

Athletics & Activities Handbook



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Athletics & Activities Offered

Fall	Winter	Spring	Activities
Girls Cross Country*	Boys Basketball*	Baseball	Scholar Bowl*
Boys Cross Country*	Girls Basketball*	Boys Golf	Cheerleading*
Boys Swimming	Girls Swimming	Girls Soccer	Color Guard*
Football*	Boys Wrestling*	Boys Tennis	Debate/Forensics*
Girls Golf	Girls Wrestling*	Boys Track*	Theater*
Boys Soccer	eSports	Girls Track*	Prowlers Dance Team
Girls Tennis		Trapshooting	Band*
Softball		Girls Flag Football	Choir*
Volleyball*		Boys Volleyball	Orchestra*
eSports			

*Offered at Middle School

CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP

Ray-Pec is a member of the Greater Kansas City Suburban Conference-Gold division with fellow member schools: Blue Springs, Blue Springs South, Lee's Summit, Lee's Summit North, Lee's Summit West, Staley, Liberty North & Ray-Pec.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Raymore-Peculiar School District activity / athletic program. Ray-Pec is a member of the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA). The MSHSAA sets the standards for all secondary public schools in the state of Missouri, as well as private schools that choose to join the association. The guidelines and policies set forth are an accumulation of MSHSAA policies as well as policies established by our Administrators and Board of Education. We hope the information in this handbook will help make your and your child's experience with the Ray-Pec Athletic / Activities program an enjoyable and memorable one.

PHILOSOPHY

We believe that involvement in any extra-curricular activity is a privilege that carries with it a great deal of responsibility as well as a year-round commitment. Lessons learned through athletics/activities go beyond the field of play; these values shape behavior long after the diploma is received.

GOAL STATEMENT

The concepts of fair play, integrity, ethics, respect, and citizenship represent standards that can be taught through interscholastic activities. Together they form the foundations of both sportsmanship and citizenship. Research indicates that students involved in co-curricular activities have greater chances for success during adulthood. Ray-Pec School District will continue to strive to maintain quality programs for all students. Many qualities required to be a successful participant are the same qualities that will promote a successful life after high school. Through all our programs, we hope to develop these traits in our students.

MSHSAA STATEMENT

“The MSHSAA promotes the value of participation, sportsmanship, team play, and personal excellence to develop citizens who make positive contributions to their community and support the democratic principles of our state and nation.”

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Education is a privilege we have been given and you are encouraged to take full advantage of all your opportunities. However, with these opportunities also come certain responsibilities.
- Maintaining eligibility and academic standards as set forth by the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) and the Ray-Pec School District.
- Striving to achieve solid citizenship skills including but not limited to: honesty, dependability, respect for self and others, and emotional control.
- Learning to appreciate hard work and sacrifice and the rewards that come with it.
- Achieving and maintaining physical fitness through exercise and proper diet.
- Showing respect for authority, property, and those around you.
- Learning leadership skills that can come with athletics/activities.
- Please remember that you are a representative of the High School and have an obligation to conduct yourself in and out of school in a manner that will gain the respect of your teammates, coaches, student body, and community.

BASIC PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

- Students have the opportunity to choose the activities in which they are involved. It is our policy that when a student faces a conflict in scheduling between two school-sponsored activities, the sponsors/coaches of the activities will meet to determine a resolution with the best interest of the student in mind. Administrators will determine which activities will have priority, and students will not be penalized by the activity not attended.
- A student who participates in a sport, but quits by his/her own choosing, will not be eligible to start practice or pre-season conditioning for another sport until the end of the season of the sport that was dropped. UNLESS the Head Coach of the sport dropped signs a release and the Head Coach of the new sport accepts the athlete. EVERY ATHLETE SHOULD BE AWARE OF THIS POLICY.
- If it is necessary to be absent from practice, the student is expected to make arrangements with the coach prior to the scheduled absence.
- Students must be in attendance all day the day of a scheduled activity. Students arriving at school after 8:00 am or leaving early on the day of an activity will be ineligible. Exceptions are granted by the Activities Director or Administrator ONLY!! If under out-of-school suspension, you will not be allowed to practice, participate in, or attend any school activity until reinstated in school and approval to continue in an activity is granted by an Administrator.
- While under in-school suspension (ISS) you will not be allowed to participate in a game, meet, or activity until the ISS is completed. You will however be allowed to practice.
- After school detentions must be served in full before you are able to attend practice.
- The use of alcohol, tobacco, or non-prescription drugs can be detrimental to the athlete as well as those around them. Use of these substances is strictly prohibited and disciplinary action will be taken should the athlete choose to use any of the above substances. More detailed information of this policy is listed under eligibility.

ACTIVITY FEES

A student activity fee of \$50 will be charged to all students participating in athletics, speech and debate, scholar bowl, choir, and band. A maximum of \$150 will be charged to an individual family regardless of the number of students participating. With payment of an activity fee, students will receive an activity pass, which will grant them entrance into all home athletic events. This will not include MSHSAA district events.

RPHS SPORTS & ACTIVITY SCHEDULES

- Here is the link for sports & activity schedules: [GKC Suburban Conference Schedules](#)
- There are options to send specific activities/sports teams to your personal calendar.
- Download the "Activity Scheduler" app (blue ball hat image) from the Apple/Google app store to have all game day info on your phone.
 - Once downloaded you will select Missouri and Raymore-Peculiar to have detailed information, including any updates/cancellations/game changes, at your fingertips.

CARE OF EQUIPMENT

Each student will be held accountable for the use and care of the equipment issued to them. Any equipment that is lost or stolen must be paid for by the student in whose name it was checked out. Keeping your equipment in a locked locker and not loaning out equipment will help prevent loss. Any loss or theft of equipment should be reported to the coach immediately. For your safety, any equipment that does not fit properly should be exchanged with the coach.

TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES

1. Away games/activities
 - a. All school trips must be made on school-approved transportation. Ray-Pec School District provides school buses, chartered buses, and vans. All students participating in a school-sponsored activity are expected to ride the school-approved transportation to and from games or interschool activities with the following exceptions:
 - with their parents and check the students out with the coach at the event.
 - with their coach/sponsor in the event of unusual circumstances (e.g. injury, attendance at another school-sponsored activity)
 - any exceptions must be approved by the coach and athletic director before the competition.
 - b. Students may secure permission to leave from interscholastic activities:
 - with their parents and check the students out with the coach at the event.
 - with their coach/sponsor in the event of unusual circumstances (e.g. injury, attendance at another school-sponsored activity)
 - any exceptions must be approved by the coach and athletic director before the competition.
2. For very small groups
 - The Coach/Sponsor may transport students in his/her vehicle or a school-provided van with Administrative approval.
3. Students must provide their own transportation to off-site practices (Golf, Swimming, Trapshooting, and Bowling).

Please keep in mind that each coach/sponsor may have further rules and regulations regarding transportation to/from events.

PHYSICAL EXAM

- Athletic By-Law 3.8.1 (a) in the MSHSAA handbook states: “The school shall require of each student participating in athletic or an activity performance Group; MSHSAA sponsored sports: marching band, cheerleading, dance team, and color guard. A student shall not be permitted to practice or compete until a complete certificate is on file. The certificate/physical is valid for two years.
- The School District provides a physical exam form to be completed by each athlete as well as your physician. You may obtain a form at the front office of your student’s school or on-line [here](#). This form MUST be on file before you will be allowed to practice or participate with any Raymore-Peculiar athletic team or performance group.

- Healthcare Coverage: A student shall not be permitted to practice or compete for a school until it has verified that he/ she has healthcare insurance coverage or a healthcare expense payment plan.
 - This information is included on the physical exam form and also MUST be on file before you will be allowed to practice or participate with any Raymore-Peculiar athletic team or performance group. The School District provides a supplemental insurance policy for each athlete. This is in addition to your private health insurance. During most years, the High School sponsors a physical night, with licensed physicians, allowing athletes to obtain a physical valid for the following two-year period. The cost is \$20.
- **PROCESS TO SUBMIT YOUR SPORTS/ACTIVITY PHYSICAL**
 - Physicals are submitted through a FOCUS. Parents and guardians must upload their student's physicals into the FOCUS student information system. The steps are as follows:
 - Log into the [Focus](#) portal
 - Select the drop-down for your student
 - Click on Forms Summary
 - Click on the available form (Physical Form) and complete it.
 - Directions can be found [here](#).

CONCUSSION PROTOCOLS

Below are the steps for the management of a concussion sustained while participating in Ray-Pec activities. Concussion management is a process that we take very seriously, like all injuries our Ray-Pec student-athletes sustain. Returning to activity and play is a medical decision. Our concussion progression is individualized, and each step of the return to play process is supervised according to Ray-Pec's procedures and will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Factors that may affect the rate of progression include previous history of concussion, duration, and type of symptoms, age of the athlete, and sport/activity in which the athlete participates.

- An athlete with a prior history of concussion, one who has had an extended duration of symptoms, or one who is participating in a collision or contact sport may progress more slowly as determined by the healthcare provider. After the student has not experienced symptoms attributable to the concussion for a minimum of 48 hours and has returned to school on a full-time basis (if school is in session), completed and passed ImPACT testing, then the MSHSAA exercises stepwise progression shall be followed. We are dedicated to providing a safe and healthy environment for your student-athlete to participate and compete at Ray-Pec.
 1. Student Athlete sustains a possible concussion/concussion

2. Student Athlete is removed from Game or Practice
3. Student Athlete is taken thru Concussion Evaluation by Athletic Trainers/Sports Medicine Staff
4. Student Athlete parents are communicated with on possible concussions and how to manage through that day/evening and concerns to watch out for.
5. Student Athlete's Parents take Student Athlete to Family Dr or Dr. Brewster (RP Team Doctor) within the first 72 hours after sustaining a concussion. This is important to further document the Student Athlete sustaining a concussion, and in some cases when symptoms are not resolving promptly the Student Athlete can follow up with the physician to prescribe physical/concussion therapy to help speed up the recovery process.
6. Student-athletes will be put on an email list to staff so that school Administration/Teachers/Staff can help with the management process with classroom accommodations.
7. Student-Athletes will Follow up on ATGenius.com or to the Training Room daily to follow up with the ATGenius Symptom Score Sheet.
8. Once a Student Athlete has attained a 0 score/no symptoms of a concussion on the Symptom Score Sheet for 2 consecutive days OR received clearance NOTE from their family physician then the Student Athlete will then take the ImPACT Test (neurocognitive test).
9. Once the Student-Athlete has passed the ImPACT Test (ImPACT-trained Team Physician reviews to make that determination) the Student-Athlete will begin the MSHSAA Return to Play Physical Fitness Assessment (which is required by the state of Missouri for any student-athlete who has sustained or thought to have sustained a concussion).
10. MSHSAA Return to Play Physical Fitness Assessment is a 5-day progressive fitness/workout assessment to determine if the Student Athlete's sports/activity will "irritate" their symptoms with these activities. If symptoms do rise with the activities "that" day is repeated until it is passed with no increases in symptoms from those activities.
11. When ALL those activities have been completed (Symptoms score sheet, ImPACT test, and MSHSAA Return to Play) the student-athlete is released to full activities.
12. While the student-athlete is returning to full sports/activities we will continue to do "spot" follow-ups with the Student Athlete to make sure no symptoms have come back once they have gotten back into normal sports/activities.

At any time if you have questions or concerns regarding your Student Athlete and his/her concussion please don't hesitate to contact Dan Schwarz or Trevor Volkland at: daniel.schwarz@raypec.org or trevor.volkland@raypec.org You are welcome to call Trevor at 913-406-4929.

CONDITIONING & TRAINING/TRAINERS

- Ray-Pec has certified athletic trainers on staff. These trainers provide a tremendous service to our athletes, aiding in reducing injury and medical expenses to the parents. The trainer may treat the athlete themselves, or they may recommend a physician be seen.
- Year-round conditioning can increase athletic performance as well as decrease the risk for serious injury. Although injuries may occur, the severity and frequency of these injuries can be greatly reduced. Ray-Pec provides year-round conditioning for students not involved in a competitive sport each season. Athletic Trainers are available should an injury occur and all injuries should be reported immediately, so the best possible treatment can be obtained.
- Once an athlete has been referred to a physician, been seen by a physician, or treated at an emergency room, they will be required to obtain a written doctor's release to return to participation in practice or play.

PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSIONS

All students participating in interscholastic athletics must provide the following through the FOCUS student information system. Physicals are uploaded by parents to the participating student's account while permissions and acknowledgements are approved during the annual registration/enrollment process:

- Completed physical forms (uploaded by parent/guardian to FOCUS)
- Acknowledgment of student insurance - Completed at Registration and approved by parent/guardian.
- Student athletic handbook signature-Completed at registration and approved by parent/guardian.
- MSHSAA concussion materials & [protocols](#)-Completed at Registration and approved by parent/guardian.
- MSHSAA parent/guardian permission to use images for event publications & event results -Completed at Registration approved by parent/guardian.I consent to the MSHSAA's use of the herein-named student's name, likeness, and athletic-related information in reports of contests, promotional literature of the Association and other materials and releases related to interscholastic athletics.
- MSHSAA permission to participate in MSHSAA sanctioned events, review associated student records as needed for determination of eligibility & student/parent acknowledgement of risk of injury associated with participation-Completed at Registration approved by parent

- To enable the MSHSAA to determine whether the herein-named student is eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics in the MSHSAA member school, I consent to the release of the MSHSAA any and all portions of school record files, beginning with seventh grade, of the herein-named student, specifically including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, birth and age records, name and residence address of parent(s) or guardian(s), residence address of the student, academic work completed, grades received, and attendance data.
- I (We), the parent/guardian(s) understand what is expected of my student by the Ray-Pec School District and the consequences of these actions. In addition, we understand the philosophies of Enjoy the Game and agree to participate in the principles that they encourage. We also understand that there is risk of injury while participating in MSHSAA and/or Ray-Pec activities and events. We believe the school is taking reasonable precautions and responsibility for the safety of my students.
- Purchase a catastrophic policy through the school at a cost of \$5.00 (one-time annual fee per participant).
- A student activity fee of \$50.00 will be charged for each activity to all students participating in athletics, speech and debate, cheer, and scholar bowl.
 - There will be a maximum of \$150.00 charged to an individual family regardless of the number of students participating.
 - A maximum of \$100.00 per student will be charged.

PARENT/COACH-SPONSOR RELATIONSHIP

Parenting and coaching are extremely challenging. By establishing an understanding of each other's position, we are better able to provide greater benefits to the young people we work with. As parents, when your child becomes involved in one of our programs, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child.

This begins with clear communication from the Coach / Sponsor of your child's program.

- **Communication you should expect from your student's Coach/Sponsor**
 - Philosophy of the Coach/Sponsor
 - Expectations the Coach/Sponsor has of your child as well as all participants in the program.
 - Locations and times of all practices, meetings, and contests.
 - Team requirements – fees, special equipment, off-season training requirements, etc.
 - Procedures should your child be injured during participation
 - Firm, fair, and consistent enforcement of rules as written in the Student Handbook
- **Communication Coaches / Sponsors expect from parents**

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach or sponsor
- Notification of any schedule conflict in advance
- Specific concern in regards to a Coach/Sponsor's philosophy and/or expectations.
- **Appropriate concerns to discuss with Coaches / Sponsors**
 - The treatment of your child mentally or physically
 - Ways to help your child improve
 - Concerns about your child's behavior
 - Special needs of your child
 - Non-school team membership
 - Eligibility concerns
 - Your child in the total team concept
- **Appropriate time and place for discussion of concerns**
 - Please do not attempt to confront a Coach / Sponsor before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both parties. Meetings of this nature do not promote solutions.
 - We encourage your child to discuss any of their concerns with their Coach / Sponsor first as this develops responsibility and a working relationship between your child and the Coach/Sponsor
 - If necessary, the next order in the chain of command would be for YOU to contact the Coach / Sponsor. This will provide a clear understanding of the problem and a first-hand solution to your concern.
 - The final step would be to contact the Activity Director Kristina Martin.
- **Coaches and Sponsors are professionals**
 - Coaches & sponsors make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all members of the team. Decisions involving issues such as Team Strategy, Play calling, Team Personnel, and other student participants are not appropriate items to discuss with the Coach / Sponsor.

SPORTSMANSHIP OF ATHLETES & PARTICIPANTS

As a representative of your school and community, you have a responsibility to exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. Sportsmanship is carried into how the game is played, not whether it is won or lost. Simple acts or gestures of respect such as displaying good conduct through self-control, cooperating with officials – accepting their decisions and abiding by them, accepting both victory and defeat with pride and compassion, and never being boastful or bitter will aid you and your team as well as exemplify the standards expected of you by the School District. Acting in an unsportsmanlike manner could result in loss of eligibility.

SPORTSMANSHIP OF SPECTATORS

Sportsmanship carries over into the stands. As parents and spectators, we have a responsibility to set examples of good sportsmanship at all times. Unsportsmanlike conduct could result in your being barred from attending school contests. As educators, fans, and parents, we share the responsibility of setting positive examples. The values and integrity we strive to establish through our activities will serve our students throughout their lives; emotionally, mentally, socially, and physically.

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

Playing, competing, and being involved in athletics and co-curricular activities for Ray-Pec is a privilege. Students and adults representing Ray-Pec High School and the Ray-Pec School District are held in the highest regard and are seen as role models in the community. As leaders, we all have the responsibility to portray our teams, schools, and ourselves in a positive manner at all times. Sometimes this means doing things that are an inconvenience to you, but benefit the whole organization.

Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, SnapChat, Instagram, and other popular social media sites have increased in popularity globally and are used by a majority of students in the Ray-Pec School District in one form or another.

Students should be aware that third parties – including media, faculty, HS coaches, collegiate coaches and future employers (including future NIL prospects) – could easily access your profiles and view all personal information. This includes all pictures, videos, comments, and posts. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the student, your coach/director/advisor, your school, and the District. This can also be detrimental to a student’s future employment options, whether in professional or other industries. Additionally, failure to adhere to these guidelines and expectations could result in disciplinary consequences and/or loss of privilege to participate in Ray-Pec activities and athletics.

