participation procedures. A student-athlete becomes a member of an interscholastic team upon attending an official practice or conditioning session and with the approval of the coach.

2. As an **athlete** of Reynoldsburg City Schools, you shall abide by a Code of Conduct which will earn him/her the honor and respect that participation and competition in the interscholastic program affords. Acts of unacceptable conduct include, but are not limited to theft, vandalism, racist comments, harassment, disrespect, hazing, violations contained in the Student Code of Conduct, or violations of the law as these behaviors tarnish the reputation of our school and district as well as all who are associated with our athletic programs.

Any conduct that results in dishonor to the participant, team, or school will not be tolerated.

3. TRANSFER POLICY

A student athlete may “try out” for a team or activity for five days and still be able to transfer to another sport or activity without forfeiting eligibility for awards, etc., or needing permission of the coach or advisor. Following the five day “try out” period, a student-athlete must remain a member of the team or activity for the duration of the season in order to be eligible for awards. Any student-athlete who quits following the five day “try out” period or is removed from participation under this policy, cannot transfer to another sport season or activity until the original sport or activity is concluded. This does not preclude a student “cut” from an activity or sport by the coach or advisor from participating in another activity or sport, nor does it preclude a student from participating in a combination of sport and activity that does not conflict as far as time, ability, or other limitations that may be applied. An athlete with extenuating circumstances or his coach may appeal eligibility to the Athletic Director and then the Interscholastic Athletic Board of Control in that order.

IV. GENERAL CONDUCT

The student-athlete must abide by all rules and regulations as set forth by the Reynoldsburg High School and Reynoldsburg Junior High Schools Student Handbooks and civil and criminal law. A student-athlete who is removed from a team for more than 20% of contests for disciplinary reasons will forfeit all earned awards for that season. A student-athlete who violates civil/criminal law or violates the Code of Conduct between the end of the season and the awards presentation will forfeit all earned awards. An appeal hearing with the head coach, athletic director, and principal may be granted. Additional behavioral expectations for specific programs may be issued in writing by the respective coaches or advisors. Any violations of these rules can result in a denial of participation.

V. STUDENT HAZING AND BULLYING

The RHS Athletic Department believes that hazing and/or bullying activities of any type are inconsistent with sportsmanship and prohibits all such activity. No student shall plan, encourage, or engage in any such actions.

Hazing shall be defined as performing any act of coercing another to perform any act that causes any risk of causing mental or physical harm. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy. There is a zero-tolerance policy for any actions deemed to be bullying within a team setting. Administration shall be alerted to possible circumstances or events that may include hazing or bullying. Student athletes who fail to abide by this policy will be subject to disciplinary action and may be held personally liable for civil and criminal penalties in accordance with law.

VI. ATHLETIC INFRACTION POLICY – REMOVAL FROM PARTICIPATION

Participation in athletics in Ohio is a privilege, not a right. Reynoldsburg City Schools and the Ohio High School Athletic Association have the authority to regulate interscholastic athletics and establish requirements. Students shall conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the values of a Reynoldsburg student athlete. Any behavior, including those off school property and outside of school sponsored events, that results in dishonor to the student, team, or school will not be tolerated and is subject to the athletic infraction policy. In the event a student athlete is suspended from school, the athletic discipline will begin upon your return to school. If you are not in season at the time of your school suspension, your athletic discipline will be served upon the start of your season. Your athletic suspension will equal the total percentage of the appropriate offense. Suspensions will be done in games that count toward your team record (this does not include scrimmages). **Coaches and administrators reserve the right to remove a student athlete from the team for conduct considered detrimental to the team and/or misrepresenting the Reynoldsburg City Schools' brand.** Additionally, coaches and administrators reserve the right to permanently remove a student from participation in student activities due to habitual and/or egregious behavior and any additional violations provided in writing from coaches, as approved by the Athletic Director and supervising administrator.

Pursuant to Board Policy 5610.05, Head Coaches are permitted to prohibit a student from participating in athletic activities. After such removal, the Head Coach shall provide the reasons, in writing, for the removal and provide it to the student-athlete. The student-athlete has the right of appeal their removal from athletic activities to the Athletic Director. In the event the Athletic Director is the Head Coach who removed the student from athletic activities, the Director of Secondary Education shall serve as the appeal officer. Such appeals shall be submitted, in writing, to the Athletic Director within three (3) days of written notice of the removal. Students shall not be permitted to participate in team activities during the pendency of their appeal.

After the statement of charges and the hearing and findings, the student-athlete has the right of appeal to the athletic director and/or Director of Secondary Education. Removal from participation can, but does not necessarily, include conditioning, practices, and scrimmages. Removal from participation does eliminate all other team participation and association. Removal from participation in activities can, but does not necessarily, include meetings, trips, and/or any activity event.

Any ejections from an Ohio High School Athletic Association sanctioned contest will be guided by OHSAA Sports Regulations.

