

**THE ROEPER SCHOOL**

**Athletic  
Handbook**



Updated January 2020

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- Athletic Dept. Communications
- General Information
- Athletic Affiliations
- Liability and Insurance
- Transportation
- Team Guidelines and Information
- Sportsmanship
- Student/Parent/Coach Communications

## **HOW TO CONTACT US**

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## **ATHLETIC NEWS SOURCES**

### Information Sources

- VNN (Varsity News Network) - roeperathletics.org
- Roeper Website – [www.roeper.org](http://www.roeper.org)
- Divisional Newsletters – emailed weekly

*Look for Weekly athletic schedules on VNN and the Roeper Website*

### Game Changes/Additions/Cancellations:

- Updates are posted on the weekly athletic schedule
- “Alerts” are sent out via VNN for day of changes (parent sign up needed)
- Teams are notified via *Coach Group Me*

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### Purpose of Handbook

It happens on the court, the playing field or neighborhood streets. Students coming together for a single purpose—to develop themselves mentally and physically in pursuit of excellence in athletics. This handbook is intended to support that goal, to increase understanding of the commitment we expect of our athletes, and to encourage a spirit of good sportsmanship, teamwork and self-discipline, with the goal that our students grow into the kind of men and women the Roeper Athletic tradition has always been proud of.

### Goals

The importance of realizing the positive potential of each individual is central to the Roeper School philosophy. By offering a “no-cut policy,” any student may play given desire and commitment. Roeper students are afforded the opportunity to explore and appreciate their own physical potential within the context of learning about responsibility to oneself and to the team.

Guided by an experienced and dedicated coaching staff, Roeper athletes develop:

- Tactical and technical expertise in each sport
- Team building skills
- A positive mental attitude and strong sense of self
- Standards for commitment to oneself, teammates and team
- Respect for others and the value of practicing good sportsmanship
- A strong appreciation of the role physical activity plays in the maintenance of a healthy life style within a balanced education

## **AFFILIATIONS**

Roeper Upper School Athletics is a member of two affiliations—The Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (MIAC).

### MIAC

Since 1985, Roeper has been a member of the MIAC Conference, a group of public, private and parochial schools dedicated to the betterment of athletics.

Each member school competes for conference championships in soccer (girls/boys), basketball (girls/boys), track (girls/boys), volleyball, baseball, cross country, and golf. The 14 member schools are divided into two divisions (Red and Blue), with divisions based on the strength of each schools' program.

### Member Schools

Clarenceville Community Schools  
Charyl Stockwell Preparatory Academy

Huron Valley Lutheran  
Inter-City Baptist

Lutheran Northwest  
Lutheran Westland  
Macomb Christian  
Novi Christian Academy  
Oakland Christian

Parkway Christian  
Plymouth Christian  
Roeper  
Southfield Christian  
Whitmore Lake

### MHSAA

Member schools agree by formal resolution to abide by and enforce common rules for educational athletics as follows:

**PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:** High School athletes must have on file in the Athletic Office a physician's statement for the current school year (after April 15th) certifying that he/she is physically able to compete in athletic practices and contests. A student may not participate in any practice activities unless the school has received the physician's form.

**CURRENT ACADEMIC CREDIT RECORD:** The same minimum standard, passing 66% of full credit load potential for a full time student (50% for JRH/MS) must be checked periodically by the school before the end of the semester or trimester. Current academic credit checks must occur at least once in 10 weeks for a semester school and once in 7 weeks for a trimester school. Most schools check weekly, biweekly or at the time of their progress reports. When a student is not passing the minimum 66% of full credit load potential for a full time student (or a higher standard which the school may set) the student is not eligible for at least the next Monday through Sunday and so on, until the student is passing 66% of classes from the start of the semester or trimester through the most recent eligibility check.

**LIMITED TEAM MEMBERSHIP:** After practicing with or participating with high school teams, a student cannot participate in any outside athletic competition not sponsored by his or her school in the same sport during the same season. Exceptions include ice hockey and all individual sports, which apply the rule from the point of student's first participation in a contest or scrimmage rather than practice. Students in individual sports may participate in a maximum of two (2) non-school individual meets or contests during the school season while not representing their school.

**ALL-STAR COMPETITION:** Students shall not compete in any sport under MHSAA jurisdiction in all-star contests or national championships regardless of the method of selection. Participation in such a contest shall cause that student to become ineligible for a maximum period of one year of school enrollment.

**GENERAL ACADEMIC YEAR LIMITATIONS:** During the academic year, outside the competitive season the following rules apply:

- A coach may not coach more than four students.
- Use of school transportation, uniforms or funds is not permitted.
- There can be no mandatory meetings, competitions, conditioning activities or practices.

