

**Royal Palm Academy**

**ATHLETIC HANDBOOK (2019-2020)**

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## **Section One**

### **Purpose Statement and Philosophy**

The purpose of the Sports Program at Royal Palm Academy is to promote the development of the participants' athletic skills through teaching, practicing, and competition. We also strive to develop in the athletes, character, leadership abilities, and good citizenship by teaching the importance of practice, preparation, and sportsmanship in reaching one's potential. Our Sports Program provides for the development of physical, social, spiritual, and moral skills in a setting that is an extension of the classroom.

## **Section Two**

### **Athletic Eligibility Code of Conduct**

A member of a Royal Palm Academy athletic team agrees to fulfill the following requirements:

#### Middle School Eligibility

Students must carry a "C-" or above with no failures or unsatisfactory in subjects. If a student-athlete's grade falls below a "C-", the student-athlete will not be permitted to participate in any practices or games until their grade is brought up to a "C-" or higher.

#### Attendance

1. The athlete must attend all practices and games.
2. Students who are absent for a half day or more (arrive after 11 a.m. or leave prior to 11:00 a.m.) will be considered absent for that day. Students who are absent from school will not be able to participate in after-school events (without written/verbal permission from the Head of School).

#### Sportsmanship

1. The athlete agrees to conduct himself/herself as a good Christian athlete who exhibits a high level of good sportsmanship at all times.

2. Parents, coaches, fans, and players are responsible for seeing that:
  - a. Abusive/inappropriate language is not used.
  - b. Officials are treated with respect and not to be criticized before, during or after games.
  - c. Their actions bring honor to the reputation and good name of Royal Palm Academy.
  - d. Appropriate attire is to be worn (no obscene print, no undergarments visible, and no jewelry on players).

### **Section Three**

#### **Parent Responsibilities**

1. Arrange for your child to be at all games and practices on time with proper equipment and uniform.
2. Arrange for your child to be picked up on time for all practices and games. Please try not to inconvenience any of the Royal Palm Academy coaches by being late.
3. Be a good role model for your child regarding conduct. Be supportive as a parent in the stands. Understand that we are competing at the grade school and middle school level. Be respectful of all participants, coaches, and officials. Understand that you represent Royal Palm Academy.
4. It is imperative that both the parents and coaches understand their role and follow the proper channels of communication to provide the best experience for our student-athletes. There may be times when coaching decisions come into question, including but not limited to playing time, assigning positions, and strategy. It is important that parents and athletes leave these decisions to the coach and trust that the coach is acting in the best interest of the team and program. In the event a parent or student-athlete does have a concern to discuss with a coach, it is important that the proper communication channels are followed:
  1. Meet directly with the coach (please contact the coach and scheduled a time to meet)
  2. Meet with the Athletic Director and coach
  3. Meet with the Head of School and Athletic Director

**\*Please use the 24-hour rule and refrain from initiating a conversation with the Athletic Director or coaches before, during or after games to discuss perceived problems.**

5. Please be supportive of your child and the program by attending games whenever possible.
6. Please be considerate of the school's administrative staff by refraining from calling or emailing them pertaining to the athletic schedules, practice times, etc. Your child's coach or the Athletic Director will be the best resource for any RPA athletic information. Also, the Royal Palm Academy webpage has an "Athletics" tab that contains all our sports schedules as well as other important information. The webpage should be accurate and updated for your convenience; please try to check it at least twice a week just in case changes are made.
7. Complete and turn in the Sports Permission Slip, Athletic Participation Contract, and the Athletic Fee on time. All athletic fees and waivers can be turned in to the front office.

\*Please be advised that your child's eligibility will be in jeopardy if you choose not to accept these responsibilities.

## **Section Four**

### **Practices and Games**

#### Practices

Practices are mandatory unless stated otherwise by the coach. Attending practice is a great way to build relationships with your teammates as well as with your coaches. Attending practice also allows student athletes to gain knowledge, and skill of the sport they are participating in.

