

GENEVA
Middle/Senior High School/



Athletic Policy Handbook

2023-2024

TO THE PARENT:

This handbook is presented to you because your son/daughter has expressed a desire to participate in interscholastic sports at Geneva Middle School or Geneva High School. Your family interest in this component of our school program is important to us. We believe participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences, which assist students in personal growth and adjustments. It is our intent to conduct a program that is educationally sound in purpose and will enhance each student's personal growth.

A student who elects to participate in athletics is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and self-denial. These are the reasons we place stress on good training habits. Failure to comply with the rules of training and conduct means exclusion from the squad. This concept of self-discipline and self-denial is tempered by our responsibility to recognize the rights of the individual within the objectives of the team. There is no place in high school athletics for students who will not discipline their minds and bodies for rigorous competition. We are striving for excellence and do not want to compromise with mediocrity.

It is the role of the department of athletics to make rules that govern the spirit of competition for the school. These rules need a broad basis of community support, which is achieved only through communication to the parent. It is our hope to accomplish this objective through this athletic handbook for students and parents.

It is the role of the parent to set a good example for **sportsmanship** for the athlete. The fundamentals are to show respect for the opponent and officials at all times, to know, understand and appreciate skills in performance, regardless of the team affiliation. Each parent wants their son/daughter to do well, but not at the expense of the team members. It is a parent's responsibility to encourage the athlete in a positive manner and not to belittle the other team members or the officiating crews at the event. Too many times, parents get caught up in the winning mentality and forget the importance of integrity and ethics. If we are to see our athletes succeed, parents need to stress the importance of integrity, moral values, and ethics. Good sportsmanship is viewed by Geneva Middle School and Geneva High School as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. Generosity and genuine concern for others characterize sportsmanship.

Whenever the behavior of anyone (parent, citizen, adult, student or minor) becomes disruptive at a school event or dangerous to that individual or others at the event, school authorities have the right, authority, and affirmative obligation to take action. Consequences could include a warning, removal from the athletic contest, and/or suspension from future contests and other after school activities.

TO THE ATHLETE:

Being a member of a **GENEVA MIDDLE SCHOOL OR GENEVA HIGH SCHOOL** athletic team is a fulfillment of an early ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great athletic tradition is not built overnight; it takes the hard work of many people over many years. As a member of **GENEVA MIDDLE SCHOOL OR GENEVA HIGH SCHOOL**, you have inherited a wonderful tradition which you are challenged to uphold.

Our tradition has been to win with honor. We desire to win, but only with honor to our athletes, our school and our community. Over the years, our teams have achieved more than their share of league and tournament championships. Many individuals have set records and achieved many awards.

It will not be easy to contribute to such a great athletic tradition. When you wear the colors of our school, we assume that you not only understand our traditions, but also are willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them. However, the contributions you make should be a satisfying accomplishment to you and your family.

- a. **RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOURSELF:** The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to derive the greatest benefit from your high school experiences.
Your academic studies, your participation in extracurricular activities as well as in sports, help to prepare you for life as an adult.
- b. **RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOUR SCHOOL:** Another responsibility you assume as a squad member is to our school. **GENEVA MIDDLE SCHOOL AND GENEVA HIGH SCHOOL** cannot maintain its position as having an outstanding school unless you do your best in the activity in which you engage. By participating in athletics to the maximum of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school.
You assume a leadership role when you are on an athletic team. The student body and citizens of the community know you. You are on stage with the spotlight on you. The student body, the community and other communities judge our school by your conduct and attitude, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute significantly to school and community pride. Make **GENEVA MIDDLE SCHOOL AND GENEVA HIGH SCHOOL** proud of you, by your consistent demonstration of these ideas.
- c. **RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHERS:** As a squad member, you also bear a heavy responsibility to your home. If you never give your parents anything to be ashamed of, you will have measured up to the ideal. When you know in your heart that you have lived up to all of the training rules, that you have played the game "all out", you can keep your self-respect and your family can be justly proud of you.
The younger students in the **GENEVA SCHOOL SYSTEM** are watching you. They will copy you in many ways. Do not do anything to let them or you down. Set good examples for them.

