



GREENVILLE
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Interscholastic Athletics Handbook
for
Student Athletes & Parents/Guardians**

"HOME OF THE SPARTANS & LADY SPARTANS"

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Board of Education Adoption October 17, 2011

GREENVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL
Interscholastic Athletics Handbook

Dear Parents/Guardians and Student-Athletes:

Welcome to the Greenville Central School District athletic program, home of the Spartans! Greenville has a rich history of strong athletic teams and talented student-athletes. We are pleased that you have decided to make a commitment to yourself, your team, and Greenville Central Schools to focus some of your talent and energy to our athletic teams. This commitment will place additional responsibilities on you as a representative of our school. This document will help you to understand these responsibilities.

Athletics can provide you with a strong foundation of leadership skills, fortitude, and greater self-confidence. Our student-athletes are role models for the student body. Greenville Central School district has a wide variety of offerings for students to participate in, and we strongly encourage all our students to participate. The benefits gained from participating in athletics last a lifetime.

As a Spartan athlete, there are high expectations for you. We expect that you are a dedicated student, a hard working athlete, and a positive role model for our school community. With the help of coaches, parents, teachers, and students, this guide was put together to help you understand what the expectations are for student athletes. You will be held to a higher standard because champions never set the bar low.

Please take time to carefully review this document and contact your coach with any questions. If you need additional information, please call the High School office at 966-5070 ex. 404 to schedule a meeting with me.

I look forward to many successes within our athletic program.

Respectfully,

Anders Rasmussen
House Principal

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Philosophy of Interscholastic Athletics

Students assume a major responsibility once they become a member of an athletic team at Greenville Central. The student represents not only oneself but also the school, coach, and family. Student athletes are expected to maintain high standards as representatives of our school.

Goals and Objectives of the Interscholastic Athletic Program

Our Goal:

The experience of participation in athletic contests and activities should reflect the total educational goals of our district.

Our Specific Objectives:

1. To develop an understanding and appreciation of the place which interscholastic sports and activities occupy in the American culture and develop a sound educational attitude toward them.
2. To educate the student body in the appreciation of sports and activities and the best way to enjoy them from the point of view of good sportsmanship.
3. To serve as a focal point for the morale, spirit and loyalty of students by providing a common meeting ground and enthusiasm that is shared by all.
4. To allow for the development of physical growth, mental alertness and emotional stability for all those who participate in athletics.
5. To provide the opportunity for a student to learn to handle winning and losing and to make decisions that affect themselves and members of their team.
6. To learn to develop, through hard work and dedication, a feeling of self-confidence and self-esteem in all participants.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Inc. (NYSPHSAA)

Code of Ethics:

It is the duty of all concerned with High School Athletics:

1. To emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
2. To eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
3. To stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
4. To show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
5. To establish a happy relationship between visitors and host.
6. To respect the integrity and judgment of the sports officials.
7. To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
8. To encourage leadership, use of initiative and good judgment by players on the team.
9. To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well being of the individual players.
10. To remember that an athletic contest is only a game - not a matter of life or death for player, coach, school, fan or community.

SECTION II SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY

1. Learn and understand the rules of your sport.
2. Play hard, play to win, but play fair.
3. Do not allow your temper to distract you from the fundamentals of good sportsmanship.
4. Respect your opponents. Never taunt. Congratulate him/her at game's end.
5. Respect the integrity and judgment of officials.
6. Be a positive example to your school, teammates, and opponents.
7. A player who is disqualified from a contest for unsportsman like behavior by an official is prohibited from playing in the next regular scheduled athletic contest.
8. A player who strikes or otherwise physically assaults an official will be subject to an extended suspension from athletic competition. A physical confrontation with an official

is any incident which a player either strikes, bumps, or otherwise physically intimidates an official prior to, during, or after a contest.

SECTION II/PATROON CONFERENCE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SPECTATORS

Spectators are an important part of the games and are encouraged to conform to accepted standards of good sportsmanship and behavior.

