



THE
GREENSPIRE
SCHOOL

Athletic Handbook
2023-2024

This handbook contains the Greenspire Middle and High Schools Athletic Discipline Code and general rules that apply to athletes in addition to those set forth in the *Greenspire District Community Handbook* adopted by the Board of Education. The material has been prepared for the use of our student athletes and their parents or guardians.

In order to participate in athletics at either Greenspire Middle or High School, athletes and their parents or guardians are required to read the information contained in this document and sign this cover sheet acknowledging that they have done so. Once signed, the cover sheet should be turned in to the Main Office. These signatures will serve as your agreement to abide by the school district's standards, rules and regulations.

The undersigned parent/guardian and student understand the policy handbook guidelines and policies.

ATHLETE: _____ GRADE: _____
(Please print)

ATHLETE: _____ DATE: _____
(Signature)

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

Parent/Guardian Name Print: _____

DATE: _____

BEFORE YOU PARTICIPATE

1. Are you academically eligible? (Refer to the eligibility policy at the end of this handbook.)
2. Do you have recorded violations of the *Code of Conduct* which would result in losing the privilege of participation?
3. Do you have a current physical exam form on file in the Athletic Office? The exam must have taken place on or after April 15th of the previous school year.
4. Do you have medical insurance for your student? Parents need to understand that The Greenspire School District does not provide medical insurance to student athletes. Parents are responsible for all medical bills related to any injury from athletic participation.

Before investing time, energy, and money, it is your responsibility to make sure that there are satisfactory answers to these questions. If in doubt, check with the Athletic Office. All of these items will be checked.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. Athletes must be in school the day of the event unless participating in a school-approved function. If the athlete is tardy due to illness, he/she should attend at least four classes to be able to dress for an activity. Any other absence on the day of a contest must be approved by the Head of School before the athlete will be permitted to participate in an athletic contest.
2. If an athlete is absent or late the day following a contest, he or she will report the reason to the coach before participating in practice or contests.
3. Refer to the *Greenspire Community Policy Handbook* for complete details of school attendance policy.

ATHLETES NOT COMPLETING SEASON WITH A TEAM

1. An athlete who chooses not to complete the season, subsequent to the normal "tryout period," may not join another team during that same sport season.
2. If an athlete leaves the team due to injury or illness on a physician's recommendation and later is certified as capable to participate in athletics,

1. such athletes may rejoin the team or, if mutually agreed upon by the coaches involved, join any other team.
2. If the season for an athlete is terminated due to disciplinary action, the athlete may rejoin the athletic program as specified by the *Discipline Code of Conduct*.
3. Special circumstances not included in the above items must be cleared through the Head of School. Judgment must be given weight when our rules and codes are not clear in special circumstances.

ATHLETIC PRACTICE AND VACATIONS

It must be understood that practice for athletic teams is tightly controlled by beginning and ending dates for seasons, by schedules, and by the need for proper physical conditioning.

If a student cannot attend early practice sessions or must miss part of a season due to vacations, the student must realize that the chances of playing or making the team are greatly reduced. Practice sessions and game/meet schedules cannot be arranged around vacations for individuals. Maintaining proper physical conditioning dictates the need to practice during the various vacations that occur throughout the year. Communication between coach, parent, and athlete is strongly recommended in all cases where a missed practice is anticipated.

Coaches will cover the schedule for practice and games/meets at the beginning of a season to avoid any misunderstanding. Special permission may be given to miss practice if the coach feels the athlete can maintain physical condition.

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM ATHLETIC EVENTS

When transportation is provided by the school district, athletes are required to ride on this transportation to and from these scheduled practices/events held away from The Greenspire School District. Exceptions to this policy may be made for sufficient reason if prior arrangement is made in writing through the office. Coaches may waive the policy only for valid emergency reasons which arise at a time when the Athletic Director is not available.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT

1. Every student is held responsible for all athletic department clothing and equipment issued to him/her. Any athletic clothing or equipment that is lost, stolen, or damaged beyond normal wear and tear, must be paid by the student.

2. No student-athlete will be permitted to participate on any athletic team until all previous athletic debts have been paid.
3. The student has the right to appeal to the Head of School any fine issued for just cause (i.e., stolen equipment, parents' or guardians' inability to reimburse the district due to extenuating circumstances, etc.).

