

# **GROVE CITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**



## **ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

**REVISED 8/2017**

## **Grove City Area School District**

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## **Administration of Athletics**

### **Grove City Area School District Athletic Philosophy**

Grove City Area School District recognizes the importance of interscholastic athletics as an integral component of the overall education process. Athletic programs exist to teach life skills that will help student athletes be more successful in their adult lives. Participating in athletics encourages lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, collaboration, discipline, goal setting, time management, and how to win and lose with grace and humility.

### **Goals and Objectives**

- I. To represent Grove City Area School District in a manner that positively reflects the student athlete, school, and community.
- II. To develop a healthy attitude towards competition, opponents, and to encourage everyone to give their best effort in practice and competition.
- III. To stimulate the extrinsic function of goal setting and the intrinsic function of serving a larger purpose.
- IV. To demonstrate the values of sportsmanship, teamwork, and participation.
- V. To encourage the development of young people through structured participation in individual and team sports.

### **Goals for Student Athletes**

- I. Maintain academic eligibility for participation in every athletic event.
- II. Accept the responsibility of representing the school with pride and effort.
- III. Become a positive role model in the school and community.
- IV. Continue to develop academically, while participating in athletics, to prepare for life after high school.

## **Athletic Programs – Grove City Area School District**

**Mascot** – Eagles

**Colors** – Gold and White (Black)

**PIAA District** – X

**PIAA Classification** – AA/AAA

**Sports Offered** – Grades 9-12

### **FALL**

Varsity/JV Football  
Varsity/JV Boys Soccer  
Varsity/JV Girls Soccer  
Varsity/JV Boys/Girls XC  
Varsity/JV Golf  
Varsity/JV Girls Tennis  
Varsity/JV Volleyball  
Varsity Cheerleading

### **WINTER**

Varsity/JV Boys Basketball  
Varsity/JV Girls Basketball  
Varsity/JV Wrestling  
Varsity/JV Swimming  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball

### **SPRING**

Varsity/JV Boys Track  
Varsity/JV Girls Track  
Varsity/JV Baseball  
Varsity/JV Softball  
Varsity/JV Boys Tennis

**Sports Offered** – Grades 7-8

### **FALL**

MS Football  
MS XC  
MS Girls Basketball  
MS Girls Soccer  
MS Boys Soccer

### **WINTER**

MS Boys Basketball  
MS Wrestling  
MS Volleyball

### **SPRING**

MS Track  
MS Volleyball

### **Team Selection**

Each Varsity/JV coach is given the opportunity to make cuts. Prior to the start of the season, the coach must notify the team that cuts will be made. The coach will clearly define the criteria that will be used to evaluate each student athlete during tryouts. Each coach will use a rubric to evaluate the student athletes during the try-out process. Tryouts must be a minimum of 2 days.

### **Scrimmages and Competitions**

Each team is permitted two interscholastic scrimmages. Results of scrimmages will not count against the regular season record. The number of competitions is regulated by PIAA. The number of competitions is different depending on the sport.

## **Academic and Athletic Eligibility**

### **Eligibility Requirements**

Grove City Area School District is a member of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA). The PIAA has developed certain eligibility requirements that all member schools must follow. Failure to comply with the PIAA eligibility policy will result in disqualification or termination of competitions in a season.

### **Pre-Participation Requirements**

Each student athlete must complete and return the following to the Athletic Director before participation in any practice or game, in accordance with PIAA:

1. A completed Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation (CIPPE) form with all six sections completed.
2. For each subsequent sports season after submitting a CIPPE form, section 7 and possibly section 8 would need to be completed and submitted before participation can begin.

### **Age Requirements**

Students age 18 and under are eligible to participate in athletics. If a student turns 19 on or after June 30<sup>th</sup>, the student would be eligible to compete during the following school year granted they did not exceed their 6 years of eligibility (grades 7-12).

### **Academic Requirements**

#### **Athletic/Co-Curricular Eligibility**

Students must fulfill the requirements of the school as well as those of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) and/or District 10.