1. Spectators should at all times respect officials, opposing coaches, players, and cheerleaders as guests in the community.
2. Enthusiastic cheering for one's team is encouraged.
3. Booing, whistling, stamping of feet, and disrespectful remarks shall be avoided. Ringing of bells, sounding of horns, or other noisemakers are strictly prohibited.
4. Pep bands must play during time outs, or between periods in a way that does not interfere with a cheerleading squad on the floor
5. Throwing of any objects or debris from the stands is dangerous and strictly prohibited.
6. During a free throw in basketball, all courtesies should be extended.
7. Spectators should encourage each other to observe courteous behavior.
8. Spectators will observe the rules of the home school concerning smoking, food and drink consumption, littering, parking procedures and re-entry to the game.
9. Any spectator who displays poor sportsmanship may be requested to leave and denied admission to future contests.

Philosophy by Sport Level

Modified (Grade 7 & 8):

This program is available to all students in the 7th and 8th grades between the ages of 12 to 15. A student reaching age 16 during a sport season may compete that season and must play freshman, junior varsity or varsity the next sport season. Sport activities offered are determined by existence of leagues, student interest, and relationship to the high school program and board approval. At this level the focus is on learning athletic skills and game rules, fundamentals of team play, socio-emotional growth, physiologically appropriate demands on the adolescent body and healthy competition. At this level the cutting of students may occur. This program is designed to offer students the opportunity to engage in a more highly organized competitive experience than what is found in intramural or recreation programs, but not as involved as those found in varsity and junior varsity interscholastic competition. An attempt will be made to play all participants, however, equal playing time is never guaranteed nor is it required.

Junior Varsity (JV) & Freshman:

This program is intended for those who display the potential of continued development into productive varsity level performers. Team membership varies according to the structure of each sport, but sophomores and freshman occupy the majority of the roster positions. In certain situations, juniors who are expected to make contributions at the varsity level will be considered for JV participation. Also, 7th and 8th graders who have satisfied all selection classification requirements may be included. At this level, cutting of students may occur. At this level increased emphasis is placed upon elements and strategies of team play, physical conditioning, refinement of fundamental skills and socio-emotional development. The JV program works towards achieving a balance between continued team and player development and striving for victory. The outcome of the contest becomes a consideration at this level. An attempt will be made to play all participants, however, equal playing time is never guaranteed nor is it required. With the goal of becoming a varsity athlete clearly in sight, a high level of dedication and commitment is expected at the junior varsity and freshman level.

Varsity:

The varsity level of interscholastic athletic competition is the culmination of the high school athletic program. Normally, high school students make up the majority of the roster; however, it is also possible for a 7th or 8th grader, who has met the selection classification requirements to be included on a varsity roster. At this level, cutting of students may occur. Team play,

sportsmanship, individual physical ability, motivation and mental attitude are very important aspects of competition at this level. While contest participation over the course of the season is desirable, a specified amount of playing time is never guaranteed. It is vital that each team member has a role and knows its importance. Preparing to win and striving for victory in each contest are worthy goals of a varsity level team. The varsity coach is the leader of his/her sport program and is responsible for communication and system development among each level.

Selection Classification

The Selection Classification program is a process for screening student-athletes in grades 7 and 8 to determine their readiness to compete at a higher level of competition (Varsity, JV or Freshman) than their current grade level. It is based on readiness rather than grade level. This program has been designed to assess a student athlete's physical maturation, physical fitness and skill. This program is intended for the exceptional few in each school who would be better served by playing on a higher level than age and grade might indicate. Please contact the High School office for additional information. Parents may also visit www.nysphsaa.org for more information.

Athletic Rules and Regulations

The code applies to all student athletes for one calendar year from the first day of tryouts in all locations including non-school activities. Coaches may enhance but not limit any portion of this athletic code. It should be understood that the Greenville Central School District believes that representing the school is a privilege and not a right. We expect students to be willing to meet a higher standard of character and behavior.

