

# ***Greenville High School***



# ***Athletic Code of Conduct***

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### **Original Policy Adopted**

Nov. 23, 1970

### **Policy Revised**

March 12, 1979

January 14, 1985

May 12, 1986

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### **Mission Statement**

The Greenville Public Schools is committed to a wide range of interscholastic athletic experiences and committed to providing the support necessary to insure that student athletes reach their highest skill level, mentally, physically, and academically as an individual and as a team member.

### **Philosophy and Beliefs**

The interscholastic athletic program of the Greenville Public Schools is an extension of the classroom. The school district offers a comprehensive athletic program in grades 7-12 to provide a wide array of athletic opportunities for students.

Interscholastic athletics provide a laboratory where students learn practical application of their skills and problem-solving in a cooperative environment. The purpose, as with any co-curricular activity, is to develop the student's ability to lead and to follow, to experience teamwork and fair play, and to cultivate lifetime citizenship skills of determination, self-discipline, respect for others, responsibility, goal-setting and perseverance. The opportunity to excel in athletics is available to any student with the skills, dedication, and commitment to achieve.

The interscholastic athletic program is organized as a system to provide developmental skills at beginning levels to a wide range of athletes leading to a varsity-level program for the most athletically talented students.

With this philosophy in mind, the Greenville Public Schools have developed a set of beliefs regarding interscholastic athletics to guide the implementation of the program.

- We believe in a commitment to excellence.
- We believe interscholastic athletics develop positive lifelong values.
- We believe that a quality interscholastic athletic program is a partnership of the students, staff, parents, and community.
- We believe athletics develop valuable relationships.
- We believe in sportsmanship and standards of conduct at all times.
- We believe in clear expectations and open communications.
- We believe in a continuity of purpose between middle school and high school programs.
- We believe our interscholastic athletic program is committed to enhancing our athletes' skills.

## **Athletic Code of Conduct**

### **Introduction**

The following articles shall be interpreted as the requirements that every high school athlete must maintain on a **year-round** basis to be eligible for participation in interscholastic sports at Greenville High School. Athlete is defined as anyone connected with interscholastic athletics, including but not limited to team members, team managers, and cheerleaders. It is recognized that it shall be the responsibility of all people associated with Greenville High School athletics to enforce this Athletic Code of Conduct.

Students who participate in interscholastic athletics are expected to represent the highest ideals of character by exemplifying good conduct, good sportsmanship, good citizenship and good training, which includes abstaining from the use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, controlled substances, misuse of patent medications, and all illegal substances. Accordingly, student athletes are expected to abide by the Athletic Code of Conduct at all times and at all places. The Athletic Code of Conduct is not limited to a student's conduct at school-sponsored activities or on school property. The Athletic Code of Conduct applies on a 12-month, 24-hour basis and has no limitation as to the place of conduct or whether the student is currently in a sport season. This code begins with the first day of school in the ninth grade year, even if you have not participated in a sport yet.

### **Principles of a Student Athlete**

A Greenville High School athlete is expected:

1. To welcome the privileges of an athlete, but to sincerely assume the responsibility and obligations that go along with it.
2. To agree that studies come first, and athletics, as important as they are, come second.
3. To apply the philosophy that nothing worthwhile is accomplished without hard work, application, and the desire to succeed.
4. To sacrifice personal desires for the good of the team.
5. To recognize and value the principle that, as an athlete, you do represent your school; and, therefore, must adhere to the highest conduct and performance of citizenship.
6. To respect and encourage excellence of performance and conduct among opponents as well as teammates.
7. To realize that a positive attitude, total effort, and dedication to the athletic program is the responsibility of the athlete throughout the year.
8. To recognize that true athletes, despite unjustified criticism, a losing season, or being up against an opponent that is better, will still have the will and courage to go beyond their apparent ability.

## **Violations of the Athletic Code of Conduct**

An athlete's conduct deemed serious in nature and bringing discredit to the athlete and/ or the school community will be considered a rules infraction & violation of the Athletic Code. The following behaviors constitute a violation of this section of the Athletic Code of Conduct and will subject the athlete to such penalty deemed appropriate by the said act.