Grove City students must be passing a minimum of four (4) full credit subjects, not be failing more than one course, on a weekly basis, and have a minimum GPA of 2.0. The school administration may revoke the privilege of participating in athletics/co-curricular activity at any time for disciplinary reasons, flagrant misconduct, poor sportsmanship, excessive absenteeism,

and/or failure to meet minimum scholastic eligibility standards. External suspensions are considered absences from school and are applied to the eligibility requirement. (See the Athletic Director for questions relating to athletic eligibility information and other athletic policies.) It is the athletic director's responsibility to inform the student athletes of their academic deficiencies. The athletic director will then inform the coach on who is not eligible to participate.

### **During the Season Participation**

All participants on athletic teams and cheerleading must be in good standing to participate in practices and events. Grades will be evaluated every Monday morning at 8:00 a.m. **Good standing includes all of the following:**

1. PIAA Eligibility: Regulations include age, school attendance, academic achievement, health, school residence, years of previous participation, consent of parent and amateur status. Eligibility is determined on a weekly basis.
2. Grove City Eligibility: Regulations include grades in the preceding marking period, detention, suspension and other disciplinary actions.
  - Detention- Students have one week to satisfy assigned detentions. If not served the student is ineligible to practice or play until detention is served.
  - ALC- If assigned ALC, students must serve a complete day and are ineligible athletically on the assigned day. This includes practice and competition.

Student athletes must have passed at least four full-credit subjects or the equivalent during the previous grading period. Eligibility for the first grading period is based on final grades for the preceding school year. Failure to meet this requirement will result in loss of eligibility for 15 school days of the next grading period, beginning on the first day that report cards are issued.

### **Athletic Eligibility**

A student's athletic eligibility extends only until they have reached the end of their fourth consecutive year (8<sup>th</sup> consecutive semester or the equivalent) beyond the eighth grade. Therefore, if a student would repeat a grade after eighth, they would be ineligible as a senior.

Additionally, a student may participate in: (1) a maximum of six seasons in each sport during grades seven through twelve, (2) a maximum of four seasons in each sport during grades nine through twelve, and (3) a maximum of three seasons in each sport during grades seven through nine.

A student may participate in only one season in each sport during each school year.

### **Amateur Status and Awards**

To be eligible to participate in athletics, a student must remain an amateur in that sport. Amateur status and eligibility is violated if a student's parent/guardians receive money or property for or related to a student's athletic ability, participation, performance, services, or training in a sport.

A student may receive awards only from their school, school affiliated booster organization, the sponsor of an athletic event, or a non-profit service organization approved by the school principal and athletic director.

### **Attendance Requirements**

A student athlete is required to be in school the day of an event or practice. If a student athlete is tardy, they must report to the school prior to 11:30 a.m. to be deemed eligible to compete that day. An excuse (doctor, dentist) must accompany a student athlete who leaves school and returns in order to be eligible. Parent excuses are not valid. The final decision for participation of a student athlete is determined by the principal and athletic director.

**Attendance in School the Day of an Event:** An athlete is required to be in school the day of an event. Athletes must be present at least one half of a school day (a minimum of four full academic periods not including lunch) in order to participate that day or evening in athletics or any other school related activities. Students who are sent home by the nurse due to illness may not participate in after school or evening events.

**Attendance in School on Days Following Events:** An athlete is required to be in attendance for a full day following an athletic event under normal circumstances. If a student is ill, normal procedures are to be followed. In unusual conditions when teams arrive back at the school late, students must report to school 9 hours after returning to school the night before. Example: A midnight arrival time back to school will require student/ athletes to report to class the following day no later than 9:00 a.m.

### **Awards and Lettering**

Grove City Area School District understands the importance of teamwork and commitment. Participation in athletics is a way for students to develop skills that will serve them well in the future. Before any award can be received, a student athlete must meet requirements in scholarship, sportsmanship, athletic eligibility, and participation.

Requirements for earning a varsity letter and awards are established by the head coach of each individual sport. If a student athlete quits or is removed from the team, he/she is automatically disqualified from earning a letter.

Each student athlete is eligible for a varsity jacket after they have earned (1) letter in a varsity sport. Junior Varsity student athletes are not eligible to earn a varsity letter.

Awards are as follow:

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Earned Varsity Letter and Pin developed for the Sport.

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Earned Varsity Letter and Pin developed for the Sport.

