

2026-2027

**REDFIELD
PHEASANTS**



**ATHLETIC
HANDBOOK**

Revised 7/18/25

Introduction

On behalf of the Athletic Department of the Redfield Public School, we welcome you to the new sports season. We are very proud of our Redfield Pheasants and are excited to have your child as part of our programs.

Athletics is an important element in the overall education of our students. Sports provide an opportunity to extend the learning process onto the fields and courts through interscholastic competition.

Role of Athletics in the Redfield Public School

Athletics are an extension of the classroom experience for the student-athlete. We are assisting students to be responsible citizens in their community and the world. We exist to enhance the experiences student-athletes receive in the classroom. We believe athletics assist the educational process in instilling and developing skills necessary for future success. Skills such as leadership, communication, goal setting, organization, work ethic, self discipline, perseverance, cooperation, loyalty, honesty, perspective, and relationships are gained through athletic participation.

Athletic Department Mission Statement

We want to provide all students with the opportunity to experience athletics in an effort to enhance their overall educational experience.

Objectives

The objectives we are striving to meet within the Redfield Department of Athletics are:

- (1) Develop the key skills for success as an adult in a competitive society.
- (2) Develop the fundamental physical skills for athletic endeavors.
- (3) Develop life long vocational and recreational interests and a healthy lifestyle.

Parent's Creed

As parents, you are an invaluable part of your child's educational and athletic development. Your attitudes and actions have the most impact upon the outcome of your child's learning in the athletic arena. Therefore, it is important that you see athletics for what it can do to help your child's development. The Parents Creed is:

*I will be the positive role model my child needs to become a successful adult.
In victory, I will be gracious, humble, and thankful. In defeat, I will be
strong, honest, and accepting.*

The Key Elements for Athletic Parents

- (1) I will make sure my child knows I love them in the thrill of the victorious moment and the period of agony brought on by defeat.
- (2) I will accept my child's strengths and weaknesses as they are and focus on helping them to just do their best.
- (3) I will let the coaches coach – my rule is to support and encourage progress on a daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly basis.
- (4) I will teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition – the fulfillment of just being part of it all – and the satisfaction of having done your very best.
- (5) I will not re-live my athletic career through my children in any way.
- (6) I will not compete with the coach – together we will be a team to work toward the improvement of my child as a person, student, and athlete.
- (7) I will never compare and contrast the skills, courage, or attitude of my child with that of their teammates, or opponents, in a negative manner.
- (8) I will temper my reactions towards my child's tales of woe or heroism – we all tend to inflate reality to make it kinder to our personal standing.
- (9) I will take the time to know my child's coach in a way that allows me to understand their philosophy, ethics, knowledge, goals, aspirations, and responsibilities.
- (10) I will prioritize the agenda that drives my interest in the athletic program or any individual sport: the team agenda comes first – my personal agenda follows.
- (11) I will NOT allow the sport or game my child is part of take on a life of its own.

Priorities

In order to bring some perspective to the athletic department and its decision making system, we need to have a set of priorities.

Academics
Overall Athletic Program
Team

When we make decisions about the direction the department or a sport is going to proceed, we do so based on the above criteria.

When coaches make decisions about athletes and the various situations that come up as the seasons roll along, these are the priorities in the order of their importance by which decisions will be made:

Faith and Family
Education
Team

All other elements, jobs, friends, etc., will be prioritized by the coaches and individual athletes based upon their particular needs or wants.

Parents and Sportsmanship

The following are just a few reminders of the important role parents play in modeling behaviors when involved in athletic programs:

- (1) You are a fan and spectator – that's your role – play it well.
- (2) You are not the coach – so don't coach.
- (3) You are not an official – so don't referee.
- (4) You are the host for all visiting teams – treat them with respect and dignity.
- (5) Cheer for our team – not against the opponent.

Remember – you are a role model for your child and others who are part of the team and overall program – how do you want to be remembered?