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### **Rules/ Offenses**

**Category 1** offenses include, but are not limited to:

- Use, possession, concealment, distribution, sale, or being under the influence of tobacco in any form **and/or including tobacco related paraphernalia (i.e. e-cigarettes)**
- Use, possession, concealment, distribution, sale, or being under the influence of over the counter medications without permission of a doctor or a parent; and/or taking more than the recommended dosage; and/or for an unintended purpose other than what is on the label.
- Multiple school offenses which disrupt others around you
  - Language, not prepared for class, etc. (assistant principal decides when the actions warrant a violation and will notify the Athletic Office)
- Hazing
  - Any activity that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health, or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or membership in or affiliation with any athletic team.
- Fighting
- Stealing
- Gross misconduct
- Destruction/ misuse of school property/ equipment
- Inappropriate use of the internet or technology devices may include, but is not limited to:
  - Posting, posing, promoting, videotaping and/or forwarding inappropriate content via electronic communication devices. (defenses such as the container was empty/ full and unopened will not be a case for defense)
- When conduct is deemed more severe than a category 1 offense, the Administration has the right to increase a penalty to a category 2 or 3 offense.

**Category 2** offenses include, but are not limited to:

- Use, possession, concealment, distribution, sale, or being under the influence of alcohol
- Use, possession, concealment, distribution, sale, or being under the influence of "look alike" illegal drugs and/or drug paraphernalia.
- Use, possession, concealment, distribution, sale, or being under the influence of prescription drugs in violation of federal and/or state statute in regards to the issuance of the prescription by a licensed physician.
  - It shall not be a violation of the Athletic Code for an athlete to use or possess a prescription or patent drug when taken pursuant to a legal prescription issued by a licensed practitioner for which permission to use in school has been granted pursuant to Board Policy.
- Actions which would be deemed misdemeanors under the criminal code (e.g. minor theft, vandalism, hazing, .....)
- When conduct is deemed more severe than a category 2 offense, the Administration has the right to increase a penalty to a category 3 offense.

**Category 3** offenses include, but are not limited to:

- Use, possession, concealment, distribution, sale, or being under the influence of illegal drugs, including, but not limited to controlled substances pursuant to the federal and/ or state status.
- Use, possession, concealment, distribution, sale, or being under the influence of steroids, human growth hormones, or other performance-enhancing drugs.

- Actions which would be deemed felonies under the criminal code.

	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
First Offense	20%	30%	40%
Second Offense	*50%	*60%	*CY
Third Offense	*CY 1	*CY 1	*CY 2
Fourth Offense	*CY 2	*CY 2	*CY 3
Fifth Offense	*CY 3	*CY 3	*CY 4

*\* 5 hours of Community Service must also be performed for 50% & 60% violations and 10 hours of Community Service must also be performed for Calendar Year (CY) violations for the suspension to be considered complete and must also be approved by the Administration. Offenses must run consecutively, not concurrently.*

An athlete shall not remain in a place where they know, or can reasonably be presumed to know, that any of the substances listed above in the 3 categories are being used illegally. If it can be determined through an investigation that an athlete made an attempt to or did remove him/herself from the situation in a timely manner and did not use any substance, he/she will not be penalized.

### **Notes**

- ❖ Any suspension from competition will be applied to the contests in which the athlete would participate immediately following the administrative discipline. If the suspension exceeds the remaining contests in a season, the remainder of the suspension will be served during the next season in which the athlete participates (only for suspensions based on % of season).
- ❖ For the suspension to be considered complete (only for suspensions based on % of season), the athlete must finish any season(s) in which the suspension occurs. The athlete is expected to participate in all team practices and attend contests dressed in appropriate street clothes.
- ❖ Penalties are cumulative throughout the student's high school career.
- ❖ The total number of contests penalized is based on the original number of scheduled games, not including post season tournaments.
- ❖ If a game date is cancelled, the total number of games that must be missed remains the same. There is always a chance to add a game later so the penalty will not be lowered.
- ❖ Possession is defined as the act of having or controlling property, holding or occupying with or without rightful ownership.
- ❖ Conviction of the said act in a Court of Law is not needed to impose/apply an Athletic Code Violation penalty.
- ❖ Any violation, from the third offense and beyond, will be a Calendar Year suspension, to be served consecutively, not concurrently. The next Calendar Year suspension may not begin until the previous penalty has been served and completed.

