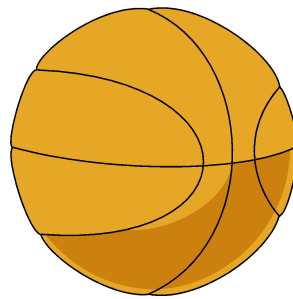


Roosevelt Middle School



Student/Parent Athletic Handbook

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

This handbook has been developed to provide the necessary information regarding the interscholastic sports program at Roosevelt Middle School.

Interscholastic sports competition is part of the total educational experience at Roosevelt Middle School. A variety of sports, encompassing most of the school year, is offered. While winning is certainly desirable, other aspects such as teaching of basic skills, teamwork, and the development of sportsmanship are considered **more important.**

Philosophy

The intent of the sports program at Roosevelt Middle School is to provide students with experiences that promote sportsmanship, team play, improvement of skills, and exposure to increasing levels of competition.

The athletic program at Roosevelt Middle School is two tiered. Students may compete interscholastically in sixth through eighth grades in Cross Country. A tryout for 5th grade athletes may occur for a limited number of spots on the Cross Country team. Further, not all team members will participate in every event. In these two sports, competition may determine some event participation.

In Boys' and Girls' Volleyball and Basketball, seventh and eighth grade students will represent the school in interscholastic competition. Basketball and Volleyball teams are competitively chosen and team membership is limited in number. Each year, students who are interested in becoming seventh and eighth grade team members will be involved in a try out process. **All students who try out may not make the team and team membership one year does not guarantee team membership the following year.** Skill level, attitude, and competitive spirit are some factors that will be considered when the teams are selected. In addition, coaches will review each student's academic and behavioral standing with the appropriate grade level team of teachers prior to the selection of the team. **Students who are not putting forth the academic effort and/or are not exhibiting acceptable behaviors will not be selected for the team, or may be dismissed from the team if these poor choices occur during the season, regardless of ability.** Every effort will be made to allow all students who are trying out an equal opportunity to demonstrate their capabilities.

Although it can be very difficult to play every athlete in every game, coaches shall make a sincere effort to do so. Playing time is more of a privilege to be earned than a right. Work ethic, attitude, ability, and game situations will earn some team members more playing time than others. Coaches are expected, however, to see to it that all members of the team are given opportunities in practice to improve and display their skills on a regular basis.

We know that you will support the philosophy of our interscholastic sports program. It is designed specifically to meet the developmental needs of the middle level students.

Eligibility Requirements

There are few requirements that must be met before a student is eligible to try out or participate in an interscholastic sport at Roosevelt Middle School. Students will not be permitted to try out or participate in an interscholastic sport until these requirements have been met.

- An athlete MUST have a valid athletic physical on file in our nurses' office.

Students should listen to the morning announcements regarding try-outs. Student eligibility is checked at this time. Those students who are not eligible are notified.

Once a student has been put on a team, it is ordinarily the case that the student must be in school to participate in a practice or contest. Also, students who do not participate in Physical Education class will not be allowed to participate in that day's practice or contest.

Concussion Policy

Once your child becomes a member of an interscholastic team, we ask that both parent and athlete read our concussion policy and agree to the terms of return to play protocols if a concussion has been identified. Our concussion policy can be read on the District Webstore when one pays the athletic fee.

Participation Fees

Each student participant will pay an Athletic Fee, as determined by the Board of Education per sport for Basketball, Volleyball, Track, and Cross Country. This fee can be paid through our District Web Store.

School Work, Conduct, and Sportsmanship

Interscholastic sports at Roosevelt Middle School are co-curricular activities. The primary function of this school is the education of students. While interscholastic sports are a part of the total program, their importance should not be over-emphasized. They are not a reason or an excuse for students to fail to work to the best of their ability in all of their classes.

Students who participate in interscholastic sports are expected to maintain passing grades and exhibit appropriate, respectful school behavior. Students who fail to maintain passing grades and exhibit appropriate, respectful school behavior may be declared temporarily ineligible. They may remain ineligible until such a time when the student exhibits appropriate academic/behavioral improvement.

West Suburban conference by-laws stipulate that

- all players must maintain a 'C' average (2.0 out of 4.0) with no "F's"
- players must be checked weekly throughout the season by the coaches and AD
- 1st academic violation - probation (practice but no games for 1 week)
- 2nd academic violation - suspension (no practice & no game for 1 week)
- 3rd academic violation - dismissal from team

Students who are members of athletic teams will be traveling to a number of other schools in the area. Student-athlete conduct will reflect not only on themselves, but also on all the students who attend Roosevelt Middle School. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner. Students who engage in disrespectful behavior or repeated irresponsible actions may be suspended or dismissed from the team and considered for non-participation in future school activities.

