

RHS Student Athlete Code of Conduct



Principal: William White

Athletic Director/AP: Zack Wigstrom

Assistant Principal: Roma Kerby

Assistant Principal: Ruben Risco

Assistant Principal: Mark Glassford

Athletic Academic Advisor: Anne Freeman

To the Parent/Guardian

Your child has expressed an interest in participating in interscholastic athletics at **Robertsdale High School**, and you have shown your support by allowing them to pursue this opportunity. We believe that athletic participation provides students with valuable life lessons and experiences that help them grow into responsible, mature, and well-rounded individuals.

Participation in athletics is a privilege and requires a commitment to self-discipline, responsibility, and high standards of conduct. Student-athletes are expected to follow the guidelines outlined in this handbook, as well as the expectations detailed in the **Robertsdale High School Student Handbook**. Failure to meet these expectations may result in disciplinary action, including potential removal from participation in athletics.

The Robertsdale High School Athletic Department has established policies and procedures designed to promote a positive, competitive, and respectful athletic environment. We encourage you to carefully review this handbook with your student-athlete so you both fully understand the responsibilities and expectations involved in being part of our athletic program.

To the Student-Athlete

As a member of a **Robertsdale High School** athletic team, you are stepping into a proud tradition of excellence, sportsmanship, and school pride. By wearing our school's name and colors, you take on the responsibility of representing your team, school, and community with honor.

1. Your Responsibility to the School

Robertsdale High School Athletes are expected to be **HIGH PROFILE** on the **FIELD** and **LOW PROFILE** OFF the **FIELD**. Your behavior, both on and off the field, directly reflects on Robertsdale High School. Competing with pride, showing respect, and giving your best effort contribute to a positive image of our school. Your leadership as a student-athlete has the power to inspire your peers and uplift school spirit. Be someone your school can be proud of.

2. Your Responsibility to Others

Great teams are built on strong bonds between teammates. Support each other, practice with intention, and play with heart. Your teammates, coaches, and family rely on you to be dedicated and dependable. Remember, younger students in our community look up to you—be the example they aspire to follow.

3. Your Responsibility to Yourself

High school is a time to grow, challenge yourself, and prepare for your future. Take advantage of every opportunity to learn, improve, and develop as both a student and an athlete. Your academic efforts, your involvement in extracurricular activities, and your athletic participation all play a vital role in shaping your character and future success.

Robertsdale High School Athletic Mission Statement

Robertsdale High School Athletics empowers student-athletes to excel on and off the field by promoting integrity, resilience, and leadership. Through teamwork, discipline, and competition, we instill lifelong values and prepare students to thrive in all areas of life.

Purpose of the Athletic Policy

At Robertsdale High School, athletics are a privilege that comes with responsibility. These policies set clear expectations to promote sportsmanship, accountability, and respect on and off the field. By joining a team, student-athletes commit to upholding the values that define our program. Signing the handbook is more than a formality—it's a pledge to represent our school with integrity and pride.

Violations of the Code of Conduct

Athletic participation at Robertsdale High School is a privilege that must be earned through responsible behavior and good character. Violations of school, athletic, or team rules will result in consequences ranging from warnings to suspension or removal from the team. School suspension means automatic suspension from athletics. Each student-athlete is expected to follow both school-wide and team-specific guidelines and accept the consequences of their actions.

Discipline Procedures

Student-athletes at Robertsdale High School are held to high standards on and off the field. Coaches may address rule violations immediately, and serious consequences—such as suspension or dismissal—require consultation with the Athletic Director. All actions are documented and communicated to the athlete and their guardian. Affected athletes will meet with coaches to review infractions and may also meet with the Athletic Director. Suspended or dismissed athletes forfeit postseason honors. Athletic participation is a privilege that reflects our school's values and expectations.

School Attendance

At Robertsdale High School, academics come first. Student-athletes must be present in school to participate in practices or games that day—no exceptions unless approved in advance for valid reasons like college visits or family emergencies. Consistent attendance and punctuality are expected, especially during the season. Excessive absences or tardiness may result in disciplinary action. Students must be at school by 11:30 AM to be eligible for same-day participation. For Saturday events, prior approval is required if absent the Friday before. Practice is mandatory, and athletes must notify coaches directly if they must miss. Repeated absences may affect playing time or lead to dismissal from the team.

