



RYLE Football 2025 Player Handbook

Players/Parents/Supporters: Welcome to a Great and Exciting Season of Ryle football! The primary purpose of this handbook is to acquaint you with the philosophy, guidelines, policies, and schedules of the Ryle High School Football Program. You are responsible to read, understand, and follow the policies of this handbook.

Our policies and schedules have been put in this booklet so you can refer to them throughout the year when you feel it is necessary. You are expected, as well as your parents, to read the handbook and sign the back page.

This handbook was made to assure that you understand what we expect from you. It is our attempt at avoid any misunderstanding. We hope that you will read and use it as a guideline for your benefit.

Be assured that we will always help any of our student-athletes through any obstacles they may incur. Please feel free to come to us at any time.

Michael Engler
Head Football Coach

RYLE Football Program Philosophy:

The Ryle HS Football Program is here to produce a quality product that we, as a school and community, can point to with pride. We will provide these young people with the tools necessary to be successful in all things in life. We are here to educate young people in how to play the game of football. At all times we will strive to teach our athletes, commitment, respect, integrity, sportsmanship and discipline, while striving to reach our highest potential. Ryle HS football emphasizes the principles of teamwork, while fostering a sense of family and community.

"We are on the field and in the locker room to teach our players how to win. Not just on the gridiron, but in any profession they choose. We want to impart habits that will lead them to excellence throughout their lives. Most of all, we want to teach them the value of loyalty, integrity, and teamwork. Once you know how to work with people, you can accomplish anything" Lou Holtz, 1998.

To Be A CHAMPION...

To be a CHAMPION, you need to act like a CHAMPION! You need prepare like a CHAMPION! You need to practice like a CHAMPION! It is expected that our players will work like a CHAMPION in the classroom, on the football field, in the weight room and in the community. **EVERYONE MUST WORK TOGETHER!**

"WINNING ISN'T EVERYTHING, BUT STRIVING TO WIN IS"

Raider Pride

It is a privilege to be a member of this football team and to be a Raider. The time, effort and energy we all spend in making our program a success is based on a strong conviction that football and an education will provide some of your greatest values and most rewarding moments. Take pride in everything you do as a part of our program, for in football as in life, the success you enjoy will result from the effort you are willing to give to be a winner. Remember the players who came before you every time you walk into the locker room, weight room, step on the field, or wear a Raider Football uniform. Remember you are setting an example for those who will follow in your footsteps. **YOU ARE A RAIDER ALL THE TIME AND FOREVER!**

Communication:

- michael.engler@boone.kyschools.us
- Apptegy App (Boone County Schools App)
 - Twitter: @Ryle_Football / @RyleFreshmanFB
 - Website: www.ryleaidersfootball.com
 - Recruiting Website: <https://www.rylefootball.com/>

Program Principles:

RESPECT – for parents, teachers, coaches, peers, teammates, opponents, and officials.

INTEGRITY – Strict adherence to the standards and values established by Ryle High School, the Kentucky High School Athletic Association, coaches and teachers is expected.

SPORTSMANSHIP – Coaches, parents and players will abide by the rules of the game and conduct themselves with humility and grace, win or lose.

