



Randolph County Schools
"Purpose, Pride, and Perspective"

Athlete/Parent Handbook 2024-2025

Highlighted areas are new*

Updated July 2024

The athletic programs offered in Randolph County Schools as inter-scholastic athletics are an integral part of a well-rounded education. High School team sports provide an excellent framework for teaching students skills that are critical to their future success in the adult world of work and inter-personal relationships. High expectations of self and other, self-confidence, mental and physical discipline and teamwork are but a few of the many skills most athletes take with them upon graduation from high school. These guidelines are adopted by the Randolph County Board of Education and supported by the West Virginia Secondary Schools Athletic Commission and the West Virginia State Board of Education.

Randolph County Athletic Programs expect all athletes to understand that:

- A) Taking part in athletics is a privilege
- B) Inter-scholastic athletics are an extension of the school curriculum and therefore require the athletically gifted student to work harder than the average student in terms of attending organized practice, competitions, and maintaining certain state specified grade point averages.
- C) Representing Randolph County Schools as an athlete requires the added responsibility of practicing exemplary behavior wherever the teams travels and competes.

Membership on an athletic team is very much like being in a National Honor Society for Athletes. You are expected to not only have athletic talents that are superior to the average student, but also exhibit outstanding character and leadership qualities.

You represent all Randolph County athletes past, present, and future. As with any privilege comes responsibility. Your actions during athletic competition and practice leave lasting impression on people in regard to the athletic program and student body of each individual school.

You will be playing in front of hundreds of people at most of your competitions. You will become a role model for adults, younger students, and your classmates. This recognition is a privilege and a reward. It is your responsibility to make it positive. The impression you leave with others in the community and elsewhere reflect upon, not only you, but also your family, your team, and your school.

Failure to maintain positive behavior standards may result in dismissal from the athletic programs that are offered in Randolph County Schools.

Specific Rules: (These are in addition to all school and WVSSAC rules and policies)

- A) Disrespect will not be tolerated in any form. All faculty, staff, coaches, bus drivers, and fans (including those from the other team) are to be treated with the utmost courtesy. Any form of disrespect could be cause for immediate suspension from the team.
- B) Tobacco, alcohol, or drug use at any time will be handled as though you were caught on school property. This means that you may be suspended from athletics even though you were not caught at school.
- C) Any suspension out of school will mean an immediate suspension from athletics. It is possible that your suspension from athletics could be longer than your suspension from school.
- D) Repeated behavior problems in school could result in suspension from athletics.

- E) Any absences that are not previously approved by the head coach may result in the suspension from practice and/or play.
- F) Sometimes it will be necessary to excuse athletes early from class on game days, especially to get ready for bus trips. The athletic director in conjunction with the head coach will decide the appropriate team to excuse students from class. No athlete will be excused from class earlier than the appropriate time on a game day unless special permission is granted for an unusual situation. *(Please note: If a classroom teacher notifies the coach or athletic director of any athlete who is currently failing a class or is behind on work in a class, that athlete may not be excused early from that particular class for an athletic event or trip. The athlete will stay in that class until the dismissal of class and may have to find another method of transportation to the event, which must be approved by the parent in writing and presented to the head coach or athletic director. All Randolph County staff will be provided with all athletic schedules from the respective athletic director.)*
- G) Special permission may be granted to an athlete to be released to another adult before or after an away event only after prior arrangement is made by direct personal contact and written note between the head coach or athletic director and the athlete's parent. (Please fill out and return the Randolph County Transportation Wavier. **This form is available upon request. Additional copies are required for additional requests to ride home with another parent.**)
- H) Parents who are willing to become an approved chaperone must complete a background check through L1 Identity (Safran) Instructions for Fingerprints. They must call 1-855-766-7764 to set up an appointment. Any cost of verification is to be incurred by the applicant. After the prints are taken, each person will be mailed a report from the WV State Police and this is to be taken to the Randolph County Board of Education for approval.
- I) **Randolph County Schools is requesting an Athletic Fee of \$50 for the first sport participated and \$25 for second sport participated per athlete. *Please contact the school Athletic Director for options if there is a financial hardship preventing the ability to pay the athletic fee.***

For Parents and/or Guardians

Thank you for your time and believing that the experiences that your athlete can have while participating in sports are worthwhile and educational. It is our job, as well as yours, to provide them with as much support and opportunity to perform as possible. There will be times of disappointment. There will be times of disagreement.

How the adults handle those situations will not only determine the level of enjoyment for everyone involved, it will also model for the student athlete as to how they should handle their own disappointment and disagreement. Athletics not only build character but also reveal a person's character at the most stressful times. We must remember that as we interact with one another.

