



Student-Athlete Handbook 2026 - 2027

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Table of Contents

RTCPS Athletics Mission Statement	3
Program Goals.....	3
Governing Body.....	3
Athletic Offerings.....	4
Team Uniforms.....	4
Athletic Event Locations.....	5
Competition.....	5
Loyalty to High School Team.....	6
MIAA Loyalty to the High School Team: Bona Fide Team Members.....	6
Requirements for Participation.....	6
Student, Behavior, Attendance and Academics	7
Sport Parent & Spectator Expectations of Behavior.....	8
Sportsmanship.....	9
Expulsion from a Game.....	9
Transportation Policy.....	9
Chemical Health Violations.....	10
Concussions.....	12
Hazing.....	12
Conflict Resolution.....	13

RISING TIDE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL - ATHLETICS MISSION STATEMENT

The athletic program at the Rising Tide Charter Public School focuses on the best interests of the student in accordance with the principles of the greater Rising Tide community. Through an emphasis on commitment, skill development, fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship, we offer a safe and positive environment in which students are guided toward personal growth. While competition is a valuable part of athletics, coaches highlight individual & team effort and improvement as benchmarks rather than winning or losing.

PROGRAM GOALS

Rising Tide Athletics has the following goals for all athletes:

- Develop a healthy outlook on competition: strive to win but do not define oneself by the outcome.
- Develop skills specific to the sport.
- Develop tactical skills and strategy relating to the sport.
- Improve physical conditioning.
- Develop confidence.
- Develop respect for coaches, officials, teammates and opponents.
- Increase capacity for responsibility and dedication.
- Develop effective communication skills, both verbal and non-verbal.
- Learn the rules of the sport.
- Learn to work as a team member in striving to meet common goals.
- Develop leadership skills.

[National Federation of High School - The Case for High School Activities](#)

GOVERNING BODY

Rising Tide is a member of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA). The Mission of the MIAA is to “serve member schools and the maximum number of their students by providing leadership and support for the conduct of interscholastic athletics which will enrich the educational experiences of all participants.”

The MIAA sets minimum standards which all member schools must adhere to, but Rising Tide frequently chooses to enforce more stringent guidelines.

MIAA Handbook link: [MIAA Handbook](#)

ATHLETIC OFFERINGS

Fall Sports

- Boys and Girls Soccer
- Boys and Girls Cross Country
- Girls Volleyball
- Co-ed Fall Golf

Winter Sports:

- Boys and Girls Basketball
- Boys and Girls Indoor Track (possibly new for '26-27)
- Dance (club sport)

Spring Sports

- Boys Baseball
- Girls Softball
- Boys and Girls Tennis

All athletic offerings and levels (Varsity, JV, Middle School) are contingent upon the number of participants.

TEAM UNIFORMS

All uniforms are the property of the Rising Tide. Each team member will receive a uniform to use for the season. If the uniform is not returned at the end of the season the student's parents/guardians will be charged for the replacement cost.

ATHLETIC EVENT LOCATIONS

Soccer:

Rising Tide Field at 59 Armstrong Rd., Plymouth

Forges Field, Lot 5 Forges Field (off Jordan Road), Plymouth

Volleyball:

Village Sports Club in the Pine Hills of Plymouth, 30 Golf Drive, Plymouth

Cross Country:

Rising Tide at 59 Armstrong Rd., Plymouth

Morton Park at the intersection of Morton Park Rd. and Little Pond Rd.

Golf:

Village Links Golf Course at 265 South Meadow Rd. Plymouth

Crosswinds Golf Club at 424 Long Pond Rd. Plymouth

Squirrel Run Golf Course at 32 Elderberry Dr. Plymouth

Southers Marsh Golf Course at 30 Southers Marsh Lane (off Federal Furnace), Plymouth

Basketball:

Massachusetts Maritime Academy, 101 Academy Drive, Buzzards Bay

Village Sports Club in the Pine Hills of Plymouth, 30 Golf Drive, Plymouth

The Wolves Den at 340 Oak St., Pembroke

Tennis:

Eel River Beach Club at Warren Ave., Plymouth

Stephens Field at Union Street, Plymouth

Baseball/Softball:

4 For 4 in the Industrial Park - 100 Armstrong Rd. - Rear of building

Siever Field at 14 Liberty St., Plymouth

Stephens Field at Union Street, Plymouth

COMPETITION

Rising Tide is a member of the Cape and Islands athletic league, which is made up of 13 area schools. The other member schools are Cape Cod Academy, Dennis-Yarmouth High School, Falmouth Academy, Falmouth High School, Martha's Vineyard, Monomoy High School, Nantucket High School, Nauset High School, Sandwich High School, Sturgis East Charter School, Sturgis West Charter School, and St. John Paul II. The league is divided into two divisions varying per sport: The Atlantic Division and the Lighthouse Division. We also compete against other local MIAA member schools that are not in our league, which are considered to be "non-league" opponents.