School Suspension

Student-athletes at Robertsdale High School are expected to uphold all school behavior standards. Any student serving out-of-school suspension is not allowed to participate in practices, games, or team activities during the suspension—no exceptions. Detention must be completed in full before taking part in any athletic events. Athletes are responsible for informing their coach of any disciplinary actions. If a suspension ends during the school day, the student remains ineligible until the next school day. In-school suspension will result in consequences determined by the team. Coaches may also enforce additional discipline as needed. Athletic participation is a privilege earned through consistent respect, responsibility, and integrity.

Playing Time

At Robertsdale High School, playing time is determined by the coach and should be discussed directly and respectfully between the athlete and the coach. It will not be discussed with parents or others. We encourage student-athletes to take ownership of their experience and advocate for themselves with maturity.

Freshman, JV, and Varsity Teams

At the freshman level, the focus is on development and participation, with all athletes given opportunities to play. Junior varsity balances growth with team success, and while coaches aim to provide meaningful playing time, it depends on factors like attendance, effort, attitude, commitment, and readiness.

Varsity prioritizes competition and winning. Playing time is not guaranteed and is based on performance, effort, and team needs. Coaches make these decisions with fairness and integrity. Every role—starter or support—is valued and contributes to the team's success.

Conflicts in Activities

While we encourage student-athletes to be involved in multiple activities, athletic schedules are fixed and cannot always be adjusted. Athletes must commit to attending all practices, games, and team events. If a scheduling conflict arises, athletes should notify the coach and any other relevant faculty early to find a solution. School-related academic activities take precedence over athletics, but missing practices or games may impact playing time. If multiple commitments become unmanageable, athletes may need to step back from one activity. Teams will hold practices and games during school vacations, so families should plan accordingly. Commitment and accountability are key values in our program.

Dress Code

Student-athletes at Robertsdale High School must maintain a clean, respectful appearance at all times, reflecting well on themselves, their team, and the school. Appropriate attire must be worn during athletic activities, on campus, and while traveling, with no clothing promoting inappropriate content. Shirts must remain on, and bare midriffs are not allowed. Athletes must follow team dress codes for home and away contests. Failure to meet these standards may result in team discipline, including reduced playing time. Adherence to the school's dress code is also expected, and violations may lead to further athletic consequences. Being an athlete means being a leader, both on and off the field.

Vacation Policy

Family vacations during the athletic season are strongly discouraged, as teams practice and compete during school breaks. If unavoidable, athletes must notify the head coach before the season starts. For extended absences, the coach and athlete will meet to develop a plan for reintegration. Commitment to the team is a core value, and athletes are expected to prioritize their season.

Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

Social Media Policy

As a Robertsdale High School student-athlete, you are expected to represent yourself, your team, and your school with pride and integrity—on the field and online. Athletics is a privilege that comes with the responsibility to uphold appropriate behavior, including on social media, in line with school, athletic, and team conduct standards.

Any post, image, or interaction on social media that disrupts the educational or athletic environment, disrespects others, or promotes behavior in violation of team, school, or athletic policies is unacceptable. This includes, but is not limited to:

- **Promoting or appearing to promote the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal substances**
- **Sharing sexually explicit or suggestive content**
- **Engaging in bullying, harassment, hazing, or threats of any kind**
- **Demonstrating poor sportsmanship or hostility toward other individuals or teams**
- **Posting content that reflects negatively on Robertsdale High School or the athletics program**

The goal of this policy is to educate and protect our student-athletes while reinforcing the core values of our athletic program. Coaches and administrators will address violations as needed, and inappropriate social media activity may lead to team-level consequences, including suspension or removal from the team.

Remember: the name on the front of your jersey matters, and what you post online reflects not just on you, but on all of us. Represent Robertsdale Athletics with pride.

Fighting, Gambling, Hazing & Bullying Policy

Fighting in Interscholastic Sports

Fighting has no place in high school athletics and will not be tolerated. Any student-athlete who engages in a fight during an interscholastic contest will face an automatic suspension for the remainder of that game and the next scheduled game at that level. Additionally, the athlete's behavior will be reviewed by the athletic director, and further disciplinary action may follow based on the severity of the incident. Any team member who leaves the bench during an altercation is also subject to disciplinary action. We expect our athletes to rise above conflict, not escalate it.