#### Games

The Athletic Director as well as the Coaches will do their best to keep everyone informed of all scheduling changes throughout each season. Please be advised that changes in the schedule are sometimes a necessity. Reminder, all Royal Palm Academy Athletic Schedules are kept up to date on Royal Palm Academy's webpage under the "Athletics" tab.

**Illness:** A student athlete that is sent home or chooses to leave school early due to an illness will not be permitted to attend any practices or games on the day of their early departure from school.

**After School Detention:** A student athlete who receives a detention will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled game for their sport. If the detention is issued on the same day

that their team has a game, the student athlete will serve their detention and will not be able to participate in the game that same day.

**Suspensions:** Punishment for all suspensions will be at the discretion of Royal Palm Academy's Athletic Director, Dean of Students and Head of School.

## Section Five

### Description of Athletic Program

The athletic program at Royal Palm Academy is broken down into two levels, Junior Varsity (JV) and Varsity (V).

The Junior Varsity (JV) program is for 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students.

The Varsity (V) program is for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Please notice that the 6th grade students may compete at both levels. The Coach and Athletic Director will decide if a 6th grade athlete is eligible to play on Varsity.

The number of players who can participate on a team varies from sport to sport. In some cases due to roster spot availability 7<sup>th</sup> and or 8<sup>th</sup> grade students may have to be cut from the team. Therefore, under certain circumstances not all students who try out for a sports team here at Royal Palm Academy can become a member of the team.

Our **Junior Varsity** program is in place to allow every team member a chance to practice his/her individual and team skills. Coaches will stress individual and team skills without putting too much emphasis on winning games. It is important to understand that **4<sup>th</sup> grade** athletes may not receive equal playing time throughout the season. Some 4<sup>th</sup> grade athletes need time to acclimate themselves to the athletic setting, thus we do not force them into games. In rare cases a 4<sup>th</sup> grade athlete may be competing at a higher level and may receive more playing time than the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade athletes on the team. Again, these cases are **rare** and will be at the discretion of the coach. It is also important to note that not all players will necessarily receive equal playing time throughout the season. The amount of playing time a player is given is at the discretion of the coach. During tournament play, playing time is not guaranteed as the coaches may choose to play certain individuals over others for the benefit of the team winning the conference tournament. **ATTITUDE + EFFORT = SUCCESS AND PLAYING TIME**

The **Varsity** program is in place to challenge our athletes to prepare them for high school athletics. Individual and team skills will be stressed, and coaches will emphasize team effort to achieve the common goal of performing in the best possible way for the team. Excellent attendance, effort and attitude at practice and in games will be stressed as the pathway to playing time, and winning games. All players will receive playing time during **regular season games (some more than others)**. Playing time is at the discretion of the coaches, and during tournament play a student's playing time is **NOT** guaranteed as coaches may choose to play

certain individuals over others for the benefit of the team goal of winning the conference tournament.

If we do not have enough athletes to formulate a JV and Varsity team within a particular sport, our priority is making sure we offer the sport as Varsity. In such case, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade athletes might be used to complete the Varsity roster.

Being a member of the Royal Palm Academy Athletic Program is a privilege that a student athlete may earn through acceptable academic standards, overall behavior on and off the playing field, and skill achievement. Both team and staff members are expected to represent the entire school with great dignity and fair play.

### **Sports offered at Royal Palm Academy**

**FALL** - Boys and Girls Cross Country, Girls Volleyball, and Boys Soccer

**WINTER** - Boys and Girls Basketball

**SPRING** - Boys and Girls Track & Field, and Girls Soccer.

(Boys and Girls Golf is offered as a club sport which is not affiliated with RPA)

**\*Royal Palm Academy participates in the Sunshine Athletic Conference (SAC)\***

### **Section Six**

#### **Fees for Participation**

Every athlete will be required to pay a sports fee in order to participate. Fees collected will go towards hiring game officials, obtaining suitable equipment, uniforms, field maintenance/usage, pennants, permits and other general athletic necessities.