Common (vs.) Personal Agendas

Redfield Pheasant Athletics offers many opportunities to grow and develop in ways that are beneficial to the group as a whole and as individuals. It is important to understand that for real success to be achieved and growth to take place, everyone needs to be on the same page – which means to have a common agenda.

Teams that work together to reach common goals are the most successful. Teams that are unsuccessful – even though they may be winning – are those that have personal agendas prioritized ahead of the team agenda.

Every athlete should have personal goals and aspirations. However, they must be secondary to the common agenda set for the team. If you are more worried about your points, statistics, place, or playing time instead of the team – we no longer have a team. What we have is a group of individuals – no one ever wins for long under these circumstances, no matter how good they are as individuals.

Common agendas lead to team success – personal agendas that are within the framework of the team agenda will lead to personal success.

The Athletic Department's Chain of Command

Head Coaches
Athletic Director
Principal
Superintendent
Board of Education

Athletic Opportunities

The following are the athletic opportunities afforded the students of our District by season:

<u>Fall Season:</u>	Boys Football	Boys and Girls Cross Country
	Girls Volleyball	Sports Cheerleading
	Competition Cheerleading	Boys Golf

<u>Winter Season:</u>	Boys Wrestling	Boys Basketball	Girls Basketball
	Sports Cheerleading		

<u>Spring Season:</u>	Boys and Girls Track	Girls Golf	Girls Softball
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Athletic Schedules

These will be provided by the athletic director as soon as they are available. Varsity schedules are generally finalized in June, with the exception of Track. Other schedules (JV & Jr. High) take longer and may be finished just prior to the season. Schedules are always subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Athletic Questions and Concerns

Questions, concerns, or complaints are best handled between the coach and the parents. All conversations will be held in the strictest confidence. If you need further assistance please follow the Chain of Command.

Pre-Participation Eligibility Requirements

Before any athlete can participate in any practice session for any sport offered through the Redfield Public School, the following must be on file:

- (1) Current SDHSAA Physical Examination Form
- (2) Current SDHSAA Annual Parent or Guardian Permit
- (3) Current SDHSAA Initial Pre-Participation History
- (4) Emergency Medical Authorization Form
- (5) Sports/Activity Rules Consent Form
- (6) Proof of health/accident insurance
- (7) Concussion Fact Sheet
- (8) Baseline Concussion Test

Coaches at each individual sport kick-off meeting will have the forms necessary and instruct parents on how to properly complete each form.

SDHSAA Eligibility Requirements

Under the rules of the South Dakota High School Activities Association, athletes are NOT ELIGIBLE IF:

- (1) They have reached their 20th birthday
- (2) Have attended more than 4 first and 4 second semesters in grades 9-12
- (3) Have not passed 20 hours per week of high school work in the previous semester
- (4) Have not enrolled in or attended a minimum of 20 hours of class per week
- (5) Have graduated from a 4-year high school or an equivalent institution
- (6) Have not enrolled by the 16th day of the current semester
- (7) Have been absent for 10 consecutive school days – except illness/emergency
- (8) Transferred without open enrolled completed or a parental resident change
- (9) Do not have all physical, history, or permission slips on file
- (10) Have ever participated in an athletic contest under an assumed name
- (11) Have ever violated their amateur status
- (12) Have competed as an individual or member of another team during their regular high school season

*Complete Academic eligibility guidelines can be found in Student Handbook page 21.

**Ineligible athletes may ride the bus if no school is missed.

Program Structures and Goals

Athletic programs are defined as: all grades 6-12 in Golf, XC, and Wrestling; 7-12 in BB, Cheer, Track, and VB. Head Varsity Coaches in any given sport are the head of their athletic program in conjunction with the Athletic Director and Principal. Head Coaches will give general directions to Assistant Varsity Coaches and Middle School Coaches regarding an overriding philosophy of the program.

