



# **McNicholas** **ROCKETS**



## ***ATHLETE & PARENT HANDBOOK***



### ***McNICHOLAS HIGH SCHOOL***

6536 Beechmont Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45230

Phone (513) 231-3500

Fax (513) 231-1351

Athletic Director: Drew Schmidt- Ext. 5807

Administrative Assistant: Susan Rohlfs- Ext. 5142

Website: [www.mcnhs.org](http://www.mcnhs.org)

## **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to the proud tradition of Rocket athletics! We thank you for your commitment, dedication, and contribution! This handbook articulates expectations for participation on interscholastic teams at McNicholas High School.

Because of importance of honoring the legacy established by past athletes and upholding the positive public image of the school, it is a privilege, not a right, to represent McNicholas High School as a student athlete. All athletes must abide by codes of conduct, training rules, and the policies established by the McNicholas Athletic Department and coaches of your child's specific programs. Moreover, student athletes are expected to abide by the expectations year-round because maintaining fitness and representing the school well are year-round responsibilities.

As a result, a condition of the privilege to represent our proud tradition is a year-round commitment to follow the rules. Athletes who violate the rules will face disciplinary consequences.

## **McNICHOLAS ATHLETICS**

McNicholas High School's athletics is an integral part of the school's educational development and we treat each program as an extension of the classrooms. Our department's philosophy is to build a culture that offers one standard, provided under one department, with one vision. Our department's vision aspires for students to use their athletic experience to build up our school community while fulfilling Jesus' call to servant leadership. We commit to offering our student athletes, families, and constituents with a product and service that is second-to-none. The McNicholas Athletic Department has a rich tradition and we are driven to provide all student athletes with an experience that is 'Bonded Together.'

## **SPORTS OFFERED**

The following sports are offered at McNicholas High School. Please see the school's website for coaching staffs and contact information.

### **FALL**

Cheerleading  
Cross Country- Men  
Cross Country- Women  
Football  
Golf-Men  
Golf-Women  
Soccer-Men  
Soccer-Women  
Tennis-Women  
Volleyball-Women

### **WINTER**

Basketball-Men  
Basketball-Women  
Bowling-Men  
Bowling- Women  
Cheerleading  
Dance Team  
Swimming/Diving  
Wrestling

### **SPRING**

Baseball  
Softball  
Tennis-Men  
Track & Field-Men  
Track & Field-Women  
Volleyball-Men  
Lacrosse-Men  
Lacrosse-Women

## **POLICIES**

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR PRACTICES/GAMES**

If a student is absent from school for an unexcused reason, he/she may not participate in any extra-curricular activities the day of the absence, unless he/she has permission from the athletic director. This applies to rehearsals, practices, games, meetings, etc. An absence from school is defined as not being present, in its entirety, for the second-half of the school day: 11:10 am signifies the cutoff time. The administration of Archbishop McNicholas High School reserves the right to determine and/or review any special situation that may arise regarding attendance.

If your son and/or daughter has an excused absence reasoning please communicate with coaches and/or athletic administration in a timely and reasonable manner, if possible.

### **ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

Each athlete must comply with the following guidelines prior to the first practice/tryout to participate in athletics:

- Maintain academic eligibility as required by McNicholas High School and the OHSAA.
  - Incoming freshmen must have passed a minimum of five subjects in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of their eighth grade year.
- Participation fee paid (turned in to athletic office) by no later than the end of the second week of the season. If the participation fee has not been paid and the family has not made alternative payment arrangements approved by the athletic department, the athletic department may withhold a student athlete from competition 1<sup>st</sup> sport: \$245.00 per athlete; each additional sport: \$195.00 per athlete; family maximum: \$725.00. Booster Membership fee of \$50.00, per family, per school year.
- Current OHSAA Physical on file in the Athletic Office
- Current Ohio Department of Health Concussion form completed on Final Forms
- Medical Consent form completed on Final Forms
- McNicholas Transportation form completed on Final Forms

### **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

Each athlete must maintain eligibility status as set forth by the OHSAA and McNicholas High School. The eligibility guidelines are as follows:

- **Quarterly Eligibility-** To be eligible, a student must receive passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses in the immediately preceding grading period. A student must receive passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent during the fourth quarter to be eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities during the first quarter of the following school year. Summer school grades earned may NOT be used to substitute for failing grades from the fourth quarter of the regular school year. Parents and students will be notified at the end of each academic quarter if the student is ineligible for extra-curricular participation the following quarter.
- **Intra-Quarterly Eligibility-** McNicholas conducts an academic review every two weeks beginning in September and continuing through May. Students who are failing two or more classes are placed on PROBATION and are notified in writing that they have two weeks to bring up their grades. During the probationary period, the athlete is permitted to participate in practices and games. If the student is still failing two or more classes after the two-week probationary period, the student is placed on the INELIGIBLE list and is not permitted to participate in any team activities for two weeks and parents are notified in writing. Every two weeks, coaches/moderators and teachers receive the names of students who are ineligible or on probation. A student may fail under the state guidelines without having been through the intra-quarterly process that McNicholas conducts.

