Riverview Charter School
Athletic Policy

ATHLETIC MISSION STATEMENT

Riverview is committed to nurturing the whole child by supporting the health and well being of each of its students through athletic participation and distinction. Student athletes learn to extend Riverview's Core Values and strive for excellence beyond the school day as they develop and grow their talents by, being disciplined through high-standards, cooperating with their teammates in order to reach a common goal, persevering through challenges, and by demonstrating respect and empathy towards others. Student athletes strive both on and off the field to represent their school with pride, dignity and solidarity.

STUDENT ATHLETE POLICY

APPROVED BY THE BOARD AND PUBLISHED IN THE RIVERVIEW FAMILY HANDBOOK ANNUALLY

Student Athletics

Under SC state law, charter school students may participate in athletic programs at their zoned public school if the selected sport is not offered at the charter school they are attending. Students seeking to take advantage of this opportunity must complete a waiver (provided by BCSD) which also requires the signature of the charter school Director. Waiver forms can be left in the Front Office for Mr. Singletons' review and signature, and picked up the following day. Please allow at least 24 hours for waiver forms to be reviewed and completed.

General:

All athletes must meet all eligibility requirements;

All athletes must have permission to participate by parent or guardian;

All athletes must have a current medical examination by a physician on file at the school. An exam is considered current for a period of one year from the date of the exam;

All athletes must abide by the training and participation rules established by the coach(es);

PARTICIPATION

Eligibility:

All students currently enrolled in 6th, 7th and 8th grade are eligible to participate in Riverview athletics, in so far as they meet all of the eligibility requirements listed below.

Academic Eligibility:

> ***Fall Athletics:***
> *In order to try-out for a Fall sports team, 7th and 8th graders must have an 78 cumulative average or better between their four (4) core content classes and cannot have a 70 or below in any class for the third trimester of the previous year. 6th grade students are not required to meet this criteria for Fall sports since they do not receive grades during their 5th grade year.*
>
> ***Winter and Spring Athletics:***
> *In order to try out for a Winter and/or Spring sports team, all students must submit a completed Progress Report to the Athletic Director prior to the first day of try-outs. In order to try-out, a*

student's progress report must reflect an 78 cumulative average or better between their four (4) core content classes and cannot have a 70 or below in any class. Progress Report forms will be available from the Athletic Director.'

TRY-OUTS

Each sports team will be given a minimum of 2 days for try-outs, and students must participate in all days except with prior permission from the Athletic Director due to significant and extenuating circumstances. If there is a conflict with students playing another sport for Riverview, try-outs will be held once that season has ended. This ensures all student athletes try-out at the same time and are given an equal opportunity to make the team. Coaches are welcome to hold optional conditioning dates while another sport is in season, but student athletes already playing for a Riverivew team can not be punished for missing these conditioning dates.

Coaches will select team members based on skill, attitude and leadership, and a Coach's decision is final. It is at the Coach's discretion as how many student athletes make up a given team and whether cuts need to be made. For all sports teams at RCS, cuts may be necessary. The coaches must feel comfortable with the number of students on the team and with his or her ability to provide adequate coaching, supervision, and playing time to team members. Coaches may have either an individual face-to-face meeting with each student-athlete to inform them of their individual situation regarding the respective team at the end of the last day of try-outs, or an email will be sent to parents. Prior to cuts, the Coach must meet with the Athletic Director to decide how cuts will be made and who will be present at the cuts. Per policy, If a student made the team a previous year, it does not guarantee them a spot on the team for that given year.

Practices/Games

- Practices are mandatory. If your child is going to miss a practice and/or game, please email the Athletic Director and coaches to let them know.

Dressing Up On Game Days

Student athletes will buy an issued RCS Athlete polo shirt to be worn on all game days. If a student violates the game day attire guidelines, this privilege will be revoked. If the polos are not worn on game days, they will not start in that specific event.

Academic Progress Reports during the season:

The week before the first competition and every two weeks thereafter, the Athletic Director or Assistant Athletic Director shall conduct an academic grade check of all athletes. If a student has lower than an 78 cumulative average between their four (4) core content classes or a 70 or below in any class, they will be placed on Academic Probation. (See Academic Probation below.)

Academic probation:

Student athletes will be on probation until such time as the next grade check (conducted every two weeks during the season) establishes that they have an 78 cumulative average or better between their four (4) core content classes and that all of their grades are a 70 or better.

Students on academic probation may practice with their team but may not participate in any competitions.