The Greenspire School is dedicated to interscholastic athletics as a component of The Greenspire School education. Athletics will be a positive learning experience for our student athletes if they can recognize that they may achieve their highest personal and athletic potential only by embracing a lifestyle dedicated to competition, integrity, and self-discipline. In addition, selection to a team is both an honor and a privilege and, as such, carries responsibilities commensurate with leadership roles. As leaders and as very visible representatives of both Grand Blanc Middle Schools and their teams, athletes have the obligation to represent themselves in an exemplary manner.

We would have our athletes recognized for the good which they accomplish and made aware of the results of their actions which would be detrimental to themselves or those they represent. They must realize that decisions and consequences are part of the learning of responsibility. Dishonesty, unsportsmanlike behavior, and the use or possession of controlled substances or tobacco by any Grand Blanc Middle Schools athlete cannot and will not be tolerated. This policy will be administered fairly but strictly.

Section 1

CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LAW VIOLATIONS

The Head of School will make disciplinary decisions in all cases of civil or criminal law violations (stealing, vandalism, assault, etc.) involving other persons.

Non-victim violations of civil or criminal law, except the use of tobacco, alcohol, and abuse of drugs, are to be handled by the Athletic Director only if flagrant and repeated enough to be a community problem.

The Head of School will accept, when possible, the recommendation of court officials in handling civil or criminal law violations. The suspension options open to the Athletic Director are a twenty-day school suspension, a one-year school suspension, or a permanent suspension from athletic participation. However, the Athletic Director may make special restrictions as dictated by specific cases.

Note: Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 deal specifically with alcohol, tobacco, and drugs.

Section 2
ABUSE OF DRUGS RELATED TO POLICE AND/OR COURT ACTION

Abuse of controlled substances (i.e., hallucinogens, amphetamines, alcohol, barbiturates, or narcotics) by an athlete will be acted upon by the Head of School in conjunction with a court office.

Section 2
ABUSE OF DRUGS RELATED TO POLICE AND/OR COURT ACTION

Abuse of controlled substances (i.e., hallucinogens, amphetamines, alcohol, barbiturates, or narcotics) by an athlete will be acted upon by the Head of School in conjunction with a court office.

Section 3
**ON OR OFF-CAMPUS DRINKING, USE OF TOBACCO, OR DRUG ABUSE NOT
RELATED TO POLICE OR COURT ACTION**

A twenty calendar day suspension from all athletic competition and practice sessions will occur with the first offense for being under the influence of, or possessing alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, controlled substances (drugs) or drug paraphernalia. The suspension takes effect immediately, if in season. If the offense comes with less than twenty calendar days remaining in a season, the suspension will be continued when the athlete's name appears on a team roster for another season or sport. The athlete must complete the season/seasons in order to fulfill his/her suspension obligations. If the athlete does not complete the season or sport, the conditions of the suspension have not been met.

The number of days remaining from the season/sport when the suspension was issued will carry over to when the athlete's name appears on a team roster for another season/sport.

Section 4
**SECOND, THIRD, AND SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS OF THE ATHLETIC
DISCIPLINE CODE BY AN ATHLETE DURING HIS/HER CAREER**

If an athlete has violated the athletic code for a second time, he/she will be suspended from all athletic activities, beginning on the date of the violation, for a period not to exceed one calendar year.

Section 5
VOLUNTARY REFERRALS

Coaches shall inform athletes that disclosing information about oneself or a peer can be very helpful. If someone needs help, it is important and safe to seek help. There are two kinds of voluntary referrals:

Section 7 SUSPENSION PROCEDURES

All suspensions for drinking, smoking and/or non-police or court-related drug abuse will be acted upon by the Athletic Director. Details of the suspension will be shared with the parents of the athlete, coach, and athlete. Student athletes will not be permitted to participate in athletic contests or practices the day or days of a designated suspension. This includes athletic, out-of-school, or in-school suspension.

Section 8 DUE PROCESS

Prior to acting upon a coach's recommendation for a long-term suspension or dismissal from athletic competition, the Head of School or other administrator shall thoroughly investigate the situation and assure the student's right to due process by:

- A. Conducting an informal hearing with the accused, at which time the accused is presented with the exact charges against him/her and with the supporting evidence.
- B. Accepting information from all persons having knowledge of the situation.
- C. Providing the accused the opportunity to express his/her side of the problem.