Sportsmanship cannot be emphasized enough in contact with other teams. Sportsmanship is an essential element of all sports programs. Give 110% in your sport toward your team and to the other team. You, as a team member, can and should promote sportsmanship to your team members and to the members of other teams. Respect the opposing team, the officials and yourself at every contest. Maintaining self-control at all times requires discipline. Sportsmanship is characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others both on and off the playing field. Sportsmanship is definitely a "follow the leader" activity.

The following sports are available for students in grades 9, 10 11 and 12 for the **2023/2024** school year: Basketball (boys and girls), baseball, cheerleading, cross country (boys and girls), football, golf, soccer (boys and girls), softball, swimming (boys and girls), tennis (boys and girls), track (boys and girls), volleyball, and wrestling.

The following sports are available for students in grades 7 and 8 for the **2023/2024** school year: cross country (co-ed), basketball (boys and girls), cheerleading, football, tennis (girls and boys), track (boys and girls), volleyball, and wrestling.

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

1. STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The **GENEVA MIDDLE SCHOOL AND GENEVA HIGH SCHOOL** Athletic Program should provide a variety of experiences to enhance the development of favorable habits and attitudes that will prepare students for adult life in a democratic society.

The interscholastic athletic program shall be conducted in accordance with existing Board of Education policies, rules, and regulations. While the Board of Education takes great pride in winning, it does not condone "winning at any cost." It discourages any and all pressures, which might lead to neglecting good sportsmanship and good mental health. At all times, the athletic program must be conducted in such a way that it is an educational activity. **IT IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT, TO PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETICS.**

2. ATHLETIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Our goal – The student-athlete shall become a more effective citizen in a democratic society.

Our Specific Objectives – The student-athlete shall learn:

- a) To work with others – In a democratic society a person must develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. The team and its objectives must be placed higher than personal desires.
- b) To be successful – Our society is very competitive. We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do so. You can learn to accept defeat only by striving to win with earnest dedication. Develop a desire to excel.
- c) To develop sportsmanship – To accept any defeat like a true sportsman, knowing we have done our best, we must learn to treat others as we would have others treat us. We need to develop desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation and dependability.
- d) To improve – Continual improvement is an essential component of good citizenship. As an athlete, you must establish a goal and you must constantly try to achieve that goal. Try to improve in the skills and knowledge required and those personal traits that enhance the success of a team.
- e) To enjoy athletics – It is necessary for athletes to enjoy participation, to acknowledge all of the personal rewards to be derived from athletics and to give sufficiently of themselves in order to persevere and improve the program.
- f) To develop desirable personal health habits – To be an active, contributing citizen, it is important to obtain a high degree of physical fitness through exercise and good health habits, and to develop the desire to maintain this level of physical fitness after formal competition has been completed. It is necessary to make athletes aware of the negative effects of drugs and alcohol on their daily lives and their athletic performances.
- g) To encourage athletes to become multi-sport athletes – It is a proven fact that athletes, who are involved in numerous sports throughout the school year, will be better athletes. Our athletes are only permitted to participate in one sport per season, unless permission has been granted from the head coach of each sport and the Athletic Director.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

1. CONDUCT UNBECOMING OF AN ATHLETE

You are a student first and an athlete second. As a member of a team, you are expected to represent your team and school at all times. This means in the classroom, during extracurricular activities and in the community. It is a privilege to participate in athletics and

you should be proud to be associated with a team and your teammates. Please follow these simple guidelines:

- I will respect others property as I would my own
- I will respect adults (school personnel who deal with me on a daily basis and any other adult)
- I will conduct myself in an exemplary social manner at all times.

2. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

A yearly physical examination is required. The physical card must be completed by the physician, signed by the parent and the athlete and submitted to the coach or Athletic Director **PRIOR** to the first day of that sport. The physical card is good for one full year from the date of the exam. The form will be kept on file in the Athletic Director's office. We strongly recommend you have the physical in the summer, even if you will not be participating in a sport until the winter or spring months.

3. EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

Each parent shall fill out an emergency consent form for each sport. That form gives permission to treat your son/daughter in the event of an injury and the parent is not at the event. A new form is needed for each sport.