Communication & Social Media Expectations

- One of the greatest aspects of being an American is the opportunity for freedom of speech. However, understand that freedom of speech is not without consequences. Social media websites are not a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions.
- Think twice before posting. Remember many different audiences will see your posts, including college coaches, future NIL prospects, fans, alumni, children, other student athletes/participants, parents, staff, faculty, etc. If it's not positive--then DO NOT post it! There is an expectation of community, kindness, and respect that we would like the Ray-Pec community to uphold.

- The following guidelines outline the expectation of the Ray-Pec Community, both students and adults, in regards to social media. Please follow these expectations so that we can build positive relationships throughout RP:
- Please wait 24 hours (next day) before reaching out to a coach after a contest. Let your thoughts and your emotions have time to settle before reaching out. This includes not posting negative comments on social media even when comments are "veiled" in ambiguity--it's not necessary and it's hurtful. Avoiding verbal or written disparaging words and comments are important in competition from all parents, players, and coaches.
 - Disagreements are an unfortunate part of life. How we handle those disagreements can create positive understandings and be used to build a relationship or they damage a relationship and be a barrier.
 - Everyone is in "it" for the kids and no one wants to see a kid's psyche or performance diminished over hurt feelings. Use words to build people up rather than tear them down--kindness & positivity can go a long way in creating & maintaining a championship culture.
- If you are ever in doubt about the appropriateness of your online public material, consider whether it upholds and positively reflects your own values and ethics, as well as those of Ray-Pec.
 - Remember, always present a positive image, and do not do anything to embarrass yourself, your team, your family, or the credibility of being a Panther.
- Be honest, respectful, and positive.
- Be professional and polite.
- Be accurate. Share true times, measurables (height/weight/times/etc...)
 - If you make a mistake, own up to it and correct it quickly.
- Avoid topics that may be considered objectionable or inflammatory.
 - Do not post anything you would not speak about openly in a workplace or public, such as comments on drug use, sexual humor, and skin color or ethnic slurs.
- Be in a proper state of mind when you make a post.
 - Do not post when your judgment is impaired in any way.
- Remember collegiate coaches/HS coaches/teammates/parents and your community view social media websites. Your posts are globally accessible.
 - Remember potential employers use social media websites to screen candidates. Your career path can be directly impacted by your actions on social media websites.
 - Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image that you can be proud of today as well as years from now.
 - Your future self will appreciate you not making ridiculous posts.
- Use the privacy/security settings made available on social media sites.

- All of these expectations are applicable to both students and adults. Please do not be crude, offensive, or hurtful to coaches, parents, student-athletes, officials, administration, RP, etc....there is just no need to be hurtful when there is so much good to see and share.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions or presentations of the following:

- Photos, videos, comments, or posts showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco. For example: holding keg cups, beer cans, shot glasses, cigarettes...Don't do it!
- Photos, videos, and comments of a sexual nature.
 - This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.
- Pictures, videos, comments, or posts that condone drug-related activity.
 - This includes but is not limited to images that portray the personal use of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.
- Content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual or entity
 - Examples: derogatory comments regarding another institution, taunting comments aimed at a student-athlete, coach or team at another institution and derogatory comments against race and/or gender.)
- No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent, or illegal activities such as hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, and illegal drug use.
 - Do not post information, photos, or other representations of sexual content or harassing language.
 - For example:
 - hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking and illegal drug use.

ATHLETIC / NON-ATHLETIC LETTERING

- Criteria for qualifying for a letter in a sport is set by each individual sports coaching staff. The head coach will communicate these standards to parents and athletes at the start of the season, and those standards will not be changed. The head coach has the final authority in granting a letter to an athlete.

- School-sponsored non-athletic activities may also offer a letter. Again, criteria for obtaining a letter will be established by the activity sponsor.
- Criteria for both athletic and non-athletic lettering will include, but not limited to, factors including sportsmanship, citizenship, teamwork, and positive attitude.

MAINTAINING ELIGIBILITY

Any student who represents the School District in interscholastic activities shall be a bona fide student enrolled in the Ray-Pec School District and shall meet the MSHSAA general standards of eligibility. Knowing and following all these requirements will enable you to maintain and protect your eligibility. Also, you need to know that you must meet all the essential requirements in order to be eligible, as no one requirement is more important than another.

- **CITIZENSHIP-GRADES 6-12**
 - You must be a creditable citizen. Creditable citizens are those students whose conduct – both in-school and out-of-school whose conduct is unlawful should be reported to your Athletic Director immediately as your conduct may affect eligibility or contest outcomes.
 - Failure to report infractions of the law may require the school to forfeit all contests in which the player has participated.
- **ACADEMICS-GRADES 9-12**
 - **Required Tutoring-HS**
 - When a student, who is involved in an extracurricular activity, allows their grade to fall to an “F” in two or more classes, the student will be required to attend academic tutoring on a weekly basis. Grade checks will be run every three weeks to determine the need for academic tutoring. The student will be required to attend weekly academic tutoring until they have one or less courses with a grade of “F”. A student who submits work to a teacher in order to raise a grade must allow up to 3 school days for the teacher to grade the work and make adjustments in the gradebook (i.e. submitting a missing assignment and expecting the grade to be updated that day is not acceptable). It will be the responsibility of the student to inform the front office when the status of a grade has changed. The front office will inform the head coach/sponsor of updated academic status.
- **Credits-GRADES 9-12**
 - You must have earned, the preceding semester of attendance, a minimum of 3 units of credit or earned credit in 80% of the maximum allowable classes in which any student can be enrolled in the semester, whichever is greater.

