**Ragsdale High School Athletics**

Philosophy Statement:

The athletic program is an important part of the educational process and is an extension of the classroom. In order to be successful on the court/playing fields one must be successful in the classroom. I strongly believe that many of life’s important lessons and habits can learned through participation in sports. Attributes as time management work ethic, respect, integrity, dependability, self-motivation, self-discipline, and working with others to reach a common goal.

As a leader of the athletic department, it is necessary to ensure that all student athletes have the best possible opportunity to compete at the highest level. All sports of a school are significant as they provide multiple types of athletes an opportunity to showcase their talent while representing their school. Athletics provide unique opportunities for students of all backgrounds and should be highly valued. I believe we must work together to promote broad-based multisport participation, and therefore will actively encourage our students in this direction. Different sports challenge athletes in different ways, and the skills developed through training methods used in one sport usually help the athlete in the overall mental and emotional development of the athlete.

Doing what is best for the student athletes should guide each decision that coaches, and administrators make. All participants of the athletic department should live by something I believe to be true – “Together Everyone Achieves More”. Strive to be a top-level program through all sports participating in post-season competition, earning recognition as the premier athletic program in the 4-A All-Metro Conference.

Mission Statement:

The mission of Ragsdale High School Athletics is to successfully develop the student-athlete as a person, student and athlete. We believe that high-level competitiveness is a by-product of strong leadership, focused discipline, and a commitment to pursue excellence. Athletics also contributes to the school through athletic and academic achievement, generates visibility, promotes institutional pride, enhances the school experience and serves as a connection with the community.

Athletic Department Goals:

* To use a continuous improvement process in support of systems and programs that promotes high standards of performance and high expectations for learning on and off the playing field.
* To develop a culture of accountability that relies on evaluation, best practices and assessment as tools to measure the effectiveness and productivity of our programs and the satisfaction of our stakeholders.
* To develop, encourage, and support the athletic department staff, their programs, improve instructional standards and professional development to enhance the student athlete’s knowledge, skills and performance levels in efforts to achieve a high level of success.
* To promote and encourage Tiger Pride, Unity, Victory and a Strong Social Conscience among our student athletes, staff and community members. To maintain open and effective communication with the public, the athletic department staff and students in order to be aware of attitudes, opinions and ideas.
* To continue to integrate best practices and advanced technique into all phases of the athletic educational process.
* To provide the necessary financial resources for the support of our instructional programs through prudent management and fiscal responsibility.
* To ensure that students and staff have a safe and appropriate place to learn, work and play.

Service, Leadership, and Community Involvement:

* Encourage and support leadership opportunities within the team environment, athletic department, and beyond.
* Identify and facilitate community service experience(s) for every student-athlete on an annual basis.
* Actively promote the Ragsdale High School positively and professionally.

Mentoring:

* Help build a practice/game calendar to handout to student athletes and parents before the season begins – this will help parents and student athletes aware of time commitment and to help with scheduling.
* Review and explain how to complete the eligibility process rules and expectations throughout the year.
* Explain the pertinent policies and procedures of the athletic department and school. Especially highlight those the new coach will have to use immediately. I will provide a coach’s handbook to all coaches to make sure that we are on the same page throughout the athletic program.

One-on-One Mentoring:

* Previous knowledge and experience will allow me to help mentor not only young coaches new to the game but also veteran coaches.
* I will build time in my schedule each week or postpone items for another day in order to mentor and assist all coaches. I will also make time to observe practices each week.

Buddy System is an established method of mentoring.

* On going instruction and professional development through monthly coaches’ meetings. Not only will this provide me an opportunity to update all the coaches on new developments and upcoming events, it will also provide the coaches a time to talk to each other. An e-mail distribution list will