

Runge Independent School District Athletic Handbook



**BEST IS THE STANDARD
2023 – 2024**

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Introduction

This handbook is designed to provide a successful experience for student-athletes and the efficient operation of the Runge Independent School District Athletic Program. The athletic handbook is designed to co-exist with the Runge ISD Student Handbook and the Runge ISD Student Code of Conduct. Student-athletes in grades 6-12 are accountable and responsible for the rules and requirements in this handbook.

It should be noted that different sports might have additional rules and regulations beyond what is listed in this athletic handbook. These rules may be in addition to this athletic handbook, but they shall not alter the practices of this handbook.

Mission Statement

To prepare student-athletes for success on and off the field or court for the rest of their lives.

Vision

We want our athletes to graduate. We want them to live out our mission statement for our program. We want them to leave Runge ISD with the “tools for life.” We want them to have a great junior high and high school experience. We want to win championships. We want to execute all training sessions to our standard, which is BEST.

Philosophy

Athletics are an essential aspect of the learning process at Runge ISD. We believe that our athletic program is vital to our students' educational, physical, and social development. We are convinced that young people learn greatly from participating in interscholastic athletics. Lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, competition, and how to win and lose gracefully are integral to each team in our athletic program. Because of our strong commitment and proud emphasis on our athletic program, we must conduct it at all times in such a way as to justify it as an educational activity. We take great pride in, and never apologize for, our winning traditions. However, we never condone winning at all costs. We will always discourage any pressure that might neglect good sportsmanship and mental and physical health.

Responsibilities

To participate in athletics, you must be in the athletic period. The exception to this would be a scheduling conflict that would prevent them from being in the athletic period, and even then, the Athletic Director must approve it. Participation in athletics is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, the sport, the student body, the community, and oneself. Athletes have a unique role to play. Their peers, teachers, and the community are constantly monitoring them. Under this scrutiny, athletes must have the strength of character and be aware of their chosen roles. They must be sure they present to their peers, teachers, and the community the respect, sincerity, and honesty expected of a young lady or gentleman. This is all taught during the athletic period.

Specific Responsibilities Expected of RISD Athletes:

- Maintain a satisfactory citizenship and behavior record in the classroom and on campus by treating teachers, administrators, and fellow students with respect.
- Maintain passing grades in all classes.
- Exercise self-control and display positive actions during competition and other school activities.
- Have respect for the decisions of the officials during competition.
- Refrain from juvenile behavior in and around the school buildings.
- Be a law-abiding citizen both at school and away from school.
- Display sportsmanship and class when representing Runge ISD.
- Be committed to attending practices, contests, and meetings of any sport in which they participate.
- Abide by training rules established in this handbook and by their coach.
- Complete required UIL and school paperwork before participation.
- Use the techniques and skills acquired in this athletic program to become better husbands/wives, fathers/mothers, and productive community members.

Athletic Period

All students must attend the athletic period each day. To participate in athletics, you must be in the athletic period. Missed athletic periods will result in make-up assignments the next school day (excused and unexcused). Habitual absences from the athletic period could result in removal from athletics. Students enrolled in the athletic period at the beginning of the year must complete all required paperwork by _____, or they will be removed. The required paperwork is listed below:

- Athletic Pre-participation Physical Evaluation
- Medical History Form
- UIL Parent/Student Steroid Agreement
- UIL Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness
- UIL Concussion Acknowledgement
- Runge ISD Athletic Handbook
- Runge ISD Randomized Drug Testing Policy
- Emergency Care
- UIL Safety Training
- UIL Acknowledgement of Rules

Sports Offered

High School

- Football
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Powerlifting
- Golf
- Tennis
- Softball
- Baseball
- Track

Junior High

- Football
- Volleyball
- Basketball

- Powerlifting
- Golf
- Tennis
- Softball
- Baseball
- Track

Attendance

It is the obligation and responsibility of team members to attend scheduled practices, contests, and meetings regularly and on time. If an unavoidable conflict arises with a practice or contest, one of the coaches should be notified before the workout or game. Failure to make contact before the practice, contest, or meeting may result in the absence being considered unexcused.

Excused Absences: Excused absences will be made up. The make-up for an excused absence is not punishment but is administered so that the athlete can compensate for missed skill work and conditioning. Examples of excused absences are illness, a death in the family, school-sponsored activities, or emergencies.