4. INSURANCE

The school district does carry insurance to cover student athlete injuries. This insurance is a supplemental insurance to the parent's coverage. In the event of an injury, parents are to notify the Athletic Director within 7 days of the injury for the appropriate forms. It is the parent's responsibility to file these forms and communicate with the insurance company.

5. SCHOLASTIC AND AGE ELIGIBILITY

All student-athletes must meet the scholastic requirements of the O.H.S.A.A. which require that the athletes pass a minimum of the equivalent of five (5) credits toward graduation during the immediately preceding grading period in order to be eligible the following grading period. Changes of eligibility will become effective on the **START** of the fifth school day after the end of the nine weeks. **All student-athletes in grade 7 – 12 must also earn a 1.5 GPA for the preceding grading period to be eligible.**

Once a student attains the age of **20**, the student will no longer be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition notwithstanding where the 20th birthday falls in relation to the sports season.

If a student enrolled in **grade 7 or 8** attains the age of **15 before August 1**, the student shall be **ineligible** to participate in 7-8th grade athletics for the school year commencing in the calendar year.

A student has eight semesters of eligibility commencing with their freshman year. If the student is retained in a grade for more than one year, the eligibility is still for eight semesters. In that case, the student will be ineligible for their senior year.

Those students with a disability may qualify for an exception to some of these regulations and should arrange a meeting with the principal or athletic director to review the exceptions.

6. PARTICIPATION

An athlete may participate in only one sport per season. Permission from the Head Coach and Athletic Director is necessary if the athlete wishes to participate in more than one. A meeting

will be held with both Head Coaches, Parents, Principal and Athletic director before participation is granted. The Student Athlete will be required to pick a primary and secondary sport if permission is granted.

7. DROPPING OR TRANSFERRING SPORTS

Quitting is an unacceptable habit. If someone quits a sport, they may lose the privilege of participating in athletics. On occasion, however, an athlete may find it necessary to drop a sport for a good reason. If this is the case, the following procedure must be followed:

- a. Consult with the immediate coach and the head coach.
- b. Report the situation to the athletic director.
- c. Check in all equipment.

If an athlete wishes to change sports during a season, he/she shall consult with both coaches concerned and the athletic director. If an athlete quits a sport after the first contest/scrimmage of the season has been played, he/she will not be allowed to participate in any other extracurricular activities until the current season is finished. Transferring sports within the same sport season will be evaluated on an individual basis.

8. EQUIPMENT

School equipment checked out by the student is his/her responsibility. He/she is expected to keep it clean and in good condition. An athlete should not, under any circumstances, trade or loan equipment to anyone without permission from the coach. End of the season awards will not be issued until equipment has been turned in or lost/stolen equipment has been paid for. In addition, school discipline may be issued. An athlete will not be issued equipment for the next sport season until items are turned in or paid for.

9. MISSING PRACTICE

An athlete should always consult with his/her coach BEFORE missing practice, unless ill. Each athlete must communicate with his/her coach when they will miss a practice. Do not assume that your coach knows where you are. If an athlete misses practice, without prior approval from the coach or athletic director, he/she may be ineligible to participate in the next game. College visits and school functions are excused absences, if followed under school guidelines. If an athlete is not in school for at least four periods on a practice or game day, the athlete will not be able to participate in practice or in the game.

10. TRAVEL

All athletes must travel to and from out-of-town athletic contests in transportation provided by the athletic department, unless the parent makes previous arrangements for an exceptional situation.

- a. Athletes will remain with their squad and under the supervision of the coach when attending away contests.
- b. Athletes that miss the bus will not be allowed to participate in the contest unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- c. An athlete may not drive to an event and participate in that event.
- d. All regular school bus rules will be followed.
- e. A special request must be made to the staff member or sponsor by the parent, in writing or in person, to allow an exception. The athlete may only ride home from the event with their PARENT. The parent must sign the travel release form with the coach of the event. The athlete is responsible for their own equipment if they choose to ride home with a parent.

11. PICK UP FROM EVENTS AND PRACTICE

The athlete is to be picked up immediately following practice or an event in a timely manner. Beginning and ending practice times will be given to the athlete at the beginning of each season. Please consult these times for pick up. If the event is away, the coach will give the athlete an approximate pick up time. Please be considerate of the coach's time and pick your athletes up on time.

