

Greenville Central School District  
Department of Athletics



Home of the Spartans & Lady Spartans

Parent/Student-Athlete Handbook

Revised:  
**June 2017**

# Greenville Central School District

## Parent/Student-Athlete Handbook for Athletic Policies and Procedures

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# **I. The Greenville Athletic Department**

## **A. Organizational Structure:**

The Athletic Program is one of several extra-curricular activities that the Board of Education directs the school administration to offer secondary students (grades 7-12) at Greenville. The Superintendent of Schools, with the School Board's direction, is responsible for the organization of the program. The Athletic Program is coordinated by the Director of Health, Physical Education & Athletics and is responsible for all phases of the program.

Sport specific questions should be addressed with the coach of your child's team prior to contacting the Director of Athletics. Coaches will be open to parent and student-athlete feedback regarding the program and make every attempt to resolve problems or conflicts in a professional and timely manner. Concerns or questions should be addressed at an appropriate time. Communication Guidelines can be found in *Appendix A*.

Each year the Board of Education approves the appointment of all coaches. The **Varsity Coach** has responsibility for the entire program in that particular sport. He/she will work with the Director of Athletics to promote the growth and development of the program. The Varsity Coach is responsible for all phases of the program and is responsible to aid assistant coaches at all levels in the coordination of a sequentially, aligned program from Modified through Varsity levels.

## **B. Philosophy:**

The nature of competitive sport is such that a primary focus becomes the pursuit of excellence. This creates situations where stress, concentration, self-sacrifice, hard work, joy, sorrow, elation and disappointment, both mentally and physically occur. Athletics is one place where a person cannot hide the results of his/her effort. Competition does reveal the extreme positive and, unfortunately, sometimes negative human attributes of the players. The sports experience contributes to the overall education of each participant through emphasis of the pursuit of excellence.

Competitive sport does not always lend itself to complete fairness. The majority of athletes must work, sacrifice and develop their ability in order to compete. All participants do not always get the same amount of playing time. The coach will determine the amount of playing time for each athlete. It is usually a function of the quality of practice time. The coach will communicate with players about playing time and what he/she can do to improve. This is part of the self-sacrifice that is required to be a team member and the team should come first. Winning is important in life and sports is a reflection of life.

Winning at any cost is not a reflection of life and has no place in our program. Play hard, play smart, play fair, and be satisfied when you have played your best

## **C. The Modified Interscholastic Athletic Program:**

Interscholastic competition in sports below the 9th grade level, intended for ages 12 to 15 in grades 7-8, have been approved by the N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. The Modified Program is designed to develop individual skills, teach sport specific knowledge and strategies, and provide opportunities for students to participate in competition. The modified program will not always guarantee each team member equal participation in contests, but participation by as many as possible is encouraged.

## **D. Goal:**

It is the goal of the Greenville Athletic Program to support the District Mission Statement:

**“The mission of the Greenville Central School District, with vital community partners, is to present the world with a gift of well-educated graduates who will forge ahead as confident thinkers, empowered learners, and compassionate, responsible leaders by ensuring superior instruction with total support for excellence and vision.”**

### **E. Specific Athletic Objectives:**

1. To develop an appreciation and sound educational attitude toward interscholastic athletics and their place in American culture.
2. To develop an understanding and appreciation for good sportsmanship.
3. To serve as a focal point for the development of spirit, and school and community pride.
4. To nurture the development of physical and emotional growth, mental alertness and a healthy competitive spirit for all participants while keeping athletics in the proper perspective.
5. To provide the opportunity for participants to learn how to manage winning and losing properly and to make appropriate decisions for themselves and the team.
6. To develop a feeling of self-confidence and self-esteem through commitment, hard work and dedication to true success in all student-athletes.

### **F. New York State Public High School Athletic Association:**

New York State is divided into eleven (11) sections plus New York City. The State Athletic Association has a set of rules to govern each sport offered in New York State. The State organization will be referred to often as we go through this Handbook. Greenville is a member of the N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. (New York State Public High School Athletic Association) and is in Section II. Section II does have tournaments for most varsity sports and the winner of this tournament moves to a State level competition. Copies of the N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Handbook are available online at <http://www.nysphsaa.org>.

**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 games.
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.

### **G. Patroon Conference:**

The Patroon Conference is comprised of eleven (11) member schools that cooperate together to promote and provide athletic competition in various sports. Individual and team champions are recognized by the league and league schedules are provided within the guidelines of New York State and Section II. The Patroon Conference is a member of Section 2 and abides by the NYSPHSAA rules and regulations.

