

**LARRY A. RYLE HIGH SCHOOL**



**STUDENT ATHLETIC  
HANDBOOK**

## **Welcome**

Participation on an athletic team can be a rewarding and meaningful experience that enhances a child's secondary education. It is important that students realize the time demands, responsibility, dedication, and sacrifices required when making this type of commitment. The following information defines the interscholastic policies and procedures for all students participating in our high school athletic programs. The Ryle Athletic Department hopes this document provides parents and students with a better understanding of our philosophy, goals, and policies. Please refer to the following information when a question about your child's athletic experience arises.

## **Philosophy of Athletics at Ryle High School**

It is the TRADITION of Larry A. Ryle High School to teach, model, and exemplify the following traits: INTEGRITY, RESPONSIBILITY, SERVICE, and RESPECT. We consider athletics an integral part of the educational experience. Athletics provides opportunities that will help students develop physically, mentally and emotionally. We view the competition of athletics as a healthy educational and physiological activity because it challenges each student to excel, to discover his or her physical limits, and to work cooperatively with team members. While winning is a natural goal in the pursuit of excellence, the principles of good sportsmanship and enjoyment of competition takes precedence at all times and enhance the educational value of contests.

## **Governing Bodies**

Ryle High School is a member of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA), whose purpose is to organize, regulate, and promote interscholastic athletics for secondary schools in Kentucky. As a KHSAA member school, Ryle abides by the minimum standards set forth by this organization. Please note that these are minimal standards and member schools may enforce stricter standards, which Ryle High School does in many instances. Locally, Ryle belongs to the Northern Kentucky Athletic Conference (NKAC – Division I) which consists of 9 other big schools in the area. These schools are Boone County, Conner, Cooper, Dixie Heights, Covington Catholic, Notre Dame, Campbell County, Scott, and Simon Kenton. We are in the 33<sup>rd</sup> District (Boone, Conner, Cooper, and Ryle) and 9<sup>th</sup> Region. Our football program participates in 6A, the highest classification in the state.

## **I. Standards of Participation**

In order to participate in organized activities, all student-athletes must have the following:

- A valid physical examination signed by a physician to be held on file in the school clinician's office. Sports physicals are valid for one calendar year.
- Satisfaction of all eligibility requirements of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association and Ryle High School.
- The Ryle Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy signed by both parent and athlete, to be held on file with Athletic Director.
- A confirmation of receipt and understanding of this handbook.

## **II. Program Goals**

Through the unique nature of each sport dictates its specific objectives, all teams will attempt to:

- Emphasize the development of basic skills, appropriate attitudes, values, and team concepts.
- Allow as many students as possible to participate and share the experience and benefits derived from team membership.
- Complete competitively with our district, region and state opponents.

Participation at the varsity level is generally limited to the most highly skilled players with the ability to interact constructively with other players for team success. The coaching staff will determine the level of play for each student-athlete (Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Freshman) based on what would be the most beneficial to the development and progress of each player and team. It should be understood that playing time could be limited.

## **III. Athletic Offerings and Levels of Play**

### **Fall Sports**

The fall season begins approximately the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August and ends in late October. Varsity teams that qualify for post season play may participate into the month on November. Informational meetings are usually held in July. The following sports compete in the Fall:

- Girls/Boys Soccer (Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman)
- Football (Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman)
- Boys/Girls Cross Country (Varsity, Junior Varsity)
- Girls/Boys Golf (Varsity, Junior Varsity)
- Volleyball (Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman)

## Winter Sports

The winter season begins the Monday after Thanksgiving and ends in late February. Varsity teams that qualify for post-season play may be participating into March. Informational meetings will be held in November.

- Girls/Boys Basketball (Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman)
- Wrestling (Varsity, Junior Varsity)
- Swimming/Diving (Varsity, Junior Varsity)
- Archery
- Bowling

## Spring Sports

The spring season begins around the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March and ends in Mid-May. Varsity teams that qualify for the post-season may be participating into June. Informational meetings will be held in February.

- Baseball (Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman)
- Softball (Varsity, Junior Varsity)
- Girls/Boys Track (Varsity, Junior Varsity)
- Boys/Girls Tennis (Varsity, Junior Varsity)

## All Season

The following activities compete on a year-round basis during the school year, with try-outs typically held in late spring:

- Cheer
- Dance

## IV. Eligibility

To be initially eligible for participation in school athletic and activities at the start of the school year a student shall be in their proper grade level as stated in KHSAA Bylaw 5. Additionally, all students must meet the following academic requirements to be eligible for participation:

- **Semester Eligibility**- students must have passed all graduation requirement classes taken the previous school year or the fall semester of the current year for winter and spring eligibility. These are identified in the Ryle Course Description Guide as English (4), Mathematics (4), Science (3), Social Studies (3), Health (1/2), Physical Education (1/2), Visual/Performing Arts (1), and Career & Technical Education (1). Students have the opportunity to regain their eligibility during the summer or next semester by earning a passing grade for the year/semester through intervention with their teacher or an approved school intervention such as a credit recovery or summer school.