## **POLICY ON TOBACCO, DRUGS, VAPING AND ALCOHOL**

Any student participating in athletics who has violated school regulations concerning tobacco, alcohol, vaping and/or drugs will be subject, at minimum, to the procedures and policies outlined in the Student/Parent Handbook. Student athlete compliance on this matter is in effect, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, from the first day of tryouts to the last day of tournament play. An athlete who is suspended may not participate in any team function (practices, games, dinners, meetings, etc.). Student athletes can be subject to further disciplinary action(s) than outlined in the school's Student/Parent Handbook.

Our athletes should remember at all times he/she is a representative of McNicholas Athletics and McNicholas High School. Each individual bears responsibility for the good name of Archbishop McNicholas High School. PLEASE BE AWARE: violations may be treated differently, depending on the circumstances of each individual case that is presented to the athletic administration. In addition to the below rules, students must follow proper protocol and requirements in the Student/Parent Handbook to remain eligible for participation in athletics.

The Athletic Department policy on Tobacco, Drugs, Vaping and Alcohol follows:

1. Tobacco violations will result in a one-week suspension from athletic participation. A second violation within the school year for use or possession of tobacco could result in an additional suspension from athletic participation. Suspension periods begin the date of notice to the suspended student athlete. A coach may request dismissal from the team or activity, subject to review by the Director of Athletics.
2. Alcohol/Vaping violations will result in a suspension of a minimum of two weeks from athletic participation. A second violation within the school year for use or possession of alcohol could result in removal from athletic participation for the remainder of the school year. Each alcohol violation will be reviewed by the Director of Athletics and necessary administration before any alcohol suspension is removed. Suspension periods begin the date of notice to the suspended student athlete. A coach may request dismissal from the team or activity, subject to review by the Director of Athletics.
3. Drug violations will result in a suspension of a minimum of two weeks from athletic participation. A second violation within the school year for use or possession of any type of drug could result in removal from athletic participation for the remainder of the school year. Each drug violation will be reviewed by the Director of Athletics and necessary administration before any suspension is removed. Suspension periods begin the date of notice to the suspended student athlete. A coach may request dismissal from the team or activity, subject to review by the Director of Athletics.

An appeals process can be pursued and necessary administration will be involved in reviewing certain cases.

## **UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT**

Athletes are responsible for proper care and return of uniforms and equipment issued to them by McNicholas High School. Issued uniforms and equipment that are not returned and/or have been damaged, beyond normal wear and tear, are required to be reimbursed to the athletic department by the student. Report card(s) will be withheld until payment is received. Diplomas will be withheld from seniors until payment and/or the return of McNicholas property is received. In sports where athletes buy and/or keep their uniform(s), the athlete will be required to pay the cost of the uniform(s); if a payment is not received by a specific deadline, report cards or diplomas may be withheld.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

The basic rules of good sportsmanship, applicable to all members of the McNicholas community and most especially to the athletes, are as follows:

- Showing respect for opponents at all times
- Showing respect for officials and their decisions
- Knowing, understanding, and following the rules of the contest
- Maintaining self-control at all times, including language and respect for all involved
- Recognizing and appreciating skill in performance, regardless of school affiliation

Everyone involved with McNicholas Athletics represents a team, program, department, and school, which is bigger than any one person. Being an athlete and spectator is a privilege, not a right. All attendees to athletic events will be held accountable for good sportsmanship and can be reprimanded and/or escorted from a premises by school officials if their behavior is disruptive.

## **EJECTION FOR UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT**

The OHSAA Board of Control has adopted a policy that addresses players who have been ejected from contests for their unsportsmanlike conduct. The teaching of values through participation in interscholastic athletics will not be compromised by the misconduct of participants. The policy sends a strong message to student athletes that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege and with that privilege comes responsibility. The athletes not accepting that responsibility will be dealt with accordingly:

The OHSAA has established a policy for students ejected or disqualified for unsporting behavior or flagrant fouls. An athlete ejected or disqualified

- Will be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day.
- Will be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level in which the ejection occurred (one contest in football). Football can be a minimum of two games suspended if reason for ejection is due to fighting, physical contact, etc.