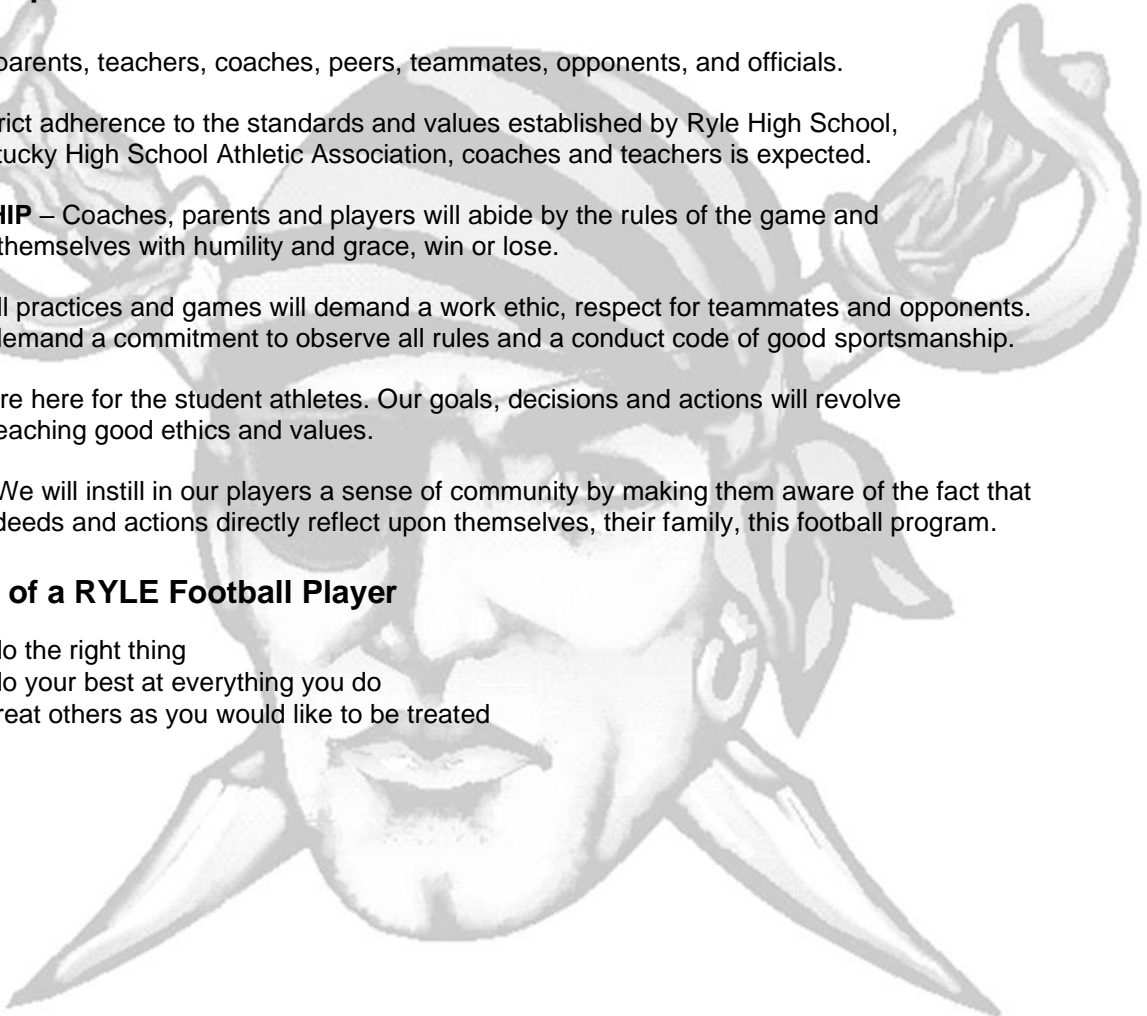
DISCIPLINE – All practices and games will demand a work ethic, respect for teammates and opponents. We will demand a commitment to observe all rules and a conduct code of good sportsmanship.

VALUES – We are here for the student athletes. Our goals, decisions and actions will revolve around teaching good ethics and values.

COMMUNITY – We will instill in our players a sense of community by making them aware of the fact that their deeds and actions directly reflect upon themselves, their family, this football program.