- **Weekly Eligibility**- students must maintain at minimum a 70% cumulative average of all classes. Furthermore, on a weekly basis, a student shall be passing (cumulatively for the credit period) at least five hours of instruction. Two failing grades would immediately make the student ineligible regardless of cumulative average. A student that is declared ineligible at grade check must remain ineligible one week until the next grade check.
- **Intervention and Support**- Afterschool ESS Tutoring is mandatory for all ineligible students until reinstated. Students with a cumulative average of all classes that is below a 74% (but greater than or equal to 70%) shall be placed on probation. Individual coaches and sponsors may determine the terms and requirements of the probationary status.

### **Attendance Requirement**

Student-athlete participants may not practice, attend, or compete in a game or activity unless they attend school on that particular day. The student-athlete must be in attendance for at least one-half of the school day. The ½ day absence must be approved by a school administrator.

## **V. Team Tryout Procedure**

Every person who tries out for an athletic team is guaranteed a three session minimum tryout opportunity. These sessions are to be 1-2 hours in length and must occur on separate days. These days may or may not be consecutive based on the needs of the coaches who are conducting the tryout. Failure to attend any of these three days on the part of the prospective student-athlete is acceptable grounds for that person to be denied the opportunity to participate. NOTE: Depending upon the needs of the program/coach, the required tryout period may be longer than three days, but three days are the minimum standard that cannot be violated. Every prospective student-athlete has the right to a three-session tryout period.

During the tryout period, each coach will provide an explanation of his/her expectations. It is the duty of the student to demonstrate to the coach that they can fulfill these expectations. If a student is not selected for a team, he/she may contact the coach personally for an explanation. Students who are not selected are encouraged to explore other Ryle athletic and activity opportunities and to also try out for the team in future years.

## **VI. Commitment**

**Each member of an athletic team MUST:**

- Commit to being present at all team activities, including tryouts, fundraisers, practices, meetings, and contests with other schools.

- Dedicate him/her to becoming an excellent team member and school citizen.
- Strive to continually improve as an athlete.
- Demonstrate pride in team performance and in himself/herself as members of a team.

### **Changing sports in mid-season**

- Ryle High School student-athletes who choose to quit a team after the first regular season contest will not be permitted to join another team or try-out until that particular sports season's level of play has concluded. This includes post-season play.

## **VII. Criteria for Athletic Honors and Awards**

To be considered for a team award presented by the coach, a student must:

- Display upstanding conduct and a spirit of fair play at all times.
- Display respect for school personnel, coaches, game officials and opponents.
- Not violate the Ryle School Drug and Alcohol Policy.
- Return all equipment at the end of the season.
- Meet criteria established by the coach.
- Finish the season as a member in good standing on his/her team, which includes being academically eligible.

Ryle High School encourages student-athletes to strive for excellence in their sport as well as their academic program. To acknowledge their achievements, letters and bars are awarded based on the following guidelines:

### **Letter policy**

Athletic letters are awarded for varsity sports only. The head coach determines the criteria for earning a letter. Student-athletes will receive only one letter for their high school career.

### **Bar policy**

To earn a bar, athletes must remain on the team all year. Athletes can earn one bar per sport for each year they play. The head coach determines what level of play is used to determine the bar that is awarded.

## **VIII. Sportsmanship**

Ryle High School expects all parties present at the contest to display the highest possible level of sportsmanship. Players, coaches, and spectators should treat opponents, game officials, and visiting spectators with respect at all times. Ryle High School reserves the right to warn, censure, place on probation, and suspend any player, fan, parent, or coach determined to acting in a manner contrary to the standards of good sportsmanship. Spectators who do not adhere to standards of good sportsmanship may be asked to leave the contest and/or be

prohibited from future contests. If you are not sure what details good sportsmanship, please follow this simple rule: Cheer for your own team, but do not belittle opposing teams and officials.

### *The KHSAA Sportsmanship Statement*

*The National High School Federation and The Kentucky High School Athletic Association require officials to enforce sportsmanship rules. High School athletics emphasize positive values. All of us have worked hard to create a sense of teamwork, respect, responsibility and perspective. We remind you that we expect good behavior and will quickly penalize misconduct. We encourage and appreciate your help. Let this competition reflect mutual respect among all participants and officials. Good luck and have a great contest!*

The following rules set forth by the KHSAA should be noted:

- A player ejected from a game will sit out a minimum of two contests.
- A player receiving multiple ejections in the same season will likely sit out additional games and may be subject to suspension for the entire season.