An athlete ejected or disqualified a second time in a season will be subject to additional penalties, including suspension from play for the remainder of the season in that sport.

It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this regulation is enforced. If and when an ineligible student is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. This regulation shall apply to all regular season and tournament contests and shall in no way limit the discretionary authority of the Commissioner as specified in the OHSAA tournament regulations.

## **BANQUET AND AWARDS**

The athletic department will conduct a season-wide awards night and recognition events in conjunction with head coaches and all individual programs. Department-wide honors and recognition will be celebrated in the gymnasium prior to individual program breakouts. Plaques are provided for four-year varsity athletes, recognition for first-year freshmen, reserve, and varsity athletes, and certificates for second- and third-year reserve and varsity athletes in individual breakouts. Coaches determine recipient awards and may allow athletes to vote on specific awards; some honors and recognition are determined by statistics.

## ***ROCKET NATION***

The Athletic Boosters is the lifeline for all programs within our athletic department. This organization raises money, provides volunteers, and boosts community camaraderie which is vital to the success of our annual athletic budget. The partnership between Rocket Nation, formerly known as Boosters, and the athletic department helps preserve our athletic facilities and generates necessary resources that maximize our student athletes' capabilities and opportunities (resources). ***RN*** meetings are scheduled for the third Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the school library. Persons interested in participating should contact our president, Matt Conrad, or the Athletic Office for more details.

McNicholas Athletic Department encourages all of our families to join and/or support the ***Rocket Nation***. We look forward to the growth of this organization in order to help facilitate extra resources that make us a first-class operation!

## **SUPPORT**

Parental support is critical to the success of our athletic programs. There are many opportunities for parents to show their support. Each team needs parent volunteers to do various tasks, such as running the clock, announcing, working the gate and/or concessions. Moving forward, each program will be required to have a parent representative for ***Rocket Nation***. This representative will be the liaison between coaches, players, the athletic department and Rocket Nation to help facilitate the necessary commitments for better success.

## **COMMUNICATING CONCERNS**

Any concerns you have regarding your child's participation in athletics should be handled in the following:

- First, the athlete should approach the coach.
- Secondly, if he/she does not feel the issue is resolved, the parent should then contact the coach.
- Lastly, if the issue is still not resolved, the parent and/or athlete should contact the Athletic Office.

Please refrain from approaching a coach at a game/match with any concerns. If concerns are about playing time, then we request that it be handled between athletes and coaches. We respectfully request that parents with concerns wait 12 hours, or one night's sleep, after the completion of a game to contact a coach.

## **SCORES AND NEWS**

All scores will be posted on a consistent basis on the McNicholas website under Sports Scores and News. Each program is asked to support and publicize their team's accomplishments by submitting articles and photos to [news@mcnhs.org](mailto:news@mcnhs.org).

## **SCHOOL LOGO AND BRANDING**

The names "Archbishop McNicholas," "McNicholas High School," and "McNicholas"; the athletic and academic logos; and other related logos are the exclusive property of McNicholas High School. No one is authorized to use, sell, or distribute materials or items of any kind which uses school logos or the names "Archbishop McNicholas," "McNicholas High School" or "McNicholas" without the written permission of the school's Director of Communications and Marketing, and through the athletic department.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

No social media accounts, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, may be created using the "Archbishop McNicholas," "McNicholas High School," and "McNicholas" name or any school or sports logos without the written permission of the Director of Communications and Marketing, and through the athletic department. This includes but is not limited to individual sports team accounts and school clubs or groups.

## **TRAVEL TO ATHLETIC EVENTS**

Buses will not be provided to the majority of athletic events. Parents are responsible for transporting their students to away contests. Students may drive to away contests but only if a bus is not provided and parents are not available. Parents will be provided a consent form indicating their wishes regarding student driving. McNicholas coaches may not drive students unless 1) they have been approved as school van drivers by the state of Ohio and they are transporting students in the school-owned van with at least one other Virtus trained adult or 2) there is an emergency.

## **ATHLETIC PASS**

Rocket Athletic Pass (RAP) - \$100.00\*: Includes entry to all McNicholas home regular season sporting events, the 2021-22 athletics student section t-shirt, and entry into promotional opportunities at selected varsity game day events. Rocket Athletic Pass Plus- \$120 would also include tickets to all away league football and boys basketball games.

All individual passes are \$90.00 for parents & siblings not in high school; family pass for parents and siblings not in high school is \$320.00. This pass enables the holder(s) to attend any home athletic event during that school year, **except OHSAA home tournament games**. Passes are not transferable.

**\*Students must visit the athletic office to pick up a t-shirt if they buy the RAP, upon t-shirt arrival.**