2016 Rockdale County High School Boys Basketball Team Handbook



"Getting the Mix Right"

Table of Contents

PURPOSE OF THE ROCKDALE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT	1
PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIPS	2 – 4
PRIOR TO FIRST PRACTICE	5
ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS	5
TEAM RULES	6 – 7
GHSA BY-LAWS	7
RULES VIOLATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES	8 – 10
BOOSTER CLUB BY-LAWS	11 – 12
VARSITY SCHEDULES	13
JV SCHEDULES	14
FRESHMEN BOYS SCHEDULE	15
PRACTICE SCHEDULE	16

PURPOSE OF THE ROCKDALE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

High school athletics is an integral component of the total educational experience. High School athletics are provided to complement and enhance the academic program. Students must be aware that athletic participation requires a commitment to their team, school, coaches, community, and, most importantly, themselves. Athletic participation must aid in the physical, social, intellectual, educational, and emotional development of each student who chooses to participate. Our objectives include the following:

- We will be a fearless advocate for our student athletes to help them acquire important skills to aid in their development into successful citizens both on and off their respective playing fields.
- We embrace the concept of the student athlete as, first and foremost, a student while at the same time understanding the benefits gained through athletic competition.
- Student athletes are expected to be model students in the classroom through their efforts and respect shown to school staff and adherence to school rules and expectations.
- Coaches will be positive role models who display an in-depth knowledge of their activity, possess exemplary teaching skills, exhibit strong leadership, demonstrate ethical behavior, demonstrate interest in the holistic development of their athletes, and make an effort to explore post-secondary athletic opportunities for their student athletes.
- Coaches will understand that participation in interscholastic athletics is voluntary.
- Coaches will refrain from "mandating" off-season practices in compliance with RCPS bylaws; instead student athletes should be encouraged.
- While RCPS recognizes that not every student athlete will compete at the collegiate level, every effort will be made to ensure each and every athlete is prepared both physically and intellectually, and informed of the academic eligibility requirements to qualify and meet the admission requirements of institutions of higher learning.

Research has shown a direct correlation between athletic participation and academic achievement; and extracurricular activities foster the development and demonstration of character and leadership skills. For these reasons, students are encouraged to participate in one or more extracurricular activities while in school.

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIPS

Both parenting and coaching are extremely challenging vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other for the benefit of the student-athlete. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have the right to understand the expectations that are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from your student-athlete's coach.

A. COMMUNICATION YOU CAN EXPECT FROM YOUR COACH

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations the coach has for your student as well as the team
- Locations and times of practices and contests
- Team requirements (e.g., fundraising, equipment, off-season expectations)
- Procedure to follow should your child be injured during participation
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation
- The availability of the coach to speak with you about your child if you should have a concern

B. COMMUNICATION COACHES CAN EXPECT FROM PARENTS

- Concerns expressed at appropriate times.
- Notification of any schedule conflict which may involve an absence from practices or a contest well in advance.
- Your support for the program and positive encouragement for all involved.

C. BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

As your student-athlete becomes involved on an athletic team, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. Likewise, it is important to realize that there will be times when things do not go the way your student wishes. This is time when your child should set up an appointment to talk to his coach. This type of communication will provide the coach and the student a better understanding of each other's ideas and goals. This is also an important segment of a young person's maturity process into adulthood.

D. APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

It is very difficult to accept that your child may not play as much as you may have hoped. Our coaches use their experience and expertise to coach young men and women and are required to make judgment decisions based upon evaluation of practice performance and what they believe to be in the best interest of all those in their program. Certain topics can and should be discussed with your student-athlete's coach.

E. ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

- Suggest ways to help your student-athlete improve.
- Concerns about your student-athlete's behavior and/or academic progress

F. ISSUES **NOT** APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

The following items are left to the discretion of the coach.