### **H. Section 2 Sportsmanship Policy:**

1. Spectators are an important part of the games and are encouraged to conform to accepted standards of good sportsmanship and behavior.
2. Spectators should at all times respect officials, opposing coaches, players, and cheerleaders as guests in the community.
3. Enthusiastic cheering for one's team is encouraged.
4. Booming, whistling, stamping of feet, and disrespectful remarks shall be avoided. Ringing of bells, sounding of horns, or other noisemakers are strictly prohibited.
5. Pep bands must play during time outs, or between periods in a way that does not interfere with a cheerleading squad on the floor
6. Throwing of any objects or debris from the stands is dangerous and strictly prohibited.

7. During a free throw in basketball, all courtesies should be extended.
8. Spectators should encourage each other to observe courteous behavior.
9. Spectators will observe the rules of the home school concerning smoking, food and drink consumption, littering, parking procedures and re-entry to the game.
10. Any spectator who displays poor sportsmanship may be requested to leave and denied admission to future contests.

## **Section 2 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 2 and the Patroon Conference have targeted the area of sportsmanship for a major emphasis. Section 2 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 2 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.. *See Appendix B.*

### **I. New York State Public High School Athletic Association Misconduct Policy:**

The NYSPHSAA has been vested with the responsibility to ensure that all contests under its jurisdiction are conducted satisfactorily.

1. Any member of a squad ruled out of a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct or for a flagrant foul **shall not participate in that sport in the next previously scheduled contest** with a member school or in NYSPHSAA tournament play. Disqualification from one season carries over to the next season of participation.
2. Any member of the squad who strikes, shoves, kicks or makes other physical contact, or with the intent to do so, with an official shall be expelled from the game immediately and **banned from further participation in all sports for one year from the date of the offense**. An official is to be treated with respect at all times (home or away) by players and/or spectators.
3. Hazing and harassment, or any unwanted physical or verbal acts, threats or demeaning commentary directed at any student-athlete is strictly prohibited. Hazing and these initiations are expressly prohibited by any student-athlete on any of our athletic teams at any level. Consequences will be according to the nature of the event, the severity of the event, and the number of previous occurrences.
4. Any spectator who is ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct shall, at a minimum, not attend the next scheduled contest for that sport. The district reserves the right to extend the suspension.

### **J. Transfer Rule:**

A student-athlete who transfers without a corresponding change in residence of his/her parents (or other persons with whom the student has resided for at least six months) is ineligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic contest in a particular sport for a period of one (1) year if the student-athlete participated in that sport during the one (1) year period immediately preceding his/her transfer. Appeals process forms are available in the Director of Athletics Office. The Director of Athletics will certify that athletes are eligible for practice/competition prior to the season.

## II. SPORTS OFFERED AT GREENVILLE

Sport	Season	Varsity	JV	Modified
Baseball	Spring	X	X	X
Basketball - Boys	Winter	X	X	X
Basketball - Girls	Winter	X	X	X
Cheerleading – B/G	Winter	X		
Cross Country - Boys	Fall	X		X
Cross Country - Girls	Fall	X		X
Golf - Boys	Fall	X		
Soccer - Boys	Fall	X	X	X
Soccer - Girls	Fall	X	X	X
Softball	Spring	X	X	X
Tennis - Boys	Spring	X		
Track & Field - Boys	Spring	X		X
Track & Field - Girls	Spring	X		X
Volleyball Girls	Fall	X	X	X
Volleyball – Boys	Winter	X	X	
Wrestling	Winter	X		X

## III. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

### A. Academic Program:

The academic program is the primary focus for our student-athletes. Athletics, along with other extra-curricular programs, is secondary. *See Appendix C.*

### B. Other Extra-Curricular Programs:

The interscholastic athletic program is on an equal basis with other extra-curricular programs. Scheduling conflicts are avoided as much as possible. Should a conflict arise, the conflict will be resolved by the coach, advisor and/or Director of Athletics after the student-athlete notifies the parties involved.

### C. Physical Education Program:

Regardless of participation in the athletic program, all students are required to participate in Physical Education class as established in Board of Education policy as required by the Commissioner of Education and the Board of Regents. An athlete will not be permitted to participate in a practice or contest if he/she chooses not to participate in Physical Education class the day of a practice/contest.

## IV. OVERARCHING POLICY FOR ATHLETICS

The Director of Athletics, in consultation with other district administration and coaches, reserves the right to make decisions on any situation(s) regarding athletics not covered in the Parent/Student-Athlete Handbook.



## V. GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS:

When a student-athlete and parent/guardian sign the Athletic Parental Consent Form, they agree to abide by all rules on that form and in the Parent/Student-Athlete Handbook. The Athletic Handbook 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. 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 higher standards of character and behavior. All student athletes are expected to follow the GCS District Code of Conduct in addition to the Athletic Code of Conduct.

### A. Athletic Placement Program:

Greenville participates in the New York State Education Department approved Athletic Placement Program that provides the opportunity for 7th and 8th grade students to participate on Junior Varsity and Varsity teams. This program has been designed for the few in each school that would be served by playing on a higher level team than age and grade might indicate.