Expectations of a RYLE Football Player

- Always do the right thing
- Always do your best at everything you do
- Always treat others as you would like to be treated



Player Guidelines and Policies

1. As a general rule, all players are to conduct themselves with class and dignity, both on and off the field. Their behavior is a direct reflection of our school and football program. Any action that will embarrass themselves, the team, school, or their parents is an action that should not be taken.
2. Grades will be monitored weekly throughout the school year. You are expected to do your best in school!!! See your position coach as soon as possible if you are having trouble in a class. Missing practice to catch up on school work is not acceptable. Players that are deemed ineligible will attend practice to study at an area designated by the coach or unless cleared with Coach Engler (or position coach) to get tutoring ahead of time.
3. Clean cut haircuts are required. No earrings or jewelry worn during any football activity. Do not wear caps inside. Wear clothing that presents a classy image. No clothing that advertises alcohol, drugs, or obscenity – even if suggestive.
4. All players are expected to be PRESENT and ON TIME to practice. Any player who is late to practice will be held after practice to make up for time they missed – RPR (Raider Pride Reminders). Any player who misses practice without notifying Coach Engler or position coach in person or by email ahead of time will be dealt with accordingly (1st Unexcused absence = RPR, 2 plus UE absences = miss game time at Coach's discretion (i.e. 1st quarter of game). In the case of emergency, the parent / guardian must contact Coach Engler. Any absence, regardless of excused or unexcused, will require PRs upon returning to practice. (This does not include injured players as determined by the athletic trainer or medical professional, but they **WILL BE** in attendance for practice – They will perform rehab activities (wear Helmet and be with their position group throughout practice.) Ryle HS and the KHSAA policy states that an athlete must be in attendance for the school day to be eligible for practice or games on that day. Any circumstances (Doctors visit) that would be excused may ONLY be excused through the RHS administration.
5. Inclement weather: When practice is scheduled, we will do something as a team regardless of the weather. So, practice will be on. When the situation arises where we have inclement weather (i.e. lightening) we will do one of the following: 1. Move practice to the gym. 2. Watch film and wait out the weather. 3. Go to weight room and wait out the weather. (note: In a situation where we go inside to wait out the weather, practice will end at the scheduled time.
6. No player will ever be ridiculed (hazed) by another player either in the dressing room or on the field. The freshmen and J.V. players will be respected by the varsity team, and vice versa. Any form of harassment will be dealt with swiftly and harshly.
7. All players must have regard for the equipment. The floor will be free of trash and equipment that does not belong there. The locker room will be clean. Any equipment changes must be handled by a coach. Even more as we continue to deal with Covid 19. All uniforms and equipment MUST be washed on a regular schedule.
8. Treat all coaches, teachers, administrators, and support staff members with respect and common courtesy.
9. **Substance Free Team:** Alcohol/Drug/Tobacco (includes Vaping) use or possession – the use or possession of these substances is illegal, harmful to your body, and portrays a negative image of our school, community, and football team. **1st Offense: Suspension for 1 Game plus PRs during practice time (2,000 yards of plate pushes, which must be completed in the suspension week – in addition to school punishment). 2nd Offense: Removal from the Team.**
10. Use of excessive profanity and/or poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated, especially if directed at others. This includes taunting or “trash talking”. Never do or say anything that shames our school and your teammates / coaches.
11. Social Media: Do not post/tweet/retweet anything to do with sex, race, sexual orientation, drugs, politics, vulgarity, opponents (trash talks), or other religions. Do not post anything you would not want your parents or grandparents to see. Use discretion and avoid venting or ranting. Do not block coaches from your Twitter account.
12. Any violation of one or more of these rules is an indication that this football program, and being a part of it, does not mean very much to you. Any violation will be dealt with accordingly, ranging from PR to expulsion from the team. Those who work hard and adhere to these policies will be rewarded with success, satisfaction, and an experience to be appreciative and proud of. The fact that these guidelines are met is an indication that winning is important.