## **IX. School Athletic Equipment Policy**

Students are responsible for and expected to maintain proper care of all equipment issued to them. Students are responsible for payment of any lost, stolen, or damaged items. Each item not returned will be assessed at a rate comparable to the current replacement cost. All equipment is to be returned at the completion of the season. Student-athletes who do not return or pay for the lost/damaged equipment will not be allowed to participate in another sport. Student-athletes are not to wear uniforms, either practice or game, at any time other than those allowed by specific team regulations.

## **X. Athletic Training Room Policies**

Ryle High School is fortunate to have a highly qualified and skilled full-time trainer as a member of our staff. On school days, our trainer's hours begin at approximately 2 p.m. and last until the conclusion of the last practice or home game. During weekends and times when school is not in session, the trainer is to be on site only for contests and some scheduled practices.

The training program exists to help athletes receive the best possible care. At certain times, however, the trainer and training room facilities are extremely busy. Consequently, access to the training room and its services is limited to athletes who require care only. Training services are granted on a first come first serve basis and practice days. On game days, students will be treated in an order that will allow transportation and or game commitments to be met. In the event of an injury, the trainer is in immediate control. At away contests, if our trainer is not present, the host school's trainer is in charge. If no medical personnel are

present, members of the coaching staff are instructed to take charge of the situation and if warranted, call for emergency care. All sport-related injuries must be reported to the athletic trainer and a student cannot return to competition without clearance by the trainer, which may also include written permission from a physician.

## **XI. Transportation**

When Ryle High School provides transportation to and from athletic events, student-athletes are required to ride that transportation. The members of the athletic staff feel it is in the best interest of team unity that everyone travel together and share the game experience. As the guardian during these trips, the athletic staff must be able to account for the whereabouts of all the student-athletes and insure their safety. It is expected that our student-athletes will conduct themselves appropriately while on bus transportation. Any misconduct will result in a penalty including and up to dismissal if warranted. Student-athletes will be responsible for any damages to bus property and subsequent costs to repair or replace. In the event that there are extenuating personal circumstances, parents can take responsibility for the transportation of his/her son/daughter. A parent/guardian must present themselves to a member of the coaching staff informing the coach that his/her child is leaving with him/her. Student-athletes may then ride with their parent/guardian.

### **Private Transportation**

In some cases, properly insured private vehicles may be used to transport student-athletes. When using a privately owned vehicle, the following must apply:

- An auto insurance affidavit must be filled out by the driver, verifying required insurance coverage. The form must be notarized and on file with the head coach and District office.
- While a student may transport themselves with proper parental approval, under no circumstances may a student transport any other student in connection with a school sponsored event.

## **XII. Compliant Procedure**

Student-athletes are strongly encouraged to speak to their head coach privately about any issue or concern related to the sport. The following protocol must be followed for any other issues or concerns.

- Meet with the head coach to resolve the issue or concern.
- If the issue is not resolved after step 1, contact the Athletic Director to set up a meeting.
- If after step 2, further assistance is needed, contact the school principal.



### **XIII. KHSAA Dead Period**

The KHSAA mandated dead period is from June 25<sup>th</sup> thru July 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be no organized team activities of any kind during this period. Coaches are prohibited from any contact with current or prospective student-athletes.

### **XIV. Hazing Policy**

Hazing is not permitted in any form by any student organization or team at Larry A. Ryle High School. Individual students that are found guilty of hazing, organizing, enabling, or ignoring hazing will be subject to removal from the team/organization and may face disciplinary action as stipulated in the Student Code of Conduct and Student Handbook.

By definition, hazing is considered a form of harassment and is typically an activity where a high-status member, upperclassman, team leader, or older team member orders other members to engage in, or suggests that they engage in, activities that in some way humbles or degrades a newcomer who may lack the power to resist, because he or she wishes to gain admission to the group. Hazing can be non-criminal and could happen on or off campus. It is the school's policy to prohibit any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of a student.

Individuals found guilty of hazing, enabling, or ignoring hazing will be subject to school disciplinary action which may include removal from the team and other penalties as stipulated in the Boone County School's Student Code of Conduct. Student organizations which authorize or permit such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **XV. Policy on Use of Social Media by Student-Athletes**

#### **Purpose and Scope**

Larry A. Ryle High School understands that student-athletes engage in the use of social media. However, every student-athlete must remember that playing and competing for the school is a privilege. Student-athletes have the responsibility to portray themselves, their team and the school consistent with the mission of the Athletics Programs. Although student-athletes are not prohibited from using social media sites or digital platforms, student-athletes must understand the potential pitfalls and dangers associated with such outlets. This policy applies to all student-athletes in their use of social media.