The Athletic Placement Process (APP) is a program for evaluating students who want to participate in sports at higher or lower levels, as approved by the Board of Regents as a part of the school eligibility rules in 1980, and is aligned with Learning Standards 1 and 2. Commissioner's Regulation Section 135.4(c)(7)(ii)(a)(4)states:

*A Board of Education may permit pupils in grades no lower than seventh to compete on any senior high school team, or permit senior high pupils to compete on any teams in grades no lower than seventh, provided the pupils are placed at levels of competition appropriate to their physiological maturity, physical fitness, and skills in relationship to other pupils on those teams in accordance with standards established by the Commissioner.*

Students do not mature at the same rate, and there can be tremendous developmental differences between students of the same age. The APP is not to be used to fill positions on teams, provide additional experience, provide an opportunity for middle school or junior high students when no modified program is offered, or to reward a student. Instead, it is aimed at the few, select students who can benefit from such placement because of their level of readiness.

Every effort must be made to follow our Athletic Placement Process listed below:

- Referral by P.E. staff or coach to Director of Athletics.
- Coach contacts the parent of the student to obtain permission and to communicate the process.
- Maturation and physical exam completed by the Chief Medical Officer.
- The Coach will complete the Sport Skill Evaluation
- The President's Physical Fitness Test will be administered by Director of Athletics or his/her designee. The coach will notify the athlete and parent about the test date.
- The coach will notify the parents of the test results and any pertinent information.
- The athlete will have a three day try-out to determine whether or not he/she will move to the JV/V level.

### B. Academic Eligibility Standards:

Participation in athletic activities offers the opportunity to learn self-discipline, recognition of capabilities, dealing with failure and adversity, teamwork and cooperation, hard work, group problem solving, competitive spirit, self-esteem, self-confidence and pride in accomplishment.

Student-athletes must accept responsibility for their academic endeavors. Every student-athlete will receive equitable and fair treatment. High academic standards for student-athletes are an achievable goal. Parents, coaches, administrators, teachers, counselors, and staff must provide student-athletes with a realistic view of the future and support a solid academic foundation.

A student-athlete who is passing all courses, is a bona fide student of Greenville Central School District and meets the eligibility rules of NYSPHSAA is eligible for athletics. Athletic participation is a privilege, not a right.

### **C. Athletic Eligibility Standards:**

Interscholastic athletics play an important role in our educational system. Students who participate have an opportunity to gain recognition and sometimes educational opportunities. Therefore, we believe that student-athletes should live up to a set of standards which make them a credit to their school, team, and fellow teammates.

Our league and our school operate under the rules of the **New York State Public High School Athletic Association.**

#### **The rules are as follows:**

1. A participant **must be a bona fide student** enrolled in at least four (4) subjects, including Physical Education.
2. A student-athlete shall be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition during eight (8) consecutive semesters upon entry into the 9th grade. A student-athlete shall be eligible for only **four (4) years** in any one interschool sport unless advanced by the Athletic Placement Process.
3. A student-athlete who attains **the age of 19 prior to July 1st** will not be eligible to participate in the Interscholastic Athletics Program.
4. Seventh and eighth grade students between the ages of 12 -15 may participate in the "Modified Program". A student reaching the age of sixteen during a sports season may complete that season and must play Varsity or Junior Varsity the next sport season.

### **D. Attendance Policy**

Student-athletes (Grades 7-12) will adhere to the established attendance/tardy policies for his/her building level. All student-athletes should be in school from the beginning of the day until the end of the day. The athletic department will follow the building tardy regulations. A student-athlete with a legitimate excuse must submit a note from a Doctor/Dentist in order to practice or play that day. If a student-athlete leaves prior to the end of the day due to illness/sickness, he/she may not be eligible to practice or play that evening. In the case of Friday absences a student-athlete must communicate with the coach and provide a legitimate excuse for the absence to be eligible for weekend competitions.

Student-athletes will attend all scheduled classes/activities during the academic day. Any student-athlete skipping a class, or not participating in physical education, will not be eligible to practice or play that day.

A student-athlete not in attendance as required above may submit a legitimate excuse to the coach, Director of Athletics, or if the Director of Athletics is not available, a building administrator, for approval. In the event of a medical/dental appointment the student-athlete will submit an excuse from the doctor's or dentist's office upon arrival to school. The Director of Athletics will make final decisions on attendance issues not covered in this policy.

#### **School Attendance -**

- Coaches & the athletic department will be reviewing student attendance daily to see if student-athletes qualify to participate or practice that day.

