



**GREENVILLE**  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

**HOME OF THE SPARTANS & LADY SPARTANS**

**DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS**

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 and Lady 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.

We look forward to many successes within our athletic program.

Respectfully,

Denise Wickham, Director of HPE & Athletics

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### 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
Wrestling	Varsity, Modified
Boys' Volleyball	Varsity, Junior Varsity
Cheer	Varsity

#### **Spring**

Baseball	Varsity, Junior Varsity, Modified
Softball	Varsity, Junior Varsity, Modified
Boys' Track & Field	Varsity, Modified
Girls' Track & Field	Varsity, Modified
Boys' Tennis	Varsity

## **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 2 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 2 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):**

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. 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. 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.

### **Athletic Placement Process (APP)**

The Athletic Placement Process (APP) 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 or JV) than their current age/grade level allows. It is based on emotional and physical readiness rather than grade level. The APP is to be used only when an individual athlete's athletic skills warrant moving to the commencement or intermediate sport competition level. This process should be initiated by the district's physical education director and/or athletic director and physical education staff, who recognize the student's athletic skill. 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](http://www.nysphsaa.org) for more information.

### **Athletic Rules and Regulations**

The Athletic Handbook 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. All student athletes are expected to follow the GCS District Code of Conduct in addition to the Athletic Handbook.

## **Guidelines for Athletic 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 un-sportsman-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 days of the assignment of a penalty for a code violation. The appeal will be reviewed by the principal, athletic director, and other neutral committee members. 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. In the event an athlete is failing two or more subjects, the athlete will be required to meet with the athletic director, coach, teacher and/or guidance counselor.

#### **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 or practice if absent on the day of the event. All students must be on time for their first scheduled academic class and for all academic classes scheduled throughout the day. 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 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 that have ended their participation without a valid and approved reason.



## **Dual Sports 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 Athletic Director. Subsequently, a meeting with the athlete, parent, Athletic Director, and coaches will 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.

## **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**

1. The student-athlete should address concerns directly with his/her team coach.
2. 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.
3. The next step if you were still not satisfied would be for the parent/guardian and/or student-athlete to communicate with the Athletic Director.
4. The final step if you still weren't satisfied would be to meet with the school principal.

## **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 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.

### **Concussion Management**

Management and recognition of a concussion should be performed by the coach, physical education teacher, physician, nurse or other appropriately trained individual.

If there is doubt as to whether the student has suffered a concussion, it shall be presumed. Loss of consciousness ("LOC") is not necessary.

"When in doubt, sit them out."

If confusion, unusual behavior or responsiveness, deteriorating condition, LOC, or concern as to neck or spine injury exists, the athlete should be referred at once for emergency care.

If no emergency is apparent, close observation of athlete should continue for a few hours. Parents or guardians of the athlete should be made aware of proper protocol, symptoms to watch for and contact medical personnel if concerned. The athlete should be monitored over the course of those few hours every 5-10 minutes to assess mental status, attention, balance, behavior, speech and memory.

### **Return to Athletic Activity:**

- If it is medically determined that the student is not concussed and demonstrating no symptoms of concussion, that athlete may re-enter the play with proper medical documentation.
- If it is determined that the student has suffered a concussion, then the student shall not return to any athletic activity including but not limited to athletic competition, athletic practice and physical education class until:
  - The student has been symptom free for not less than twenty-four hours;
  - Has been evaluated by a licensed physician; and
  - Has received written and signed authorization from a licensed physician to return to athletic activity.
  - For after-school athletic activities, including interscholastic and intermural sports, the student shall also receive written clearance to participate from the medical director.

More information regarding concussions is available on the District's website.

## **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](http://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.



**GREENVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
GUIDELINES FOR ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION  
For the 2016-2017 School Year  
AUTHORIZATION FORM**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student-Athlete Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

**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.**