2<sup>nd</sup> year Certificate and Bar

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Earned Varsity Letter and Pin developed for the Sport.

2<sup>nd</sup> year Certificate and Bar

3<sup>rd</sup> year Plaque and Bar

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Earned Varsity Letter and Pin developed for the Sport.

2<sup>nd</sup> year Certificate and Bar

3<sup>rd</sup> year Plaque and Bar

4<sup>th</sup> year Plaque and Bar

## **Booster Organizations**

Booster organizations consist of parents and community members who want to financially enhance and support the athletic programs at Grove City. Booster organizations are non-profit and the head coach will serve as the contact person through the school. All booster organizations must follow district protocol on all matters. In situations that need further review, the organization should relay the question to the head coach, who will discuss the matter with the athletic director. Booster organizations should only contact parents/guardians in their respected sport concerning fundraising opportunities and meeting dates. The School District (coaches, athletic director, and principal) will handle communication with parents/guardians as it relates to the structure/organization of the team.

## **College Athletics**

Any student interested in participating in intercollegiate sports at a Division I or II College/University must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse. This information is provided in the School Counseling Office.



## **Communication**

Grove City Area School District welcomes strong communication with administration, coaches, parents/guardians, and student athletes regarding athletic issues. When wishing to initiate communication, please refer to the head coach's team rules and district protocol. This communication should not occur before or after an athletic event. The following is appropriate/inappropriate communication between parent/guardian and coach:

**Appropriate** items to discuss with the coach:

- I. Your child's behavior and attitude
- II. Ways to help your child improve
- III. Your child's rapport with the coaching staff

**Inappropriate** items to discuss with the coach:

- I. Playing time and play calling
- II. Team philosophy/strategy
- III. Performance of other student athletes

**District Protocol** to address an issue.

- I. Schedule a meeting with the coach
- II. Schedule a meeting with coach and athletic director
- III. Schedule a meeting with coach, athletic director, and principal

## **Discipline**

Grove City Area School District considers participating in interscholastic athletics to be a privilege. The school reserves the right to regulate the conduct of student athletes in and out of school. Failure to follow/uphold the standards placed upon student athletes may result in forfeiting the opportunity to participate/compete in a sport. The administration can declare a student athlete ineligible for a game/contest for disciplinary reason.

**Detention-** Students have one week to satisfy assigned detentions. If not served the student is ineligible to practice or play until detention is served.

**ALC-** If assigned ALC, students must serve a complete day and are ineligible athletically on the assigned day. This includes practice and competition.

## **Dual Sporting**

GCASD recognizes that in some instances a student athlete may have the capacity and desire to participate in more than one interscholastic sport during the same athletic season. A student

athlete and his/her parent/guardians, wishing to exercise the dual sporting option, must complete the dual sporting agreement prior to the first competition date of both sports teams. A meeting should occur between the athlete, parents, primary coach, secondary coach, and athletic director so all expectations can be discussed. Once all parties have come to an agreement, the dual sporting agreement is signed and turned into the athletic office.

## **Equipment and Uniforms**

Each student athlete is responsible for the proper care of all uniforms and equipment. They are also responsible for returning these items in good condition. If any equipment is lost, stolen, or deemed unusable, it is the responsibility of the student athlete to pay for the missing/damaged items. Additionally, the student athlete will not be allowed to participate in the next sport's season if the equipment is not returned or payment not received. It is the responsibility of coaches to keep inventory of equipment and uniforms and report any names to the athletic director if an athlete violates this procedure. If uniforms and equipment are not returned or paid for, a senior student athlete will not receive their diploma until these obligations are fulfilled.

## **Injury Procedure**

Grove City Area School District understands the risk of injury while participating in athletics and makes a concerted effort to ensure proper care if injuries occur. The athletic trainer is the contact person for athletic injuries. The following is the framework for injuries:

- I. Student athlete informs coach of an injury.
- II. Coach informs athletic trainer of the athlete's injury.
- III. Athletic trainer will contact the student athlete's parent/guardian in order to provide a report on the condition of the student athlete.
- IV. The athletic trainer will provide appropriate treatment for the student athlete.
- V. Athletic trainer may refer student athlete to their family physician for a more comprehensive evaluation.
- VI. The athletic trainer or family physician will deem when the student athlete is able to return to practice and competitions.