Our Middle School teams are part of the Cape Cod Super Seven League, which is made up of 7 area schools. The other member schools are Cape Cod Academy (Osterville), Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School (Harwich), Falmouth Academy, Saint Pius X (Yarmouth), Trinity Christian Academy (Barnstable) & Saint John Paul II (Hyannis).

LOYALTY TO HIGH SCHOOL TEAM

Students may participate on a town or club team simultaneously with a Rising Tide team, but they are expected to commit to and attend all Rising Tide team practices, games, and events. The athletic priority for the season needs to be fulfilling their commitment to their Rising Tide teammates and coach. This policy is explained in the MIAA handbook under MIAA Rule 45.

MIAA LOYALTY TO THE HIGH SCHOOL TEAM: BONA FIDE TEAM MEMBERS

Rule 45: Loyalty to the High School Team: Bona Fide Team Members

A bona fide member of the school team is a student who is consistently present for, and actively participates in, all high school team sessions (e.g., practices, tryouts, competitions). Bona fide members of a school team are precluded from missing a high school practice or competition in order to participate in a non-school athletic activity/event in any sport recognized by the MIAA. Students cannot be given special treatment (late arrival, early dismissal, etc.) for non-school athletic programs.

45.1 A student-athlete must be a team member for a minimum of 50% of the regular season schedule for that sport to participate in any MIAA Tournament competition. • A team member is defined as any student-athlete who attends practices or games for their sport team - e.g., Freshman basketball player moved to JV and then Varsity.

45.2 Bona Fide waiver requests for Saturday and Sunday practices only do not need submission to the MIAA rather approval determined by the High School Principal or principal's designee.

45.3 MIAA Bona Fide waivers are only allowed during the pre-season or regular season. Bona Fide Team Member Waivers (for missing any practice or game) are not permitted during MIAA post-season play. The postseason officially begins the day after the cut-off date.

45.4 Unattached athletes are not eligible for tournament participation (see Rule 30).

PENALTIES:

First Offense: Student-athlete is suspended for one (1) contest and shall not participate in the next scheduled interscholastic competition that is part of their regular season schedule or in tournament play.

Second Offense: Student-athlete is suspended for an additional 25% of the season and is ineligible for tournament play immediately upon confirmation of the violation.

Penalty Carry Over: An unserved portion of the penalty for a violation toward the end of a season will carry over to the very next high school season in which the student is a legitimate participant. For example, a soccer player who violates the rule by missing the last high school match (regular season or tournament) would serve the required suspension (1 game if first offense) at the start of basketball season, if that student is a legitimate basketball participant.

Bona Fide Team Rule violations cannot be appealed.

45.4 An ineligible student cannot be in uniform at an event. Attendance at the event will be determined by their High School Principal.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

- **Forms, Health, and Athletic Fees:** All students must complete the required registration on Arbiter (FamilyID). The student's status will be reviewed once the registration is complete and submitted. Below are what is required prior to tryouts.
 - **Submitted Arbiter (FamilyID) registration:**
 - **Nurse Physical:** All students must have a physical form on file or submitted into FamilyID dated within the past 13 months. If the season of participation happens upon the 13th month deadline, the student will be considered ineligible until an updated physical is completed and the proper form is filed with the school Nurse and the Athletic Director.
 - **Note:** Written doctor medical clearance notes do not take the place of an annual physical.

- **Athletic Fee:** Varsity Fee - \$200. Sub-varsity Fee - \$175. Rising Tide will never hold back any of our student-athletes due to financial reasons. It has been our practice that if a student is receiving free/reduced lunch, he/she will receive a discounted fee. For the 2025-2026 school year, students who qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch qualify for a fee reduction subsidized by the school on all school fees. Any student fee for those who qualify for Reduced Lunch will be 50% of the standard fee. Any student fee for those who qualify for Free Lunch will be free. We will need documentation of the free/reduced program for this discount to be created. If there is an individual issue and you are unable to afford this user fee please contact the Athletic Director.

STUDENT, BEHAVIOR, ATTENDANCE, AND ACADEMICS

Community Standards of Behavior

In school and in athletic team activities, students are expected to follow the school's Community Standards of Behavior as outlined in the Student Handbook.

If a student is suspended in or out of school, the student will not be allowed to participate in any athletic practices or games during the duration of the out-of-school suspension. Any multiple-day out-of-school suspension that carries over the weekend will also disqualify the student from participating in athletic activities over the weekend.

During a season, any concerns about a student's behavior raised by the Coach, Athletic Director, Principal, Assistant Principal, Dean of Community, Advisor, or Teachers will be addressed by the Athletic Director, the Principal, the Advisor, and the Coach, and may result in a student being temporarily or permanently suspended from all team activities.