Code of Conduct:
It is the philosophy of Riverview Charter School that all athletes are students first. If students cannot adhere to the school's discipline code in the academic environment, he/she cannot participate in school athletics without consequences. Referrals to the administrative Leadership Team that results in disciplinary consequences will, at a minimum, be considered by Coaches as a part of try-outs and/or make a student athlete ineligible to participate in the next scheduled competition. Depending on the circumstance, additional consequences may include, but are not limited to: not being selected to participate on a team, suspension or dismissal from a team, loss of sports award or recognition as a team member, forfeiture of a leadership role on the team or other penalties at the discretion of the school Director upon recommendation by the Athletic Director.

Athletes who are suspended in or out of school more than once during an athletic season will be placed on disciplinary probation for 2 weeks and depending on the severity, may be dismissed from the team. A formal meeting between the Director, Athletic Director, student athlete and their parents will happen immediately following the disciplinary issue.

Additionally, if a student-athlete is ejected from a game/meet, they must meet with the Coach and Athletic Director the next day.

Athletic Code of Ethics:
- *Officials, coaches, opponents and teammates will be treated with respect at all times, on and off the field;*
- *Victory will be accepted modestly, defeat gracefully and a Riverview athlete never quits;*
- *Athletes will, at all times, control his/her emotions and never argue with an official;*
- *Decisions will be accepted as they are made and athletes will abide by them;*
- *Athletes will keep physically and mentally fit and agree to observe all training rules set by his/her Coach;*
- *Athlete will never conduct him/herself in a manner unbecoming of a gentleman or lady;*
- *Riverview athletes will never use profanity, whether in school, at games or at practice;*
- *No athlete will instigate or willfully involve him/herself in a fight with the opposing team.*

Concussions:
Student athletes and their parents will be required to review and sign a Student-Athlete Concussion Acknowledgement Statement prior to each season.

ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS FOR RIVERVIEW COACHES

COACHES: ROLE MODELS FOR OUR STUDENT-ATHLETES
Riverview Coaches must conduct themselves in a positive manner, being mindful of their example and impeccable with their words. Coaches are role models for our students and should model the school's seven Core Values of: perseverance, integrity, stewardship, cooperation, gratitude, mindfulness, empathy and integrity, and demand that student-athletes adhere to these core values at all times, both on and off the field.

SUPERVISION OF STUDENT-ATHLETES
Properly supervising athletes is essential to the success of a team or program, allowing coaches to better understand the individual needs and capabilities of their athletes. A Coach must be the

first person on the practice field, and the last person to leave. Student-athletes should never be left unattended or unsupervised, including locker/changing-rooms, equipment rooms, buses, etc. Proper supervision before, during and after an event is imperative for the overall safety of all student-athletes.

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

Parents and coaches are both important role models for students. By understanding and respecting each other, parents and coaches can greatly enhance a child's life. As a Coach, it is critical that you be clear with both students and their parents as to your expectations surrounding their participation on a team. Coaches should always be prepared to support their assertions with specific examples, stay positive with the parent, and ask for support from the Athletic Director if needed in undesirable situations.

GUIDELINES FOR RECRUITING ASSISTANT COACHES

Assistant Coaches are mandatory for all teams. The Coach and Athletic Director will identify and interview all prospective Assistant Coaches. All prospective Assistant Coaches must successfully complete a background check prior to the position being offered and commencing work with RCS.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

When necessary, Coaches must discipline student-athletes with dignity. Harassing, swearing, sarcasm, belittling, corporal punishment, or any other form of unkind or unsportsmanlike behavior towards student-athletes, their parents, school staff and/or members of other teams is strictly prohibited. Coaches who fail to adhere to these expectations as set forth by the school Director and Athletic Director of Riverview Charter School, are subject to immediate termination and, depending on the circumstance, may be reported to law enforcement.

EJECTION FROM A GAME OR MEET

If a Coach is ejected from a game/meet, they must schedule a meeting with the Athletic Director immediately. Conduct by Coaches that reflects poorly on Riverview may result in immediate termination.

MULTI-SPORT ATHLETES

In keeping with the spirit of this requirement, no RCS student-athlete will be required to try-out or attend another season's sport or team's practices while completing the current, in-season sport or team. Nor shall he or she miss a current, in-season practice or game for the sake of making the next season's team practice or try-outs. Meaning, Our athletic policy strictly prohibits playing for a different school while still in season at your current school, meaning you cannot participate on another team during the time your primary school is actively competing in that sport.