In our Athletic Programs, we will try to have five team levels (Gr. 7, Gr. 8, C, B, & A for Team Sports) (6-8, B, & A for Individual Sports) – each with its own structure and goals. The following system, or segments of it, will be used throughout the athletic department:

Middle School Programs

While participation in games is important, it will be based on attitude and effort put forth in practice.

(1) Sixth Grade—entry level programs. Emphasis on introducing interscholastic sports to as many students as possible and teaching them the sport, basic skills needed by sport, and to have fun. At this time Cross Country, Golf, and Wrestling will be the sports open to sixth grade involvement. (If enough coaching personnel are available)

(2) Seventh Grade – entry level programs. Emphasis on introducing interscholastic sports to as many students as possible and teaching them the sport, the basic skills needed by the sport, and having fun. We want a healthy balance between the two key elements – participation and competition. Our goal is to have every athlete participating at their level of development.

(2) Eighth Grade – second level programs. Emphasis on further development of the sport, its basic skills, and the fun element. A continued balance between the two key elements – participation and competition. Our goals are to have every athlete participating at their level of development.

Senior High School Programs

While participation in games is important, it will be based on attitude and effort put forth in practice.

(3) ‘C’ Team – Third/Fourth level programs. The emphasis is on honing and further development of the sport, its skills, the fun element, and introduction of the more complex elements this level of competition requires. We have begun to shift the balance between participation and competition towards the competitive element. Our goal is to really offer the athletes a look at the rigors of an intense schedule and the demands of competition that accompany it.

(4) ‘B’ Team – Fourth/Fifth level programs. This is the first intensely demanding level within our system. The emphasis is on further development of the sport, its basic and complex skills, and a continuation of the fun element. This is the first level in which the number of athletes may be limited.

(5) ‘A’ Team – Fifth/Sixth level programs. This is where we put to use everything that has been developed and learned over the last five years. Basic skills continue to be extremely important. Complex sport skills are critical. The number of athletes at this level may be limited.

Participation Selection

Certain Teams at certain levels have limitations on the number of participants. These limitations are the result of factors including time, facilities, equipment, staffing, budgets, and tradition. We do not like to limit the participation of our team. In fact, it is the most difficult decision any coach must make, but in some instances, it has to be made.

You should know that many factors are considered before limitation decisions are made by the coaching staff. Perhaps the most important element may be the roles to be played on the team and how each part fits into the entire puzzle.

We will make the necessary decisions about limiting teams to certain numbers in as fair and professional a manner as possible.

Advancement of Middle School Athletes

Athletes who are in the 7th or 8th grade may advance to other levels of competition within our sports. 6th graders may only compete up to the 8th grade level.

Coach, Parent, and Athlete Relationships

It is critical to the success of every sport and the entire athletic department that solid lines of communication exist between coaches, athletes, and parents. The needs of the three key elements in the sport, coaches, athletes, and parents, are best met when we all know what each other's role in the activity is and we play that role.

To allow our sports to be successful there needs to be good communication between coaches, athletes, and parents. To allow this to happen it is very important to understand what should and should not be topics of discussion between coaches, athletes, and parents.

We believe that there are three topics that are off limits in discussions between coaches, athletes, and parents:

- (1) Playing time
- (2) Coaching strategy
- (3) Other athletes

The reason we feel this way is simple – playing time and coaching strategy decisions are the responsibility of the coaching staff. Also, discussion of other athletes with anyone outside of the immediate coaching staff is unprofessional.

If you need to talk to someone about any situation that concerns you about a coach or the team, come and discuss it with the athletic director or secondary principal (if the athletic director is the coach). Nothing is off limits with the athletic director and all conversations are confidential.

Mandatory Meetings

Each team at every level will have a mandatory parent/athlete meeting prior to the first scheduled event. The reason for a mandatory meeting is to start the season off on the right foot, convey our philosophy, goals, rules, regulations, and make every athlete and parent aware of the possible dangers associated with athletic activities.

Awarding of Letters

Each sport will have a specific system for awarding letters. The head coach will determine the criteria for that sport. The lettering system will be explained to the athletes and parents at the first meeting of the season.