Attendance

Students must attend a portion of all classes in order to participate in athletic practices or games. Exceptions can be made in cases of an excused absence, family emergency, or early dismissal.

If a student misses the practice before an athletic event it is at the discretion of the head coach as to if the student may participate in that event.

Tryouts & Participation

Tryouts are to be conducted in a fair manner based on pre-season descriptions

of required skills and knowledge. Each athlete should be given adequate time to show his/her ability.

An unlimited participation policy will be used whenever possible. There are factors, however, which necessitate the size of the squad to be limited in order to maintain a high level of safety, coaching, playing time and practice time. The following will be considered reasons to limit the size of the squad:

Available time and facility (e.g. most indoor sports)

An exceptionally large number of students trying out for a sport
(e.g. 60 candidates for basketball)

Safety factors (e.g. ratio of students to coaches)

Whenever possible, no cuts will be made until after three tryout sessions. The approximate size of the squad will be announced at the first tryout. A senior, who has participated in the same sport for three years, at any level, normally will be continued as a team member if space permits. The coach, however, makes the final decision.

Playing Time:

Perhaps the most emotional part of a student athlete's being involved in interscholastic athletics centers around playing time. The student athlete becomes involved in interscholastic athletics for the first time and attendance, attitude, commitment, and, of course, athletic skill enters into the decision about playing time.

There are many decisions made on a regular basis by the Rising Tide Charter Public School coaching staff. It is the Coach's responsibility to decide which athletes should start a contest, who should play what position, and how long each athlete should play. These coaching decisions, often difficult to make, are made by the coaching staff and are approached seriously after having observed the athlete in practice sessions, game-like situations, scrimmages, and games.

*Payment of the user fee does not guarantee playing time.

Academic Eligibility

A student must meet the minimum academic expectations to try-out for, or join, a team. If a student has failed two or more credited courses, in any subject, in the term previous to the season, the student is ineligible to try-out for or join a team, or participate in any team activities. If a student has earned a term grade point average (GPA) below 1.7 in the term previous to the season, the student is ineligible to try-out for or join a team, or participate in any team activities.

For the Fall season, if a student has failed two or more credited courses, in any subject, in the fourth term of the previous year, or if a student has failed two or more credited courses for the previous year, the student is ineligible to try-out for or join a team, or participate in any Fall team activities. If a student has earned a term GPA below 1.7 in the fourth term of the previous year, the student is ineligible to try-out for or join a team, or participate in any Fall team activities.

If, during the season, a student has received a failing term grade in two or more credited courses, in any subject, the student will be dismissed from all team activities immediately upon the date the term report card is issued. If, during the season, a student has earned a term GPA below 1.7, the student will be dismissed from all team activities immediately upon the date the term report card is issued.

Academic Waiver: If a student receives a GPA between 1.5 and 1.7 they can apply for an athletic waiver through the athletic department. The student will then meet with the athletic director and the Principal to discuss the waiver request. The decision of the athletic director and the Principal is final and cannot be appealed.

During a season, any concerns about a student's academic progress raised by teachers, the student's Advisor, the Assistant Principal, the Dean of Community, or the Principal will be addressed by the Athletic Director, the Principal, the Advisor, and the Coach, and may result in a student being temporarily suspended from all team activities.

SPORT PARENT & SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS of BEHAVIOR

The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship.

As a parent and/or spectator:

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
4. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.
5. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
6. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes.
7. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
8. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
9. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

1. Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or administration.
2. Written warning by administration.
3. Parental game suspension with written documentation of the incident kept on file.
4. Parental season suspension

SPORTSMANSHIP

Members of Rising Tide athletic teams must strive to demonstrate the highest standards of sportsmanship at all times. Our athletes represent both themselves as individuals as well as their team and the school as a whole. Winning with dignity, losing with grace, supporting teammates and abiding by the rules of their sport are all necessary components of sportsmanship. In every contest there is a winning team and a losing team; the collective outcome is out of the hands of any one individual. However, each member of a Rising Tide team has control over his/her personal

conduct and should be an exemplary model of sportsmanship. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

Listed below are some fundamental sportsmanship guidelines:

- Respect for opponents and their facilities: When traveling to an away game the home team will be treated as gracious hosts; the team should leave the grounds and facilities cleaner than when they found them. For our home games visitors are important guests to be welcomed and treated with dignity and respect.
- Respect for officials: The authority of an official should not be questioned. If a student feels there is an issue that the official needs to be made aware of, the student should tell the coach and the coach will decide how best to proceed.
- Self-Control: Students should keep the game in perspective and do not let their desire to win lead to inappropriate actions towards the opposition, teammates, coaches, officials, or spectators.
- Appreciation of the success of others: Students should recognize the skillful play of teammates and opponents and acknowledge them both publicly.