#### Sports Rate Scale

#### **FALL**

Boys and Girls Cross Country (\$50)

Girls Volleyball (\$75)

Boys Soccer (\$75)

#### **WINTER**

Boys and Girls Basketball (\$75)

### **SPRING**

Boys and Girls Track (\$50)

Boys and Girls Golf (Club Sport offered by First Tee Naples/TBD)

Girls Soccer (\$75)

Incidental fees may be added for sports requiring special equipment, which are kept by the athlete (socks, hats, gear, uniform, etc.).

The Athletic Department understands that families sometimes experience financial difficulties. Therefore, no student athlete will be deprived the opportunity to play because of financial reasons. Please see the Athletic Director with any financial concerns.

***\*All athletic fees should be turned in to the front office.  
Checks should be made payable to Royal Palm Academy.***

## **Section Seven**

### **Coaches**

- \* Royal Palm Academy coaches are mainly volunteers, so their payment is made in service hours and in some cases a minimal paid stipend.
- \* Fingerprint screening and Safety Environment Training is required for all coaches.
- \* Coaches and assistant coaches are chosen by the Athletic Director on the basis of their ability to lead a team through a season and their knowledge of a particular sport. Proper leadership qualities include appropriate behavior, language, and dress. Coaches must meet the standards of the Athletic Philosophy and Purpose Statement.
- \* Coaches are responsible for adhering to the terms and standards discussed in the Athletic Handbook.
- \* Coaches are required to meet with the Athletic Director prior to the beginning of the season to review expectations and responsibilities.

## **Section Eight**

### **Athletic Director**

- The Athletic Director serves as the liaison between the Royal Palm Academy Athletic Department and other competing schools.
- The Athletic Director schedules all games and secures playing fields for home games.
- The Athletic Director obtains officials for all home contests.
- The Athletic Director serves as the liaison between the coaching staff and parents.
- The Athletic Director is responsible for determining the eligibility of all student athletes.
- The Athletic Director works with the coaching staff to establish official team rosters.
- The Athletic Director collects all sports participation fees from the front office.
- The Athletic Director works with the Administration regarding athletic policies.

Scott Moviel

Athletic Director

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**Section Nine**

**Royal Palm Academy**  
**Athletic Participation Contract**

I hereby request Royal Palm Academy to grant permission for my student to participate in Royal Palm Academy's Sports Program. I understand that I am entering into a voluntary contract between myself, the parent of a Royal Palm Academy student, and Royal Palm Academy for participation in school sponsored athletic activities.

I agree to cooperate with and support the rules and regulations as they are published in the Royal Palm Academy Student-Parent Handbook, and Student-Parent Athletic Handbook. I understand that I must be familiar with and accountable for these rules and regulations and the policies and procedures, which govern participation in athletics representing Royal Palm Academy.

As a player, my student understands that he/she must fulfill all religious and academic responsibilities for Royal Palm Academy and conduct himself/herself as a committed Christian in school, outside of school, and at any activity involving athletic competition representing Royal Palm Academy. My student agrees to be held accountable by the rules and regulations regarding athletics and to submit himself/herself voluntarily to the applications of the rules.

As a parent of a Royal Palm Academy athletic participant, I understand my responsibility and obligation to see that my child fulfills his/her religious and academic responsibilities including schoolwork and complies with the rules and regulations for participation in Royal Palm Academy athletics. I further agree that as an adult I will conduct myself in a responsible and Christ like manner at all times at all practices and games, that I will show respect for authority, and will engage in no activity or conduct which in any way is disrespectful, combative or confrontational, or questions Royal Palm Academy administration, coaches, officials or anyone connected with the conduct of Royal Palm Academy athletics.

As a player and parent, we acknowledge that a violation of the rules and regulations may inhibit our ability to participate in athletics representing Royal Palm Academy. Our signatures mean that we understand and accept these conditions for participation in Royal Palm Academy's athletic program for our student and family.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_