Students who are found to be participating on another team while still in season, will forfeit their spot on that team.

TEAM CAPTAINS

Coaches are encouraged to allow their teams to select their team captains with input and/or guidance from the coaching staff. A captain of any athletic team that commits any code of conduct violation must meet with the Coach and Athletic Director for a possible loss of privileges.

ABSENCES AND ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

Students who dismiss from school prior to 12pm or arrive at school after 12pm are considered absent for that school day and are ineligible to participate in games or practices that day.

NON-FRATERNIZATION

Coaches are strictly prohibited from engaging in personal relationships with students that are outside the scope of a professional adult/student relationship or, which may give the appearance of being outside the scope of a professional adult/student relationship. This prohibition applies both on and off School grounds. Coaches who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including immediate termination, and may also be subject to reporting to law enforcement authorities if the conduct is believed to constitute a crime under South Carolina law. In addition, the parents of the student involved will be notified of the student's involvement and the actions taken by the School.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF STUDENT INFORMATION

Coaches are required to maintain a high degree of confidentiality regarding the privacy of students, families, and school staff members. This confidentiality includes, but is not limited to: issues of health, finances, counseling, child custody, learning disabilities, grades, reports, assessments, and other school-related matters. Coaches may not discuss or disclose confidential information to outsiders, either during employment or after termination of employment. Coaches that compromise any information regarding the school or its students may be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE

South Carolina law requires educators, including coaches, to report suspected cases of child abuse. A report must be made when the reporter suspects or has reasons to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected. It is recommended but not required that coaches also notify the Athletic Director and/or School Director when abuse is suspected.
South Carolina-Report by County (in state) 803-898-7318 (out of state, business hours only) National child abuse hotline 800-422-4453; Website: http://www.state.sc.us/dss/

DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

RCS IS a drug, tobacco and alcohol free campus. It is unlawful and against School policy to manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess or use a controlled substance as defined by state law. Any violation of this policy shall subject the Coach to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

WEAPONS

RCS prohibits all persons, other than law enforcement personnel, who enter onto RCS property from carrying a handgun, firearm or prohibitive weapon of any kind on RCS property regardless of whether the person is licensed to carry the weapon or not. Coaches are also prohibited from carrying weapons while in the course and scope of fulfilling their job at RCS. This policy includes weapons at any RCS sponsored event. Coaches who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. Coaches may also be subject to criminal prosecution.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

The National Weather Service has stated that lightning can strike up to a distance of 10 miles, with storms traveling in excess of 50 miles per hour. However, thunder can be heard only within a

distance of 8 miles. Therefore, if you can hear thunder, you are in immediate danger and shall proceed as follows:

1. If thunder and/or lightning can be heard or seen, STOP activity and immediately and seek shelter. This policy will only fail in the rarest of circumstances when thunderstorms form overhead and the first strike occurs then.
2. In the event that either situation should occur, allow 30 MINUTES to pass after the last sound of thunder and/or lightning strike prior to resuming outdoor play.
3. During a game if you see lightening and/or hear thunder, go the the official and explain that per school policy, we must clear the field. Any Coach that does not strictly adhere to this lightning policy is in danger of being dismissed from RCS.

Additionally, Riverview follows BCSD with regard to school closures for inclement weather. For the safety of our students and their families, practices and games may not be held on days when school was closed for inclement weather.

HARASSMENT

Riverview's goal is to provide a campus free of tensions created by racial, religious, sexist, ethnic, age-based, veteran-based, or disability-based remarks or animosity, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other conduct of a sexual nature.

Harassment is defined as verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual because of his or her race, color, religion, national origin, sex or disability and that:

- Has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive campus environment.
- Has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's performance.
- Otherwise adversely affects an individual's opportunities.

Examples of harassing conduct include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Epithets, slurs, negative stereotyping or threatening, intimidating, or hostile acts that relate to race, color, age, religion, national origin, sex or disability.
- Written or graphic material that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual or group because of race, color, age, religion, national origin, sex or disability and that is placed on walls, bulletin boards, or elsewhere on School premises or is circulated in the workplace.
- Unwelcome requests for sexual favors or sexual advances;
- Verbal harassment, such as sexual innuendos, suggestive comments, jokes of a sexual nature, sexual propositions or threats.

All Coaches must avoid offensive and inappropriate behavior and are responsible for ensuring that the campus is free from all forms of harassment. Coaches must immediately report any harassment or other conduct that violates this policy to the Athletic Director and/or School Director, and failure to do so is grounds for immediate termination.