Practice Philosophy

Our philosophy for practice is very simple – every athlete will be at every practice unless excused by the head coach for that activity. Each head coach will determine the consequences for non-excused absences.

In order for students to compete in an extra-curricular activity, the student must be in class for the entire day of that activity unless approved by the principal. In order for students to travel with the team to an extra-curricular activity the student must be in class during the last three (3) periods of the day unless approved by the principal. A violation of this rule will be considered truancy.

Athletes should never be allowed to stay home and miss school to rest before or after any event – no matter how important it may seem.

Gifts or Awards

Under the rules of eligibility for interscholastic competition set forth by the South Dakota High School Activities Association no athlete can accept any gift or award that has a value of more than \$1000.00.

Weight Room

The weight room is one of the most important facilities in our entire athletic department. It is in the weight room that our athletes get stronger and faster. Parents need to encourage the use of this facility. Athletes are not to use the weight room unsupervised. School personnel, volunteer coaches, or other school designated personnel must be present.

Care of Equipment

Every athlete will be given equipment and/or uniforms that are provided by the District. Athletes are responsible for these items. Lost or damaged items will result in a fine being levied upon the athlete.

Transportation

The athletic department policy is that all athletes ride with their team to and from all activities. The only exceptions to this will be cases where family situations require the athlete to ride to or from an event. We would like to keep such happenings to a bare minimum. In such cases athletes need to secure a Parent Consent Form from the coach or office, have the parent complete the form, and return it to the coach prior to being excused from the event.

Sunday Participation

No contest under the auspices of the South Dakota High School Activities Association may be staged on Sunday. The athletic department will not schedule or allow any practices or open gyms unless special circumstances as approved by the school administration exist.

Wednesday Evening Activities

All public-school sponsored practices will end by 6:00 PM on Wednesday evenings. There will be no junior high practices or events unless special circumstances as approved by the school administration exist.

Inclement Weather Situations

When school is cancelled or dismissed early due to inclement weather, practice and open gym will be decided on a case-by-case basis. When the school start time is delayed due to inclement weather, no AM practices or open gyms will be held.

If school is dismissed for heat reasons – teams may practice – but will follow an abbreviated schedule.

Overnight Travel and Meals

The District will pay for lodging athletic teams on overnight excursions for state events when an overnight stay is necessary. Any other overnight stay would have to be funded through fundraising. The District will NOT pay for meals on any athletic trips – EXCEPT when reimbursed by the SDHSAA for state event expenditures.

Student-athletes are to remain with their team during overnight excursions. We want our coaches to know where everyone is all the time. Parents, please remember they are on a trip with their team – this is time for their athletic family. Our goal is to allow the student-athletes this time to bond as a team and individuals. Parents who are too close on out-of-town trips can disrupt the normal functioning of the team process.

Cancellation of Events

In the event any scheduled athletic event must be canceled or postponed, the athletic office will inform the news media in the community as soon as possible. Listen to the radio station, check the school's website www.redfield.k12.sd.us, www.sdhsaa.com, the school [Facebook page](#), or call the school office at 605-472-4520.

Hazing

It is the policy of the Redfield School District that hazing will not be permitted in any way, shape, or form. Athletes who violate this District guideline will be disciplined accordingly. Parents are encouraged to report any incidents of this type to the athletic director.

Summer Participation Philosophy

The athletic department believes the summer participation situation needs to be kept in proper perspective. Athletic development during the summer months needs to focus on the development of individual skills and strength. Team skills are secondary in nature. Student-athletes need to organize their summer around the following priorities:

- (1) Weight Room
- (2) Individual Skill Development
- (3) Open Gym or Runs
- (4) Individual Camps
- (5) Team Skill Development

We think the most important summer activity for all our athletes is the weight room. After that they need to work on their individual skills so that they can perform the tasks necessary to be the best they can be.

We will coordinate our activities to the best of our abilities.