Rules for Participation

- 1) No student athlete will use, smoke, or be in possession of tobacco at any time during the athletic season.
- 2) No student will consume or be in possession of alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia, or illegal performance enhancing substances at any time.
- 3) No student shall host or remain at a party where the illegal distribution of alcohol, drugs, and other controlled substances are occurring.
- 4) No student athlete will engage in hazing or initiation ceremonies. According to the district code of conduct, this behavior is a category 5 code of conduct violation.
- 5) Student-athletes, whether participants or spectators, will observe courteous behavior during all sporting events. Fighting, arguing with officials, obscene language/gestures, and other examples of gross unsportsman-like conduct will be a violation of the athletic code and district code of conduct.
- 6) Intentional damage to property is a category 5 violation of the District Code of Conduct and may result in internal or external suspension, and appropriate penalties for violation of the athletic code.
- 7) In the case of arrest for a criminal offense or filing of charges for a criminal offense, the athlete shall be removed from the team until the matter is reviewed by administration. Administration reserves the right to impose lengthier suspensions based on the severity of the crime.
- 8) No student shall be in possession of unauthorized or stolen equipment.

Student-athlete right to Due Process

Prior to the imposition of any penalty under the code, the administration will notify the athlete of the infraction and the student will be given an opportunity to explain his or her side of the story.

Appeals Procedure

The student and/or parent or guardian has the right to appeal penalties imposed under the code to the school principal. Appeals must be made in writing within three school day of the assignment of a penalty for a code violation. A response to the appeal will be provided within three school days after receipt of the letter by the building principal.

Penalties

First offense:

If an offense occurs that is deemed to be a violation of the code, the athletes shall be allowed to practice with the team but shall not be allowed to participate in the team's scheduled competitions according to the suspension formula. Student athletes must be present with the team at a scheduled contest but may not be in uniform. Administration reserves the right to impose stricter punishments based on the severity of the code infraction, past history of code violations, and other pertinent information.

A first offense will result in a minimum suspension for 25% of the team's scheduled contests.

Second Offense:

A second offense that occurs will result in a minimum suspension for 50% of the team's scheduled contests. For a second offense within the same sport season, the student-athlete will be suspended for the remainder of the sports season.

Third Offense:

If a third offense occurs, the athlete shall be removed from participation in all interscholastic athletics for one calendar year beginning on the date the penalty for the third offense is imposed.

Penalties which can not be served during the sports season in which they are imposed will be carried over for completion in the next sports season in which the athlete participates.

Admission or completion of an administration approved treatment program may decrease the penalty

Guidelines for Interscholastic Athletic Participation:

Academic Eligibility for Interscholastic Athletics:

The board of education encourages participation in interscholastic athletics, but also affirms that attaining acceptable academic standards is a student's primary responsibility. The policy states that academic achievement will be given consideration in determining interscholastic athletic participation eligibility.

High School Level (Varsity, JV & Freshman):

Greenville Central School is committed to excellence. Our students and their ability to succeed are our first priority and the main motivation in creating this extracurricular policy.

Academic Standards

- 1) Students' grades will be reviewed at each interim marking period and at the end of each quarter.
- 2) At the time of the initial review, any student failing two or more subjects will be placed on probation.
- 3) For students changing their academic status (moving from the regular school setting to the Alternate Learning Program or moving from a Regents level course to a non-Regents course) will continue their eligibility status as it stands for five weeks. Any students who are in the Alternate Learning Program and regular classes will be considered for eligibility/probation the same as everyone else.

Terms of Probation:

- 1) Probation period will be five weeks in duration.
- 2) Students on probation will be expected to stay for subject-area extra help in the classes which they are failing. The subject-area teacher may "sign off" on probation at the end of two weeks if the student's grade is now passing.
- 3) Students on probation who fail to fulfill their two-hour assignment, will be suspended ("ineligible") for all activities for the remainder of their assigned five week probation and the

next five week report period also, unless prior approval has been granted, or unless deemed otherwise by the Appeals Committee.

4) Students who feel that there are extraordinary or extenuating circumstances may appeal their case to the Appeals Committee by submitting a written request to the Athletic Department. The Appeals Committee will consist of an administrator, a student representative from the High School BLT, a co-curricular advisor, a subject-area teacher, and a representative from Pupil Personal Services.

5) All students on probation will be reviewed at the end of the five-week probation period. Those students passing at the end of the five-week period will be considered off probation restrictions.