Athletes should understand that when they have to miss, a coach must be notified before the absence. Athletes should understand that habitual absences, even though they may be excused, become detrimental to their ability to perform and their knowledge of team concepts. Habitual absences will result in disciplinary actions, including losing playing time and/or possible suspension or dismissal from the team.

Unexcused Absences: Athletes and parents should understand that failure to notify the coach before an absence will usually result in the absence being considered unexcused. Some extenuating situations will be considered an excused absence without prior notification. If there is a question about whether it is excused, the head coach and/or athletic director will decide. Unexcused absences will be made up, and disciplinary action will be taken.

Disciplinary action for unexcused absences will be as follows:

- 1st unexcused absence – make-up work plus playing time for the next scheduled contest (head coach's discretion).
- 2nd unexcused absence – make-up work plus playing time for the next scheduled contest(s) (head coach's discretion).
- 3rd unexcused absence – possible dismissal from the sport (head coach's discretion).

Unexcused absences will accumulate on a per-sport/season basis.

Injured athletes who cannot actively participate in the workout must follow all the attendance policies. Being injured is not an excuse to miss practice. The injured athlete will be expected to dress out and participate mentally. This is also when they may see the Athletic Trainer for

treatment. Some injuries may not allow the athlete to dress out or attend practice. If there is a question, the head coach will decide on the athlete dressing out or attending the workout.

Ineligible Athletes

Ineligible athletes shall attend and participate in workouts unless excused by the head coach. By attending and participating in workouts, the athlete may represent the team again at the end of the ineligible period.

ISS

An athlete placed in ISS is not allowed to participate in a game or contest during his/her placement, but he/she is allowed to practice after school. Failure to report to after-school workouts will result in an unexcused absence for the athlete unless the athlete gives prior notification that he/she is missing for a justifiable reason. It is the athlete's responsibility to find out if their team is working out after school and find out the time of the workout. Assignment to ISS will result in extra conditioning at the discretion of the supervising head coach.

Tardy

It is also very important for a team member to be on time and to remain at practice for its duration. Any team member who arrives late to practice or leaves early disrupts the team's improvement and game plan. Athletes who are tardy or leave practice early will be expected to do make-up work to make up for the missed time. Habitual tardiness will result in disciplinary action, including possible suspension or dismissal.

Academics

Athletes must realize that they are students first and athletes second. Athletes must plan their schedule to give sufficient time and energy to their studies to ensure acceptable grades. Athletes must pass all subjects during the six-week grading period to be eligible to play. Athletes failing a course will be ineligible for competition for three weeks. They may regain eligibility after three weeks if they pass all subjects. If not, they remain ineligible for another three weeks.

Athletes who habitually earn failing grades on grades and/or progress reports become a detriment to our athletic program. They neglect their responsibility and obligation to their team and the athletic program. They are also ignoring their primary purpose for attending school.

Athletes are encouraged to maintain all their grades throughout the school year. Failure to take care of his/her grades will result in the athlete being placed on academic probation or removed from athletic competition or the athletic program.

Athletes who fail one six-week grading period will receive a phone call home from the Head Coach. Athletes who fail two six-week grading periods will receive a parent, student, and Head Coach Conference. Athletes who fail three six-week grading periods will be removed from Athletics.

Weight Room Expectations

All students will undergo our strength and conditioning program at Runge ISD. At the beginning of each year, we will put our student-athletes through a weeklong safety training by the Runge ISD coaching staff. We will review proper lifting techniques, spotting, safe areas, and weight room rules.

Weight Room Rules:

- Authorized use only (Runge Athletes Only)
- Always lift with a spotter
- No personal equipment allowed (backpacks, cell phones, etc....)
- Absolutely no food, gum, or drinks of any kind (personal water allowed per coaches' discretion)
- No spitting
- Proper exercise attire required (shorts, shirts, athletic shoes)
- Do not set weights on padded equipment
- Do not drop weights (dumbbells, barbells, etc....)
- Rack your weights when finished
- While weights are being moved around or lifts are being conducted, no floor exercises are allowed.
- Always use the proper form
- Lift or Leave (no hanging out or horseplay)
- Take Care of Runge

Our junior high athletes will go through rigorous safety training before lifting. At that point, no weights will be added to the bar. We will cover each lift, proper form, proper spotting technique, and the dangers of each lift. Athletes will learn how to rotate safely throughout the weight room. We will use a command lifting style.

Our high school athletes will undergo similar training the first week of school or until we feel all athletes are comfortable performing each exercise with proper form and spotting. Our first concern is safety. Coaches will be present for all lifts and actively monitor the lifting stations. A coach will be the first one inside the weight room and the last one out.