Your attitude gets better through the following process:

- (1) Get stronger and faster (weight room)
- (2) Develop individual skills (self-motivated activities)
- (3) Learn new skills and correct your mistakes (open gym)
- (4) Be motivated to get better (individual camps)
- (5) Put your new and developed skills to work (team camps)

Social Networking Policy

The Redfield Athletics Program recognizes and supports its student-athletes' rights to freedom of speech, express, and association, including the use of social networks. Each student-athlete must remember that they represent the school of Redfield and are expected to portray yourself, the schools, and your team in a positive manner always.

Some guidelines are listed if you participate on a social networking site:

- Everything you post is public information. Texts or photos are out of your control once placed online.
- Use caution when adding or inviting friends. Some people are looking to take advantage of student-athletes or to gain information about you or your teammates and friends.
- Limit information about your location or plans.
- Posting information may affect your future.
- Use of disrespectful comments and behavior online will not be tolerated by Redfield Department of Athletics. This includes but is not limited too
 - Comments or photos that depict unlawful or prohibited conduct.
 - Derogatory, defamatory, harassing or discriminatory posts related to team, staff, or any person.
 - Comments that create a danger to the safety of another person or that constitute a credible threat of emotional or physical injury to another person.

Cases arising out of such circumstances will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the Head Coaches, Administration, Athletic Director, Principal, Superintendent, and the School Board.

Appendix A-from Student Handbook

RULES FOR ALL SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, CONTESTS, DANCES, AND EVENTS

Philosophy:

The Redfield School District encourages all students to participate in activities due to the benefits derived from such participation. Because participation in student activities exposes students to greater public exposure and scrutiny, students are expected and encouraged to bring credit rather than discredit to the school whose programs make such participation possible.

It shall therefore be the policy of the School District:

1. That the student's participation in student activities is a privilege rather than a right.
2. Those students who voluntarily exercise the privilege of participating in student activities shall consequently be expected to exemplify high standards of behavior.
3. Local and state (SDHSAA) Eligibility Rules will be followed.

During the school year and the season of practice, play rehearsal, or activity--regardless of the quantity - a student shall not use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell, or distribute alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or any other controlled substance or commit a crime against any person or property. It is not a violation for any student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor.

Violation Enforcement

Training rule violations can only be processed in the following ways: self-admittance, a written statement by an adult, or notification from law enforcement. Any infraction during the summer months that is reported to the school by law enforcement will result in policy enforcement at the beginning of the next school year.

Definition of Activity

Activities that fall under the rules and guidelines set forth in this section are as follows: all athletic participation, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, Cheerleading (squad and competition), Student Council, co-curricular activities not part of the curriculum (marching band performance, music contests, etc.), and other school sponsored events that occur not associated with the curriculum. Items not included are graduation ceremony, band and chorus concerts that are included in the curriculum, and field trips or other curriculum items.

Procedure for Reporting Incident

A staff member who suspects or observes any of the above violations, on the school grounds, or surrounding areas during the school day or during school activities, will be required to refer the violation to the administration.

Procedure for staff to follow will be:

1. Report to administration any violations observed.
2. Make a statement to the sheriff's office.

A parent/guardian or any other adult member of the community may also refer the violation to the administration. The administration may then report the violation to the sheriff's office and investigate the alleged allegation.

Parent/guardian, staff members, or any other adult member of the community observing or suspecting any of the above violations, off school grounds, after the school day and not during a school activity, may report the violation to the sheriff's office or school official, as a concerned citizen. The school and the sheriff's office will be in contact with each other, for any violations dealing with the extra or co-curricular activities.