Gambling

Gambling in any form is strictly prohibited for student-athletes. This includes betting on games, card games played for money, or wagering at casinos or racetracks. Participation in gambling jeopardizes your amateur status and eligibility, not to mention the integrity of our athletic program. Athletes found engaging in any type of gambling activity will face disciplinary consequences, which may include suspension from the team.

Hazing, Bullying, and Team Initiations

There is zero tolerance for hazing, bullying, or forced initiations of any kind within Robertsdale Athletics. These behaviors are not only unacceptable—they may also be illegal. This includes verbal abuse, intimidation, harassment, or physical acts meant to ridicule, threaten, or demean another student-athlete. Any student involved in such actions will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or removal from the team and referral to law enforcement, depending on the severity of the incident.

Any student-athlete who witnesses or is aware of hazing, bullying, or inappropriate behavior is expected to report it immediately to a coach, the athletic director, or school administration. Standing by silently makes you part of the problem—stepping up makes you a leader.

Robertsdale High School follows the bullying policy set forth by Baldwin County Schools. All student-athletes will be held accountable to this policy, and violations may result in disciplinary consequences up to and including dismissal from the athletic program.

Substance Use Policy

Policy Overview

The Athletic Department at Robertsdale High School holds student-athletes to the highest standards of behavior, both on and off the field. The use, possession, or intent to use any substances such as alcohol or illegal drugs (unless prescribed by a physician) is strictly prohibited. This policy also applies to student-athletes attending peer-centered activities where alcohol or drugs are present—these activities are off-limits to all RHS athletes.

Substance use violations are taken very seriously, and the following consequences will be applied:

1. Student athletes shall not possess, use, transmit, or be under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs such as marijuana, controlled drug substances (hallucinogens, stimulants, depressants, or any other narcotic or controlled drug) or possess, use, or transmit paraphernalia for use of such substances. (Use of an authorized drug as prescribed by a registered physician will not constitute a violation.)

- A student violating the substance abuse rule, on the first offense, will be required to meet with the head coach and athletic director to evaluate the situation. Parents will be notified immediately and allowed to attend the meeting with their child. A student violating the substance abuse rule will be placed on suspension from athletic competition for a minimum of 10% of their scheduled playing dates for the season. Circumstances may warrant a longer suspension or removal from the team.**
- Any succeeding offense may result in permanent dismissal from athletics.**
- Student Athletes are expected to leave situations immediately where drugs and/or alcohol are present. Failure to do so may imply guilt and subject the student athlete to athletic discipline, including but not limited to dismissal from a team.**

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Any student-athlete ejected from a contest due to unsportsmanlike conduct will serve an immediate suspension. The athlete will not be permitted to participate in the next scheduled contest at that level (e.g., varsity). Additionally, the athlete must sit out any contests at all other levels until the suspension is fully served, in accordance with the AHSAA ejection rule.

Verbal and/or Physical Abuse of Officials or Coaches

Verbal or physical abuse directed at officials or coaches by a student-athlete will result in immediate disciplinary action. This could include a suspension or dismissal from the team for the remainder of the season, depending on the severity of the incident.

Other Serious Violations

The following behaviors are considered serious violations of the athletic code and school policies. These infractions may result in suspension or dismissal from the team. The length of the suspension will be determined through a meeting between the athlete's coach and the athletic director. These violations include:

- **Civil law infractions (e.g., legal offenses)**
- **Theft or malicious destruction of private or school property**
- **Violating school rules that require administrative action**
- **Misconduct that is potentially detrimental to the athletic program, school, or district**

These behaviors are not tolerated, and swift action will be taken to preserve the integrity of the athletic program and ensure a safe, respectful environment for all.

PARENT/GUARDIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

The role of parents/guardians is crucial in fostering a positive and supportive environment for our student-athletes. This code focuses on five key principles:

- 1. Allow Coaches to Coach: Refrain from shouting instructions or offering advice during games. Providing "sideline coaching" can be confusing and distracting for the athlete.**
- 2. Be a Positive Role Model: Support all members of the team, including coaches and athletes, with positivity and respect.**
- 3. Exhibit Good Sportsmanship: Always display positive behavior toward officials, opposing players, coaches, and fans.**
- 4. Respect Coaching Decisions: Coaches are responsible for decisions regarding playing time. If your athlete has concerns about their playing time, encourage them to address it directly with the coach.**
- 5. Follow Parent-Coach Communication Procedures: If you need to contact a coach, please adhere to the proper procedures outlined below.**

PARENT-COACH COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

The partnership between parents/guardians and coaches is key to ensuring a rewarding experience for each student-athlete. As a parent/guardian of a Robertsdale High School student-athlete, it's important to understand the expectations and guidelines of the athletic program.