- Summer school courses for academic eligibility may count provided the course is necessary for graduation or promotion (no electives), and it is placed on the school transcript. No more than one credit (two classes) in summer school shall be counted toward eligibility. Correspondence courses do not count.
 - If you are beginning the 9th grade, you must have been promoted before the beginning of the school year.
 - You must be making satisfactory progress toward graduation as set by the School District policy.
 - DO NOT drop courses without first consulting with your athletic administrator or counselor to determine whether it will affect your eligibility.
 - When a student who is involved in an extracurricular activity, allows their GPA to fall below a 1.67 or has one F on a progress report or grade card, they will be required to attend tutoring.
- **ACADEMICS-GRADES 7-8**
 - You must be enrolled in a normal course load for your grade.
 - You must have been promoted to a higher grade before the first day of classes for the new school year.
 - However, even though you were promoted, you will be ineligible if you fail more than one course in the previous grading period.
- **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**
 - **Grades 9-12 Enrollment Options for Academic Eligibility:** The following options are available to students to meet the requirements of By-Law 2.3.2.a and b above.
 - **Traditional Option:** A student may meet the requirements outlined in By-Law 2.3.2 through being enrolled and attending classes full-time at the high school.
 - **Non-Traditional Option 1 – Transcribed Credits:** A student may meet the requirements outlined in By-Law 2.3.2 by meeting ALL of the following:
 - The student is an enrolled student of the high school, but all or some of the courses/credits are not taken at the local high school (virtual, post-secondary, work-study, etc.).
 - All credits attempted/earned are placed on the high school transcript,
 - All classes must be completed by the high school's close of the semester, as per By-Law 2.3.11, for those classes/credits to be considered toward activity eligibility.

- All classes attempted are graded and placed on the student's junior high transcript/school records, and a grade card is issued by the school the student intends to represent in one or more activities,
- All classes must be completed by the close of the school's grading period, as per By-Law 2.3.11, for those classes/grades to be considered toward activity eligibility for the following grading period.
- **Non-Traditional Option 2 (Public Schools Only)** - Seat-Time +
Confirmation of Classes: A student may meet the requirements outlined in By-Law 2.3.6 by meeting ALL of the following:
 - The student is an enrolled student of the public junior high school of residence, as defined in By-Law 3.10, and is taking a minimum of two traditional seat-time courses, and
 - The school administration confirms after a full academic review that the student is further enrolled in courses taken outside of the school which, together with the two seat-time courses, bring the student up to a "full load" for the school. Each local school will determine its oversight, standards, and criteria for approval of such outside courses, as well as the procedures to determine success/grade confirmation for academic eligibility for the current and following grading period. It is not necessary that such confirmed grades be placed on school records or the student's transcript/school records, but may be listed, at the school's discretion.
 - All classes/assignments must be completed by the junior high school's close of the grading period, as per By-Law 2.3.11, for those classes/grades to be considered toward activity eligibility.
 - Transfer of Enrollment based on Changes in Bona-fide Student and Academic Status: Any student whose enrollment status changes from being a non-bona fide student (not meeting By-Law 2.1 and one of the grades 6, 7 and 8 Enrollment Options) to being a bona fide student (meeting By-Law 2.1 and one of the grades 6, 7 and 8 Enrollment Options) would be considered a transfer student (see By-Law 3.10.4), and ineligible to represent a member school until a transfer of eligibility form is filed and an eligibility ruling is rendered.

- **TRANSFERRING SCHOOLS-GRADES 6-12**

- MSHSAA determines eligibility for all students. In many cases, a "hardship" will need to be shared with MSHSAA to gain eligibility. Please share a narrative via email with the Activities and Athletic Director (AD) outlining the circumstances that describe the reason for the move. Many times these are personal which is why this information should be emailed directly to the AD so that he/she can advocate for the student-athlete's best interest to be granted eligibility. Our role is to advocate on the student's behalf to be eligible to participate in sports and activities as a Ray-Pec High School student.
- Students wishing to transfer must complete the following:
 - New RP Student Athletic Information [Form \(linked here\)](#)
 - This form MUST be completed in its entirety. Failure to do so delays the process.
 - A narrative on why the student is moving.
 - Both of these documents must be sent to the Athletic Director
 - HS-Kristina Martin at kristina.martin@raypec.org
 - EMS-Cristin Blunt at cristin.blunt@raypec.org
 - SMS-Jim Brown at james.brown@raypec.org
- MSHSAA transfers for the upcoming school year begin July 15 for new students.
 - To participate in summer camps and activities, students transferring to the district must prove residency.
 - Before the second week in June families may come to Ray-Pec High School.
 - Between the 2nd week of June through the last week of July, parents will need to contact Pam Steele at pam.steele@raypec.org.
- Students and parents/guardians must move to the new residence at the same time per MSHSAA guidelines for eligibility. Always check with your Athletic Director before you transfer to determine whether the move will affect your eligibility.
- Discipline follows the student to the new school. Transferring while under suspension will cause you to be ineligible for 365 days. (Bylaw 3.10.4)
- **PARTICIPATION LIMITS 9-12**
 - You are eligible to participate in any sport for a maximum of four consecutive seasons. Any part of a contest played during a season counts as a season of participation.
 - Your eligibility to participate in high school activities begins when you first enter the ninth grade and lasts for the next eight consecutive semesters (four consecutive years).

- **AGE LIMIT GRADES 9-12**
 - If you reach 19 years of age prior to July 1, you will be ineligible for the next school year.
 - In order to participate on or against teams made up of only ninth-graders, you must not have reached 16 years of age prior to July 1 preceding the opening of school.
 - You will be ineligible to participate after graduation from a Senior High School. Students who are granted an early release after their junior year are ineligible for further participation. (NOTE: You are eligible to participate in state-level events that extend beyond the date of your school's graduation at the end of the spring semester or your senior year.)
- **PARTICIPATION LIMITS 7-8**
 - You are eligible for your first two semesters of attendance in the seventh grade and for your first two semesters in the eighth grade in consecutive years.
 - Students in grades seventh or eighth grade cannot participate against students in grades ninth grade or above. (Bylaw 3.19.3)
- **AGE LIMIT GRADES 7-8**
 - To participate on or against teams made up of only seventh-graders, you must not have reached 14 years of age before July 1 preceding the opening of school.
 - To participate on or against teams made up of only eighth-graders, you must not have reached 15 years of age prior to July 1 preceding the opening of school. You may participate with the next higher grade level when you no longer meet the age limit for your grade.
- **ENTERING SCHOOL**
 - You must enter a school within the first 11 days of the semester in order to be eligible. (Bylaw 2.5.2).