12. COLLEGE RECRUITMENT POLICY

In the event an athlete should be contacted personally by a college recruiter, he/she has an obligation to work through his/her coach and the athletic department. Coaches should be contacted as soon as possible. NCAA registration forms and standards are available to students and families in the guidance office. Division I will need to notify the Athletic Director to set up a date of signing if they wish to have it recognized. Dates and times will be in accordance with NCAA/school availability.

13. CONFLICTS IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

An individual student who attempts to participate in several extracurricular activities may create a conflict of obligations and interests. The athletic department recognizes that each student has the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular activities, and will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts. Students have a responsibility to do everything possible to avoid continuing conflicts. Positive efforts might include being cautious about joining too many activities where conflicts are unavoidable. It also means notifying the faculty sponsors/coaches involved immediately when conflict arises. When a conflict situation arises, the advisor/coach will work out a solution so the student does not feel caught in the middle. If a solution cannot be found, the principal will make the decision based on the following:

- a. The relative importance of each event to the student.
- b. The importance of the event to the school.
- c. The relative contribution that student can make.
- d. How long each event has been scheduled?
- e. Talk with parents.

Once a decision has been made and the student has committed to that decision, he/she will not be penalized in any way by either advisor/coach.

14. ATTENDANCE

Students who miss part of the day due to illness must be in attendance four consecutive periods or 50% of your scheduled day in order to attend a contest or practice on that date. Online students must be in attendance for your zoom presentations for four consecutive or 50% of your scheduled day in order to attend a contest or practice on that date. Students missing school for reasons other than illness must have an excused absence according to Geneva Area City Schools Board policy in order to participate on that date. Final authority for infractions of this rule will rest with the principal/designee. Students absent from school on Friday with a contest the following day (Saturday) will be eligible to participate provided a school administrator excuses the absence.

15. EARLY DISMISSAL FROM CLASSES FOR AWAY CONTESTS

It is the responsibility of athletes to see their teacher the day before the classes they will miss because of an athletic contest. All work should be made up at the convenience of the teacher.

16. DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR SCHOOL VIOLATIONS & CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS

If an athlete violates school code of conduct, the principal/coach will have the authority to determine what disciplinary action will be taken in regards to the athlete and their sport. Depending upon the violation, the principal/coach may dismiss the athlete from the sport or authorize a suspension. If the athlete has been charged with an alleged criminal violation, that athlete may be suspended pending investigation. If the athlete is found guilty of the offense, the athlete may be dismissed from the sport.

17. VACATION POLICY

Vacations by athletic team members during a sport season are to be discouraged during high school competition. Parents/athletes wishing to do so may wish to reassess their commitment to being an athlete. In the event of an unavoidable absence due to a vacation, an athlete must:

- a. Contact the coach prior to the vacation.
- b. Practice one day for each practice or contest missed prior to resuming competition. (Contest day will count as a practice day.)
- c. Be willing to assume the consequences related to their status on the team (starter, reserve, etc.)

18. SQUAD SELECTIONS

In accordance with district philosophy and the district's desire to see as many students participate in the athletic program as possible, we encourage coaches to keep as many students as they can without unbalancing the integrity of their sport. Time, space, facilities, equipment, personal preference and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport. **IT IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT, TO BE ON A TEAM.** Coaches will meet with individual players to discuss the athlete's strengths and weaknesses when squad sizes are reduced.

19. REPORTING AN INJURY

All injuries that occur while participating in athletics should be reported to the coach. If the injury requires medical attention by a doctor or treatment center, it will be necessary to have an injury report form completed. Once athletes are treated by a physician, the athlete must obtain the doctor's permission to return to the activity. Each coach will fill out an injury report. The school has supplemental insurance. Parents need to notify the athletic director and fill out the appropriate forms within seven days of the injury.

20. AWARDS

Awards will be given as follows:

9th grade: numerals for participation. This is the only way an athlete can earn the chenille numerals.

JV award: JV patch 1st year; certificate 2nd year.

Varsity award: chenille letter 1st year, chevron 2nd year, chevron and trophy 3rd year, chevron and special award 4th year. Only one letter will be given. Bars will be given for additional sports.

Each coach and/or administration is responsible for the guidelines to letter in their sport. These requirements will be explained at the beginning of the season.