Program Overview: (Calendar is attached)

Program description:	Competitive football played at the Varsity, Junior Varsity & Freshmen
Coaches:	Coaches Introduction
Length of Season:	2025: Weightlifting / Conditioning – Begins in January Spring Practice – After Spring Break (3 Weeks) Summer Weightlifting / Conditioning – See Calendar Season – 12 Week Season – 10 Games / 2 Scrimmages. Playoffs – 5 Weeks (Ending in early December)
Practice times:	2025: Raider Camp: 6am to 9am Prior to School: 8am to 11am (Tentative) During School: 2:45pm-5:40pm (Tentative) Freshmen: 6:00pm-8:00pm (Tentative) During Season / Saturday Morning: 8:00am to 11:00am (Varsity Only-JV Plays) Walk Through (Game Day / No School): 10am to 11am (Varsity Only) *Note* See Website / Twitter (Receive Text) for Calendars Changes
Eligibility requirements:	Must meet KHSAA Guidelines, Ryle High School and team Educational Standards.
Costs and/or needed equipment:	<p><i>There will also be a Boone County BOE \$35 activities fee.</i></p> <p><u>Transportation</u></p> <p><u>It is critical that all players contribute to the team and / or participate in fundraisers.</u></p> <p>Players need to purchase: 7 on 7: Spirit Pack Season: Cleats (Color – Predominant Black (White / Orange)) Extra Game Socks: (Black) <u>Girdle</u> <u>Mouthpiece</u> <u>Under Gear</u> (All Players will Wear the Same Color) Provided: Uniforms (Game / Practice) Helmet / Shoulder Pad (You can purchase your own) Belts (Black) Knee / Thigh Pads Mouthpiece</p> <p>Equipment Care: All players must have regard for their equipment. Equipment care is very essential in maintaining good quality equipment for you and others to use while participating with the RHS football team. The average cost of outfitting you with essential and proper fitting</p>

	<p>safety gear is around \$700.00 plus per student / athlete (not including game uniforms). The costs continue to rise each and every year, so it is necessary for you, as the borrower, to take full responsibility for you equipment care.</p> <p>Helmet: Cost \$450.00 and up (\$85 per for reconditioning)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect & tighten facemask screws weekly • Inspect & tighten chinstrap screws weekly • Inspect chinstrap buckles weekly • Wipe down your helmet weekly (inside & out) with a damp cloth. <p>Shoulder Pad: Cost \$300.00 and up (\$60 per for reconditioning)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect all straps, strings, & clips weekly • Tape all your straps after proper clip adjustment has been received. • Wash the molded plastic with damp cloth. • Clean Shoulder Pads on a regular basis with boiled water and a disinfectant. <p>Pants, Girdle, Belt, & Practice Jersey: (Game Uniforms: Cost \$200.00 and up)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash them regularly to keep them from stinking, staining and housing bacteria <p>Pads (i.e. thigh & knee pads):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wipe these down with damp cloth regularly. <p>Locks on Lockers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All players are required to have a lock on their lockers in the locker room (coaches will be given the combination) to maintain the safety of their equipment. • If a player loses any piece of equipment, then they are responsible for the cost of replacing it new!!!! <p>Game Uniforms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Game Uniforms Will be Washed and Returned to Football Office on either Saturday Morning or Monday!!!!!! Failure to do so may result in Lost Playing Time! Game Uniforms will be handed out on Thursday for Next Game!!!!!!
Physical and Health Insurance Paperwork:	<p>All players must have an updated physical exam on KHSAA forms to participate in games and/or practices. All players are also required to have health insurance. The Boone County School System also requires a \$35 activities fee.</p>

Summer Workouts:

The summer is a time to get a jumpstart on the coming season! The amount of work you put in during the summer will largely determine the amount of success you have in the fall. You are encouraged to be at all weight workouts. We will also compete in weekend passing tournament and lineman competition. Refer to your summer schedule (Calendar) for details. Our objective this summer is to get better each day and enjoy ourselves. When you are going out of town or on vacation, let Coach Engler know BEFORE you leave (Schedule during KHSAA Dead Period). Be responsible and communicate with me. Be **COMMITTED** to your team and its goals.