#### **Policy**

The school prohibits its student-athletes from displaying inappropriate content or behavior on the internet, including on social media sites. The school, including coaches and administrators, may monitor the activity of student-athletes on social media.

Inappropriate or prohibited conduct may include, but is not limited to:

- Posting photos, videos, or comments showing the personal use or condoning the use of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs.
- Posting photos, videos, or comments that are obscene. This includes posting links to websites that contain such material.
- Using inappropriate or offensive language in comments, videos, or postings, such as threats of violence or derogatory comments pertaining to race or gender, other violations of school policy.
- Making derogatory comments about a player/coach from your or another team.
- Violations of this policy may jeopardize an individual's status as a student-athlete and may result in disciplinary action.

## **Larry A. Ryle High School Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy For Student Athletes & Activities**

Larry A. Ryle High School prohibits the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco by any student at school or school-sponsored events. Students possessing or using drugs, alcohol, or tobacco at school or school-sponsored events will be subject to disciplinary action as specified in the Boone County School's Code of Student Conduct. Students will also be subject to additional consequences (see below) relating to their participation in school sports or activities.

Knowing the inherent dangers of substance and alcohol use by teenagers, Larry A. Ryle High School prohibits the use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco by students voluntarily participating in a sport or organized school activity **at any time** during the current school year. Students possessing or using drugs, alcohol, or tobacco outside of the school hours will be subject to the consequences and responsibilities shown below. Coaches or activity sponsors may choose to have more stringent consequences in their individual team rules.

### **FIRST VIOLATION**

- Student and parent must conference with the athletic director and coach.
- Student will be ineligible to participate in their sport/activity for one-week (if applicable, will carry over to the next sport or activity).
- Student must meet a minimum of three times with a guidance counselor or substance abuse professional.

### **SECOND VIOLATION**

- Student and parent must conference with athletic director and coach.
- Student will be ineligible to participate in their sport/activity for two-weeks (if applicable, will carry over the next sport or activity).
- Student must meet a minimum of three times with a guidance counselor or substance abuse professional.

### **THIRD VIOLATION**

- Student and parent must conference with athletic director and coach.
- Student will be ineligible to participate in their sport/activity for a minimum of six-weeks (if applicable, will carry over the next sport or activity).
- Student must meet a minimum of three times with a guidance counselor or substance abuse professional.

Note that violations do not accumulate beyond one school year. Although rumors will not be the basis for restricting student participation, they will be addressed. If the athletic/activities director becomes aware that a student may be using or in the possession of any of the above-mentioned substances, they will meet with the student to discuss the situation. Larry A. Ryle High School will investigate the concern, conduct due process and follow its general and athletic policies. If no evidence is found to support the expressed concerns, the matter will be dropped. Suspected use is not an accusation of use.

**PARTICIPANT/PARENT PLEASE KEEP THIS PAGE**

**LARRY A. RYLE HIGH SCHOOL**

**SPORTS or ACTIVITIES:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARTICIPANT’S PLEDGE AND RESPONSIBILITY**

As a participant in Larry A. Ryle High School athletics/activities, I have read and understand Ryle’s Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy for Student Athletics and Activities. I understand that this pledge is for the entire school year, not just the current season. I also agree to abide by all rules regarding the use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Chemical dependence is a progressive but treatable disease, characterized by continued drinking and substance use in spite of recurring problems resulting from that use. Therefore, I accept and pledge to abide by the rules listed on the title page of this policy and others established by my coaches/sponsors.

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Student Signature & Date

**PARENT’S PLEDGE AND RESPONSIBILITY**

I/We have read and understand Larry A. Ryle’s Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy for Student Athletic and Activities. I/We understand that this pledge is for the entire school year, not just the current season. As a parent/guardian of a student participating in Larry A. Ryle High School athletics/activities, I/we will support our student’s agreement to abide by all the school and team rules because chemical dependency is a progressive but treatable disease, characterized by continued alcohol/tobacco/drug use in spite of recurring problems resulting from that use.

With these things in mind, I/we hereby request that my/our student be allowed to participate in athletics/activities at Larry A. Ryle High School during this current school year.

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Parents’ Signature & Date

**SUBMIT THIS PAGE TO COACH/SPONSOR**

# STUDENT-PARENT CONFIRMATION FORM

Please complete and return to the coach before the season begins.

I have received the Ryle High School Student Athletic Handbook for the 2019-2020 school year. I have read and understand the information in this booklet.

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Parent/Guardian Signature & Date

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Student-Athlete Signature & Date