- Playing time
- Play calling and game strategy
- Other student-athletes

G. PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN

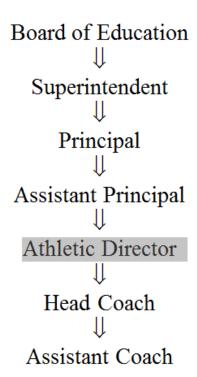
- Have your student-athlete meet with his/her coach to discuss the issue. On most occasions, this conference will resolve issues or questions.
- Call the coach at the school directly to discuss your concern. Leave your name, telephone number, a short message and the coach will return your call ASAP.
- Please do not attempt to talk to a coach before or after a practice or a contest.
- Our coaches are responsible for the supervision and safety of their athletes.
- In addition, these can be emotional moments for both parents and the coach. Meetings in this environment do not promote resolution.

H. IF A NEXT STEP IS NECESSARY

What can a parent do if the coach-athlete meeting (step 1) and the parent-coach meeting (step 2) does not bring resolution to an issue?

Call Rockdale County High School Athletic Department and set up an appointment with Athletic Director, Chad Suddeth, and Head Coach Tyrone King to discuss the situation. At this meeting, issues of concern will be discussed and an appropriate plan of action will be developed.

RCHS Athletic Department Line of Authority



It is imperative that this chain of command is followed to insure efficient operation of the athletic department

Prior to first practice (before official GHSA begin date):

Coaches must ensure that before official practice/tryouts begin:

Every student-athlete has completed the following forms and uploaded all forms to the PrivIT electronic database: Physical Form, Emergency Consent, Waiver of Liability, Code of Conduct, Concussion Form, Proof of Insurance. You can register on PrivIT at https://rockdalecountybulldogs-ga.e-ppe.com/index.jspa.

NO STUDENT IS ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE WITHOUT THESE FORMS – A STUDENT MUST BE MARKED "CLEAR" ON PRIVIT BEFORE PARTICIPATION MAY BEGIN

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

Academics come first. Students are to excel academically. Boys basketball players will be held accountable for all coursework. Boys basketball players are required to attend tutorials to make up coursework & tests, etc.... – even if that means an athlete is late or is forced to miss practice.

Practices should not be of such length and intensity that they hinder the student's ability to maintain academic pursuits.

When a student misses a class because of a game trip, the teacher may use his/her own discretion as to how the class work missed is to be made up.

Please arrange game start times & athletic transportation where seat time is not lost.

Coaches will monitor athletes' progress in each class. Every other Monday, each Head Coach will distribute an Athletic Progress Report to each player. Athletes will get these forms signed and turned back in to Head Coach. After assessing each report, the Head Coach will file those forms in a binder as documentation and report all athletes who are struggling to our Academic Advisor. The Academic Advisor will contact parents about academic concerns and follow up with each teacher about scheduled tutoring sessions with student-athlete. Head Coaches are expected to excuse athletes who may need to arrive late (or miss) practice for academic support.

Team Rules

- 1. All athletes MUST have a valid physical on file with the school before participating in any activity. Coaches must check PrivIT to validate student-athletes have all current paperwork before practices and tryouts begin. No athlete will be allowed to participate until AD Chad Suddeth marks the "cleared" on the PrivIT website. Allowing a student-athlete to participate without a proper paperework may be grounds for termination from coaching duties.
- 2. Any student who is under disciplinary action by the Principal may be ruled ineligible for participation until such action is removed.
- 3. The Principal has the prerogative to weigh the discipline process and thus make a final determination regarding eligibility.
- 4. A student placed in ISS may practice while serving ISS. A student serving ISS will sit out at least one game at their respective level of competition. Students serving OSS may not practice nor participate in any way during their out of school suspension. It is highly suggested that the OSS students be suspended at least two games at their respective level of competition. This should be addressed in your team rules.
- 5. Any player that is failing a class may not participate in a game until they are passing ALL classes.
- 6. Team members are to present themselves appropriately at all times this includes dress code, grooming habits, sportsmanship & behavior in accordance with school policies as established by the RCHS Administration and Rockdale County Public Schools. Image is everything most of the community perception of our school comes directly from what they see from the way our athletes perform.
- 7. On home game days, players will wear their team warm-ups and shooting shirts. On away game days during the week, players must wear khakis and a white shirt with a tie to school.
- 8. Athletes must be in school for at least ½ the school day in order to be eligible to play a game that day.
- 9. Participants should understand that the Head Coach will have the final authority in determining positions, starters, playing time, and any other team requirements that may become necessary.
- 10. Practice is defined as an activity, whether individual or team, which is required, directed, or supervised by the coach for the purpose of improving the skills unique to particular sport. Students are not allowed to use school facilities without direct supervision of a coach.
- 11. Coaches may conduct only voluntary conditioning sessions prior the official GHSA start date (rope jumping, running and similar activities, weights, etc..).