#### **Practice & Game Attendance**

- Student-athletes are expected to attend all practices and competitions during the sport season unless legally absent. Student-athletes will follow the training rules provided by the coaching staff.
- If a student-athlete cannot make a practice or competition it is the student-athlete's responsibility to personally notify the coach.
- Student-athletes will sit with their own team during the entire athletic event. Failure to do so can result in future game suspension(s).
- No student-athlete will leave a game site without permission from the coach. Failure to follow this rule can result in immediate dismissal from the team.
- Postponed athletic contests are rescheduled and played the next day when possible.

### **E. School Rules:**

- All student-athletes must abide by their school building rules and the district Code of Conduct.
- Student-athletes may be denied participation in practice or competition if found in violation of these rules.
- Behaviors such as: consistent tardiness, acts of dishonesty, intimidation, fighting, disrespect, possession of a weapon, insubordination, profanity, or possession of obscene material can lead to a suspension from athletic participation.
- The Principal and the Director of Athletics shall determine the consequence appropriate for the seriousness of the offense.

### **F. Behavioral Expectations**

- Students who participate in interscholastic athletics represent themselves, their teams, and Greenville Central School during and out of their season. Athletes must demonstrate sportsmanship, character, competence, civility and citizenship at all times. Athletes will follow the established rules of their school building, district, athletic department, and community.
- Any student-athlete who is proven to have become a chronic behavior problem on his/her team may be subject to suspension from contests or the team.
- Violations of schools rules that result in detentions or suspensions may impact an athlete's participation in athletics.
  - A student-athlete removed from academics and placed in ISS or sent to PASS for improper conduct will not be allowed to practice/compete on the day of suspension.
  - A student-athlete placed on Out of School Suspension **will not be allowed on school grounds to practice or participate in contests during the suspension.** In cases where athletic contests are not scheduled during the suspension period, the student-athlete will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled contest.
  - The athletic department/school administration reserves the right to suspend athletes from further competitions based on the severity of the incident/conduct or prior referral history.

### **G. Outside Competition (Travel):**

N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. allows outside competition. Greenville student-athletes are expected to be committed to the school team first and outside competition second. Participation in outside competition 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.

### **H. Removal from a Team:**

When a coach removes a student-athlete from a sport team for disciplinary reasons, he/she will notify the Director of Athletics **immediately**. Student-athletes are entitled to a **Review Board hearing**, if requested in writing within three(3) school days.

### **I. Training Rules:**

A coach of a sport team may set forth rules in writing which may be more stringent than those set forth in the Parent/Student-Athlete Handbook. These must be approved and on file with the Director of Athletics.

### **J. Changing or Ending Participation During a Sports Season:**

A student-athlete may not quit or change from one sport to another during a sports season after the first scheduled contest has taken place without prior permission from the Director of Athletics and the coaches of the two sports. If he/she has been cut from one team, it is a legitimate reason to tryout for another sport, with coaches approval.

If a student-athlete quits a team he/she will **first notify the coach** and return all issued equipment. Failure to notify and meet with the coach may result in an athlete not being eligible to participate the next season.

### **K. Lost Equipment:**

All equipment issued by the school will be the responsibility of the individual student-athlete. Any equipment not returned at the end of the season must be paid for or replaced by the student-athlete. A student-athlete may not try out for another sport until all equipment has been returned or paid for.

### **L. Vandalism and Misuse of Equipment:**

All equipment should be cared for as if it were the student-athlete's personal property. The cost of replacement is quite high and we want our teams to have the best possible equipment. A student-athlete who vandalizes or damages athletic equipment intentionally may not try out for another sport until restitution is made.

### **M. Vacation Policy:**

In the event of an absence, due to a vacation, a student-athlete must:

1. Notify the head coach prior to the season (if possible) or at least two weeks prior to the vacation.
2. Be willing to assume consequences related to their status on that squad. Head Coaches will clearly outline vacation expectations for their specific program at the beginning of the season.

### **N. Dual Sport Participation:**

A high school student athlete in good academic standing may request to become a dual sport athlete. During the sign up time for the sports season, the written request will be given to the Director of Athletics. Subsequently, a meeting with the athlete, coaches and the Director of Athletics may be scheduled. Procedure for the Dual Sports Participation Request Meeting:

1. Conversation about the sports
2. The NYSPHSAA training and practice requirements must be completed for both sports
3. Athlete designates one sport as the Primary Sport \*
4. Athlete and parent sign the dated agreement

\*Primary Sport is defined as the sport to be participated in should any conflict between the two sports arise.

\*Coaching staff must be in agreement of the athlete participation in dual sports.

## **VI. MAJOR ATHLETIC INFRACTIONS:**

### **A. Use, Possession, Sale of Drugs:**

Use, possession, sale or possession with intent to use an alcohol beverage, tobacco (including electronic cigarettes), illegal drugs, performance enhancing substances or any chemicals purported to be drugs, by a student-athlete is prohibited. No student-athlete shall be in possession of drug paraphernalia. No student-athlete shall host or remain at a party where the illegal distribution of alcohol, drugs or other controlled substances are occurring.