Activities: Rules and Regulations

- A. The student(s) involved in an alleged violation will be given an informal conference with the principal in order to respond to the allegation of a violation. This meeting and decision will take place within five school days of when the principal is notified of the allegation.
- B. Upon suspending a student from activities, if possible, the principal shall provide oral notice of the suspension to the student's parent or guardian. The principal shall also provide written notice to the parents or guardian.
- C. In the absence of the principal, an appointed designee will work with the violation.
- D. In order for the missing of an event to count towards a violation the student must complete the activity in good standing.
- E. Violation to this policy will be cumulative over a three-year period in middle school or a two-year period in high school (6-7-8, 9-10, 11-12).
- F. If a student / athlete comes forward with an admission of guilt prior to a determination being made by school officials the suspension period will be reduced to the shorter of days or number of events.
- G. With any violation the number of days start immediately during the school year. If a violation occurs in the summer, the days start the first day of school or practice (if a student is involved in a fall sport).

Specific Violations and Penalties

- A. First Violation
 - 1. Penalty--after confirmation of the first violation, the student shall immediately lose eligibility for participation in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities and school sponsored dances for 15 days, including the 15th day or two events, whichever is longer. This does not include practices.
 - 2. The student shall carry out a restitution program of five hours under the direction of the prevention coordinator and counselor.
 - 3. The parent/guardian and/or student will meet with representative of the S.A.T.
 - 4. The school will offer the parent/guardian information on an assessment for potential chemical abuse (excluding tobacco).
- B. Second Violation
 - 1. Penalty--after confirmation of the second violation, the student shall immediately lose eligibility for participation in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities for 45 days, including the 45th day, or 6 events, whichever is longer. This does not include practices.
 - 2. Before being re-admitted to activities following suspension for the second violation, excluding tobacco, the student shall show evidence in writing that he/she has sought an assessment and/or counseling from a certified Chemical Dependency Counselor. The assessment, counseling and/or drug treatment will be at the student's expense.
 - 3. The student shall carry out an educational program of five hours under the direction of the prevention coordinator and/or counselor.
 - 4. Parent/guardian and/or student will meet with representative of the S.A.T.
- C. Third Violation
 - 1. Penalty--after confirmation of the third and subsequent violations, the student shall immediately lose eligibility for participation in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities for twelve consecutive months. If another violation occurs during the school year, the year suspension will start on the date of this violation.

2. Before being re-admitted to activities following suspension for the third violation, excluding tobacco, the student shall show evidence in writing that he/she has sought an assessment and/or counseling. The assessment, counseling and/or drug treatment will be at the student's expense.
3. The student shall carry out an educational program of five hours under the direction of the prevention coordinator and/or counselor.
4. Instances in which other school rules and regulations have been violated on a school sponsored trip, in a school building, or on school property, the administration shall deal with the student in addition to this policy.
5. A student will not be allowed to participate in any activities during the current school year or following years until the required restitution is completed.
6. Any student convicted for drugs will be suspended from school activities in accordance with state statute which can be found in the SDHSAA Handbook. If the student completes the prescribed treatment plan they will receive suspension for the number of events under the corresponding violation.
- D. Appeals
 1. In the event the student or parents believe the student's rights have been violated, they may appeal the principal's decision within five school days to the superintendent or designee. The superintendent or designee has five school days to respond to the appeal.
 2. The student or parent may appeal the superintendent or designee's decision to the local board of education within 30 days. The board of education has 30 days to render their decision.
 3. The student will remain ineligible during the appeal process.

Activities Causing Absences During the School Day

If taking part in an activity necessitates your being absent during the school day, it is the student's responsibility that his/her work is made up. Students may not be excused from class, if in the opinion of an instructor, they have not made an honest effort regarding assignments or if student is considerably behind in a particular course.

Athletic Participation in Two Sports During the Same Season

Athletes wishing to participate in two sports during the same season must go through the following process:

1. A pre-season meeting must be scheduled by the parent/guardian with the Athletic Director.
2. Persons attending the meeting should include parent/guardian, student, head coaches for both sports, and Athletic Director.
3. At the meeting a season plan must be developed that must contain the following items:
 - a. Declaration of major sport (upon the occurrence of any conflict, the major sport will take precedence).
 - b. A season practice and game schedule must be established.
 - c. All other conflicts should be discussed and solutions documented in plan.