Sportsmanship is another important component of the interscholastic sports program at Roosevelt Middle School. All Roosevelt athletes are expected to be positive influences at games, practices, and in their daily lives.

- All rules and policies of student handbooks apply to athletics and will be enforced.
- Roosevelt athletes have a responsibility to demonstrate the ideals of good manners, sportsmanship, and gracious winning and losing.
- Roosevelt athletes know that game officials do their best and should be treated with respect.
- Roosevelt athletes know that every team member and competitor is worthy of respect and should be treated appropriately.
- Roosevelt athletes know that game equipment, school property (both home and away), and personal property should be treated with respect.
- Coaches must demonstrate and uphold the values of sportsmanship, in spite of the pressure to win or the possibility of defeat.

We also expect positive role modeling of good sportsmanship from our parents, fans, and school community.

Uniforms

Roosevelt will distribute and assign a school issued uniform for each team. It is expected that the athletes will take proper care of the issued uniform and understand that if the uniform gets ruined or lost, a replacement cost might be assigned to the athlete's parents.

Students are permitted to modify his or her athletic or team uniform for the purpose of modesty in clothing or attire that is in accordance with the requirements of his or her religion or his or her cultural values or modesty preferences. Students are not required to receive the prior approval of the Board of Education for such modification.

Students should speak to his or her coach prior to any modifications so the coach is able to communicate the adjustment to the game official prior to the competition to help alleviate any unwarranted questions.

Drugs and Alcohol

Students may be dismissed from participation in interscholastic sports for possession, delivery, distribution, use, or being under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance, or the possession or delivery of "look alike" drugs. These guidelines also pertain to the use or distribution of Anabolic Steroids, as per the student Code of Conduct inside the assignment notebook.

Type of Commitment of Student-Athletes

Students who are members of interscholastic teams will be making a time commitment that is significantly longer than the normal school day. Both practices and games will run into the late afternoon and evenings.

Teams (other than Cross Country and Track) typically are limited to 10-15 members. For this reason, students should make sure that they are prepared to make the necessary commitment before they try out. Students who know that they will not be able to make the commitment (because of family obligations, membership to other teams or clubs, vacations during the season, etc.) are discouraged from trying out. Students and parents need to realize that there are plenty of students who could and would make the necessary time commitment to a Roosevelt Middle School team and would be very excited to do so. In short, if a student makes the team, consistent participation at practices and games is expected.

Parent expectations

Parents and other family members should display their support for their son/daughter while maintaining strong sportsmanlike decisions at all times. Though it can be very difficult at times during the "heat of the moment," we would like to encourage parents to

provide an excellent example for their child, even during those most difficult times during a game.

Practices for your child's team are "closed" to parents, friends, and other family members. This rule is for the benefit of your child and his/her teammates. Obviously, if there is an emergency and you need to speak to your child, approach the coach and he/she will assist you. Further, if you need to speak with your child's coach regarding any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact him/her by phone or after a practice to set up an appointment. Our coaches are more than happy to discuss anything with you at the appropriate time.

We would also like parents to refrain from purchasing any "team" items (ie. Shirts, ...). Although this is a generous act, as a school we must think about all of our school sponsored activities and the purchasing of items as a whole. We appreciate your school spirit, but our teams receive recognition in many ways such as wearing team uniforms, announcements, team parties, and more. Thank you for your cooperation!

Parents of team members are encouraged to provide support and guidance to their children to see that they do not overextend themselves and as a result, fail to meet some of their responsibilities. **If a student is involved in other activities outside of school, in addition to Roosevelt athletics, the parent(s) and student should discuss the situation with the coach prior to the beginning of the season to assess that child's possible participation on the Roosevelt team.**

Transportation

Roosevelt athletes will be transported to and from away contests by district transportation. All athletes are expected to ride together to and from contests. Exceptions will only be made when parents/guardians **personally** arrange alternate transportation plans **for their child only** with the coach, in person at the game, or through communication before game-day. Due to liability issues, no exceptions can be made.

Roosevelt Middle School is proud of its role in the education of the children of River Forest. Athletics provide an opportunity to enhance the educational process. We look forward to the successful participation of all those involved in the interscholastic sports program at Roosevelt Middle School.

Coaches' Expectations

Each sport will hold a parent/coach meeting at the beginning of each season where the coach will discuss his/her expectations. This is an excellent opportunity to meet your child's coach, as well as learn what will be expected of your child while they are a member of that team.