Dress Code/Personal Appearance

Athletes are expected to dress neatly, be well groomed in school, and follow the school dress code at an activity representing the school. They should recognize that appearance, expression, and actions always influence people's opinions of athletes, the team, and the school. Athletes who habitually violate dress and grooming standards will be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension if the violations are not corrected.

Requirements:

- Follow the dress code guidelines in the student handbook. Exception: Athletic uniforms and equipment are acceptable during workouts and competitions.
- No jewelry is allowed during athletics, practices, games, or inside any athletic facility.
- Athletes shall follow additional requests of the coach for game day or team travel.

Conduct

Athletes will face disciplinary action, including possible suspension or expulsion, for demonstrating behavior detrimental to the team. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to:

- Inappropriate language
- Unwilling or lazy attitude, poor work ethic
- Disrespect to teaching, administrative, or coaching staff
- Disrespect to a game official
- Display of temper
- Not responsive to a coach's request
- Argumentative attitude
- Habitual disregard for rules
- Negative effect on the team morale
- Unsportsmanlike behavior
- Social Media/Unacceptable use of electronics (per the RISD Student Code of Conduct)

Social Media

Everything posted on social media is public information – any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online – even if security settings are listed as “private.” Information (including pictures, videos, and comments) may be accessible even after removal. Once a photo or comment on a social networking site has been posted, that photo or comment becomes the site's property and may be searchable even after being removed.

Similar to comments made in person, Runge ISD will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online, such as:

- Derogatory language or remarks that may harm other teammates, coaches, athletes, or representatives of other schools, including comments that may disrespect opponents.
- Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence; hazing; sexual harassment, full or partial nudity; inappropriate gestures; vandalism; stalking; underage drinking; selling, possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behaviors.
- Creating a severe danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious or emotional injury to another person.
- Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation – regardless of whether the violation was unintentional or intentional.

Violations of the Student Code of Conduct will also be handled by campus administration in conjunction with the RISD athletic discipline process.

Mandatory Drug Testing Program

The purpose of the Runge ISD Mandatory Drug Testing Program is to ensure the health and safety of our students and to serve as a deterrent to the use of drugs by those students.

Sanctions for a positive drug test:

First Offense

The Designated Official will arrange a conference between the student and parent/guardian to discuss the offense. The student testing positive through random drug testing will be suspended from all co-curricular and extracurricular activities and/or driving privileges for 30 school days. During the suspension period, the student may participate in practices but not in any co-curricular or extracurricular activities. If the student wishes to return to participation in school-sponsored co-curricular and extracurricular activities or have a parking permit reinstated after any applicable consequences, the student must complete eight hours of drug & alcohol counseling and be retested at the end of the period of suspension and have a negative test result; following that, the student shall be retested for the remainder of the school year so long as the student wishes to participate in school-sponsored co-curricular and extracurricular activities or park a vehicle on school property.

Second Offense

The Designated Official will arrange a conference between the student and parent/guardian to discuss the offense. The student testing positive through random drug testing will be suspended from all co-curricular and extracurricular activities and/or driving privileges for 45 school days. During the suspension period, the student may participate in practices but not in any co-curricular or extracurricular activities. If the student wishes to return to participation in school-sponsored co-curricular and extracurricular activities or have a parking permit reinstated after any applicable consequences, the student must complete twelve hours of drug & alcohol counseling and be retested at the end of the period of suspension and have a

negative test result; following that, the student shall be retested for the remainder of the school year so long as the student wishes to participate in school-sponsored co-curricular and extracurricular activities or park a vehicle on school property.

Third Offense

The Designated Official will arrange a conference between the student and parent/guardian to discuss the offense. The student testing positive through random drug testing will be suspended from all co-curricular and extracurricular activities and/or driving privileges for 365 calendar days from the date of notification. During the suspension period, the student may participate in practices but not in any co-curricular or extracurricular activities. If the student wishes to return to participation in school-sponsored co-curricular and extracurricular activities or have a parking permit reinstated after any applicable consequences, the student must complete sixteen hours of drug & alcohol counseling and be retested at the end of the period of suspension and have a negative test result; following that, the student shall be retested for the remainder of the school year so long as the student wishes to participate in school-sponsored co-curricular and extracurricular activities or park a vehicle on school property.