AMATEUR AND AWARD STANDARDS/NAME IMAGE LIKENESS (NIL)

- Amateurism and Benefits (3.6) and Sport-Specific Instruction (Bylaw 3.14.5.e)
- By-Law 3.6, Amateurism and Benefits, outlines the requirements of amateurism and was amended on the 2023 Annual Ballot to speak to Name, Image, and Likeness. Likewise, during the 2023 Legislative Session, this topic was discussed and a new statute was passed that affects a small sub-group of Missouri secondary school student-athletes.
- As per State Statute RSMo 173.280, a high school athlete shall have the right to earn or attempt to earn compensation from the use of such athlete's name, image, likeness rights, or athletic reputation ONLY AFTER signing an athletic letter of intent (NLI*) or other written agreement to enroll in a postsecondary educational institution in the state of Missouri. *This refers to the National Letter of Intent program, managed by the NCAA and with governance oversight provided by the Division I Collegiate Commissioners

Association. There are very specific rules and regulations governing this program and the signing of the NLI. Written agreements through programs run by other collegiate athletic associations (NAIA/NJCAA) would meet this provision as well.

- You may accept awards that are symbolic in nature, such as medals, ribbons, trophies, plaques, etc. for participating in a school athletic program.
- You may accept awards which are merchandise and such award shall not exceed \$250 in the suggested manufacturer's retail price.
- You may accept awards for participating in non-school-sponsored athletic competitions only if the above restrictions are met. (Bylaw 3.6)
- Therefore, all students must meet the specific provisions of By-Law 3.6, except for those who:
 - 1) sign such an agreement for collegiate sport-specific participation and
 - 2) that agreement is with a Missouri college or university that is participating in the official NLI program or a like program that can be documented.
- Other rules do apply for athletes wishing to profit from NIL. If an athlete meets the necessary criteria for NIL benefits, the MSHSAA Handbook states:
 - However, in the NIL Activity, the following may be utilized only with advanced approval by a school administrator: member school name, colors, nickname(s), mascot(s), logo(s), uniforms, etc.
 - A student may use his/her name, image, or likeness (NIL) and receive a benefit (allowable or prohibited) if he/she is not representing a school, not representing or depicting the specific sport desired for amateurism, and is not through such use promoting his/her participation, fame or prowess in that particular sport.

NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION

- **Organized Non-School Competition**
 - The athletic competition shall be considered "organized" if any of the following conditions exist:
 - Competition is scheduled and publicized in advance, official score is kept, individual or team standings are maintained, official timer or game officials are used, admission is charged, teams are regularly formed or team rosters are predetermined, team members are dressed in team uniforms or a team is privately or commercially-sponsored.
 - Further, a competition that is either directly or indirectly sponsored, promoted or administered by an individual, organization, or any other agency shall be considered organized.
 - Same Season/Same Sport: A student shall neither practice nor compete as a member of a non-school team or as an individual participant in an organized non-school competition in that same sport, except as provided for specifically

below. In order to be eligible for the school team, the student must join the team at the start of the season and attend all scheduled school practices and contests. Participation in a non-school sports event that is specifically allowed in Section 3 must be approved in advance by a school administrator. Absences not related to non-school competition will be handled locally.

- Fall Non-School Competition Exception: For fall sports, students may continue in non-school competition until the Tuesday following Labor Day, with prior approval by a school administrator.
- Swimming/Diving: During the school sports season of swimming and diving, a student may, after fulfilling all requirements, practices, and competitions of the school swimming and diving team, practice and/or compete as a member of a non-school team or as an individual participant in an organized non-school swimming and diving practice or competition under the conditions listed below.
 - Priority shall be given to all school team practices and competitions. Should a non-school practice/competition be in direct conflict with the school's scheduled practice/competition the school practice/competition shall take priority. Prior approval by the school administrator may grant an exception for a student to participate.
 - No school time shall be missed to compete, practice or travel to the site of such non-school swimming and diving competition unless the absence is approved in advance by the school administrator.
 - A school shall not replace its swimming or diving program with any non-school swimming or diving program.
 - In order to remain eligible under this exception to the non-school competition rule, the student must join the team at the start of the season and attend all scheduled school practices and contests, unless attending a non-school competition with prior approval by a school administrator. Absences not related to non-school competition will be handled locally.
 - After the first allowable practice date, no school swimming coach may provide any coaching or instruction to any student while that student is participating in a non-school competition during the school sports season. Editor's Note: Outside of the school sports season, coaching contact restrictions apply - 3.13.2.b.3 and 3.14.2.e.
- Cross-Country, Golf, Tennis, Track and Field, and Wrestling
 - During the school sports season, a student may, after fulfilling all requirements, practices, and competitions of the school team, compete

as an individual participant in two organized non-school competitions under the conditions listed below.

- Priority shall be given to all school team practices and competitions. Should a non-school competition be in direct conflict with the school's scheduled practice/competition the school practice/competition shall take priority. Prior approval by the school administrator may grant an exception to a student to participate in a non-school competition that is in direct conflict with the school program.
 - No school time shall be missed to compete, practice, or travel to the site of such non-school competition unless the absence is approved in advance by the school administrator.
 - The student shall not miss any MSHSAA-sponsored postseason event that involves either the student or his/her school team participating in such non-school competition.
 - To remain eligible under this exception to the non-school competition rule, the student must join the team at the start of the season and attend all scheduled school practices and contests, unless attending a non-school competition with prior approval by a school administrator. Absences not related to non-school competition will be handled locally.
- After the first allowable practice date, no school coach of the applicable sport in season may provide any coaching or instruction to any student while that student is participating in a non-school competition during the Page 72 2023-24 MSHSAA OFFICIAL HANDBOOK school sports season. Editor's Note: Outside of the school sports season, coaching contact restrictions apply - 3.13.2.b.3 and 3.14.2.e.

Non-School Team Tryout

- With prior approval by a school administrator, a student may participate in a one-day, one-time non-school team tryout provided the tryouts are held on a day the students do not practice or play for the school team and provided the tryout is exclusively an experience in which a student is tested and screened for ability and placement on a roster and does not include any instruction, coaching, practice, workout, etc.
- Students may not participate in any game competition or scrimmages for the non-school team until after the high school team has completed its season by playing its last contest. Any non-school team tryout is limited to one day.