### **Enforcement**

Upon receiving information that a student or students may be in violation of the Athletic Code, the athletic director will immediately begin an investigation. Such an investigation may be conducted based on complaints from parents, citizens, staff members, or other students. Complaints must be specific and must be made in person or in writing over the signature of the person making the complaint. Said

complaint must be filed within 90 days of the alleged violation. When a student is named in a complaint, the student and the parent/guardian will be notified as soon as possible.

To determine the suspension percentage, go to the table above and first look at the offense number at the left. Once you determine which number offense it is, go across to the category that represents the violation.

- If you are caught with tobacco for your first violation, you would miss 20% of your next sport season.
- If you are then caught with alcohol, you would be a second offense, category 2 and have to sit another 60% of a season.
- The penalties do not overlap and must be served at different times.

#### **Other Team/ Seasonal Rules**

- Athletes shall adhere to the Principles of a Student Athlete on page 4.
- Athletes are responsible for all equipment issued to them. They must return such equipment at the conclusion of their season or reimburse the school, at full replacement value, for equipment lost or stolen. This must be done before the athlete can receive his/her awards for the season and/or be eligible to participate in any other sport season.
- Athletes are expected to show loyalty to their coach, teammates and school.
- All athletes are to abide by any seasonal training rules set up by the coaches of the sport being played.

#### **Penalties for Violating Team/ Seasonal Rules**

- Penalty deemed appropriate by the coach, with the approval of the Athletic Director.

#### **Due Process/ Appeals Procedure**

1. Due process and the right of appeal are afforded to all athletes.
2. An Athletic Council/ Appeals Board will be set up by the Superintendent and reported to the Board of Education annually. The Athletic Council will be made up of 1 administrator (Athletic Director), 4 current high school coaches, 1 citizen at large, and 3 alternates (1 for the administrator, 1 for the coaches, and 1 for the citizen). The Council will meet yearly to review the Athletic Code.
3. No member of the Athletic Council will take part in a hearing if there is a conflict of interest. The Athletic Director will determine if a conflict of interest exists. A conflict of interest is defined as, but not limited to, being a relative of the student, witness, or the coach of a sport in which the student has participated in.
4. Any athlete receiving a violation under the Athletic Code, other than a Team/ Seasonal Rules Violation executed by a coach, may request a hearing in writing within 5 business days after the athlete and his/her parent or guardian have received written notice, sent by mail, of the violation charge and the penalty. The hearing will be scheduled at the earliest date when all of the members of the Athletic Council and the athlete are available.
5. All suspensions begin from the date of the written notice of the violation. The student athlete is excluded from participation in games during the appeals process.
6. At the hearing, the athlete may be presented by counsel, at the athlete's expense. The athlete may call witnesses and present information for consideration by the Athletic Council.
7. The responsibility of the Athletic Council will be to listen to evidence presented by the Athletic Director and by the student and his or her witnesses and determine whether or not the athlete is in violation of the Athletic Code. The Athletic Council will determine only whether a violation did

or did not occur. If a violation did occur, the appropriate penalty will be administered. If the violation did not occur, the charges will be dropped.

8. The Athletic Council will have 5 business days to render a decision.
9. The decision of the Athletic Council is final.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

#### **Daily Attendance**

- Athletes are expected to abide by all school attendance policies
- Athletes must be in school the whole day unless they are pre-excused in the main office. Missing school without pre-approval in the main office will automatically make a player ineligible for the game or practice that day. If an athlete is gone for an appointment, they need to bring a doctor's slip to the Athletic Office.

#### **Weekly Academic Eligibility Notes**

- Every student on a team will have their grades checked every three weeks, starting with the third week of practices for each season. These checks will be done by the Athletic Office using the Synergy grade-book program that the teachers input grades into.
- Weekly eligibility will be based on the semester average grade. (i.e. average 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period grades)
- The checks will be performed on Thursday each week.
- An email or printed list of the student athletes that are ineligible, or that are in jeopardy of being ineligible, will be given to each coach by Thursday at 2:30pm.
- Penalties for having a GPA of below a 1.9 will run from the next Monday through Sunday.
- Eligibility concerns for an otherwise qualified student with a disability will be addressed on an individual basis and consistent with applicable law, as well as the student's educational plan.