Awards will not be issued until fees associated with the sport have been paid and all equipment has been returned.

21. PARTICIPATION IN NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

An athlete cannot compete in a non-scholastic sport (ex: Senior League, AAU, Jr. Olympics, etc.) during the season if they are currently participating in a sport at the high school level. For example: If the athlete is playing baseball, they are not to PRACTICE, SCRIMMAGE, AND/OR PLAY IN A GAME during the high school baseball season. They will forfeit their eligibility for that season.

If an athlete participates in a tournament outside their season, they may not accept gifts, prizes, travel money, meal money, etc. over the monetary amount set by the OHSAA. Before an athlete enters a tournament, they should check with the athletic director to make sure they will not forfeit their amateur status at the high school.

22. POLICY FOR PRACTICES ON SCHOOL CALAMITY DAYS

1. When school is closed for a calamity day, the varsity coach will contact the principal who will consult with the Superintendent to get permission to hold a "voluntary" practice. This is for JV/V ONLY.
2. Saturday practices are up to the discretion of the head coach. If weather is questionable, the coach is required to hold "voluntary" practice.
3. There will be no practices for 7th, 8th, or 9th grade teams when school is closed for any reason.
4. Under special circumstances, (tournaments, districts, etc.) the Principal and Athletic Director in consultation with the Superintendent may grant permission to travel to an event.

HAZING PROHIBITION

A. DEFINITIONS

1. "Hazing" means committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, which creates a substantial risk of harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other purpose. **Hazing will not be tolerated on or off of school property regardless of the person's willingness to participate.** Hazing includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking or placing a harmful substance on the body.
 - b. Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
 - c. Any activity involving the consumption of any alcoholic beverage, drug, tobacco product or any other food, liquid, or substance that subject the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
 - d. Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects a student to extreme mental stress, embarrassment, shame or humiliation that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from remaining in school.
 - e. Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or of school district policies or regulations.

B. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

1. Upon receipt of a complaint or report of hazing, the school district shall undertake or authorize an investigation.
2. The school district may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the complainant, reporter, students, or others pending completion of an investigation of hazing.
3. Upon completion of the investigation, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but not be limited to, warning, suspension, and exclusion of participation and/or any other disciplinary action set forth in the student conduct code.

TRAINING RULES AND REGULATIONS

Medical research clearly substantiates the fact that use of tobacco, alcohol, and any type of mood altering substance produces harmful effects on the human body. Students have to decide if they want to be an athlete. If you do wish to be an athlete, you must make the commitment in order to be a competitor. A big part of this commitment is following simple training rules, which the athletic department believes to be fair.

USE OF TOBACCO/ NICOTINE: Research shows that use of tobacco/nicotine substances are physically harmful to young adults. The harm done by this is not only a health problem. The community follows the progress of young adults and any deviation from accepted training rules marks one as unwilling to pay the price.

The penalty for the use of tobacco will be as follows:

For the first offense the athlete will not participate in 10% of the scheduled season. For the second offense during the school year, the athlete will not participate in 20% of the season. The third offense during the school year will result in a twelve-month denial from athletic participation.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES: There is no way to justify athletes using alcoholic beverages, even though social pressure may be hard to resist. The people, who would like to draw athletes into their drinking sessions, will be the first to criticize the athlete if he/she does not come through in a game.

DRUGS: Simply stated, Drug use is the consumption of any chemical substance or the smoking of some plant derivatives or synthetics for the purpose of mood modification. The use or misuse of drugs is a social problem. Students with a strong sense of purpose have no need for mood modifiers.

PENALTIES FOR DRUG, ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS

The penalty for use of drugs, alcohol will be as follows:

The athlete will not participate in 20% of the scheduled season and must complete an assessment with a certified counseling service. The parents are responsible for the expense of the assessment and/or counseling. Written documentation that the assessment has been completed must be given to the Athletic Director before the athlete may continue. If the agency recommends further intervention, the athlete must abide by that recommendation in order to be eligible to return to the team. If the athlete does not meet the 20% denial of participation during the current season, the remainder of the denial of participation will be calculated on the next scheduled season that the athlete participates. During the assessment period and the denial of participation period, the athlete is required to attend all practices and scheduled events. Denial of participation in games will only count if the athlete completes the season in good standing. For example, if an athlete quits or is removed from the team after the athlete sits out their denial of participation in games, they will be required to sit for the 20% in the next sport they participate.