SPORT-SPECIFIC TRANSFER RULE: Unless a high school student meets one of the 15 stated exceptions – most exceptions involve a defined residential change – a student will not be eligible for the next season in a sport he or she participated in at his or her former high school (any level) during the most recent, previous school. A student would be eligible in sports he or she did not participate in during the previous or current school year. Ineligibility is for the next school year in the sport played previously. A student who transfers during a season will not be eligible that season in a sport played that season, and ineligible in that sport the next season.

## **LIABILITY & INSURANCE**

### Statement of Risk

There are many benefits to participation in athletics; however, there are also risks. While not common, the risks of injuries, ranging from minor to catastrophic, are impossible to eliminate. **By allowing your child to participate in athletics, you are acknowledging the fact that a serious injury could occur and that you authorize any necessary medical treatment in the case of injury or emergency.**

### Insurance and Responsibility for Injury

The Roeper School does not provide athletic participation insurance. In the event of an injury during ANY aspect of a student's participation in the Roeper Athletic Program, it is the responsibility of the parent(s) or their insurance company to pay for any and all medical expenses and the cost of attendant expenses, such as transportation or hospitalization.

The parents and/or guardian, by allowing participation of their child agrees to release and hold harmless The Roeper School, its agents, representatives and employees from all claims, damages or other liabilities for injuries to their son/daughter, which are not the result of gross negligence, intentional neglect, or willful or wanton conduct by the school, its agents, representatives or employees arising out of their child's participation in the athletic program.

### MHSAA – Catastrophic Accident Medical Insurance Policy

This policy pays up to \$500,000 for medical expenses left unpaid by other insurance after a deductible of \$25,000 per claim in paid medical expenses has been met.

Since the 2015-16 school year, the Michigan High School Athletic Association has provided athletic participants at each MHSAA member junior high/middle school and high school with additional insurance that is intended to pay accident medical expense benefits resulting from a suspected concussion. The injury must be sustained while the athlete is participating in an MHSAA covered activity. Policy limit is \$25,000 for each accident. Covered students, sports and situations follow the catastrophic Accident medical insurance.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Athletes must remain under the supervision of the Athletic Coaching staff at all times while at practices and games. Standards of good behavior must be maintained on a team trip and, for the safety of everyone, students are expected to follow the directives of the school bus driver and of the coaching staff at all times.

In general, students can expect to be transported by school bus to and from athletic contests by The Roeper School. However, because most practice and game locations are off-campus and the school has multiple team events during any given season, it is sometimes necessary for parents to provide or make arrangements for transportation by private vehicle to and from various events. The coach will inform parents if school supplied transportation will be provided, or if private arrangements must be made.

ANY PARENT WHO WANTS THEIR STUDENT TO TRAVEL VIA PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION WITH ANOTHER DRIVER MUST MAKE THOSE ARRANGEMENTS DIRECTLY. The Roeper School does not endorse non-parent drivers and strongly urges parents to discuss with their children what they deem acceptable transportation arrangements. If a student leaves directly from an athletic event or practice with their own parents or with another driver, they should inform the coach. If there are any questions or concerns about transportation for a certain event, please contact the Athletic Department in advance.

## **TEAM GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS**

**COMMITMENT TO THE PROGRAM:** Each athlete must have a strong commitment to the team. Being on a team requires teamwork, self-discipline, loyalty, tolerance, perseverance, citizenship and sportsmanship.

**PRACTICES/CONTESTS:** Players have a responsibility to coach(es) and teammates to make every effort to participate in practice sessions. Therefore, athletes shall be at ALL PRACTICE SESSIONS AND SCHEDULED ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES unless specifically excused by the coach prior to the session. If you are going to miss practice—for any reason—notify the coach as soon as possible; he/she will decide the outcome.

Players also have a responsibility to coach(es) and teammates to be at EVERY contest. Therefore, **ATHLETIC CONTESTS ARE NOT NEGOTIABLE.** Players are expected to manage their schedules accordingly. Missing games will hurt the athlete's development as well as the development of the team.

In addition, players and parents need to understand that the rigors of high school sports demand a high level of commitment that often include practice times during school breaks. These breaks include, but are not limited to, Holiday Break, February Break, and Spring Break. In addition, high school level teams often participate in Summer Camp experiences.

IF YOUR CHILD IS PLANNING ON GOING OUT FOR A HIGH SCHOOL SPORT, THEY SHOULD CHECK WITH THEIR COACH BEFORE PLANNING A VACATION OR SIGNING UP TO PARTICIPATE IN A SCHOOL SPONSORED TRIP.

EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS: Uniforms are issued for all sports Stage IV through Varsity. Players are responsible for the cost to replace any uniforms or equipment lost or damaged. Uniforms and equipment will be inventoried at the end of season. The business office will be notified of any items not returned or damaged, and will submit a bill to the school account of the responsible party at that time.

We ask your continued support in helping us keep our focus on providing our athletes with the best program possible.

STARTING DATES: Each sport has a date specified by the MHSAA when the team can begin practice for the season. The Athletic Department holds a preseason meeting to announce the start of each sport, prior to the beginning of each season. In general, Fall sports normally begin the 2nd week in August; Winter, the 2nd Monday in November; Spring, the 2nd Monday in March.

SUBSTANCE/ALCOHOL ABUSE: Participation on an athletic team is a privilege that carries with it responsibility to the team and to the school. Athletes must understand that alcohol, tobacco, tobacco or nicotine products, tobacco or nicotine-related devices, or electronic cigarettes and other drugs are harmful to the body, hinder athletic performance, and are illegal. As such, athletes are strictly prohibited from the use, possession, or transmittal of tobacco, tobacco products, tobacco-related devices, or electronic cigarettes\*, alcohol, or other drugs at any time. Any athlete who violates these rules may face serious consequences that could include dismissal from the team.

\* The term "electronic cigarettes" means any oral device that provides a vapor of liquid nicotine, e-liquids/juice and/or other substance and the use or inhalation of which simulates smoking, including e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, e-hookahs, vaping devices or devices under any other product name or description.

HAZING: The act of hazing is a crime in Michigan and will not be tolerated. As it relates to an athletic team, "hazing" means any action taken or situation created by one or more individuals, whether on or off the school's premises, that endangers the physical, emotional or psychological health or safety of another individual (regardless of their willingness to participate) and that is done for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, or maintaining membership with an athletic team. An activity labeled as a "tradition" can still be considered hazing. Such activities and situations include, but are not limited to, the following: physical brutality (such as whipping or beating); physical activity (such as sleep deprivation, periods of silence, personal servitude, or confinement in small spaces); activity involving consumption of food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, drug or other substance that subject the individual to unreasonable risk of harm); or an activity that requires the individual to perform a duty or task that involves the commission of a crime.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

EXPECTATIONS: Roper athletes are encouraged to understand and practice the values of leadership, citizenship and sportsmanship in every endeavor. Students, as athletes and spectators, can set a good example by adhering to the following guidelines:

- Be a gracious host and show respect for opponents.
- Respect the decisions made by contest officials.
- Accept results gracefully and act fairly and courteously at all times.
- Cheer positively and discourage peers who demonstrate conduct that is inconsistent with the highest ideals of sportsmanship and citizenship.
- Maintain self-control in all circumstances.

### Athletes Should:

- Play by the letter and spirit of the rules of their games(s).
- Realize that losing may be part of the game and learn to improve through the experience.
- Respect officials and realize the officials are there to insure that both teams receive fair treatment.
- Not allow outside activities to interfere with practice or contests.
- Exercise self-control.
- Live and compete honestly.
- Be reliable and fulfill commitments.
- Be loyal and put the team above personal needs.

### Behavior Not Permitted (by Fans, Parents or Athletes):

- Criticizing officials in any way.
- Profanity, personal comments, disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs or gestures.

## **STUDENT/PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATIONS**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to our players. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. In order to facilitate this, a parent meeting is held prior to the start of each of the sport seasons for a chance to receive important information about your child's program, as well as the opportunity to meet his/her coach(es). These meetings are mandatory per MHSAA rules for JV and Varsity players and highly recommended for all Middle School and Elementary players.

Throughout the year, parents, students and coaches can continue to work together by understanding the following:

### Communication you should expect from your child's coach:



- Expectations the coach has for your child, as well as all the player's on the squad.
- Locations and times of all practices and contests.
- Team requirements, i.e., special equipment, off-season conditioning.
- Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.
- **Email or GroupMe texting**

Communication coaches expect from players:

- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your children become involved in the programs at Roeper, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Issues you should discuss with your child's coach:

- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your child is not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. Certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as playing time, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with your child's coach:

- Amount of Playing time
- Team strategy
- Coaching strategies
- Other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, the procedure you should follow:

- Talk to the coach to request a time to meet to discuss your concerns.
- Do not attempt to confront a coach with your concerns, before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.
- If you have been unable to come to resolution, contact the Athletic Director, Ed Sack at 248-203-7406.