What Parents/Guardians Can Expect from Coaches:

- **The coach's philosophy and approach to the program**
- **Expectations for all athletes involved in the program**
- **Logistical information, including practice and game schedules, and travel arrangements**
- **Team requirements, rules, and disciplinary procedures**
- **Medical protocols and important health information**
- **Sportsmanship expectations for athletes, parents, and fans**

What Coaches Expect from Parents/Guardians:

- **Early notification of any scheduling conflicts**
- **Specific concerns regarding the coach's behavior or expectations**
- **Updates on any changes in your child's medical condition, behavior, or academic standing**

Concerns Parents/Guardians May Discuss with Coaches:

- **The mental and physical treatment of your athlete**
- **Ways to help your athlete improve performance**
- **Concerns about your athlete's behavior on or off the field**

Issues That Will Not Be Discussed with the Coach:

- **Positioning or player roles**
- **Playing time decisions**
- **Concerns about other athletes**
- **Game strategy or tactical decisions**
- **Team preparation or practice routines**

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

The school administration requires that 24 hours pass between any incident and the time of contact with the athletic department. Please follow these steps if you wish to discuss a concern with a coach:

1. **Initial Discussion:** Encourage your athlete to meet with the coach to resolve the issue.
2. **Parent-Teacher Meeting:** If the athlete's discussion with the coach doesn't resolve the issue, parents/guardians may contact the athletic department to schedule a meeting with the coach.
3. **Director of Athletics Involvement:** If the issue remains unresolved, a meeting with both the coach and the Director of Athletics may be scheduled.
4. **Escalation to Administration:** If the issue is still not resolved, parents/guardians may request a meeting with the Director of Athletics without the coach present.
5. **Principal Meeting:** If necessary, a meeting with the building Principal can be arranged.
6. **Superintendent Review:** If the matter remains unresolved after all previous steps, parents/guardians may submit a written complaint to the Superintendent of Schools at the Baldwin County Public School Central Office.

SUMMARY

The policies outlined in this handbook apply to all sports, with additional specific rules provided by the coach for each sport. Athletes are expected to adhere to both general and specific rules. Non-compliance may result in disciplinary action. The success of these guidelines depends on the integrity of our athletes and coaches working together.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Baldwin County Board of Education is committed to ensuring equal educational opportunities for all students. Discrimination based on race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, sex, or physical disability is prohibited in all education programs and activities, including athletics. The school district upholds a strong affirmative action program to promote inclusivity and fairness in all areas of education, ensuring equitable participation in athletic programs and all school activities.

Robertsdale High School Athletics Handbook Pledge

2025–2026 School Year

Student-Athlete Pledge

I, the undersigned student-athlete, acknowledge that I have received, read, and understand the Robertsdale High School Athletics Handbook for the 2025–2026 school year and the Baldwin County Athletic Handbook. I understand the responsibilities, expectations, and policies that come with representing Robertsdale High School as a student-athlete. I agree to:

- **Follow all rules and guidelines outlined in the handbook.**
- **Exhibit sportsmanship, respect, and integrity at all times.**
- **Uphold the academic and behavioral standards set by the school and the athletic program.**
- **Accept any consequences for failure to comply with the policies stated in the handbook.**

I understand that participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right, and that my actions reflect upon my team, my school, and my community.

Student-Athlete Name (Print): _____

Student-Athlete Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Pledge

I, the parent/guardian of the above student-athlete, acknowledge that I have received, read, and understand the Robertsdale High School Athletics Handbook for the 2025–2026 school year. I agree to support and encourage my student-athlete to:

- **Abide by all athletic, academic, and behavioral expectations outlined in the handbook.**
- **Communicate respectfully with coaches and school staff following the outlined procedures.**
- **Represent Robertsdale High School positively and respectfully at all athletic events.**
- **Uphold the values of sportsmanship, integrity, and respect.**

I understand the expectations placed on both student-athletes and parents/guardians and will partner with the school to promote a successful and positive athletic experience.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____