### **B. Criminal Charges/Vandalism/Theft/Hazing:**

Student-athletes who **(1) are arrested for a criminal offense, (2) have criminal charges filed against him/her, (3) commit an act of vandalism and/or theft, (4) commit an act of hazing or (5) commit any other act that is deemed to be a violation of Category V of the Greenville Code of Conduct**, either at a Greenville School, on school property, at an opponent school, or in the community while representing a Greenville team will be subject to the Consequences for Major Athletic Infractions in Article VI, Section C below.

### C. Consequences for Major Athletic Infractions:

Student-athletes who violate Major Athletic Infractions (A-B above) will be suspended from athletics immediately pending administrative review. This will include due process steps with the athlete and notification of parent(s)/guardian(s). Any violation during the sport season, either on or off school grounds, which is reported by a coach, teacher, administrator, law enforcement agency or other reliable source, will be subject to the following disciplinary action:

- A. *First Offense:* A first offense will result in a minimum suspension for 25% of the team's scheduled contests.
- B. *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.
- C. *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 cannot 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.
- D. Administration reserves the right to impose lengthier athletic suspensions based on the administrative review of the incident and the severity of the act.

*If a student-athlete seeks professional help for substance abuse, an appeal may be made to the Review Board. The Review Board will conduct a hearing to confirm or amend the consequences of letter "A" above.*

## VII. APPEALS & REVIEW BOARD:

### A. Appeal Procedure:

The student and/or parent or guardian has the right to appeal penalties imposed under the athletic code.

- A written appeal prepared and signed by the student-athlete **MUST** be submitted to the Director of Athletics within three (3) school days of notification of disciplinary action. The **Review Board** will consider all written material and may ask that the parties involved appear in person. A decision will be sent to the parties in writing within three (3) school days after submittal of all information requested by the Review Board.

### B. Review Board:

- The Review Board has the responsibility of ruling on student-athlete/parent/guardian appeals. The Review Board consists of the Director of Athletics, Principal of the building (in which the student-athlete attends), and one other administrator or faculty member selected by the Director of Athletics.

## VIII. TRANSPORTATION

### A. Travel Regulations:

1. Student-athletes will not engage in misconduct while on a school bus or school provided transportation. It is crucial for student-athletes to behave appropriately while riding on district buses to ensure their safety and the safety of other passengers.
2. All bus rules will be enforced by the coach and the bus driver.

3. Food is not allowed to be eaten on a bus while it is in motion unless the bus driver gives permission. The coach is responsible for the proper disposal of any food or materials on a bus, in a restaurant or in a locker room before leaving the bus, restaurant or locker room.
4. When district approved transportation is provided the team is expected to travel to the event with the team.
5. Under extraordinary circumstances (SAT Exams, medical reasons, etc.), parents may obtain permission from the Director of Athletics in advance, to drive their son/daughter to an event where transportation is provided by the district. A written request, signed by the parent, must be presented to the Director of Athletics or main office for approval at least 24 hours in advance of the event.
6. Under no circumstances are student-athletes to obtain transportation to or from an event with other students. Student-athletes are not allowed to drive themselves to an athletic event.
7. Student-athletes may leave with their parent or guardian following an away athletic event after signing the student out with the coach.
8. Parents can give permission for their son/daughter to be transported home from an away contest by another adult after submitting a note to the main office or Director of Athletics 24 hours in advance of the event.

## **IX. PHYSICAL/PERMISSION/MEDICAL INSURANCE**

### **A. Requirements:**

1. All student-athletes who desire to participate in athletics must show proof of a valid physical exam.
2. **NO** student-athlete may practice or participate in athletics without Chief Medical Director or designee approval.

### **B. Athletic/Parental Consent Form and Emergency Medical Authorization Form:**

1. Forms are available in the Director of Athletics Office and Health Office.
2. The student-athlete & parent will completely fill out, sign, and return all forms to the Greenville School Nurse.

### **C. Injuries and Accident Reports:**

Athletic participation carries with it an increased possibility for injury, some of which could be serious. Coaches will utilize the most current, medically sound, conditioning methods and teach safe, competitive techniques in preparing athletes. However, student-athletes have responsibility to exercise safe playing techniques in practices and games. Student-athletes face a risk of serious injury.

All injuries should be reported to the coach immediately. Early care and treatment can minimize the physical restrictions from an injury and return student-athletes to competition sooner. Student-athletes should report all information to coaches so they can file an accident report.