While we feel that communication is vitally important for your child's progress in any activity, there also needs to be certain parameters that must be understood between you and the athletic staff in order to have the most opportune environment for everyone involved to be successful. Please understand that the Head Coach of each team is hired by the Board of Education to coach his/her team. It is the Head Coach's responsibility to operate the team as he or she sees fit.

The administration will always encourage communication with coaches. Any productive communication is a good thing; however, care must be taken to approach any coach at the appropriate time. If you feel the need to speak with a coach, please follow the guidelines below:

- A) Please request a time from the Head Coach 24 hours in advance to meet with them to discuss any concerns.
- B) Please do not enter the meeting in an accusatory fashion. The goal is to gain information to help the team and your child.
- C) Please do not attempt to initiate a meeting before or after a game or practice. You need time to calm down and so does the coach.
- D) If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your meeting with the Head Coach, please feel free to contact the Athletic Director to set up an appointment. Mr. Ross Ware, Elkins High School, may be reached at 304-636-9170. Mrs. Amanda Bell, Tygarts Valley Middle/High School, may be reached at 304-335-4575. Mr. Ross Ware, Elkins Middle School, may be reached at 304-636-9170. Mr. Christian Moats, Harman School Athletic Director may be reached at 304-227-4114.

Typical concerns of parents that are appropriate to discuss at a meeting with a coach are:

- A) Any unhealthy mental or physical strain you detect in your child at home.
- B) How you can contribute to your child's skill improvement and development.
- C) Any dramatic changes you detect in your child's behavior.

If your child has a concern, encourage him/her to speak with his/her head coach in private. This is a part of growing up that young people need to learn. The coaches hired by Randolph County are expected to act as professionals. We also expect them to be treated as professionals. There are levels of discipline for coaches who do not uphold a certain level of professionalism. At the same time, there are existing discipline procedures for parents who abuse our staff.

Areas which are inappropriate for parents to discuss with a coach and to display during competition:

- A) Your athlete's playing time.
- B) Team strategy or play calling.
- C) Other athletes.

What parents should know about the NCAA Eligibility requirements

Please visit these two sites and download for free in pdf format, (just check box) on how you can help your student/athlete learn more of these eligibility requirements. Your student/athletes coach and counselor can also guide you in this process.

- <https://www.ncaapublications.com/p-4354-2015-16-ncaa-guide-for-the-college-bound-student-athlete-sold-as-a-package-of-25.aspx>
- <http://www.ncaapublications.com/p-4391-2015-16-ncaa-initial-eligibility-brochure-road-map-to-initial-eligibility.asp>

Please say the following below to yourself each time you attend one of your child's event:

Let the athletes play.

Let the coach's coach.

(Coaching from the stands should not occur. This only creates confusion. A typical athletic quote, "It is very difficult to be aggressive and confused at the same time.")

Let the officials officiate.

(Verbally harassing officials is unacceptable. Parents who participate in this activity are teaching our children to do the same. Be a good teacher and role model.)

Let spectators be positive.

Please sign and return
the following pages:

RANDOLPH COUNTY SCHOOLS STUDENT/PARENT ATHLETIC CONTRACT
(STUDENT/PARENT COPY)

I intend to be an athlete in one of the Randolph County Schools. During the time I am a student athlete; I will not drink, smoke, take, use, distribute, or have in my possession any of the following:

- A) Alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or any harmful substances.
- B) Controlled substances of any kind such as marijuana, cocaine, steroids, etc.

Any violation of the above during school and extracurricular activities would fall under the Randolph County Board of Education Drug and Tobacco Policy.

As an athlete during my season I agree to:

- Conduct myself in an appropriate manner and display good sportsmanship when representing my school.
- Refrain from tobacco products and/or any controlled substances during my season as determined by the WVSSAC calendar (this includes weekends and time not at school).
- Respect all coaches, opponents, and school property.
- Return all school property at the end of the season to my coach.
- Have no unauthorized absence from class.

Failure to comply with the above rules will result in the following:

- A) First offense: Conference with the student and parent. The student will not be allowed to practice or play until the meeting is held. The student will not be permitted in the next athletic event. More days will be added depending upon the severity of the offense.
- B) Second offense: The student will be suspended from the team until a conference can be held with the parents. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. Depending upon the severity of the offense the athlete may be suspended for the remainder of the season/year.
- C) Third offense: Suspension for the remainder of the season/year.
- D) Any behavior that is illegal will be turned over to local law enforcements to be investigated.

As a member of any Randolph County Schools Athletic Program, I agree to follow the rules and guidelines established in this contract and/or established by my coach for the season of my sport/sports as established by the WVSSAC. This contract does not exempt or exclude the athlete from further intervention based on school or county policy. I understand that this contract is cumulative and covers my entire high school career. I understand the rules, agree to follow them, and I understand the consequences if I break any of them.

PARENT COPY _____

Athlete

_____ Date

I have read the terms in this contract. I agree to uphold and follow through consistently with the guidelines in this contract. I understand that the consequences are non-negotiable.