- 12. Student-athletes should work their hardest in all practice sessions and that exemplify high standards of conduct, sportsmanship.
- 13. Specific starting and ending times will be communicated to the parents and adhered to as closely as possible. Please check the MaxPreps website or RCHS Athletics Page to find the practice and game schedules.
- 14. Athletes should never be roam the campus before/after practice, including while waiting on a ride. All parents are expected to pick up their children within 20 minutes after practice has ended.
- 15. The appropriate pick-up location is the parking lot located between the side of the gym and tennis courts.
- 16. Tryouts and practices are at the discretion of the head coach. All practices are closed to family and friends until the last 15 minutes of practice.
- 17. Students are encouraged to participate in as many activities as the student and parents desire.
- 18. An athlete will not be permitted to start with another sport until the completion of their current sport on the current team.
- 19. Tryouts will be conducted on October 31st and November 1st. If more time is need to determine the teams, it is at the coaches' discretion to add more time for tryouts. Tryouts for football players will be the Saturday or Monday immediately following the completion of their season.
- 20. A student-athlete that quits a sport or is removed from a team cannot:
 - participate in another sport during the same season.
 - begin tryouts, conditioning, practice in a sport in the following season until the sport that was quit (at the appropriate level) has concluded its season.

GHSA By-Laws

The Georgia High School Association recognizes that local boards and/or governing bodies may place more stringent requirements as they deem appropriate. The Association encourages all boards of education and/or governing bodies to extend the same rules and regulations to all extra-curricular activities under their jurisdiction. Eligibility rules and regulations can be found on the GHSA website at http://www.ghsa.net/constitution.

Rules Violations and Consequences

It is strongly encouraged that each player makes his best effort to make it to every practice. Each player is required to contact the head coach prior to missing practice. If there are academic obligations that need to be handled during practice time or if a player is absent due to an illness, the coaching staff will review the situation to determine if there is a valid reason to miss practice. If a player has to miss practice due to failing grades, there will be a penalty.

Failing Grades Offense:

- a) A player may not play in any games unless he is passing ALL classes.
- b) A player with failing grades may not come to practice unless he has attended tutorial for the class with the failing grades.

Missing/ Late Practice Offense:

If a player misses practice due to any reason, the player will have extra conditioning during the next practice to make up for the conditioning missed.

- a) If a player misses a practice **before a game day** for an unexcused reason the player will face the following consequences (**only for missed practices before game days**):
 - a. First Missed Practice: A half game suspension
 - b. Second Missed Practice: A full game suspension
 - c. Third Missed Practice: Minimum 3 game suspension, mandatory parent conference
 - d. Fourth Missed Practice: Indefinite suspension
- b) Any player late to practice less than 15 minutes for any reason will need to make up any conditioning drills that were missed.
- c) Any player late to practice more than 15 minutes for any unexcused reason will be assigned extra conditioning drills at the end of practice
- d) Any player that is more than an hour late to practice is considered to be absent
- e) Chronic tardiness (3 or more) will lead to games suspensions, at the discretion of the coach.