6) Students failing one subject must remain on probation.

7) This eligibility policy will apply to all non-credit/non-academic events, including basketball games and dances, etc.

Middle School Level (Modified):

The purpose of this procedure is to help students achieve at a higher level of performance and maintain that level throughout their school year. With the help of teachers, coaches and advisors this plan will boost the academic atmosphere at Greenville. As representatives of our school, participants in extra curricular activities must be responsible.

Terms of Probation

1. Students must maintain a passing average in all but one subject and behave well in school in order to be eligible to play or participate in school activities.
2. The students will be evaluated every two and one half weeks.
3. There will be one two and one half-week probationary period per school year, in order to give the student a chance to improve the averages in the failing classes.
4. After the probationary period if the student is failing two (2) or more subjects, then they will be ineligible for the following two and one half (school) weeks.
5. If a student brings his/her averages to passing after their two and one half-week supervision, they will once again become eligible.
6. The eligibility period begins on Sunday and ends on Thursday encompassing two and one half (2 1/2) school weeks.
7. The student athlete may practice sports, but is ineligible for games.
8. This procedure will cover all school sponsored extra-curricular activities, including all-county festivals. Students may attend awards ceremonies.
9. The Athletic Department will generate eligibility lists after grade level teams have submitted failure lists.
10. There will be a one-week overlap to develop accurate eligibility lists.
11. A written appeal will be judged for merit, by a committee.
12. Any students attending school activities while ineligible will be denied. Additional consequences may result.

****Please note: Selectively Classified athletes who are playing interscholastic athletics at a higher level will be governed by the rules of that level. This is for interscholastic athletics only.**

Students, who are ineligible the final five-week period in June, will automatically be placed on probation the first five weeks of the next school year in September. At both the high school level and the middle school level, the Athletic Department will inform coaches, they in turn should notify the student-athletes. The Athletic Department will check on the two hours of Homework Support Center performed by each student-athlete.

Physical Education Requirement

Athletes with an unexcused absence from or do not participate in physical education classes will not be permitted to participate in practices or games on the day of the absence.

Attendance

Daily on-time attendance is expected as per the District Code of Conduct. A student-athlete shall not be permitted to participate in a competitive event if absent on the day of the event. If more than 3 periods of class are missed on a school day, he/she will be

allowed to play/practice only with the permission of the principal/designee. Student-athletes should bring appropriate documentation to justify extended absences.

Practices and Contests

Each athlete is required to attend all practices and/or contests unless excused by the coach.

Transportation to and from away contest

All players, cheerleaders and team personnel will ride to all athletic contests on transportation approved and provided by the school district. There is a procedure in place for student-athletes in need of alternative transportation from the athletic contest. Please contact the High School main office regarding this procedure.

Changing or ending participation during Sports Seasons

A student-athlete may not change from one sport to another once a team has been selected without permission from the Athletic Department and the coaches of the two sports. If he/she has been cut from one team, it is legitimate to tryout for another sport, provided that team's roster is not finalized.

Student-athletes who choose to end their participation on a sports team after the final roster has been selected must obtain the approval of the Athletic Department and the coach. The Principal/designee will have the option of imposing a consequence of a suspension for athletes have ended their participation without a valid and approved reason.

Equipment

All athletic equipment must be returned at the end of the sport season to the coach. This includes uniforms, medical braces or alike, and/or other equipment, which was given to you by the coach. A student-athlete will not be eligible to participate in another sport until all equipment is returned. In addition, the student-athlete will be financially responsible for any unreturned equipment.

Chain of Communication

- The student-athlete should address concerns directly with his/her team coach.
- If, after speaking with the coach the student-athlete is not satisfied, the next step would be for the parent/guardian to speak to the coach.
- The next step if you were still not satisfied would be for the parent/guardian and/or student-athlete to communicate with the Athletic Department.
- The final step if you still weren't satisfied would be to meet with the school principal.

It is not appropriate to discuss team strategy, play calling, playing time, or other student-athletes with a coach. Discussions should not take place immediately before or after games or practices.