## **Insurance**

All student athletes participating in interscholastic athletics must provide proof that they are enrolled in an insurance program. Failure to do so will result in ineligibility.

## **Practice Requirements**

As required by the PIAA, all athletic programs must participate in five practices before the student athletes are able to participate in a competition (scrimmage or game). Coaches are required to create a practice schedule to be distributed to all players on the team and the athletic

director. Student athletes can only participate in either practice or competitions for six days during any calendar week. Practice or competitions on all major holidays and Sunday are prohibited.

### **Post Season and Play-Off Competition**

All post season competitions will be determined by District 10 and PIAA. Opponents and venues are also determined by District 10 and PIAA. Grove City Area School District understands that qualifying for post season play is a great achievement for our athletic programs and has developed the following to assist these teams for post season play:

- I. Dismissal and departure time will be determined by the athletic director.
- II. The athletic director will secure appropriate transportation for the team competing.
- III. The athletic director will secure appropriate meal monies for players and coaches.
- IV. The athletic director will organize all overnight travel arrangements.
- V. The following will be allowed to travel/participate/support the team participating in post season play:
  - A. All varsity team members or individual qualifiers in a sport.
  - B. Head coach and assistant coaches who normally work with the varsity team.
  - C. One student athlete per individual qualifier in a sport.

### **Scheduling of Athletic Events**

All athletic competitions will be scheduled by the athletic director. Coaches will be given the opportunity to provide input, but the final decision will be made by the athletic director. Additionally, the use of athletic facilities will be scheduled by the athletic director. Practice times and open gyms will vary depending on the availability of the facilities. Teams that are in-season will be given priority over teams that are out of season.

Coaches, booster organizations, and community groups must fill out a facility use form in order to use the facility. These forms are available from the athletic director or a building secretary. Requests must be made for the following activities: team/booster meetings, tournaments, open gyms, conditioning, and summer camps. The individual or group using the facility is required to make sure the facility is clean, the doors are locked, and all lights are turned off.

### **Severe Weather and School Closing**

The principal and athletic director are responsible for delaying/canceling games due to inclement weather for all home events. The principal and athletic director will use their best judgment and error on the side of safety. If an event is canceled, the athletic director will make the appropriate contacts to ensure that all relevant parties know the event is canceled.

If school is on a two hour delay, all scheduled events may go on as scheduled as long as the principal and athletic director determine the conditions are safe for travel. If school is closed, all scheduled events will be canceled and rescheduled by the athletic director.

## **Sportsmanship**

PIAA stresses the following statement – “The ideals of sportsmanship apply equally to all disciplines. Individuals, regardless of their roles in interscholastic athletics, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behaviors of others and act in a responsible manner at all times.”

## **Suspension and Removal from Team**

Suspension or removal from the team should be a last resort for a coach. The coach will try to develop positive relationships with the student athletes and communicate effectively with all parties regarding rules and expectations. The coach has the right to suspend/remove a student athlete for violating a team rule.

## **Team Rules and Expectations**

Each coach will create specific team rules which include specific disciplines/consequences for team infractions. The coach is responsible for providing a copy of his/her team rules to the athletic director, student athletes, and their parents/guardians. The coach is responsible for explaining and discussing the team rules at a parent meeting before the season begins. The coach will answer any questions concerning the team rules at this time. Parents/Guardians are required to sign a document stating they understand the coach's team rules before their son/daughter can begin participation.

## **Transportation**

Grove City Area School District requires that student's ride district provided transportation to and from all scheduled athletic events. The coaches will have travel release sheets available at the end of each game/contest. Student athletes are only permitted to ride home with their parent/guardian.

Failure to abide by this regulation/procedure, the athletic director and principal can declare the student athlete ineligible for the next game. Repeated disregard for this regulation may result in the student athlete being declared ineligible for the remainder of the season.

## **Student Athlete – Parent/Guardian Agreement**

**I have read the Grove City Area Athletic Handbook and understand the terms of the book.**

Student Athlete Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Athlete Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This page must be signed and submitted to the head coach before the student athlete is permitted to begin participation in school sponsored athletic programs.