<https://nlearning.org/student/enroll/options/drugs>

Dismissal From a Sport

Occasionally, an athlete must be dismissed from a sport due to unacceptable behavior or violations of the athletic handbook. The following guidelines will be in effect for any athlete who is dismissed from sport or athletics:

- An athlete dismissed from a sport will be dismissed from the athletic program if the violation is deemed to justify such action.
- An athlete dismissed from a sport cannot start another sport until the first sport is completed.
- An athlete dismissed from a sport may regain participation privileges in that sport the following season by requesting to complete the Athletic Re-Entry Program.
- An athlete dismissed from a sport a second time (same sport or different sport) will not be allowed to use the Athletic Re-Entry Program to regain participation privilege in athletics.

Quitting a Sport

Quitting is an intolerable habit to acquire. Athletes who quit are “giving up: on themselves and those who depend on them. Commitment to be a Yellowjacket team member is one of the most valuable lessons learned in athletics. Concerns and frustrations can often be resolved with proper communication between the athlete and the coach.

- Any athlete wishing to quit a sport should notify the head coach.

- The athlete will not be allowed to quit until a meeting is set up with the parents and the head coach of the sport to discuss their child's desire to quit.
- If an athlete quits a sport after two weeks, he/she will not be allowed to start another sport until the first sport is completed unless both head coaches agree to allow the student-athlete to move on to another sport.
- If an athlete quits a sport, he/she may regain participation privileges in that sport the following season by requesting to complete the Athletic Re-Entry Program.
- An athlete quitting a sport and not wishing to participate in another sport will be removed from the athletic program and athletic class period. The schedule change will be made as soon as it is possible. Sometimes, this change may not be possible until the end of the semester.
- An athlete who quits a second time (same sport or different sport) will meet with the athletic director to discuss their future in RISD Athletics.
- An athlete who quits a sport and wishes to participate in another sport during the school year can do so by requesting to complete the Athletic Re-Entry Program.
- Quitting violations for Junior High athletes will be cumulative for their Junior High career.
- Quitting violations for high school athletes will be cumulative for their High School career.

Athletic Re-Entry Program

If an athlete has quit a sport and then decides that he/she would like to participate in that sport the following season or another sport during the school year, these steps need to be taken:

- The student needs to meet with the head coach of the sport where he/she would like to participate. During this meeting, the coach will review the expectations and guidelines for their sport. The student must agree with the expectations and guidelines set forth by the head coach of that sport and the athletic director.
- The student must also run twenty miles, which will be monitored by a RISD coach before they can participate in the next sport.
- If the student wants to play the sport that they quit the following season, they must run twenty miles, which will be monitored by a RISD coach the following school year.

DAEP Placement

If an athlete is placed in DAEP, he/she is put on probation and suspended from participating in the athletic program during their time in DAEP. He/she is not allowed to participate in contests or practices during the time that he/she is in DAEP. They are not allowed to be a part of the team in any manner during their time in DAEP.

Upon completion of the DAEP, the student must meet additional requirements before he/she is eligible to compete in athletic activities for RISD. Twenty hours of community service must be completed before participation in athletics can begin.

Letter Awards

The criteria for lettering in a sport are at the discretion of the head coach of that sport. This criterion should be shared with their team members at the beginning of each season. Letter jackets are ordered twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. The head coach will submit a list of the athletes who lettered in their sport and are eligible for a letter jacket to the athletic director. The date the letter jacket representative will be on campus will be made available to the school through daily announcements. The student is responsible for getting with the letter jacket representative while he/she is on campus.

Team Travel

When a team travels from Runge to compete in an athletic event, the time on the school bus is considered a team function, just as a contest or practice. Therefore, all of the team members of the team should travel to and from the contest together in a school vehicle. If a circumstance arises where an athlete needs to arrive or leave a contest separate from the team, arrangements need to be made with the coach responsible for his/her team 24 hours before the team leaves for the contest. The coach should have an Alternate Transportation Form from the parent/guardian. Alternate Transportation Forms or notes will not be accepted after the contest.

Equipment and Uniforms

Each team's equipment, supplies, and uniforms are purchased with taxpayer money. The Runge ISD Athletic Program is responsible for being good stewards of taxpayer money. Once equipment or uniforms are issued to an athlete, they must ensure that the equipment or uniform is returned to the coach at the appropriate time. Suppose it is not returned to the coach. In that case, the athlete's parent's financial responsibility and obligation is to replace the equipment or uniform at the replacement cost of the missing item.