Behavior Referrals:

- a) For Level I infractions as defined by the RCPS Student Code of Conduct will receive the following consequences
 - a. First Offense: Extra Conditioning Drills
 - b. Second Offense: Extra Conditioning Drills and 1 game Suspension
 - c. Third Offense: Extra Conditioning Drills and 3 game Suspension and mandatory parent conference
 - d. Fourth Offense: Indefinite Suspension
- b) For Level II infractions as defined by the RCPS Student Code of Conduct will receive the following consequences
 - a. First Offense
 - 1) ISS Automatic minimum 1 or more game suspension
 - 2) OSS Automatic minimum 2 or more game suspension
 - b. Second Offense:
 - 1) ISS Automatic minimum 1 or more game suspension
 - 2) OSS Automatic minimum 2 or more game suspension
 - 3) Third Offense: Extra Conditioning Drills and 3 game Suspension and mandatory parent conference
 - 4) Fourth Offense: Indefinite Suspension
- c) Any student that is charged with a felony may not participate in any basketball related activities until the matter has been cleared up by the judicial system.

Conduct Detrimental to the Team:

Conduct Detrimental to the team can include, but are not limited to **ANY** act that draws negative attention to a player or showing **ANY** of disrespect to coaches, teammates, officials, fans, opponents, or adults. It is at the discretion of the head coach or athletic director to determine the level of the offense.

- A. Level I Offenses include infractions like cursing, failure to follow instructions, and administrative technical fouls (non-unsportsmanlike).
 - a. First Offense: Extra Conditioning Drills
 - b. Second Offense: Extra Conditioning Drills and 1 game Suspension
 - c. Third Offense: Extra Conditioning Drills and 3 game Suspension and mandatory parent conference
 - d. Fourth Offense: Indefinite Suspension
- B. Level II Offenses include infractions like cursing at adults, unsportsmanlike technical fouls, kicking chairs on the bench, taking off jerseys and throwing them on the ground during a game.
 - a. First Offense: Extra Conditioning Drills and 1 game Suspension
 - b. Second Offense: Extra Conditioning Drills and 3 game Suspension and mandatory parent conference
 - c. Third Offense: Indefinite Suspension
- C. A player receiving two technical fouls in a game will be immediately ejected from the game, sent to the locker room (with a coach), and be suspended for the next 2 games after the ejection. In addition, any player that is ejected must take an online sportsmanship course and participate in a series of conditioning drills.
- D. Any player ejected from more than 1 game will be suspended indefinitely.

Rockdale County High School Boys Basketball Booster Club Bylaws

AMENDED: August 30, 2016

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Rockdale County High School Boys Basketball Booster Club

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES

- To facilitate and support the activities of the boys' basketball team program and members.
- To fundraise and financially assist with the coaches' objectives for the program.
- To volunteer services with the goal of maximizing income while minimizing expenses of the organization.
- To support, promote, and maintain a high standard of integrity and good sportsmanship in all athletic activities of high school.
- To foster and promote good will and fraternal spirit among the members.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP & DUES

Membership becomes automatic upon payment of dues. However, to have voting rights in the organization, the member must have a student that is currently active in the program. All others may be a member but only as a volunteer without voting rights.

Dues are determined annually by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION

- The Executive Board of this club shall consist of the following officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary(s), Treasurer(s) and Parent Liaison(s).
- No person shall serve in the same office more than one consecutive year unless it is decided and
 voted upon to determine that it is the best interest of the club. Term of the office herein is defined
 as the period of November of current year until November of the following year at installation of
 Booster Club officers.
- Officers shall be elected by voice, unless there are nominations from the floor, in which case the vote shall be by ballot. Nominations from the floor may be made and must be accepted by someone other than nominee or original spokesperson.
- A vacancy occurring in an office shall be filled by a vote of the Executive Board.
- All officers are volunteers, and none are paid any compensation for services performed. As such, no officer shall incur any personal liability as a result of serving on this board.

ARTICLE V - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- **President** shall preside at all meetings of the club, Executive Board, and the Executive Committee and shall be a member ex-officio of all committees and shall perform other duties pertaining to the office.
- Vice-President shall act as aid to the President and shall perform duties of the President in the absence of that officer and serve as chairperson of membership and special events. The Vice-President shall be responsible for procuring chaperones as necessary for trips or other events which take place. The Vice-President shall be responsible for organizing all fund raising activities.