#### **Weekly Eligibility Rules**

- Any student-athlete who has a D+ or below in any class will have their name on a list that is emailed to their coach.
- Any student-athlete that has an F in any class will have their GPA calculate via Synergy. If they have below a 1.9 cumulative GPA for the current semester, they will be considered ineligible the next Monday through Sunday.
- The athlete may not become eligible until the following Monday; therefore, they may not regain eligibility during the middle of the week.
- If an athlete feels that the grade printout is incorrect, they may pick up a grade check sheet on Friday from the Athletic Office, take it to all teachers, and return it to the Athletic Office by 2:30 on Friday. We will refigure the GPA and sign the form if they are now eligible Monday through Sunday.
- Any athlete who does not have a cumulative GPA for the current semester of at least a 1.9 or who is not passing 66% of their classes (4/6 classes or 5/7 classes), will sit out contests weekly until they pass enough classes or their cumulative GPA is a 1.9 or higher.

#### **MHSAA Rules**

- Any student who did not pass 66% of their classes (4/6 classes or 5/7 classes) for the previous semester will have to sit the next 60 school-days of competition the following semester.
- A student shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition if he/she accepts, from any source, anything for participation in athletics other than a trophy as defined in this rule. (Section 10A)



- A trophy is defined as a medal, ribbon, badge, plaques, banner, picture, or ring. No trophy shall exceed \$25 in value. The acceptance of the regular school letter awards shall not render a student ineligible under this rule, but a school can make only one award to a student per sport season. (Section 10B)
- Banquets, luncheons, dinners, trips, and admissions to athletic events, if accepted in kind, shall not be a violation under this rule. (Section 10C)
- Money or other valuable consideration for participation in athletic sports or games would render the athlete ineligible.
- All transfer students are considered ineligible.

### **Sportsmanship Code**

It is expected that proper sportsmanlike behavior at athletic contests be ongoing and adhered to by all athletes, coaches, and spectators. The guidelines the OK Conference has adopted for fans will be followed at all school sponsored events, at home and away. Cheers and signs are to be positive and respectful, fans should be considerate and courteous, noisemakers of any kind are not allowed, and the throwing of objects will not be tolerated. Greenville High School students are expected to follow the Student Code of Content as printed in the student handbook at all school-sponsored activities, home and away.

Administration and contest management will determine if these guidelines are being followed. Failure to adhere to behavior expectations may result in a warning, an ejection from that contest, and/ or a suspension of privileges to attend school activities for a specified period of time. Disciplinary action will be determined based on prior occurrences and/or the severity of the offense.

### **Awards**

- ❖ Senior Plaque
  - Awarded for senior athletes, in all sports, that have lettered their senior year and at least one other year in the same sport. They will only get one actual plaque, but will get recognized for earning it in each sport.
    - A senior athlete who is suspended for Rule Violation during the season shall forfeit his/ her senior plaque. If it happens during the offseason, they will forfeit the senior plaque during the next season.
    - If the athlete is suspended twice for a Rule Violation during his years of competition (grades 9-12), the Senior Plaque shall be forfeited.
    - The senior year begins the day after the school year ends of the athlete's junior year.
- ❖ Varsity Letter
  - Presented once during the 4 years of competition. The head coach will establish the requirements for earning a letter.
- ❖ Certificate
  - Every athlete that participates in a sport will earn a certificate stating the team and level that they participated in.
- ❖ Yellow Jacket Patch
  - Team members will earn a Yellow Jacket patch one time during their years of participation. It will be given the first time you play a JV sport or during another season or sport if you do not play a JV sport. (If an athlete only wrestles and earns a letter as a freshman, they would get a YJ as a sophomore and numerals as a junior)
- ❖ Numerals
  - Given once during the 4 years of competition. It is given when an athlete participates in a freshman sport. If they do not participate on a freshman team, it will be given during another season or sport.