### **D. Return to Competition After Injury and/or Extended Absence:**

Any student-athlete whose safe participation is in question as a result of injury or prolonged absence due to illness must be released by a medical provider. Student-athletes **WILL NOT** practice before they have received clearance and will be expected to demonstrate sport specific skills and a proper fitness level prior to competing again. Any athlete who sees a physician for a sports related injury must obtain a written release before regaining athletic participation in the athletic program.

**E. Student Accident Insurance Policy:**

The Greenville School District sponsors an insurance plan with Niagara Life Insurance. **This Plan is designed as a supplemental Plan and is not complete coverage.** The Plan will assist in coverage for the balance of what is not covered by the parent’s own insurance. The School District does not provide insurance protection and is not liable for medical or hospital fees. The Plan provides for the entire school year, not one sports season.

All accidents must be reported to the coach and filed by the coach within 24 hours.

**F. Concussion Management Policy:**

The Concussion Management and Awareness Act, specifically Chapter 496 of the Laws of 2011, requires the Commissioner of Education, in conjunction with the Commissioner of Health, to promulgate rules and regulations related to students who sustain a concussion, also known as a mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI), at school and at any district-sponsored event or related activity. These guidelines for return to school and certain school activities apply to all public school students who have sustained a concussion regardless of where the concussion occurred. *See Appendix D* for the District Policy. *See Appendix E* for Concussion Parent Fact Sheet. *See Appendix F* for Return to Play Protocol.

**X. SUPPORT GROUPS**

**A. Greenville Athletic Association:**

The All Sports Booster Club is organized to boost and encourage school spirit and interest in all athletic activities at the Greenville Central School District. The members strive to promote and support the athletic activities at Greenville among the membership, students, faculty, with the general public and especially among the student-athletes, parents and coaches. They seek to assist the program by cooperating with the Director of Athletics and the coaching staff in the promotion of good teams and goodwill in the school and community. Therefore, it is important for ALL sport teams to have representation in this Club.

**Greenville Athletic Communication Guidelines**

**COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT-ATHLETE/PARENT/COACH**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide great benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

**COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH**

1. Philosophy of the coach and program.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child, as well as the entire team (Training Rules).
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e. special equipment, off-season expectations, etc.
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
6. Disciplinary action(s) that may result in the denial of your child's participation.

**COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS**

1. Concerns should be expressed directly to the coach and only after the student-athlete has talked with the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your children become involved in the athletic programs at the Greenville, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you and/or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

**APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES**

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

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals and they make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all student-athletes involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things must be left to the discretion of the coach.



**ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES**

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy and/or play calling
3. Other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the others' position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

**PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW TO DISCUSS A CONCERN WITH A COACH**

1. The student-athlete meets with the coach first to resolve the problem.
2. If resolution is not reached, the parent/guardian will contact the coach to set up a meeting with the coach, the student-athlete and the parent.
3. If the coach cannot be reached call the Athletic Office to assist in arranging a meeting.
4. **Please do not attempt to meet with a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.**

**WHAT CAN A PARENT DO IF THE MEETING WITH THE COACH DID NOT PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION?**

1. Call the Athletic Office to set up an appointment with the Director of Athletics. The parent/guardian, student-athlete, coach and Director of Athletics will meet to discuss the problem.
2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.
3. Parents are encouraged to discuss issues and problems with the Director of Athletics. However, if a parent has specific complaints regarding a coach, then the coach must have the opportunity to be present to meet with the parent.

*We hope the information provided will assist parents and student-athletes, by making their athletic experience less stressful, more enjoyable, and positive here at Greenville Central School.*

**Greenville Central School District**  
**Department of Health, Physical Education & Athletics**



**Section 2 Sportsmanship Policy**

1. Section 2 Sportsmanship Policy For Coaches:

All coaches and staff must be made aware of the following sportsmanship policy. It should be included in any athletic department handbook or coach's handbook.

- Greet and be courteous to opponent's coaches and players.
- Know the rules of your sports and teach them to your team. Respect officials and their decisions. Demand that your athletes abide by an official's decision without emotional display.
- Display concern for the physical well being of your opponent's players as well as your own.
- Win with humility; lose with grace; do both with dignity.
- Encourage your team to interact with the opponent. A pre-game or post-game handshake for every Section 2 contest is strongly recommended.
- Offer your assistance, and that of your staff and players, to the opponent and officials.
- Do not accept unruly behavior from your players, staff, or spectators. Set standards of conduct.
- Maintain self-control at all times. Players and spectators tend to follow the coach's example.
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2. Section 2 Sportsmanship Policy For Athletes:

Players at each level of competition shall be made aware of these sportsmanship guidelines. This policy should be incorporated in all student handbooks and codes of conduct for athletes.

- Learn and understand the rules of your sport. Play hard, play to win, but play fairly within these rules.
- Do not allow your temper to distract you from the fundamentals of good sportsmanship. Maintain self control.
- Respect your opponent. Never taunt. Congratulate him or her at game's end. Acknowledge good play.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of officials. Never question the decision of an official.
- Be an example for your school, teammates, and opponents.