Injuries and Health Concerns:

If you have an injury or health concern, please see the RHS athletic trainer (Jenna Perry) before going to a doctor. If a player is taken to the hospital, then either Coach Engler (a designated coach) or the Athletic Trainer will notify a parent / guardian. Players should report any updates in medical conditions or medications being taken to both Coach Engler and the Athletic Trainer (Jenna Perry). Players should also report health conditions such as skin rashes or mononucleosis to Coach Engler and the Athletic Trainer so appropriate action can be taken to prevent spreading to teammates.

Nutrition:

See attached Guidelines or Website for Nutrition 101 information

Team Meals/Travel

Team Meals still to be Determined: (Sponsor Needed)

See Team Costs for details. All Players will attend Team Meals and Game Week Activities. This is a privilege and an honor to attend and should be realized by all players. A great many people put forward a tremendous amount of work to provide this. Take PRIDE in that and be THANKFUL!

Fundraising:

Each year, the Football Program needs to generate approximately \$MONEY. All players and parents will be asked to participate. **FUNDRAISING IS A TEAM FUNCTION!** Funds raised go toward field / weight room equipment, uniforms, tournament fees, awards, banquet, clothing, video equipment (HUDL), etc. These items add up fast. Eighty percent of our game ticket sales do go directly to the football program. The money from our ticket gate is a tremendous source for our football program. So, we encourage alumni, parents, and loyal "Raider" supporters to get involved in a Touchdown Club that will help sell the program. The goal of this group is to create and elevate awareness of the football program in the school and community.

Media:

Remember the following items when communicating with the media:

- Do not compare. Do not criticize your opponents, only praise them. (Respect them!)
- Be confident, but not boastful. Talk more about your teammates. Whenever you receive recognition, someone else gave you that opportunity. Football is a team game!
- Never pass up an opportunity to give praise.
- Do not say anything that would help our opponents or end up on their bulletin board.
- Do not say anything we do as far as technical football.
- Be kind and courteous to media representatives.
- There are a few writers may attempt to badger you or create controversy with leading questions which set you up for critical answers. If this happens, answer the reporter, "I'd rather not comment on that." Never lie. Just say, "No comment."

Lettering and Award Policies:

To earn a varsity letter, a player must play in at least half the quarters or be a starter in 25 percent of the games during the season. Coaches may also make lettering decisions based on their discretion – considering factors such as attitude, work ethic, and behavior. Bar policy is that each player will receive a bar after participating and the Head Coach (coaching staff) will determine the level of play.

Team Awards: (May vary from Season to Season)
Can be seen on the Team Website

Raider Council / Captains:

The Raider Council will serve as the leadership group for our team. Starting in February they will meet regularly to discuss and learn about what it takes to be a leader. They have been chosen by their teammates and coaches as individuals who have outstanding character and guys that have the best intentions for the team. They will serve as the voice of their teammates and will be expected to give their best effort in everything they do both on and off the field. Game MVPs will be chosen each week and may be asked as an honor to serve as a game captain.

Player / Parent / Guardian Concerns:

Coaches have the authority over who becomes a participant of the team and when the participant plays or is removed from the team. The Coaching staff determines coaching strategy. Acceptance on the team includes acceptance of this policy.

Communication is very important! From time to time, you may have a concern about a specific aspect of your participation in our program. If you or your parent feels that a conference is needed to clear up your concern, one will be set up as soon as possible. During the season, parents WILL NOT discuss player concerns (other than injuries) within 24 hours before a game to 24 hours after a game. A parent may send an email, but a response should not be expected within this time period. To help solve your concern efficiently, you should follow these steps.