The second offense during the school year will result in a twelve-month denial from athletic participation.

If an athlete attends a practice or athletic contest under the influence of drugs or alcohol, the athlete will be immediately denied participation from the team according to the student conduct code.

During the school mandated suspension, the athlete cannot participate in his/her current sport, and will be denied athletic participation for 20% of the scheduled season (contests scheduled during the mandated school suspension count toward the 20% denial of athletic participation). If the 20% denial of athletic participation is not met during their current sport, the denial of athletic participation will carry over to the next sport in which they are involved.

If the athlete, parent or guardian refuses an assessment, the athlete cannot continue in any sport at Geneva High School or Geneva Middle School until the assessment has been completed.

Approval Forms for Participation in Athletics:

- Student athletes and parent/guardian will be required to sign and abide by the Geneva Athletic Code of Conduct and Media Guidelines form.
- Student athletes and parent/guardian will be required to provide proof of completion of state requirements for Lindsay Law (Senate Bill 252) and sign the OHSAA approved form.
- Current 2023/2024 Approved Physical Examination Form
- Current Emergency Medical Form
- Pay participation fees

GENEVA AREA CITY SCHOOLS

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Student Initial

I will not sell, distribute, use or possess any chemical substance, excluding currently prescribed medications. Chemical substances include any alcoholic beverages, anabolic steroid, dangerous controlled substance defined by State Statute, or a substance that could be considered a "look-alike".

I understand that use of tobacco of any kind (smoking or chewing) is not permitted.

I will conduct myself in a manner that earns the respect of my teammates, coaches, peers, school and community members and opponents.

I accept this agreement as binding and will honor each item in the Code of Conduct for Athletic Extracurricular Activities.

STUDENT'S GRADE _____ TEAM _____ DATE _____
(actual sport)

PRINTED NAME OF STUDENT _____

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT _____

DATE _____

As parent/guardian, I accept this agreement as binding and will honor each item in the Code of Conduct for Athletic Extracurricular Activities.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN _____

DATE _____

This Code of Conduct sheet will be good for one (1) year from date of PARENT'S signature.

Adoption date 5/17/2023

Legal refs: ORC 3313.66 Cross ref: IGAG – Teaching about Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco

GENEVA AREA CITY SCHOOLS SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT ATHLETES 2023/2024

Playing and competing for Geneva Area City Schools is a privilege. Student athletes are held to the highest regard and are seen as a role model in the community. As leaders you have the responsibility to portray your team, your coaches, our school and yourselves in a positive manner at all times. Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites have increased in popularity globally, and are used by the majority of the student athletes in one form or another. This also includes your "private" accounts.

Student athletes should be aware that any third party- including the media, faculty, future employers and college officials, could easily access your profile and view all personal information. This includes all pictures, videos, comments and postings. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the student-athletes and our school. This can also be detrimental to a student athlete's future options (i.e. college, profession). Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions or presentations of the following:

- Photos, videos, comments or posts showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco.
- Photos, videos and comments that are of sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.
- Pictures, videos, comments or postings that condone drug related activity. This includes but is not limited to images that portray the personal use of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.
- Content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any individual or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another school; taunting comments aimed at a student athlete, coach, or team at another school and derogatory comments against race and/ or gender). No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, dishonesty, underage drinking and illegal drug use.)

If you are ever in doubt of the appropriateness of your online public material, consider whether it upholds and positively reflects your own values and ethics as well as those of Geneva Area City Schools. Remember, always present a positive image and do not do anything to embarrass yourself, the team, your family or Geneva.

By signing below, you affirm that you understand both GENEVA AREA CITY SCHOOL SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINE FOR STUDENT ATHLETES and Board Policy 7540.03 - STUDENT TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY as well as the requirements that you must adhere to as a GHS/GMS student athlete. Also, you affirm that failure to adhere to this policy and guidelines may result in consequences that include suspension from your athletic team and you may be subject to additional penalties imposed by the Geneva administration.

Printed Name _____

Student Athlete Signature _____ Grade _____

Parent / Guardian Signature _____