PARENT COPY _____

Parent/Guardian

_____ Date

I have read the terms in this contract. I agree to uphold and follow through consistently with the guidelines in this contract in regards to my child's participation in athletics. I understand that the consequences are non-negotiable.

RANDOLPH COUNTY SCHOOLS STUDENT/PARENT ATHLETIC CONTRACT
(Athletic Directors/Coaches Copy)

I intend to be an athlete in one of the Randolph County Schools. During the time I am a student athlete; I will not drink, smoke, take, use, distribute, or have in my possession any of the following:

- C) Alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or any harmful substances.
- D) Controlled substances of any kind such as marijuana, cocaine, steroids, etc.

Any violation of the above during school and extracurricular activities would fall under the Randolph County Board of Education Drug and Tobacco Policy.

As an athlete during my season I agree to:

- Conduct myself in an appropriate manner and display good sportsmanship when representing my school.
- Refrain from tobacco products and/or any controlled substances during my season as determined by the WVSSAC calendar (this includes weekends and time not at school).
- Respect all coaches, opponents, and school property.
- Return all school property at the end of the season to my coach.
- Have no unauthorized absence from class.

Failure to comply with the above rules will result in the following:

- E) First offense: Conference with the student and parent. The student will not be allowed to practice or play until the meeting is held. The student will not be permitted in the next athletic event. More days will be added depending upon the severity of the offense.
- F) Second offense: The student will be suspended from the team until a conference can be held with the parents. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. Depending upon the severity of the offense the athlete may be suspended for the remainder of the season/year.
- G) Third offense: Suspension for the remainder of the season/year.
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_____ Athlete	_____ Date
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I have read the terms in this contract. I agree to uphold and follow through consistently with the guidelines in this contract. I understand that the consequences are non-negotiable.

_____ Parent/Guardian	_____ Date
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I have read the terms in this contract. I agree to uphold and follow through consistently with the guidelines in this contract in regards to my child's participation in athletics. I understand that the consequences are non-negotiable.

5530.O1f1 – STUDENT DRUG TESTING FORMS

Student Form

Section to be filled out by Activity Student, Driving Student, or Opt-In Participant

MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO SCHOOL BY September 1 OR THE 1ST DAY OF THE SECOND SEMESTER.

Please Print or Type:

Student's Last Name

First Name

MI

I, the above named student, after having read the *Student Drug Testing Policy* and "Student Drug Testing Consent Form" understand that out of care for my safety and health, Randolph County Schools enforces the rules applying to the consumption or possession of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs. As a member of a Randolph County School interscholastic, extra-curricular, or one who drives and parks on school property, or an Opt-In Participant, I realize that the personal decision that I make daily in regard to the consumption or possession of illegal or performance enhancing drugs may affect my health and well-being as well as the possible endangerment of those around me and reflect upon any organization with which I am associated. If I choose to violate school policy regarding the use or possession of illegal or performance-enhancing drugs at any time while I am involved in in-season or off-season activities or driving. I understand upon determination of the violation I will be subject to the restrictions as outlined in the policy.

Check all that apply:

- ☐ Activity Student
- ☐ Driving Student
- ☐ Opt-In Participant

Signature of Student

Date

PARENT FORM

Section to be Filled Out by Parent/Guardian and Principal/Coach/Sponsor

We have read and understand the Randolph County Schools *Student Drug Testing Policy* and "Student Drug Testing Consent Form." We voluntarily agree on behalf of the student named above that, in order to participate in interscholastic, extra-curricular activities, and/or to be granted permission to drive to and park on the property of Randolph County Schools; and/or by electing to have him/her included in the testing pool as in Opt-In Participant, the student must submit to drug testing and must also agree to be subject to the terms of the Randolph County Schools drug testing policy. We accept the method of obtaining hair samples, testing, and analysis of such specimens, and all other aspects of the program. We further agree and consent to the disclosure of the sampling, testing, and results as provided in this program.

Signature of Parent/Custodial Guardian

Date

Athletic Eligibility

This form is used to report eligibility data to the WVSSAC. Please make sure it is accurate and easy to read.

Sport: (circle one)

Football	Golf	Basketball	Baseball	Track
Cheer	Volleyball	Wrestling	Softball	
Soccer	Cross Country	Swim	Tennis	

Student Athlete's Full Name: _____

Student Athlete's Father's Name: _____

Student Athlete's Mother's Name: _____

Current Grade (circle one): 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Number of Semesters Enrolled at EHS _____

*There are 2 semesters per year

(New Students and Freshman = 1, Sophomore = 3, Junior = 5 Senior = 7)

Date of Birth _____
Month Day Year

Place of Birth _____

Do you live in the School District (circle one): YES NO

Name of School Attended Last Semester:
