

RHAA Athletic Program Overview

(August 2018)

Goals: RHAA is dedicated to providing sports opportunities for homeschool students, especially in high school. We focus on character and skills development, teamwork and competitive teams. Our team name is the Rolla Royals, to remind us that we are the children of the king, and our colors are navy blue and gold.

Teams/Eligibility: RHAA programs are for homeschooled students ages 12-18 (Soccer ages 14 – 18) who are living at home under the authority of their parents and are pursuing their education. The player can be dual enrolled in college. Once they have graduated, they are no longer eligible. There are other community programs available for both boys and girls under 12 such as: Upwards Basketball/Optimist program/ SIR.

Soccer Fees: \$95 for first year player and \$65 for returning players.

Volleyball Fees: \$95 for new junior varsity or varsity players; \$65 for returning players. \$55 for junior teams. These fees apply to each sport. Returning junior players still have to pay \$95 when they move up to varsity or junior varsity teams the first year.

Basketball Fees: \$110 for new junior varsity or varsity players; \$75 for returning players. \$55 for junior teams. These fees apply to each sport. Returning junior players still have to pay \$110 when they move up to varsity or junior varsity teams the first year.

Teams: Players will be divided into varsity and junior varsity for boys and girls, based on ability. No players will play on both teams. We provide coaches and scheduling for both teams, with a focus on making the varsity team as excellent as possible. Soccer only has a varsity team.

Coaches: All of our coaches and assistants are players' parents or someone approved by the board. We appreciate their time!

Opponents: We play Christian schools and homeschool groups wherever we can find them within about a 100 mile travel radius of Rolla. We also try to find teams of similar ability to ours so that we can have competitive games. For the past several years we have chosen to participate in the OAC Basketball Conference.

Facility: We use multiple public school facilities depending on their availability, as well as other facilities as needed. We try to keep somewhat of a predictable schedule, but often we do quite a bit of moving around, so check your schedule regularly for where you are to be for each practice and/or game. If there are changes, we generally use email, so it is important to know if you don't have easy access to email or may be away from it on a practice or game day. We also use Facebook groups specific to each sport each year.

All parents, team players, and other visitors, please respect all facilities used by RHAA. We do not want to lose the privilege of using these facilities. Please stay in designated areas only. Do not allow others to run, ride wheeled devices, enter any unauthorized areas, try opening lockers, play under bleachers, or any other activity that may cause us to lose the use of the

facility. After all practices and games, please make sure you pick up your belongings and trash, and leave it cleaner than you found it. Also, please be considerate of all facility staff and thank them for the use of the facility.

Family Participation: *Parents are vital to our program! Without your help we are not be able to continue providing a particular sport. We see our programs as assisting you in your parenting; not as replacing you. When you consider participating in our program, please remember that not only are you committing your player, but your family as well, to a certain degree. This makes good communication vital -- tell us what's going on -- ask us if you don't understand. We are not a drop-off program -- we expect to see parents regularly at games. Please do not drop off other unsupervised siblings. Certainly, we understand that circumstances will not allow every parent to be at every event, but we see RHAA as a family activity, not one that only your child participates in. We need parent/adult help in these areas: keeping inventory of and distributing uniforms, making t-shirt orders, assistant coaching, driving to away games, collecting admissions and selling concessions, running the scoreboard, line judges, and keeping the score book at games. Let us know if one of these areas would be a good fit for you to help.*

Communication: E-mail is the primary form we use for communication, but we will also publish a team directory and use the telephone if necessary to let you know of last minute changes. If you don't already, please check your email regularly during each sport season, and if you don't have email, find a friend on the same team that can alert you to last minute changes. We also use Facebook groups specific to each sport each year.

Uniforms: All players will be issued a reversible practice jersey which they are responsible to bring to every practice and a game uniform to be worn for games only. These need to be cared for and returned at the end of the year. If any part of the uniform or practice jersey is destroyed by neglect or lost, the player may be held responsible for replacement. The price differential for new and returning players is basically a uniform fee, though it is not enough to purchase a complete uniform. We also put aside part of the yearly fee for uniform replacement.

- **New basketball players are provided a white t-shirt with a last name. Please email with t-shirt size.**
- **Returning basketball players may get a new t-shirt for the cost of replacement. Provide size and name if you want one.**

Players: **Wear appropriate clothing for the sport you are participating in. No jeans or boots or any other inappropriate clothing for the sport. Jewelry must be removed before each practice and game.**

Girls: RHAA is bringing some clarity to how our athletes dress in the matter of yoga pants and spandex shorts. Spandex shorts may be worn under gym shorts at practices and under uniform shorts during games to help prevent floor burns. Please do not wear just spandex or yoga pants to practices or games. Also, sport bras should be covered by t-shirts, and please no low cut shirts or short shorts. Remember, if you aren't sure if it is okay, then it likely isn't. We don't want to see undergarments.

Boys: No open side t-shirts – it must be a full t-shirt. Practice jerseys are provided and must be brought to each practice. “Skins” practices will no longer be allowed.

Cell Phones: Keep cell phones in your bag during practices, games, and in between games at tournaments and championship games. *Be aware that your player will not be allowed to check their phones during practices. If an emergency arises contact the coach!* Also, electronic devices are to be kept at a minimum while traveling to out of town games. This time is meant to build relationships with your teammates that may be traveling with you. RHAA is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken electronics.

Boyfriends and girlfriends: Are not allowed at practices. It can be distracting to yourself and your teammates.

Sportsmanship: One of the most important things you can do for your team is to encourage each other. It's okay to be loud - cheer each other on! Cheer for the other team when they do well. Don't laugh at or make fun of other players (both on your team or the opponents).

Pictures: We have had team and individual pictures done in the past, though we have forgotten some years. We would welcome someone to organize this portion of the program, if interested!

T-shirts: Royals t-shirts will be available for purchase by family members and fans at the beginning of the season.

Summary of player's responsibilities

- ◆ Practices: Be on time, work hard, listen to your coach and be respectful of him/her.
- ◆ Games: stay with teammates, not others, including between games at tournaments.
- ◆ Eliminate distractions: cell phones/iPods/other people.
- ◆ Let your coach know if you can't make a practice or a game --- put games on your family schedule and give coaches as much advance notice as possible if you can't make one.
- ◆ *Conflict resolution – go directly to the person you are having trouble with. If that doesn't work, then let a board member know and we can help.*
- ◆ Respect coaches' decisions on playing time and other issues – ask if you don't understand.

Summary of coaches' role and authority

- ◆ Run practices – they decide what is done, when and by whom
- ◆ Make final decisions on team make-up and playing time
- ◆ Communicate clearly to parents and players their expectations
- ◆ In charge of teams at games (No parental side-line coaching!)

Summary of Board Responsibilities (Allison Bruno, Scott McBride, Tony Davis, Amy Koenig, and Walter Williams)

- ◆ Set program fees and manage finances of program
- ◆ Choose and oversee coaches for each of the teams
- ◆ Schedule games with opponents and coordinate parent involvement
- ◆ Help with conflict resolution if needed

Practice Schedule –

Practices vary depending on the coach and facility availability.

Some practices are replaced by games late in the season; some are at different locations, and sometimes a practice for one team has to be moved because another team has a game in their practice facility...so, always check your schedule! Please get your kids to practice and let the coach know if they aren't going to attend for any reason.

Always check the published schedule first, check email regularly for changes, and look at the most up-to-date schedule at rollaroyals.org.

Basketball & Volleyball Home games –

- ◆ Admission charged \$1/student; \$2/adult; \$7/cap per family
- ◆ Parents are needed to run scoreboard, keep score, line judge, collect admissions and sell concessions.
- ◆ If multiple teams play the same night, the order is usually junior girls/ junior boys/ varsity girls, then varsity boys.(though not all 4 teams will usually play in one night)

Away games –

- ◆ If you are able, volunteer to drive to away games and take additional passengers. Parents are needed to help keep score at each game.
- ◆ Players are not to drive other players to away games.
- ◆ If your child rides with another family, reimburse driver for gas (\$5 recommended)
- ◆ Provide food or money for your child as requested by the driver.
- ◆ Be prompt to pick up once players arrive back in town.

Scorekeeping – we hope to include a scorekeeping and scoreboard workshop before games start to acquaint all players with this facet of the game. We also hope to offer similar training for parents either at the same time or later.

Mission: RHAA strives to provide 4 main components in its athletic program. These areas are to provide competitive playing experiences, improve individual skills, foster teamwork, and build a Christ-like character. While winning games is wonderful, it is being successful in life that is important. Pointing others to Christ is our greater goal, and this is done through our speech, dress, and behavior. Others are watching, and we want to set the more excellent example.