The administration will afford the same due process to the student as in all middle or high school related incidents. The decision of the building principal and or his/her designee shall be final.

Section 9 REVIEW OF NON-ATHLETE VIOLATORS WHO REQUEST PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETICS

A request by a student who has a background of violations of the *Code of Conduct* to participate in athletics will be reviewed by the Head of School. In a personal interview, the student will be notified of the following stipulations:

- A. The student must not be in violation of the athletic rules beginning with the date of the personal interview.

- B. The recommendation of the middle school principal and the student's counselor must be obtained in writing before the student can begin sports activities.
- C. The student, after trying out and exhibiting abilities proficient enough to meet the team standard for participating, cannot compete in contests until the opportunity is given for written recommendations stating that the student in question is no longer engaged in violations of the *Code of Conduct*.

Recommendations will be received from the following:

- 1. Each of the student's teachers
- 2. The student's parents
- 3. An adult of the student's choice

**BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY
REGARDING GIFTS TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

Students, their parents, and all others will be discouraged from the routine presentation of gifts to district employees. Where a student or parent feels a spontaneous desire to present a gift to a staff member, the gift will not be elaborate or unduly expensive. The Board shall consider as always welcome, and in most circumstances more appropriate, the writing of letters to staff members expressing gratitude or appreciation.

This is a difficult thing to control, or even bring up with teams and parents. It is expected that the coach will discuss this policy with parents and team captains.

GIFTS TO STUDENTS

The acceptance of trophies, prizes, or awards from persons or organizations not connected with the schools is not approved unless they conform to the policy of the Board and the corresponding administrative regulations providing for awards for distinguished success in any school activity.

**MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION REGULATIONS
ON AWARDS**

Section 11 (A): A student may accept, for participation in athletics, a symbolic or merchandise award which does not have a value or cost in excess of \$15.

Section 11 (B): Awards for athletic participation in the form of cash, merchandise certificates, or any other type of negotiable documents are never allowed.

Section 11 (C): Banquets, luncheons, dinners, trips, and fees for admissions to camps or events, if accepted in kind, are permitted under this regulation.

Section 11 (D): A student shall be ineligible under this regulation if he/she accepts awards in violation of its provisions only in the following activities: baseball, basketball, cross country, football (11-man, 8-man, or 6-man), golf, girls gymnastics, ice hockey, skiing, soccer, girls softball, swimming, tennis, track, girls volleyball, or wrestling. (1977)

Section 11 (E): A student violating this regulation shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period of not less than one full semester from the date of the student's last violation. (1954)

Section 11 (F): A full semester is defined under this regulation as one in which a violation occurs not later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day in the first semester and the fourth Friday of February in the second semester. If the violation occurs after either date, a student is ineligible for the balance of that semester and the succeeding semester.

The Greenspire School
ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY
Adopted August 2023

- Teachers will submit their cumulative marking period grades every two weeks for student athletic eligibility.
- Students may have no E's (below 60%) academically in order to participate in athletic contests.
- Eligibility lists will be handed out to teachers on Wednesdays and will be due to the athletic office by Friday at noon. Teachers will indicate on this list any student who is receiving an "E" or below a 60% in any class.
- Teachers will inform students on Friday that he/she received an "E," or is not in good behavioral standing. Students will be given an *Athletic Eligibility Report* that is to be taken home, signed by a parent or guardian, and then returned to the Athletic Office.
- Students that are ineligible will be permitted to practice with their team until they are declared eligible. **Ineligible students will NOT be permitted to attend away games with their team.** It is expected that academically ineligible students will make the necessary effort to become eligible.

- Students that are ineligible cannot participate in any athletic contests until such time as they are eligible.
- A student must pass all classes for the marking period immediately prior to trying out or participating for the next sporting season (subject to review by the athletic committee).
- If an athlete is ineligible two times during an athletic season, the athlete may be dismissed from participating for the remainder of the season.
- A retained student's athletic eligibility will be reviewed, on an individual basis, by the school's athletic committee.
- Final cumulative grades for students must meet the eligibility requirements or their participation in fall athletics will be subject to a probationary review by his/her school's athletic committee.