Locker Rooms / Hazing

The locker room is a restricted area solely for the use of the members of an athletic team and the coaches responsible for that team. No one else is permitted inside the locker room. No horseplay of any kind is allowed in the locker room. No cell phone use of any kind is allowed while in the locker room.

With the possibility of an outbreak of staph infections, the locker room area must be kept clean and sanitized. The only items that should be kept in the locker are items issued to you for use in your sports. The locker should always be kept clean and free of unnecessary items.

Hazing is an act that subjects a student to potential harm and is affiliated with initiating a student organization or team. Hazing may involve an act committed against a student or a

situation in which a student is coerced into committing an act. These acts counter the education mission of athletics, regardless of the victim's willingness to participate. The list below provides examples of some types of hazing. This list is not meant to be comprehensive.

- Being yelled at, cursed, or sworn at;
- Being publicly harassed;
- Being expected to act as a personal servant to an older group member;
- Being coerced/forced to eat certain foods;
- Being thrown or forced to go into a pond, ocean, toilet, or other body of water;
- Being pressured to be tattooed, pierced, or shaven;
- Being coerced/forced to participate in drinking contests to the point of intoxication;
- Being forced/coerced to participate in any physical or illicit activity that caused the victim to pass out;
- Being forced/coerced to destroy or vandalize property;
- Being forced/coerced to inflict pain on yourself or others

Suppose a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying/hazing or has witnessed bullying/hazing of another student. In that case, the student or parent must a District employee as soon as possible to obtain assistance and intervention. The campus administration will investigate any allegations of misconduct.

Any bullying/hazing reported to a District employee must be reported to the athletic director and the principal within 24 hours from the time the employee receives notice of the complaint. Campus administrators will lead any formal investigation and seek assistance from staff.

UIL Eligibility (High School)

The University Interscholastic League (UIL) is the governing body for public school interscholastic athletics in Texas. The following guidelines are from the UIL Constitution and Contest Rule Manual.

First Six Weeks

UIL participants are eligible to participate in contests during the first six weeks of the school year, provided the following standards have been met:

- Students beginning in grade 9 and below must have been promoted from the previous grade before the beginning of the current school year.
- Students beginning their second year of high school must have earned five credits, which count toward Texas High School Graduation Requirements.
- Students beginning their third year of high school must have earned ten credits which count toward Texas High School Graduation Credits, or have earned a total of 5 credits which count toward Texas High School Graduation Requirements during the 12 months preceding the first day of the current school year.

- Students beginning their fourth year of high school either must have earned a total of 15 credits, which count toward Texas High School Graduation Credits, or have earned a total of 5 credits, which count toward Texas High School Graduation requirements during the 12 months preceding the first day of the current school year.

Exceptions:

- a) When a migrant student enrolls for the first time during a school year, all criteria cited above apply. All other students who enroll too late to earn a passing grade for a grading period are ineligible.
- b) High school students transferring from out-of-state may be eligible for the first six weeks of school if they meet the criteria above, or school officials can determine that they would have been eligible if they had remained in the out-of-state school from which they are transferring. Students not complying with these provisions may request a hardship appeal of their academic eligibility through the UIL state office. Local school boards may elect to adopt these standards to avoid having different standards for student participants (e.g., football, drill team, cheerleading, and all other extracurricular activities as defined by Commissioner of Education rule [19 TAC Chapter 76]).

After the First Six Weeks

A student who receives, at the end of any grading period (after the first six weeks of the school year), a grade below 70 in any class (other than an identified class eligible for exemption) or a student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) may not participate in extracurricular activities for three school weeks. An ineligible student may practice, however. The student regains eligibility after the seven-calendar waiting period has ended following a grading period or the three-school week evaluation period when the principal and teachers determine that he or she has earned a passing grade (70 or above) in all classes other than those that are exempted.

Additional UIL Rules and regulations may be found in the TEA-UIL Side by Side.

UIL Eligibility (Junior High)

Students are eligible so long as they have been in attendance and pass all classes by state law, the State Board of Education, and the Texas Education Agency rules.

8th-grade students who are over-age for 8th-grade athletics may participate on the freshman team at the high school in their attendance zone. A player on the 8th grade team may not have reached his/her fifteenth birthday on or before September 1 of the current school year.

A player on the 7th grade team may not have reached his/her fourteenth birthday on or before September 1 of the current school year. Only over-age 7th-grade students may compete on the 8th-grade team. In addition, a student must meet the following academic requirements:

- Beginning the 7th grade year, has been promoted from the 6th grade to the 7th grade.
- Beginning the 8th grade year, has been promoted from the 7th grade to the 8th grade.

