

ELEMENTARY ATHLETICS

- I. **PURPOSE.** Raleigh County Schools provides opportunities for elementary athletics for students in grades 3-5 in both public and private schools. These activities are closely coordinated with the general instructional programs. All schools participating in the Elementary Athletics program provided by Raleigh County Schools must adhere to this policy.

II. **STUDENTS.**

- A. Eligibility. Students are eligible to participate in August provided they meet the following school requirements:

1. Enrollment.

- (a) All students competing in elementary athletics must be enrolled full-time (grades 3-5) in the school for which they compete.
- (b) Eligible participants must be **no more than twelve years of age before August 1.**
- (c) A student may have the privilege to participate in elementary athletics for three consecutive years after entering the third grade. The number of years of athletic eligibility of a student is determined by the year of enrollment and attendance not by years of participation. In no event may a student be allowed to participate in elementary athletics for more than three years.
- (d) In order to be eligible to participate in elementary athletics for the given school year, all students must be enrolled prior to team selection.

2. Scholastic Standing. Maintain a 2.0 average that is to be determined by the prior semester grading period.

- (a) A = 4 Points
B = 3 Points
C = 2 Points
D = 1 Points
F = 0 Points

- (b) Non-Graded: 50% of non-graded subjects must have a satisfactory mark.

- (c) Athletes must have and maintain a "C" or higher average in conduct.

3. Physical. All students must submit a sports physical to the coach before tryouts. The physical **MUST** document that the student is physically fit to play sports. The physical must be completed after June 30.

III. **TEAM PARTICIPANTS.**

- A. Teams shall consist of the exact number of players authorized for that sport unless the documented number of students trying out is less than that number.
- B. An Eligibility Form listing no more than **12 Basketball** players shall be submitted to the Elementary Coordinator of Athletics prior to the first contest.

- C. An Eligibility Form listing no more than **14 Volleyball** players shall be submitted to the Elementary Coordinator of Athletics prior to the first contest.
- D. An Eligibility Form listing no more than **12 Cheerleaders**, including the mascot, shall be submitted to the Elementary Coordinator of Athletics prior to the first contest.
- E. Athletes may not practice or play in a game if they are not at school at least half of the school day.
- F. Athletes must be in compliance with RCBOE Policy D.3.1: Attendance Policy during the athletic season.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL.

- A. The principal of each school is responsible for all matters pertaining to the interscholastic athletic relations of his/her school.
- B. A member of the faculty or representative properly authorized by the principal and approved by the Raleigh County Board of Education must accompany each team to all games.
- C. The principal must certify in writing the eligibility of all contestants in accordance with Raleigh County Board of Education policy.
- D. The principal must evaluate all coaches as per West Virginia Board of Education Policy 5310.

V. COACHING REQUIREMENTS.

- A. All coaching positions are filled in accordance with district and state hiring guidelines. Only persons who have completed the annual Raleigh County Coaching Clinic, been recommended by the principal, and been approved by the Raleigh County Board of Education prior to team tryouts shall be permitted to coach. Failure to complete the annual Raleigh County Coaching Clinic will result in ineligibility to coach.
- B. While private school coaches are not subject to the hiring practices of the Raleigh County Board of Education, they must attend the annual Raleigh County Coaching Clinic for the applicable private school team to participate in the Elementary Athletics program set forth in this policy. Failure to complete the annual Raleigh County Coaching Clinic will result in ineligibility to coach.
- C. Coaching shall be interpreted to mean instruction or direction of members of athletic teams, individually or as a group, for the purpose of developing ability or skill to perform in athletic contests.
- D. No more than two (2) certified coaches, excluding the principal, may be on the bench at a time.
- E. Coaches shall conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times.
- F. Basketball, cheerleading, and volleyball coaches will be issued equivalent disciplinary action for violations of bylaws and/or policy.
- G. A coach, assistant coach, and/or principal approved by the Raleigh County Board of Education must be present at all games and practices.

VI. REGULAR SEASON AND GAME RULES.

- A. All teams are chosen during the school year of which the participant will be representing the school.
- B. Tryouts/practice may begin on the first day of school for students.
- C. All participants must complete five (5) days of practice before participating in the first contest.
- D. Each school shall play a minimum of ten (10) games and a maximum of twelve (12) games per team (basketball, cheer, volleyball) during the regular season. Only the first ten (10) games played during the regular season will count towards county tournament seeding.
- E. Use of ineligible players will result in forfeiture of game.
- F. Upon a school's request, the Elementary Coordinator of Athletics will schedule referees.