PROHIBITION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination. With respect to sexual harassment/ discrimination, the School prohibits the following:

- Unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; and all other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual or otherwise offensive nature, especially where:
    - Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment;
    - Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for decisions affecting an individual's employment; or
    - Such conduct has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.
- Offensive comments, jokes, innuendoes, and other sexually orientated statements.
- Any form of discrimination or harassment based on one's gender.

Examples of the types of conduct expressly prohibited by this policy include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Touching, such as rubbing or massaging someone's neck or shoulders, stroking someone's hair, or brushing against another's body;
- Sexually suggestive touching;
- Grabbing, groping, kissing, fondling;
- Violating someone's "personal space;"
- Whistling;
- Lewd, off-color, sexually oriented comments or jokes;
- Foul or obscene language;
- Leering, staring, stalking;
- Suggestive or sexually explicit posters, calendars, photographs, graffiti, cartoons;
- Unwanted or offensive letters or poems;
- Sitting or gesturing sexually;
- Offensive E-mail or voice mail messages;
- Sexually oriented or explicit remarks, including written or oral references to sexual conduct, gossip rewarding one's sex life, body, sexual activities, deficiencies, or prowess;
- Questions about one's sex life or experiences;
- Repeated requests for dates;
- Sexual favors in return for employment rewards, or threats if sexual favors are not provided;
- Sexual assault or rape;
- Any other conduct or behavior deemed inappropriate by the School, in its sole discretion.

Each Coach is responsible for creating an atmosphere free of discrimination and harassment, sexual or otherwise. Further, Coaches are responsible for respecting the rights of their peers and teams and must immediately report any type of conduct that violates this policy.

Individuals Covered by this Policy:

This policy covers Coaches whether or not they are on school premises, provided that the Coaches are conducting school-related business or are participating in a school sponsored event or function. Any type of harassment, whether engaged in by fellow school staff, supervisors, or by non-employees with whom the staff member comes into contact in the course of employment (e.g., service providers or contractors), violates this policy and will not be tolerated. The School encourages the reporting of all incidents of harassment, regardless of who the offender may be.

Procedure:

The School expects and encourages victims of sexual harassment to report incidents of sexual harassment. Any Coach who feels that he/she has been the victim of sexual harassment by a

School employee or another Coach may file a complaint. The School will promptly investigate any claims of harassment, regardless of the person to whom they are directed, and will take appropriate action. All claims will be held as confidential as possible, although the School cannot guarantee the complaint or investigation will remain confidential. No form of retaliatory action will be taken or tolerated against those who make such claims. The School will take immediate and appropriate action against anyone, including supervisors, co-workers, or visitors who engage in harassing conduct. If the investigation determines that there is reason to believe that harassment has occurred, this finding may be grounds for discipline up to and including discharge, in the sole discretion of the Athletic Director.

PROCEDURES FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ATHLETIC PRACTICES/EVENTS:
The Athletic Director will review all Medial Assistance procedures with all Coaches prior to the start of each season. These procedures should be clearly understood and practiced so that everyone potentially involved will be prepared to handle the potential of life-threatening situations.

Serious Injury
In cases where injury will require hospitalization or transport by emergency personnel (such as: stoppage of heart/breathing; severe bleeding; obvious fracture and/or dislocation; any head or neck injury, heat stroke, etc.) the Head Coach shall:

1. Stay with the injured athlete until their parent is present;
2. Instruct the Assistant Coach to dial 911 and provide the following information:
   - Your name and title
   - Nature and location of the injury BE SPECIFIC
   - Be the last one to hang up
3. Provide necessary first aid until emergency responders arrive;
4. Once EMS personnel arrive, follow their instructions;
5. Again, remain with the athlete until their parent is present;
6. Notify the Athletic Director as soon as practicable

A defibrillator is located on the wall outside the Gym. (Wall mounted next to the doors leading to the playground.)

Other Injury
For other minor injuries, the Coaches shall provide first aid.

IMPORTANT EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Beaufort EMS	911 (FROM CAMPUS PHONE 9-911)
Athletic Director	Mike Bridge (770)-722-8805
Assistant Athletic Director	
Director	Davontae Singleton
Operations Manager	Daniel McKeown

COMMUNICATION

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

Any changes in athletic schedules (practices and/or games/meets) must be approved by the Athletic Director prior to being published to participants and the school's website.

Additionally, coaches should openly copy the Athletic Director on all emails to parents.