Travel

Athletes who have the opportunity to travel in connection with the RISD athletic event are representatives of the district and must exhibit exemplary behavior at all times. Athletes who dress or act inappropriately while traveling to or from an RISD activity may be suspended or removed from the event, depending upon the nature.

All athletes participating in school-sponsored trips must ride in transportation the school provides to and from the event. An exception can be granted if the parents arrange for their student to ride with the parent 24 hours before the trip. Athletes are not allowed to drive themselves to out-of-district events.

Club / Select Teams

Participation in club sports and/or select teams is at the discretion of the athlete and his/her parents. This is an avenue in which athletes can further their skills, enhance their playing ability, and increase their exposure to college coaches.

Although these are avenues in which an athlete can increase their skill level, club sports and select team participation should never interfere with or replace athletic competition at the school level. An athlete should not miss practice, games, or meets in a school athletic event to participate in a club sport or select team. Absence from school athletic events for these reasons will result in disciplinary action at the head coach's discretion.

Insurance

Every student involved in athletics is covered by a supplemental insurance policy purchased by the district. A supplemental plan will cover the expenses that your primary insurance carrier does not cover. Again, school insurance is not the primary insurance.

Multi-Sport Athletes

We HIGHLY encourage our athletes to be involved in as many sports as possible. However, athletes involved in concurrent sports that overlap need to understand that missing practices, games, etc., could lead to losing playing time in another sport. We must field a team for each varsity competition. If our numbers are in jeopardy, the athletic director will decide what event the student-athlete will attend (this will keep us from forfeiting a contest). No student shall miss a UIL event for a non-UIL event. District games will outweigh a non-district game.

Communications / Parent Conferences

We will use the chain of command to deal with parent complaints. This chain of command will be:

- Head Coach of athletes participating in team
- Athletic Director

Things we will not discuss:

- Playing Time
- Team Strategy
- Play Calling
- Any situation that deals with other student-athletes

Things we will discuss:

- The mental and physical treatment of your child
- What your child needs to do to improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

If a parent has a concern to discuss with the coach, the following procedure should be followed:

- Email the coach to set up an appointment
- If the coach cannot be reached, email the athletic director and ask him to set up a meeting with the coach for you.
- Think about what you expect to accomplish during the meeting.
- Stick to discussing the facts as you understand them.
- Do not confront the coach before, during, or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution of the situation but often escalate it.

What should a parent do if the meeting with the coach didn't provide a satisfactory resolution?

- Email the athletic director to meet with the athletic director, coach, athlete, and parent.
- At this meeting, an appropriate next step can be determined.

Sportsmanship – Athletes/Parents/Spectators

Remember that you are at the contest to support and cheer for your team and to enjoy the skill and competition – not to intimidate or ridicule the team or its fans. Remember that school athletics are a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made.

Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people, just as you would praise a student working in the classroom. A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to assault others or be generally obnoxious verbally.

Learn the game's rules so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations occur.

Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.

Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.

Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.

Refrain from the use of any controlled substance (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during, and after the game on or near the site of the event (i.e., tailgating).

Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.

Be a positive role model at events through your actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.

Parents and spectators should be aware that the school can and should remove them from the premises and prohibit them from attending future contests due to undesirable behaviors. Game officials can ask that school administrators remove unruly fans from a contested facility. There is no such thing as a “right” to attend interscholastic athletics.

Interscholastic athletics are considered a “privilege;” the spectator who avails themselves of it is expected to conduct themselves accordingly. Remember that you are a guest of the school and that while winning is certainly an admirable goal, it is hollow if it comes at the expense of morals, ethics, and just plain common sense. The school is responsible for the behavior of its spectators. The school district can and will be punished for patrons' actions violating UIL standards and rules.

Assault On a Sports Official (Athlete, Coach, Spectator)

RISD has zero tolerance for the assault of a sports official by a player, coach, or spectator. School administration will conduct an investigation that could lead to a permanent ban.

Acknowledgement of Receipt Form

This acknowledges receipt of the Runge Independent School District Athletic Handbook. The handbook should be kept for reference throughout the year for both parents and students.

In accepting this Athletic Handbook, I accept the privileges and responsibilities as a participant in the Runge ISD Athletic Program. I promise to uphold the rules and guidelines outlined in this document.

Student Printed Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____