VII. CHEERLEADING.

- A. Pyramids will not exceed more than two levels. This shall include standing and kneeling formations.
- B. Cheerleading - no flips will be done off – pyramid, tabletop, or shoulder stand, where contact is broken with fellow teammates.
- C. Cheerleaders - no pitches or knee drops, or full presses (extensions) permitted.
- D. Cheerleaders; no use of special gymnastic equipment.

VIII. VOLLEYBALL RULES.

- A. Volleyball will consist of three (3) games to twenty-one (21) during the regular season.
- B. Volleyball tournament play will be a best of three (3) set.
- C. Use of ineligible players will result in forfeiture of game.

IX. BASKETBALL RULES.

- A. There will not be a Junior Varsity team/games.
- B. Use of ineligible players will result in forfeiture of game.
- C. Basketball games must be played on courts, which have goals of ten (10) feet in height.
- D. A team that possesses a fifteen (15) point or greater lead shall not press the other team. A press defense may be resumed if the lead drops to fewer than fifteen (15) points.
- E. Personnel violations (e.g., incorrect number of players, managers on bench) will result in a technical foul enforced at the start of the game. Refusal to remove excess personnel will result in forfeiture of the game.

X. GAME SCHEDULING.

A. Regular Season games will be scheduled as follows:

5:30 p.m.	Gate Opens for General Admission
5:45 p.m.	Warm-up Begins
6:00 p.m.	Games Begin

B. Future participation in regular season sports and county tournament may be forfeited if violation of rules/policy occur.

XI. TOURNAMENT PLAY.

A. Basketball.

1. The Elementary Coordinator of Athletics will schedule a meeting for tournament seeding purposes.
2. The principal or designee of all schools participating must attend the tournament meeting.
3. The number of rounds for the tournament will be determined by the Elementary Coordinator of Athletics. This number will be determined based on the number of teams eligible for participation.
4. The tournament games will be played at a neutral site to be determined by the Elementary Coordinator of Athletics.
5. A team that possesses a fifteen (15) point or greater lead shall not press the other team. A press defense may be resumed if the lead drops to fewer than fifteen (15) points.
6. A running clock shall be employed if a team leads its opponent by twenty (20) points or more. The clock will only stop for timeouts. If the point span of the lead drops to below twenty (20) points, the running clock will be discontinued.
7. The participating schools' principals and Elementary Coordinator of Athletics will determine the number of staff required for supervision. All schools participating in the final 8 will provide staff for supervision and working gate/admission. Names of staff shall be submitted to the Elementary Coordinator of Athletics prior to the tournament.
8. The Elementary Coordinator of Athletics will be responsible for getting the referees, setting up the venues, and organizing the tournament.

B. Funding/Gate Receipt (Basketball).

1. The Elementary Principal Association will be responsible for gate receipts, paying expenses and disbursing remaining funds of the basketball tournament.
2. All expenses for the games (officials, custodial, etc.) will be paid from gate receipts.

3. Those receipts shall be distributed equally after expenses for officials, custodians and other expenses incurred have been paid. This distribution will be based on the number of teams participating.

C. Volleyball.

1. The Elementary Coordinator of Athletics will schedule a meeting for tournament seeding purposes.
2. The principal or designee of each school participating must attend the tournament meeting.
3. The Elementary Coordinator of Athletics will determine the number of rounds for the tournament based on teams eligible for participation.
4. The Elementary Coordinator of Athletics will determine the site for the Volleyball tournament.

D. Funding/Gate Receipt (Volleyball).

1. The Elementary Principal Association will be responsible for gate receipts, paying expenses and disbursing remaining funds of the volleyball tournament.
2. The remaining balance of the gate receipts shall be distributed equally after expenses for officials, custodians and other expenses incurred have been paid.
3. Distribution will be based on the number of teams participating.

E. Awards.

1. Funding for tournament awards will be included in the expenses of the Elementary Principal Association. The Elementary Coordinator of Athletics will be responsible for the purchasing and distribution of all awards provided at each athletic tournament.
2. Awards to be presented at the tournament are as follows:
 - (a) Team Trophies will be provided to the teams 1st through 3rd place.
 - (b) Athletes selected for each of the All-Tournament Teams (basketball, cheer, volleyball) will receive individual trophies. The team will consist of two players from each team participating in the tournament, with the 1st and 2nd place teams having three members.

XII. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this policy or application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this policy.

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