1. Parents / Guardians should discuss all issues with your athlete first, and then contact the team's coach, if necessary. There is an open-door policy but we want to talk to the players first.
*No parent of a player should approach coaches before, during, or after a game to discuss an issue.
2. Request a conference with the Coach Engler if necessary. The vast majority of concerns will / should be worked out at this level.
1. If you are not satisfied with what transpires at the above levels, the next step would be to speak with the Athletic Director. If all else fails, the principal should be contacted.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches:

- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches:

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other students / athletes

Parent / Guardian Expectations:

- **Be Positive with you athlete:** Let them know you are proud they are a part of the team.
- **Encourage your athlete to follow all training rules:** Help coaches build a commitment to the team.
- **Allow your athlete to perform and progress at a level consistent with ability:** Athletes mature at different rates and ages.
- **Always support the coaching staff when controversial decisions are made:** Coaches make decisions that are in the best interest of the team.
- **Insist on positive behavior in school and a high level of performance in the classroom:** Many studies show that extracurricular involvement helps enhance academic performance.
- **Stay calm in injury situations:** Parents can help minimize the trauma by being in control and offering comfort. Allow the medical staff to perform their assessment of the injury. No Parent is allowed on the field unless the training staff request it.
- **Cheer for our team and players. Opponents and referees deserve respect:** Realize that high school players will make mistakes. Your support is needed during tough times.
- **Promote having fun and being a team player. The percentage of high school athletes that receive scholarships is low:** Concentrate on what is best for the team. Preoccupation with statistics can be very distracting.
- **An athlete's self-confidence and self-image will be improved by support at home. Comparison to others is discouraged:** Encourage the athlete to do their best regardless of others.
- **Winning is fun but building positive team values is most important:** Winning takes places when all the little things are done correctly.
- **Find time to be an avid supporter / booster of school activities:** Help build a solid support system for coaches and athletes.
- **Athletes must attend all practices, games, and team events:** Stress the necessity to make a commitment to the team.
- **Emphasize nutrition and regular sleep patterns:** An athlete functions best when care is taken to consume nutritious food and obtain sufficient rest.

- **Persistence and being able to accept a role are extremely important for the team to be successful:** Not everyone will be a starter, but everyone is important to the team. Encourage them to be persistent.

Parents / Guardians Attending Practice:

All practices are open to parents unless otherwise notified. However, parents should stay off the field and not communicate with any players or coaches. The time allocated for practice is short and all attention needs to be on practice. Due to facilities, focus and nature of teaching, only players and coaches will be allowed to attend film sessions and team meetings. Also, due to weight room limits, parents will not be allowed in when the team is lifting. However, when the team is doing drills in the gym, parents are welcome to sit in and observe.

Characteristics of a man with Good Character:

A Person of good character lives his life according to the six pillars of character:

1. Trustworthiness.

- **Do** - Stand up for your beliefs by your principles. Maintain the courage to do what is right. Keep your word.
- **Do not** - Do anything you know in your heart is wrong.

2. Respect

- **Do** - Listen to the older more experienced people you come into contact with. Their experience may give you valuable information as you chose your own path. If you want to be respected it must be earned, it cannot be just handed to you.
- **Do not** - Automatically disregard someone advice because you don't know them. Expect to be given respect because of the position you hold.

3. Responsibility/Accountability

- **Do** - Everything you do involves a choice. Strive to do your personal best at all times. Accept responsibility for the consequences of your choices. Develop self- control under stress.
- **Do not** - Make excuses or blame others. Don't look the other way and hope someone else will cover for you.

4. Fairness

- **Do** - Be open minded. Hear what others have to say. Get all the facts before deciding. Be fair in all your dealings with others. Play by the rules, don't cut corners.
- **Do not** - Be closed minded. Cheat. Play favorites. Take advantage of others. Blame others for your shortcomings.

5. Caring

- **Do** - Show compassion for others. Be considerate of others. Put the team ahead of yourself. Express gratitude. Give praise generously.
- **Do not** - Be mean or cruel towards others. Do not be selfish.

6. Citizenship

- **Do** - Live up to your obligations to your family, school, class, and team.
- Do your share.