SAME SEASON/DIFFERENT SPORT COMPETITION

- A student may practice or compete as a member of a non-school team or as an individual participant in an organized non-school competition in a different sport than the school sport in a season under the following specific conditions.
- In order to be eligible for the school team, the student must join the team at the start of the season and attend all scheduled school practices and contests. Participation in a non-school sports event that is specifically allowed in Section 3 must be approved in advance by a school administrator. Absences not related to non-school competition will be handled locally.
- No school time is missed to compete, practice for, or travel to the site of such non-school competition unless the absence is approved in advance by the athletic director.
- The student shall not practice for or compete in the non-school competition on the same date the school team practices or competes, without approval of the school administrator.
- School Coaches: If held during the school year but outside the designated school season for the sport:
 - A high school coach of any sport may not provide any coaching or instruction to any student who currently attends or will attend the member high school (grades 9-12) the following year.
 - A junior high school coach of any sport may not provide any coaching or instruction to any student who currently attends or will attend the member junior high school (grades 7-8; and grade 9 when included in a separate junior high school membership) the following year.
 - No coach may play on a non-school team on which members of his/her school team will be participating nor may he/she be directly involved in the actual administration of such games, including officiating.

COLLEGE AUDITIONS AND TRYOUTS

- College/University-Conducted Events for Individual Students During the School Year:
 - Students may participate in athletic recruiting or instruction events that are directly sponsored by a college or university, conducted by that college or university's coaching staff for the sport concerned, and held on its campus, under the following provisions.
- Compliance with Governing Body:
 - These events shall adhere to the rules and regulations for such offerings as outlined by the governing body of which the college or university is a member (NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA, etc.).
- College/University-Conducted Recruiting Events:

- Events in which one or more students participate in physical activity including individual or group drills and/or limited scrimmages (not complete games) for the purpose of revealing, demonstrating, or displaying the student’s athletic abilities in a specific sport to the coaching staff of the organizing college/university for recruiting purposes. During the academic year, no school time may be missed to travel to or participate in the event, without the prior approval of a school administrator. (See By-Laws 3.13.4 and 3.14.4 in regard to Evaluation Events Conducted by Private Organizers).
- College/University-Conducted Individual Instruction Events:
 - Instructional clinic or group lesson events that involve individual instruction in a specific sport that is provided by college or university coaching staff and include activities designed to improve overall skills and general knowledge in the respective sport. The primary emphasis shall be on teaching individual player skills, and there is no complete game competition other than limited scrimmage situations. During the academic year, no school time may be missed to travel to or participate in the event, without the prior approval of a school administrator. The student does not have to be accompanied by an approved school coach during the respective interscholastic sports season; for events conducted outside of the specific interscholastic sports season, no school coach may attend the event. (See 3.13.4 and 3.14.4 regarding Individual Instruction Events that are not conducted by a college/university.)
- College/University Conducted Team Competition Events throughout the Year:
 - a. Team Camp-Type Events: Events that are mainly competitive in nature but focused on teams and not individuals (i.e. “team camps”) are covered by 3.13.2, Organized Non-School Competition, 3.14.2, Organized Non-School Competition, and 3.15, Sport Participation and Contact – During the Summer.
 - b. Competitive Events: See By-Law 3.18.7 for coverage of interscholastic competitions organized by a college or university.
- Penalty: If the student does not receive prior approval of a school administrator to miss school time for travel to and participation in the college/university event, the school shall impose a penalty for the violation. The minimum penalty shall be ineligibility for one contest for each day of school time missed up to a maximum period of ineligibility not to exceed 365 days in the sport in which the violation occurred.

ALL-STAR GAMES

- You may not compete in an all-star game or contest before you complete your eligibility in each high school sport.
- Participation in an all-star game or contest before ending your high school eligibility will result in you becoming ineligible to participate in any high school sport.

- A senior with no high school eligibility remaining for a specific sport may participate in one All-Star game for that sport during the school year. See your administrator before agreeing to play.

RECRUITING OF ATHLETES

- You will be ineligible for your career at a school if you are influenced/recruited by a person or persons to attend that school for the purpose of athletic or activity reasons. You may return to your original school and be ineligible for no more than 365 days.

TRANSFER FOR ATHLETIC REASONS

- You will be ineligible for 365 days if you transfer to another school for athletic reasons.

SPORTS CAMPS AND CLINICS

- You may attend a specialized summer athletic camp/clinic where you receive instruction or coaching from a member of your school's coaching staff for a maximum of 20 calendar days in any one sport.
- You may attend a non-school sponsored summer camp/clinic for as long as you wish where you do not receive instruction or coaching from a member of your school's coaching staff.
 - Refer to the Non-School section.
- School Sponsored Summer Sports Instruction/Camps:
 - A member school may sponsor its own summer sport(s) camp(s) (team and/or individual camp) during the summer provided the following criteria are met:
 - Only students enrolled to enter the 6th grade (Junior High membership or 6-12 membership) or the 9th grade (9-12 membership) who will attend the school, and currently enrolled students in the sponsoring member school, may attend the school-sponsored camp. A school district may offer a summer camp to students enrolled in the school district for the upcoming year in grades 6-12. (See By-Law 3.12.4 for youth camps which do not include 9-12 graders.)
 - For a school-sponsored team camp (i.e. various high schools bringing a full team for a team camp), each school team participating in the camp shall be coached and supervised at all times by a member of that school's coaching staff.
 - Late Release: Schools that release for summer following the defined start of summer may hold summer camps before school release for summer as long as students do not miss any instructional time. Further, these days

shall be counted as summer contact days as defined in this section. Football is included in this allowance as well. Editor's Note: See By-Law 3.12.4 for coverage of youth camps.

- Beginning the summer before your 9th-grade year, you may only attend a school-sponsored camp at the school you are registered to attend.
- You or your parents must pay all camp/clinic fees, tuition, etc. A scholarship, waiver of fees, or payment of travel expenses shall result in the loss of your eligibility.
- Before attending any specialized athletic camp/clinic/group instruction, you should consult with your athletic director.