PARENT MEETING (required prior to first game):

Coaches and/or the Athletic Director are required to hold a parent meeting to discuss the following:

1. Practice and Game/Meet schedules
2. Coach's contact information
3. Transportation
4. Game Day attire
5. Athletic Uniforms
6. Team Expectations (behavioral and academic)

PRE-TRY-OUT MEETING WITH STUDENTS:

Coaches and/or the Athletic Director are required to hold a meeting with students a minimum of 10 days prior to the first day of try-outs to discuss the following:

1. That each student must have the following documents turned in to the Athletic Director prior to the first day of try-outs (Coaches to provide copies at the meeting):
    A. a physical examination signed by a license physician and dated within one year of the first day of try-outs;
    B. Waiver of Release (signed by Parent)
    C. Concussion Acknowledgement (signed by Parent & Student)
    D. Code of Conduct (signed by Parent & Student)
    E. Progress Report or Report Card
2. Their expectations for try-outs
3. Their expectations for behavior and academics during the season

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

There will be an awards ceremony at the end of each sports season that is coordinated between the Athletic Director and coaches. The coaches attendance at the awards ceremony is mandatory. Student athletes will be presented certificates for their participation in the sport and 2 individual awards will be handed out to the players chosen by the coaches and/or teammates.

- Titles for awards are up to the individual Coaches. Coaches, however, are reminded that the awards presented should not be frivolous. The name and nature of the awards must be in keeping with the spirit, mission and purpose of athletics at RCS and should honor the dedication and hard work of our student-athletes. Once a title is decided, awards will be voted on by the players and coaches.

At the 3rd Trimester Assembly, the Athletic Director will recognize and present an award/ certificate to tri-sport athletes.

LOGISTICS

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS
Students are not allowed to ride home from games with anyone other than their own parents unless the coach has a Carpool Authorization Form, written or verbal permission from the parents specifying other arrangements. Coaches must stay with their players until all student-athletes have been picked up by their parents. Students may not be left unattended at any time. Should a parent be more than 15 minutes late to pick-up, the Coach should note the actual pick-up time and contact the Athletic Director so he/she may follow-up with the Parent in keeping with School policy.

COACHING ATTIRE
Coaches must represent Riverview (RCS) in a professional manner to all games and meets.

SCHEDULING
No Riverview athletic teams may practice or meet on or off campus on Sunday. (REMOVE this)

All athletic schedules will be arranged by the Athletic Director.

Any changes in athletic schedules (practices and/or games/meets) must be approved by the Athletic Director prior to being published to participants and the school's website.

OFFICIALS
Scheduling of Officials is done by the Athletic Director.

Coaches have the right and responsibility to discuss an Official's performance with the Athletic Director. A Coach may also request that a particular Official not be assigned to his or her games, but should be able to justify this request.

FACILITIES USE
Scheduling of all athletic facilities is done through the Athletic Director. Athletic facilities include gymnasiums, fields, and any other areas used by student-athletes.

MUSIC & CONCESSIONS
All music playlists (practice or games) and concessions for use/sale at home games must be prior approved by the Athletic Director.

EQUIPMENT, INVENTORY & STORAGE
Equipment and uniforms are assigned to students by the Coaches and families are responsible for reimbursing the school for lost or damaged uniforms.

PURCHASING
All purchasing and requests for reimbursements are made through the Athletic Director.

- Coaches shall partner with the Athletic Director regarding team needs prior to making decisions regarding purchases on the team's behalf.
- All purchases made with school funds must strictly adhere to the school's procurement policy.

RIVERVIEW CHARTER SCHOOL ATHLETICS
STUDENT ATHLETE UNIFORM CONTRACT

By signing below, I, _____, a member of the _____ team at Riverview Charter School; agree to be held responsible for the return of my issued team uniform, clean and in good repair, within one week of the conclusion of the season. All uniforms will be returned in a single bag that is sealed with the student athlete's name clearly written on it.
I understand that I am responsible for the specific items issued to me for the sport season.

If I fail to return any piece of the uniform assigned to me by my coach/athletic director or if I return the uniform damaged, I understand that I will pay to Riverview Charter School Athletics the full dollar amount of the uniform. In addition, I understand that I am ineligible to participate in another sport until all uniforms are turned in or paid for. I further understand that failure to turn in or make arrangements with the Athletic Director to pay what is owed within one week of the conclusion of the season may result in the student being ineligible to participate in another sport or after school activity.

Student-Athlete Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____Date:_____

Team Assigned Uniform: _____

Number:_____

Size: _____