Eight Keys to Being Successful:

1. Fear no opponent. Respect every opponent.
2. Remember, it's the perfection of the smallest details that make big things happen.
3. Keep in mind that hustle can cover up many mistakes.
4. Be more interested in your character than your reputation.
5. Be quick, but don't hurry.
6. Understand that the harder you work the more luck you will have.
7. Know that valid self-analysis is crucial for improvement.
8. Remember that there is NO substitute for hard work and careful planning. Failing to plan is planning to fail.

Community Service / Team Building:

The student / athlete should learn skills, behaviors, actions and attitudes that extend far beyond the X's and O's of football. Community service is another character trait that can be used in our pursuit of educational athletics. Community service is defined as giving back to the school and surrounding community through volunteerism. Service is doing something for somebody else without any expectation of getting anything in return. It is a selfless way for our team to give back to their community. Throughout the year, the team will participate in community service activities. These activities will have a secondary benefit of being a team building event as well as allowing players to claim hours for other activities.

Team building is important for earning trust, communication, and teamwork. These elements can be built in many ways (team camps, recreational events, community service, fundraising events, and standard team preparation. Throughout the year, the team will participate in several team-building events. All events will be communicated. TEAM BUILDING IS MANDATORY!

Player Objectives for the Season!

1. The program will be an encourager and motivator of all players to excel in the classroom. Players must give their best effort in the classroom (academics / behavior). Coaches will remind athletes to turn in quality work on time and we will require athletes to adhere to a policy of **"NO ZERO'S"**. If athletes turn in quality work on time, study and stay organized, then strong grades will result.
2. Play at a level of effort, intensity, aggression, and perseverance that our opponents cannot endure.
3. Enjoy the "Raider" football experience, we want athletes to become better people. Players will learn to be encouragers. They will learn to be more accountable and responsible. They will learn to be positive about each day, their school, their community, and their country. They will learn of the influence they have on younger athletes and use this influence in a positive manner. Be a winner on / off the field!
4. **Have Fun!** Football is a game to be enjoyed. To be enjoyed it must be played the "Raider" Way. Once athletes learn how to play in this manner, there is nothing more fun than football. The athlete will give their best physical / mental effort and once this is done, everything else will take care of itself.
5. Learn the difference of how to behave on / off the field. Between the sidelines, we expect you to be the most intense, physical, and aggressive players in the state. Off the field, we expect you to be perfect gentlemen. Treat all with respect!!!!!!!!!!
6. **Have your Priorities Straight: Spiritual, Family, Academics, Football.**
7. **Abstain from alcohol, drugs, tobacco!**
8. **Do the Right Thing! Take Care of Business (TCB)! Discipline yourself so others will not have to!**
9. **Never Do Anything That Would Embarrass your Parents, the School, the Community, the Coaches, or your Teammates!**
10. **Win with Class!**

Please sign and return this portion to Coach Engler.

I have read the Ryle High School Football Handbook and understand the guidelines set forth. By signing below, we acknowledge that we understand its contents and agree to the terms in the handbook. We understand the guidelines for attendance, punctuality, playing time, etc... We will do our best to work together to provide a positive experience. We are aware of the commitment it takes to be a part of the Ryle Football Program and are aware that all decisions that are made are for the betterment of the TEAM!

It is a privilege to play football at Ryle High School, NOT a right!

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Print Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Player Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Print Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Ryle Football Photo Waiver Form

I am aware that still photos and videos of my young person may be taken on the premises of any Ryle Football activity or event. I am aware that still photos and videos may be posted to a website and/or be used in a variety of collateral printed pieces (i.e., brochures, flyers, etc...) The pictures/videos will be used for the purpose of illustrating, advertising, and promoting the activities associated with the Ryle Football Program.

Parents who have special concerns or requirements regarding photography or videotaping of their young person agree to contact Coach Engler and the Ryle High School Administration in advance of the planned activity to resolve any issues regarding the use of their young person's image.

___ I have read the disclaimer and **agree** to allow my young person to be photographed.

___ I have read the disclaimer and **do not agree** to allow my young person to be photographed.

Player's Name: _____ (Please Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____