INSURANCE

Reynoldsburg City Schools does not provide accident or health insurance coverage for athletes participating in interscholastic athletics. It is the responsibility of the parents to maintain an active accident and health policy while their child is participating in sports.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS OHSAA

OHSAA physical examination forms for all participants shall be signed by a physician, the participant, and by a parent or legal guardian and must be on file in the Athletic Department office before any candidate for a team may participate in any way. These forms necessitate the physician's certification of the individual's physical fitness no less than once each school year (See OHSAA By-Laws 3-5-1 through 3-5-3)

ATHLETIC INJURY POLICY

If you take your child to see a physician, urgent care, emergency room, etc., the student athlete must bring a note from the physician or medical provider back to the Athletic Trainer/coach before they may return to practice or game play. The physician's note should state the injury diagnosis or illness, recommended management, participation status of the student-athlete (no activity, partial activity, activity as tolerated, full activity, etc.) Please report all injuries to the Athletic Trainer and coach so student-athletes get the best care and management of their injury.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION CONCUSSIONS

If a concussion is suspected by a coach/parent/student, the student will be removed from the practice, event, game, or match. The student will not be permitted to return to full participation on the same day as the removal and not until she/he is evaluated by a health care professional and received written clearance for full participation from that professional.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS AND EQUIPMENT

All equipment issued to a participant will be turned in at the end of the season unless otherwise approved by the coach and Assistant Athletic Director/Athletic Director.

All equipment not turned in will be paid for by the participant at the cost it would take to replace it.

Any participant not turning in or making restitution for equipment issued to him/her will NOT be permitted to take part in any activity until restitution is made.

Any participant not turning in equipment will NOT receive any award until the equipment is turned in.

LOCKERS

Lockers remain the property of Reynoldsburg City Schools while on loan to students and are, therefore, subject to inspection by school administration/officials when and where necessary. It is the student's responsibility to use lockers for school purposes only and to use a lock to secure all belongings. Lockers are not to be used for articles which may be of such nature as to be harmful, dangerous, in violation of school or legal restrictions, or disruptive to the school process.

PRACTICES

- The coach shall determine all practice times.
- Gym times shall be established by a meeting of all coaches and the Assistant Athletic Director/Athletic Director.
- Inclement weather/school closings: Should school be canceled due to inclement weather or for any other reason, all practices and contests will be canceled unless approved by the Superintendent through the Assistant Athletic Director/Athletic Director.
- A participant may not practice or participate in a contest if he/she has not been in attendance the entire day. This rule may be waived at the discretion of the principal or his/her designee in unusual circumstances (i.e. family emergency, dental or medical appointments substantiated by a Physician's Note).

QUITTING A TEAM OR ATHLETIC ACTIVITY

Any member of a team or activity who quits will be subject to the following regulations:

- Notify the Coach of his/her intention to leave the team or activity.
- Return all school- issued equipment, uniforms, etc.
- Clean out the locker and dressing area.
- Pay any fees or damage costs which have been accumulated.
- A participant who quits a team or activity after the second contest will not be permitted to begin practice with another team or activity until the first team's season or activity is complete or with permission from the Assistant Athletic Director/Athletic Director.
- Participants quitting teams or activities forfeit all awards and any nominations for post-season honors and awards.

TEAM MEMBERSHIP – OHSAA BY-LAWS 1-6-1 THROUGH 1-6-3

1-6-1 Girls may play on a boys team. A female to male (FTM) transgender student may participate on boys teams as long as he is compliant with the OHSAA transgender policies. Please see the OHSAA policies on the Transgender Student here at:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Eligibility/OtherEligibilityDocs/TransgenderPolicy.pdf>

1-6-2 A girl or transgender male (FTM) who is compliant with the OHSAA transgender policies and who is a member of a boys team shall follow all contests rules and regulations regarding the sport as specified for the boys.

1-6-3 Boys may not play on girls' teams unless the overall opportunities, as referenced in the 1979 US Department of Education's Title IX Policy Interpretation in accordance with Part 1 of the three part test, for interscholastic competition for boys are less than for girls and the competing schools mutually agree. A male to female (MTF) transgender student's participation shall be governed by the OHSAA policies on Transgender Students located at:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/OtherEligibilityDocs/TransgenderPolicy.pdf>

A Message to Student-Athletes from the OHSAA

Participating in your school's interscholastic athletics program will provide some of your most memorable and enjoyable moments ever. Your state association, the Ohio High School Athletic Association, has standards that must be met in order to be eligible to compete. Most requirements are published in the OHSAA Handbook, which can be found in the offices of your principal and athletic administrator and is posted on the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org).

Your school district also has the authority to establish additional academic standards and codes of student or athletic conduct. Any questions you have concerning the OHSAA standards or your athletic eligibility, should be reviewed with your school principal or athletic administrator. You should also meet with these administrators EVERY TIME before you change your course schedule or drop a course. Should you transfer schools, you must follow up with your previous school and your new school to ensure that all proper forms have been submitted to the OHSAA.

The eligibility standards of the OHSAA have been adopted by the member schools and were accepted by your school when it became an OHSAA member. You are urged, as a student-athlete, to study these standards carefully since you are responsible for compliance with these standards.

Best wishes as you learn the valuable lessons that come with your participation in interscholastic athletics!

PARENT/GUARDIAN STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

At the beginning of each school year or at the time a student tries out for a team, they will be presented with this handbook and all necessary forms and information for participating in extracurricular activities. Each parent/guardian and participant should read all of the material and certify that they understand all rules and regulations of the Reynoldsburg City Schools and OHSA. The signed documents will be saved in your FinalForms account,

RISK OF PARTICIPATION

All students and parents or guardians must realize the risk of serious injury, permanent disability, or death which may be a result of athletic participation

By signing this form, you have acknowledged that you have read through all parts of the Reynoldsburg Athletic Handbook.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Print Name of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Student

Date

Print Name of Student