If interscholastic athletics are to be justified as school activities, then these values must be the priorities of every program. Building self-esteem and self-confidence is an ongoing process where RT coaches positively challenge and develop players, both technically and emotionally. Coaches are encouraged to make praise personal, constructive criticism impersonal. As members of the RT Athletic program, students and coaches are expected to demonstrate proper respect for each other, teammates, other teams and coaches, officials, spectators, and equipment.

EXPULSION FROM A GAME

If a student is expelled from an athletic contest s/he will not be allowed to participate in the following game. If an athlete is expelled from a contest twice in the same season they will be disqualified from further participation in that sport for the remainder of the season.

Any student that is expelled from a game must also complete the National Federation of High Schools Sportsmanship Class before being permitted to play interscholastically.

- [NFHS Sportsmanship CLASS LINK](#)

COMMUNICATION

- All Coaches and students should have at least two means to communicate with each other.
- Coaches should attempt to use school email to correspond with students whenever possible.
- Coaches are given home numbers of students and cell numbers from at least one parent/guardian from the Athletic Department office.
- Phone calls between Coaches and student athletes and/or their parents should occur during reasonable hours unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- If a student becomes sick or injured during a practice or competition, the Coach or other member of the athletic staff will contact the parent or guardian immediately.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Transportation to Away Games

Students will be transported to away games via van or bus.

When students return to Rising Tide by bus following athletic contests they will be dropped off at Rising Tide at 59 Armstrong Rd. Students should wait for their rides on the side of the school at the main student entrance and office entrance.

When a bus has been rented for an away game all team members must ride on it from the school to the game. A Rising Tide coach & or designated assistant will be on the bus for all trips. Students are expected to meet appropriate standards of behavior on the bus and failure to do so may result in disciplinary action from the coach and/or school.

RETURNING FROM AWAY GAMES WITHOUT THE TEAM

The period of time after the conclusion of a game can be a hectic one, and written notification is the only way for a coach to effectively track the location of all players not on the bus or in the carpool. Students may go home with a parent after the game as long as the parent presents themselves to the coach before leaving the game location with their child.

If a student is getting a ride home with the parent of a friend, s/he must also provide a note to the coach from their parent 24 hours before the game.

CHEMICAL HEALTH VIOLATIONS

[MIAA brochure on Chemical Health Violations](#)

Please refer to the rule 62 of the MIAA handbook for more information on the chemical health rule.

CONCUSSIONS

[Massachusetts Concussion Requirements](#)

Please note the law also requires that athletes and their parents/guardians notify their school about any history of prior head injuries before the start of each season. This is done through the completion and submission of a *Head Injury/Concussion* section of registration.

Any student-athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the practice or competition and must not return to practice or competition that day. Refer to Massachusetts General Law 105 CMR 201.000 for mandated concussion management protocols.

HAZING

There is no place in the Rising Tide community for hazing. Athletics is no exception. Please see below for the Massachusetts laws pertaining to hazing. We encourage parents to contact the school immediately if they are concerned that their son or daughter has been involved in a hazing incident. The Coach, Athletic Director, or Head of School are all appropriate school members to contact in this scenario.

Massachusetts Hazing Laws:

Chapter 269: Section 17. Hazing; organizing or participating; hazing defined

Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing, as defined herein, shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or both such fine and imprisonment.

The term “hazing” as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.

Chapter 269: Section 18. Failure to report hazing

Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

PROCESS FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Coaches make decisions based on what they feel is best for the team and for all of the individual athletes involved, yet the season may not always unfold in a manner envisioned by a particular student and/or parent. If there are concerns, it is best to communicate with the coach in an appropriate manner so the issue can be addressed. It is not appropriate to approach the coach to discuss such issues as team strategy, play calling, or team members that are not your own children.

As we emphasize the importance of responsibility at Rising Tide, taking ownership for addressing problems is important. For this reason we ask the student-athlete to take initiative in addressing their concerns. If a conflict arises, these steps should be followed:

1. The student approaches his/her coach personally to discuss the matter. If this is too difficult for the student s/he may ask the team captain to accompany him/her or approach the coach on his/her behalf.
2. If this initial discussion does not solve the issue the student/and or parent may contact the Athletic Director.
3. If contacting the Athletic Director failed to reach a resolution, the student and/or parent should contact the Head of School.

The following times should be avoided when contacting the coach with a concern:

- Just before, during, or directly after an athletic contest.
- During a practice session.
- When other students are in close proximity and would likely overhear a conversation of such a personal nature.

The best way to contact a coach is by email to arrange a time to discuss the concern. Email contacts will be shared at the beginning of each season and can be found on the Rising Tide Athletics website.