## GREENVILLE ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY PROCESS

### THE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS WILL SUPERVISE THE FOLLOWING:

**Academic Eligibility Checks** will be conducted by the Athletic Department at 5 week intervals throughout the school year as indicated below. Final determination of success will be decided by **School Administration**.

**FALL**: Progress report on or about week #5 and week # 10: 1<sup>st</sup> quarter report card.

**WINTER**: Progress report on or about week #15 and week # 20: 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter report card.

**SPRING**: Progress report on or about week #25 and week #30: 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report card.

At the **Academic Eligibility Check**, the Director of Athletics will issue an Athletic Roster to the Guidance Office/Main Office. Grade information will be gathered by office personnel and returned to the Director of Athletics. The Athletic Department will identify those student-athletes failing one or more courses.

All “**Notifications of Probation**” and/or “**Notifications of Ineligibility**” will be issued to players, parents, principals and coaches. It is the student-athlete’s responsibility to contact the teacher in order to improve grades to a passing/satisfactory level.

### **Academic Eligibility Check Process:**

Student-athletes trying out/participating on athletic teams who are failing one or more courses at the Academic Eligibility Check will be placed on “probation.” The “**probation period**” will be 10 school days in length. During the “probation period” the student-athlete remains eligible for practices and competitions. The athlete will be responsible for creating a plan with his/her teacher(s), school administrator, parent(s) and/or coaches for improving their grades.

If the student athlete is not cleared within the 10 school day probation period the student-athlete will be deemed “**ineligible**” for competitions. Ineligible means the athlete can practice with his/her team but cannot compete in any contest. At any time, when the student-athlete is passing or showing adequate effort, the teacher will sign the “Notification of Probation” form and the Athletic Department will confirm re-eligibility by signing the notification. Notification will go to the coach and principal to indicate that the student-athlete is again eligible.

**Exceptions (I.E.P.)**: Student-athletes for whom an Individual Education Plan (IEP) is on file at the time he/she would be declared ineligible under the above standards, shall automatically be afforded a review of their case. The review shall be conducted by the Principal, Director of Athletics, School Counselor, Director of CSE and Special Education Teacher. This review committee shall have the right to waive the eligibility requirement if, in their professional judgment, the student-athlete has made every effort to meet the academic standards.

**GREENVILLE CSD POLICY**

**Policy 6360**

**CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT MODEL SCHOOL POLICY**

The Board of Education recognizes that concussions and head injuries are commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activity and can have serious consequences if not managed carefully. Therefore, the District adopts the following policy to support the proper evaluation and management of head injuries.

Concussion is a mild traumatic brain injury. Concussion occurs when normal brain functioning is disrupted by a blow or jolt to the head. Recovery from concussion will vary. Avoiding re-injury and overexertion until fully recovered are the cornerstones of proper concussion management.

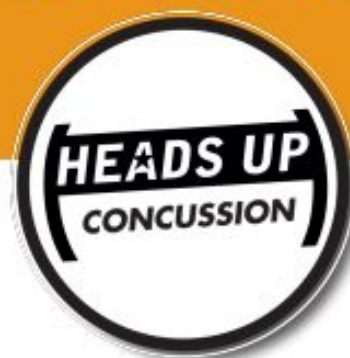
While district staff will exercise reasonable care to protect students, head injuries may still occur. Physical education teachers, coaches, nurses and other appropriate staff will receive training to recognize the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion. Any student exhibiting those signs, symptoms or behaviors while participating in a school sponsored class, extracurricular activity, or interscholastic athletic activity shall be removed from the game or activity and be evaluated as soon as possible by an appropriate health care professional. The District will notify the student's parents or guardians and recommend appropriate monitoring to parents or guardians.

If a student sustains a concussion at a time other than when engaged in a school-sponsored activity, the district expects the parent/legal guardian to report the condition to the school nurse so that the district can support the appropriate management of the condition.

The student shall not return to school or activity until authorized to do so by an appropriate health care professional. The school's chief medical officer will make the final decision on return to activity including physical education class and after-school sports. Any student who continues to have signs or symptoms upon return to activity must be removed from play and reevaluated by their health care provider. The Superintendent, in consultation with appropriate district staff, including the chief school medical officer, will develop regulations and protocols to guide the return to activity.

Adopted: Nov 14.16

## CONCUSSION FACT SHEET FOR PARENTS



### WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury. Concussions are caused by a bump or blow to the head. Even a “ding,” “getting your bell rung,” or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious.

You can’t see a concussion. Signs and symptoms of concussion can show up right after the injury or may not appear or be noticed until days or weeks after the injury. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms yourself, seek medical attention right away.

### WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CONCUSSION?

If your child has experienced a bump or blow to the head during a game or practice, look for any of the following signs of a concussion:

#### SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETE:

- Headache or “pressure” in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or blurry vision
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion
- Just not “feeling right” or is “feeling down”

#### SIGNS OBSERVED BY PARENTS/ GUARDIANS:

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about assignment or position
- Forgets an instruction
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows mood, behavior, or personality changes

## **DANGER SIGNS**

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Be alert for symptoms that worsen over time. Your child or teen should be seen in an emergency department right away if s/he has:

- One pupil (the black part in the middle of the eye) larger than the other
- Drowsiness or cannot be awakened
- A headache that gets worse and does not go away
- Weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination
- Repeated vomiting or nausea
- Slurred speech
- Convulsions or seizures
- Difficulty recognizing people or places
- Increasing confusion, restlessness, or agitation
- Unusual behavior
- Loss of consciousness (even a brief loss of consciousness should be taken seriously)

## **WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD HAS A CONCUSSION?**

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- 1. SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION RIGHT AWAY**  
A health care professional will be able to decide how serious the concussion is and when it is safe for your child to return to regular activities, including sports.
- 2. KEEP YOUR CHILD OUT OF PLAY.**  
Concussions take time to heal. Don't let your child return to play the day of the injury and until a health care professional says it's OK. Children who return to play too soon - while the brain is still healing - risk a greater chance of having a second concussion. Repeat or later concussions can be very serious. They can cause permanent brain damage, affecting your child for a lifetime.
- 3. TELL YOUR CHILD'S COACH ABOUT ANY PREVIOUS CONCUSSION.**  
Coaches should know if your child had a previous concussion. Your child's coach may not know about a concussion your child received in another sport or activity unless you tell the coach.

## **HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD PREVENT A CONCUSSION OR OTHER SERIOUS BRAIN INJURY?**

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- Ensure that they follow their coach's rules for safety and the rules of the sport.
- Encourage them to practice good sportsmanship at all times.
- Make sure they wear the right protective equipment for their activity. Protective equipment should fit properly and be well maintained.
- Wearing a helmet is a must to reduce the risk of a serious brain injury or skull fracture.
  - However, helmets are not designed to prevent concussions. There is no "concussion-proof" helmet. So, even with a helmet, it is important for kids and teens to avoid hits to the head.

## **HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL SAFELY AFTER A CONCUSSION?**

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Children and teens who return to school after a concussion may need to:

- Take rest breaks as needed
- Spend fewer hours at school
- Be given more time to take tests or complete assignments
- Receive help with schoolwork
- Reduce time spent reading, writing, or on the computer

Talk with your child's teachers, school nurse, coach, speech-language pathologist, or counselor about your child's concussion and symptoms. As your child's symptoms decrease, the extra help or support can be removed gradually.

## **Return to School/Play Procedures**

Once a student diagnosed with a concussion has been symptom free at rest for at least 24 hours, a private medical provider may choose to clear the student to begin a graduated return to activities. If a district has concerns or questions about the private medical provider's orders, the district medical director should contact that provider to discuss and clarify. Additionally, the medical director has the final authority to clear students to participate in or return to extra-class physical activities in accordance with 8NYCRR 135.4(c)(7)(i).

Students should be monitored by district staff daily following each progressive challenge, physical or cognitive, for any return of signs and symptoms of concussion. Staff members should report any observed return of signs and symptoms to the school nurse, certified athletic trainer, or administration in accordance with district policy. A student should only move to the next level of activity if they remain symptom free at the current level. Return to activity should occur with the introduction of one new activity each 24 hours. If any post-concussion symptoms return, the student should drop back to the previous level of activity, then re-attempt the new activity after another 24 hours have passed. A more gradual progression should be considered based on individual circumstances and a private medical provider's or other specialist's orders and recommendations.

The following is a recommended sample return to physical activity protocol:

**Phase 1-** low impact, non-strenuous, light aerobic activity, such as walking or riding a stationary bike. If tolerated without return of symptoms over a 24 hour period proceed to;

**Phase 2-** higher impact, higher exertion, and moderate aerobic activity such as running or jumping rope. No resistance training. If tolerated without return of symptoms over a 24 hour period proceed to;

**Phase 3-** Sport specific non-contact activity. Low resistance, weight training with a spotter. If tolerated without return of symptoms over a 24 hour period proceed to;

**Phase 4-** Sport specific activity, non-contact drills. Higher resistance weight training with a spotter. If tolerated without return of symptoms over a 24 hour period proceed to;

**Phase 5-** Full contact training drills and intense aerobic activity. If tolerated without return of symptoms over a 24 hour period proceed to;

**Phase 6-** Return to full activities without restrictions.