- **Treasurer(s)** shall be custodian of all Booster Club funds and all disbursements of these funds under guidelines listed below.
 - 1. Expenditures in excess of budgeted amounts will not be expended without board approval.
 - 2. Receipts and "Request for Funds" forms must be presented to the Treasurer for disbursement as funds are available.
 - 3. The following signatures are to be maintained on the file at the financial institution in which the checking account is located:
 - a. President of the Booster Club; and
 - b. Treasurer(s) of the Booster Club.
 - All checks are to have the Treasurer signature and communicated to the President.
 - 4. The Treasurer will be required to keep current and accurate ledgers indicating all accounts payable. At the end of his/her term, the Booster Club shall have an organizational annual review of the organization's revenues/expenditures for the prior year.
 - 5. A financial disposition of Booster Club funds shall be presented monthly, with a financial statement given at the February meeting.
- **Secretary(s)** shall record meeting notes and disseminate communication as necessary. The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the club and of the Executive Board meetings and shall conduct the general correspondence of the club.
- **Parent Liaison(s)** work as an advocate for players/parents as necessary between the Board and coaches.

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS

A regular meeting of the Booster Club shall be held monthly unless otherwise noted by the club or the Executive Board with a seven-day notice.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the organization by two-thirds vote of the designated quorum, provided notice of proposed amendment shall be given at the previous regular meeting.

ARTICLE VIII – FUNDRAISING

- All sales campaigns must be cleared through the RCHS Boys Basketball Executive Committee.
- All funds raised shall be for the purpose of supporting basketball activities by providing funds to
 cover attire, shoes, contest fees, contest travel expenses, refreshments, scholarships, or other
 necessary items required for participation with the basketball and not being provided for by team
 members, the high school, or school district. The banquet is intended to be part of the purpose of
 fund raising activities. The Executive Committee shall decide on the amount due from team
 members in connection with the event.

ARTICLE IX - RETURN CHECK POLICY

- If more than one insufficient funds check is presented to the Booster Club by the same party, no further checks will be accepted, only cashier's check or money order.
- The party issuing an insufficient funds check must reimburse the Booster Club for the amount of the check plus any applicable fees within thirty (30) days of notification of insufficient funds.

Rockdale County High School 2016-2017 Varsity Basketball Schedule



Date	Day	Time	Opponent	Location	Team(s)
11/03/16	Thu.	4:30	Red and White Game	RCHS	G/B
11/08/16	Tue	6:00	at Columbia (Scrimmage)	Columbia	В
11/12/15	Sat.	6:00	vs. Stephenson SWD Showdown	SW DeKalb	В
11/15/16	Tue.	6:00/7:30	Meadowcreek	RCHS	G/B
11/18/16	Fri.	6:00/7:30	Starr's Mill (Girls)/ Hapeville Charter (Boys)	RCHS	G/B
11/19/16	Sat.	06:00	at Pebblebrook	Pebblebrook	G
11/19/16	Sat.	7:00	Cleveland Stroud Basketball Classic vs. Druid Hills	RCHS	В
11/21/16	Mon.	TBA	Cleveland Stroud Basketball Classic	RCHS	В
11/22/16	Tue.	TBA	Cleveland Stroud Basketball Classic	RCHS	В
11/29/15	Tue	5:30/7:00	Therrell	Therrell	G/B
12/2/16	Fri.	5:00/6:30	Heritage	RCHS	G/B
12/3/16	Sat.	2:30/4:00	at Salem	Salem	G/B
12/6/16	Tue.	6:00/7:30	at Kennesaw Mountain	Kennesaw Mtn.	В
12/9/16	Fri.	6:00/7:30	at Shiloh*	Shiloh	G/B
12/13/16	Tue.	6:00/7:30	South Gwinnett*	RCHS	G/B
12/17/16	Sat.	TBA	Chuck Miller Classic	Henry County	G/B
12/19/16	Mon.	TBA	Chuck Miller Classic	Henry County	G/B
12/20/16	Tue.	TBA	Chuck Miller Classic	Henry County	G/B
12/27- 12/29	TueThur.	TBA	Rams Classic Christmas Tournament	Grayson	G
1/6/17	Fri.	7:00/ 8:30	at Newton*	Newton	G/B
1/7/17	Sat.	6:00/ 7:30	at Heritage	Heritage	G/B
1/10/17	Tue.	6:00/7:30	Archer*	RCHS	G/B
1/13/17	Fri.	6:00/7:30	at Grayson*	Grayson	G/B
1/16/17	Mon.	TBA	MLK Classic at Douglas County HS	Douglas County	G/B
1/20/17	Fri.	5:30/7:00	Shiloh*	RCHS	G/B
1/24/17	Tue.	6:00/7:30	at South Gwinnett*	South Gwinnett	G/B
1/27/17	Fri	7:00/8:30	Newton*	RCHS	G/B
1/31/17	Tue	6:00/7:30	at Archer*	Archer	G/B
2/3/17	Fri.	6:00/7:30	Grayson (Senior Night)	RCHS	G/B
2/8 – 2/11	WedSat.		Region - AAAAAAA Basketball Tournament	Archer HS	G/B
*Region Contest					

