



RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

RHS is committed to providing students with an excellent academic education and offering experiences that will allow them to pursue their interests through clubs, activities, and athletics. These co-curricular experiences have provided students an opportunity to excel in various areas, which many have then pursued at the college level and beyond. Each coach and advisor works with these students to prepare them to perform at their highest levels. With this in mind, coaches and advisors do their best to strike a balance between student personal, family, academic, and co-curricular time. It is a goal of RHS to provide opportunities in athletics and co-curricular activities at the highest level while respecting each student's need for family time and stress reduction. RHS searches to find the ideal balance between these interests and continues to improve upon this area each year.

During the season, each coach and advisor works to ensure that all practices and rehearsals are kept to less than three (3) hours in duration, do not start prior to 3:30 P.M., and that students arriving late, due to receiving extra help from teachers, are not penalized. Occasionally, under certain circumstances, practices may last a little longer but this will be communicated by the coach. The same is true with band and New Players rehearsals. Some rehearsal times will last a bit longer depending upon an upcoming performance.

Each year, starting dates for the fall sports schedule and blackout dates during which RHS will not have activities scheduled is posted. These dates are based upon the NJSIAA, the governing body for NJ high school athletics, and RHS policies and schedules and change year to year. Typically, RHS plans for two (2) "blackout" periods with no school events scheduled during final exams and the first week of August. Each individual coach will also send a summer schedule letter to the appropriate families of their start dates.

Each individual sport or activity may also have additional weeks with no commitments built into the summer schedule. Students will not be penalized for missing any pre-season practices or activities prior to the official start date. Family time is extremely important and this fact is recognized by RHS. The coaches are very cognizant of this and try to find the balance between personal time and preparing athletes so they are properly conditioned for their competitions.

RHS is a member of the Big North Conference. Ridgewood is classified as a Group IV school by the, a group of high schools containing the largest student populations. With twenty-nine (29) men's and women's interscholastic teams, Ridgewood earns points toward the Annual League All Sports and Sportsmanship Banners. RHS has won the All Sports Banner and the Sportsmanship Banner numerous times. Ridgewood enjoys a fine reputation in the state. The Big North Conference is made up of forty-two (42) schools in Bergen, Passaic and Essex counties.

Activities Fee

An activities fee is a "once-a-year" fee that covers all clubs and activities in which a student chooses to participate. **The Ridgewood School District charges an activities fee of \$150 each year for students in Grades 9 through 12.** This once-a-year fee entitles a student to participate in one (1) or more clubs or activities throughout one (1) school year. Once a student begins an activity, there will be no refund. Students eligible for free or reduced price lunches are exempt. If a parent/guardian qualifies for free or reduced price lunches, an application must be completed and returned to the high school main office.

Co-Curricular Code

The Ridgewood Board of Education, administrators, coaches and activity advisors, in conjunction with parents/guardians and pupils who are selected to represent RHS in athletics or activities expect that members conduct themselves as responsible representatives of their schools. These activities are considered a privilege and not a pupil right so the school may remove the privilege if necessary. Pupils who participate in sports or pupil activities shall be expected to exemplify high standards of behavior. Students whose actions or conduct relate to the safety, security and well-being of students, staff, or school grounds, and whose behavior is determined to materially and substantially interfere with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of the school or its programs, shall be subject to disciplinary consequences outlined in the Co-Curricular Code. All reports of suspected violations will be reported to the Athletic Director and/or the Assistant Principal for Student Services. After an alleged violation of the code has been verified by either school personnel, judicial or law enforcement agencies, the appropriate disciplinary consequences will be imposed by the Athletic Director and/or Assistant Principal.

Co-Curricular Code Violations

The RHS Co-Curricular Code acts to supplement the student code of conduct, not to supplant it.

- This code applies to all co-curricular activities in which a pupil participates. As a result, consequences are assigned to every co-curricular activity. A pupil leadership role will be evaluated upon each offense with the possibility of removal at any time.
- Consequences for multiple violations must be served consecutively. A suspension may be carried over from one sport or activity season into another. If a pupil cannot fulfill a suspension in the current sport or activity, the remaining consequences carry over to the next season/activity.
- A pupil charged with any illegal activity by the police will face immediate consequences as outlined by the Co-Curricular Code. Under N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6, "a Board has the authority to impose a consequence on a student for conduct away from school grounds including on a school bus or at a school sponsored function that is consistent with the district Board of Education's code of student conduct."

The Board, however, can only exercise that authority when:

- It is reasonably necessary for the student's physical or emotional safety, security and wellbeing or for reasons relating to the safety, security and well-being of other students, staff or school grounds pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:25-2 and 18A:37-2 [N.J.A.C. 6A:167.6(a) 1]
- the conduct which is the subject of the proposed consequence materially and substantially interferes with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of school [N.J.A.C.6A:16-7.6(a) 2].

Category I

General offenses not listed in Category II such as, but not limited to, H.I.B. violations, fighting, verbal abuse, hazing, theft, vandalism, unsportsmanlike behavior, use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco/tobacco-like products or conduct which would constitute a misdemeanor under Federal or New Jersey law, while in school, on school property, or as a representative of a RHS sport or activity. Certain offenses, such as H.I.B., that substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students are covered under this policy even when outside of the school day or during the activity.

Consequences

Category I consequences pertain to all offenses that occur during school or related activities.

Pupils who violate Category I of the Co-Curricular Code are subject to the following:

- Notification to and/or a conference with the Advisor, Athletic Director, Assistant
 - Principal and Guidance Counselor.
- One or more of the following:
 - Conference with appropriate school personnel
 - Removal from participating in the immediate activity or performance
 - Suspension from participating in the activity or performance. A general guideline is for a student to be removed for two (2) weeks and/or four (4) competitions. Depending on the severity of the infraction this may be increased.
 - Ineligibility for further field trips or contests
 - Personal apology
 - School/community service
 - Referral to school support personnel/group or program or referral to outside agency
 - Behavioral contract
 - Loss of leadership positions in co-curricular program(s)
 - Decrease or deny responsibilities in activity
 - Other consequences deemed suitable for the situation

Category II

Severe offenses such as, but not limited to hate crimes, hazing that rises to the level of a felony, criminal assault, sexual assault, drug/alcohol dealing or such conduct which would constitute a felony under Federal or New Jersey criminal law.

Behavioral Requirements

RHS pupils must abstain from committing, participating in, assisting other persons in committing or participating in or being a party to any of the following acts:

- A hate crime. A hate crime is any threat, intimidation, harassment, physical touching, vandalism, property damage, or any act which would constitute a violation of Federal or New Jersey criminal laws, committed by reason of the actual or perceived race, color, creed, religious ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability or national origin of another individual or group of individuals;
- Hazing of any person or group of persons that rises to the level of a felony;
- Any act committed with the intent to cause significant physical harm to persons or significant damage to property;

- Any act which would constitute a felony under Federal or New Jersey criminal law.

Consequences

Pupils who violate Category III of the Co-Curricular Code shall, without exception, be subject to all of the following consequences and other consequences deemed appropriate by the principal:

- Upon confirmation of a violation, the pupil athlete/activity participant shall lose eligibility for participation in activities and/or sports for one (1) full calendar year, commencing upon the date of such confirmation;
- The Principal or designee shall notify law enforcement officials, as warranted;
- After the pupil has served the one-year suspension from participation eligibility, the pupil may obtain reinstatement by attending a conference with the Principal or designee and the pupil's parent(s)/ guardian(s). Following such conference, the Principal may, but shall not be obligated to, reinstate such pupil's eligibility.