FOREIGN STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

- You are eligible for varsity competition for one year only, provided you are participating in an exchange program listed by CSIET.
- No person associated with the school may be involved in your selection.
- No member of the school's coaching staff shall serve as a host family.
- You must meet the age requirement of not reaching age 19 before July 1.
- You must possess a current and valid visa.
- You must have enrolled within the first 11 days of the semester.
- You must meet all other general student-eligibility requirements
- If you meet all standards of eligibility except a CSIET program, you are eligible only for sub-varsity competition.
- A senior foreign exchange student, in his/her 7th and 8th semesters, attending a member school may be considered eligible with no restrictions to participate in interscholastic athletics during his/her 7th and 8th semesters only, provided the following conditions are met. Editor's Note: The 7th and 8th semesters represent a student's culminating year of high school education.
 - The foreign exchange student must comply with all other eligibility requirements.
 - The student has not previously attended any other American high school.
 - The foreign exchange student is eligible at the public or non-public school(s) located in the district in which the foreign exchange student's host family resides, as defined in By-Law 3.10.1.b.
- You are eligible for varsity competition for one year only, provided you are participating in an exchange program listed by CSIET (Council on Standards for International Educational Travel)
- No person associated with the school may be involved in your selection.
- No member of the school's coaching staff shall serve as a host family.
- You must meet the age requirement of not reaching age 19 prior to July 1.

- You must possess a current and valid visa.
- You must have enrolled within the first 11 days of the semester.
- You must meet all other general student-eligibility requirements
- If you meet all standards of eligibility except a CSIET program, you are eligible only for sub-varsity competition.
- Non-Senior Foreign Exchange Students: Any foreign exchange student in his/her first through sixth semester of school attendance (as defined in By-Law 2.4) will be considered eligible only under By-Laws 3.10.4.i.2 and 3.10.4.j.2b
- A student who has attended a school system that does not sponsor interscholastic athletics but who has participated in organized non-school competition, as defined in By-Law 3.13.2, during the 12 calendar months preceding the date of such transfer can be eligible only for sub-varsity competition in that sport(s) for 365 days from the date of transfer.

ALCOHOL/TOBACCO-VAPE/DRUG USE

The Raymore-Peculiar R-II School District adheres to Missouri State Law in maintaining a drug/alcohol/tobacco-free environment. The use of mood-altering chemicals such as alcohol, drugs, marijuana, tobacco, etc. negatively affects athletes in behavior, learning, and total development, as well as posing threats to the athlete and those around them.

Close contact with advisors and coaches provides them the opportunity to observe, confront, and assist students. This allows them to recognize and elevate the physical and emotional potential of students in a positive manner and encourage the growth of these students in an atmosphere of responsible citizenship.

During the school and/or during the season of practice, play or rehearsal, regardless of the quantity, a student shall not have in possession or use a beverage containing alcohol, have in possession or use tobacco, or use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away marijuana or any substance defined by law as an illegal drug; or use a prescription drug other than it's prescribed use. The following are minimum guidelines that apply to all activity and athletic programs:

- USE OR POSSESSION OF ANY FORM OF TOBACCO/VAPE
 - 1st offense – 5 school days suspension from game events (up to 10% of the contests).
 - 3 School days suspension with completion of Vape Educate.
 - 2nd offense – Dismissal from team
- USE OR POSSESSION OF ANY FORM OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
 - 1st offense – 10 school days suspension from games (or up to 20% of the contests).
 - 2nd offense – Dismissal from team

- USE OR POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, AND DRUGS NOT PRESCRIBED BY A PHYSICIAN
 - 1st offense – 10 school days suspension from games (or up to 20% of the contests).
 - 2nd offense – Dismissal from team
- DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS/ALCOHOL/TOBACCO/VAPE
 - 1st offense - Safe Schools Violation

These rules are applicable at any time during the school year or when practices are being conducted prior to the opening of school in the fall (summer fitness). Individual coaches reserve the right to additional discipline (approved by the Administrator).

- Any student who is given medical permission by a physician to take a prescription or a student who is taking over-the-counter medication must contact the school nurse and arrangements for taking the medication will be handled through the nurse’s office. The school must be made aware of any medication prescribed to the student prior to use.
- The school Nurse and Athletic Trainer will coordinate medication distribution
- During summer camps and out-of-town trips, the Athletic Director must be notified of students needing medications or other medical supplies.

HAZING

The Raymore-Peculiar School District prohibits any form of hazing. Hazing is not acceptable and will result in disciplinary action. No student, coach, teacher, sponsor, volunteer, or District employee shall plan, direct, supervise, encourage, assist, permit, condone, or participate in any hazing activity. Students who have been subjected to hazing are instructed to report the incident to a school official immediately.

Q&A

Q: Will students be able to count summer school credit toward meeting the academic eligibility requirements for the first semester?

A: Yes. MSHSAA By-Law 2.3.5.f provides students may count up to 1 credit from summer school toward establishing their eligibility for the fall semester. Only classes, which are required for graduation may be counted.

Q: If a student needs 1 unit of credit in physical education and has earned that credit by the end of the sophomore year, may the student take physical education during the summer as an elective and count this toward eligibility?

A: No. Only classes required for graduation may be counted towards eligibility.

Q: Does loss of eligibility carry over from one season to the next?

A: Yes. If a student commits a violation in the last contest of the Season, he/she loses eligibility in the next season. Also, once a Student commits an offense, any subsequent offense until Graduation would be considered his/her second violation.

Q: How does my child get released to return to play following a concussion?

A: If your child is sent for evaluation with suspicion of a concussion, you will be issued a Return to Play (RTP) form from the District Athletic Trainers. This evaluation/release will need to be conducted and signed by a licensed medical professional and a copy given to the coach and/or Athletic Trainer before your child will be allowed to return to any physical activity.

Q: What is meant by the core classes required for graduation by DESE?

A: For all students across the state to meet a minimal curricular program, it was adopted by the schools to rely upon core courses and required credits for graduation as required by the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education. Currently, these minimum requirements are:

Practical Arts – 1 credit

Fine Arts – 1 credit

Physical Education – 1 credit

Science – 3 credits

Mathematics – 3 credits

Communication Arts – 4 credits

Social Studies – 3 credits.

Health Education – ½ credit

Personal Finance – ½ credit

CONCLUSION

Thank you for helping build a better Ray-Pec with positive interactions and support of one another!

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A PANTHER!