Student-athletes should communicate all scheduling conflicts early to avoid loss of playing time, participation in contests, or other consequences. Student-athletes and families should make all attempts to avoid scheduling vacations during the sports' season.

Parents/guardians may contact the High School office to schedule a meeting with the Athletic Department.

Outside Participation

The NYSPHSAA allows outside participation (AAU, Travel, Club, Etc). Greenville athletes must understand that commitment to the school team comes first, and outside participation should not be detrimental to an individual or to a Greenville team. There will be many circumstances where a student should not participate in an outside activity due to

the possible effect on the team. Always check with your coach and/or the athletic department.

Squad Selection

Final roster decisions are at the discretion of the team coach. "Cutting" of student-athletes is a possibility at all levels.

Section II Disqualification Policy

Sportsmanship is an integral and vital ingredient of any interscholastic athletic program. The National Federation of High School Athletics, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Section II and the Patroon Conference have targeted the area of sportsmanship for a major emphasis. Section II and Greenville Central School District have instituted the following policy to ensure the development of and the understanding of the importance of proper sportsmanship and fair play.

Any Greenville student-athlete, coach or spectator who is ejected/disqualified from a contest will be automatically suspended for a minimum of one game. The game(s) is to be the next regularly scheduled contest(s) and may be carried over to the next season. Ejection/disqualification incident reports must be submitted to the Athletic Department the Section II office and the League Sportsmanship Chairperson. A conference between the player or coach and the Athletic Department will take place before the student-athlete or coach is eligible to return.

No Smoking Policy

To comply with Federal and State law and to acknowledge the health hazards associated with tobacco use and smoking, particularly in an environment where children are present, the Greenville Board of Education prohibits the use of tobacco products, including but not limited to smoking and chewing tobacco in all school facilities, on all school grounds and in any vehicle used to transport children or school personnel.

NCAA Information

For more information regarding NCAA eligibility, please visit the NCAA's website at www.ncaa.org.

Risk Factor in Sports

Participation by a student in athletic activities involves a certain degree of risk of physical injury. Such physical injury can occur in any type of activity, be it a "contact" or a "non-contact" sport. Furthermore, many injuries are truly accidental in nature and by volunteering to participate in a school-sponsored athletic activity, a student and his/her parents/guardians assume the risks for injuries to occur.

Interscholastic Athletic Offerings

Fall

Boys' Soccer	Varsity, Junior Varsity, Modified
Girls' Soccer	Varsity, Junior Varsity, Modified
Boys' & Girls' Cross Country	Varsity, Modified
Girls' Volleyball	Varsity, Junior Varsity, Modified
Golf	Varsity, Modified

Winter

Boys' Basketball	Varsity, Junior Varsity, Modified
Girls' Basketball	Varsity, Junior Varsity, Modified
Basketball Cheerleading	Varsity, Junior Varsity
Wrestling	Varsity, Modified
Boys' Volleyball	Varsity, Junior Varsity

Spring

Baseball

Softball

Boys' Track & Field

Girls' Track & Field

Boys' Tennis

Varsity, Junior Varsity, Modified

Varsity, Junior Varsity, Modified

Varsity, Modified

Varsity, Modified

Varsity

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**GREENVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
GUIDELINES FOR ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION
AUTHORIZATION FORM**

Student Athlete Name (Please Print)

Grade

Athletic Team (Please Print)

Parents/Guardian Authorization

By signing below, you indicate that you have read the Interscholastic Athletic Handbook for student athletes and parents/guardians. You are aware of the risk factor in sports and the guidelines for athletic participation in the athletic program in the Greenville Central School District. Also, you agree to conduct yourself in accordance with them.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Home Phone #

E-Mail Address

Student Athlete Authorization

By signing below, you indicate that you have read the Interscholastic Athletic Handbook for student athletes and parent/guardians. You are aware of the risk factor in sports and the guidelines for athletic participation in the athletic program in the Greenville Central School District. Also, you agree to conduct yourself in accordance with these guidelines.

Student Athlete Signature

Date

Home Phone #

Grade

**This form must be signed and returned to the respective coach
before the first game of the season.**