Rockdale County High School 2016-2017 Junior Varsity Basketball Schedule



Date	Day	Time	Opponent	H/A	Team(s)
11/16/16	Wed.	5:30/7:00	North Atlanta	Н	Girls/ Boys
11/19/16	Sat.	11:30	Dutchtown	Н	Boys
11/19/16	Sat.	4:30	at Pebblebrook	А	Girls
11/30/16	Wed.	5:30/7:00	Mays	Н	Girls/ Boys
12/3/16	Sat.	11:30/1:00	at Salem	А	Girls/ Boys
12/9/16	Fri.	4:30/4:30	at Shiloh	А	Girls/ Boys
12/10/16	Sat.	10:00/1:00	Pebblebrook	Н	Girls/Boys
12/14/16	Wed.	TBA	at Pebblebrook	А	Boys
12/17/16	Sat.	11:30/1:00	S. Gwinnett	Н	Girls/Boys
1/6/17	Fri.	4:00	at Newton	А	Girls/ Boys
1/7/17	Sat.	1:30/3:00	at Heritage	А	Girls/ Boys
1/11/17	Wed.	5:30/7:00	Salem	Н	Girls/ Boys
1/13/17	Fri.	4:30/4:30	at Grayson	А	Girls/ Boys
1/18/17	Wed.	TBA	Heritage	Н	Girls/ Boys
1/21/17	Sat.	11:30/ 1:00	Shiloh	Н	Girls/Boys
1/24/17	Tue.	4:30/4:30	at S. Gwinnett	А	Girls/ Boys
1/27/17	Fri.	4:00/5:30	at Newton	Α	Girls/ Boys
1/28/17	Sat.	10:00/11:30	S. Atlanta	Н	Girls/ Boys
1/31/17	Tue.	4:30/4:30	@ Archer	А	Girls/ Boys

Rockdale County High School 2016-2017 Freshmen Boys Basketball Schedule



Day	Date	Time	Opponent	Location
Sat	Nov 12	10:00	@ TriCities	Tri-Cities
Tue	Nov 15	4:30	Meadowcreek	RCHS
Sat	Nov 19	10:00	Dutchtown	RCHS
Thu	Dec 1	10:00	@ ML King	ML King
Sat	Dec 3	10:00	@ Salem	Salem
Sat	Dec 10	11:30	Pebblebrook	RCHS
Wed	Dec 14	TBA	@ Pebblebrook	Pebblebrook
Sat	Dec 17	10:00	Druid Hills	RCHS
Wed	Jan 4	5:00	@ Newton	Newton
Thu	Jan 5	6:00	SWD	RCHS
Sat	Jan 7	11:00	@ Heritage	Heritage
Wed	Jan 11	4:30	Salem	RCHS
Fri	Jan 13	3:00	@ Grayson	Grayson
Sat	Jan 14	10:00	Tri-Cities	RCHS
Wed	Jan 18	4:30	Heritage	RCHS
Sat	Jan 21	10:00	Eastside	RCHS
Wed	Jan. 25	5:00	@ Newton	Newton
Fri	Feb 3	4:30	Grayson	RCHS