



GRAND BLANC HIGH SCHOOL

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

This handbook contains the Grand Blanc High School Athletic Discipline Code and general rules that apply to athletes in addition to those set forth in the *Students' Rights and Responsibilities Handbook* adopted by the Board of Education. The material has been prepared for the use of Grand Blanc athletes and their parents. In order to participate in interscholastic athletics at Grand Blanc High School, athletes and their parent(s) are required to read the information contained in this document and sign this cover sheet. These signatures will serve as your agreement to abide by the school districts standards, rules and regulations. Athletes and their parents will also be required to sign an additional form which authorizes testing of the student athlete for alcohol and drugs under the conditions specified elsewhere in this Athletic Handbook. **This cover sheet must be returned to the athletes coach prior to the athletes participation in the first regularly scheduled game/meet as evidence of the fact that both athlete and parents are aware and agree to abide by the rules and regulations contained in this document.**

The undersigned parent/guardian and student understand that any information dealing with the arrest, detention or investigation of said student in regard to any criminal matter will be communicated to appropriate school officials.

ATHLETE'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE _____

DRUG TESTING AUTHORIZATION FORM

I understand that my performance as a participant in athletics, and the reputation of my high school are dependent, in part, on my conduct as an individual. I hereby agree to accept and abide by the standards, rules, and regulations set forth by the Grand Blanc Community Schools Board of Education and the coaches for the team of which I wish to be a member.

I also authorize Grand Blanc Community Schools to conduct a Breathalyzer Test and a urine test using a urine specimen which I provide for drugs and/or alcohol use. I also authorize the release of information concerning the results of such a test to the Grand Blanc Community Schools per the Drug Testing Policy, and to the parents and/or guardians of the student.

This shall be deemed a consent pursuant to the Family Education Right to Privacy Act for the release of the above information to the parties named above. **This form must be returned to the athlete's coach prior to the athletes participation in the first regularly scheduled game/meet as evidence of the fact that both athlete and parents are aware and agree to abide by the rules and regulations as outlined above.**

ATHLETE'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE _____

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

SPORT: _____ GRADE: _____ AGE: _____ BIRTHDATE: _____

ATHLETE'S FULL NAME: _____ PHONE #: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

NAME OF PERSON(S) WITH WHOM YOU ARE LIVING (PARENT/GUARDIAN): _____

Do you have your physical exam for this year?: _____

Did you attend any other school besides Grand Blanc last year?: _____

If yes, where were you enrolled?: _____ When did you enroll at Grand Blanc? _____

_____ Number of SEMESTERS enrolled in grades 9-12, INCLUDING present semester. (2 semesters per year)

_____ Number of SEASONS you participated in this sport, INCLUDING this season (Grades 9-12)

Eligibility Requirements: A student must have at least a 1.85 grade point average for the past marking period to try out for an athletic team and be eligible for athletic competition. Student athletes must have passed at least four classes the previous semester and must be passing four classes during the current semester (MHSAA requirement).

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

BEFORE YOU PARTICIPATE

1. Are you academically eligible? Student athletes must meet specific academic requirements to be eligible to participate in athletics in the Grand Blanc Community Schools. A student must have at least a 1.85 grade point average for the past marking period to try out for an athletic team and be eligible for athletic competition. Student athletes must have passed at least four classes the previous semester and must be passing four classes during the current semester (MHSAA requirement).

A student who does not attain a 1.85 grade point average at the end of the 4th marking period can become eligible for the first marking period of the following school year by attending summer school, meeting MHSAA requirements and improving his/her grade point average for the 4th marking period to a 1.85 grade point average. A student may meet the standard by taking a class(es) with prior approval of the building principal. Class(es) must be taken from an accredited summer school program. Any questions about a class or summer school program must be referred to the building principal prior to the student enrolling in the class or summer school.

2. Do you have recorded violations of the "Athletic Discipline Code" which would result in losing the privilege of participation?
3. Are you a transfer student? (Records must be updated before eligibility can be granted.)
4. Do you have a current physical exam form on file in the Athletic Office? The exam must have taken place after April 15 of the previous school year.
5. Do you have medical insurance for your student? Parents need to understand that the Grand Blanc 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 on the day of the event unless participating in a school-approved function. If the athlete is tardy due to illness, he should attend at least three classes to be able to dress for an activity. Athletes must finish the school day before being allowed to dress for an activity. Any other absence on the day of a contest must be approved by the Athletic Director or Principal 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 *Student Rights and Responsibilities 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 "try-out 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, such athlete may rejoin the team, or if mutually agreed upon by coaches involved, join any other team.
3. If the season for an athlete is terminated due to disciplinary action, the athlete may rejoin the athletic program as specified by the "Athletic Discipline Code".
4. Special circumstances not included in the above items must be cleared through the Athletic Director. Judgment must be given weight when our rules and codes are not clear in special situations.

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 misunderstanding. Special permission can be given to miss practice if the coach feels the athlete can maintain physical condition.

TRANSPORTATION TO 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 Grand Blanc District. Exceptions to this policy may be made for sufficient reason if prior arrangement is made in writing through the office of the Athletic Director. Coaches may waive the policy only for valid emergency reasons which arise at a time when the Athletic Director is not available.

When transportation is not provided by the school district, the following should be considered regarding private transportation. The Grand Blanc Community Schools does not accept financial liability or responsibility for volunteer drivers transporting athletes to practices/events. Parents need to assess the risks and benefits of their child either driving themselves/other athletes, or riding with a volunteer driver. The Grand Blanc District does not screen these private driving arrangements. The drivers insurance is to provide primary coverage in case of an accident.

DUAL PARTICIPATION DURING THE SAME SEASON

In recognition of the fact that dual participation during the same season may work a hardship on the athlete and his/her coach and/or teammates in either sport, permission to dually participate must be obtained from the Athletic Director. After a thorough investigation of the circumstances, such permission may or may not be granted.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT

- 1. Every student is held responsible for all athletic department clothing and equipment issued to him/her. Any athletic department clothing or equipment that is lost, stolen, or damaged beyond normal wear and tear must be paid for 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 middle school or high school athletic director any fine issued for just cause (i.e. stolen equipment, parents inability to reimburse district due to extenuating circumstances, etc.)**

ATHLETIC DISCIPLINE CODE

PHILOSOPHY

The Athletic Department is dedicated to interscholastic athletics as a vital component of Grand Blanc High 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 Grand Blanc High School and its 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 of controlled substances, or tobacco, by any Grand Blanc High School athlete cannot and will not be tolerated. This written policy will be administered fairly but strictly.

I. CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LAW VIOLATIONS

The Athletic Director* will make disciplinary decisions in all cases of Civil or Criminal law violations involving other persons (stealing, vandalism, assault, etc.)

Non-victim violations of the 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 Athletic Director 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 (20) day suspension, a one-year suspension or a permanent suspension from athletic participation. However, the Athletic Director may make special restrictions as dictated by specific cases.

NOTE: Sections II, III, IV, and V deal specifically with alcohol, tobacco and drugs.

**At the Middle School, an assistant principal is designated the Athletic Director.*

II. USING, UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF, OR POSSESSING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO PRODUCTS, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE (DRUGS) OR DRUG PARAPHERNALIA RELATED TO POLICE AND/OR COURT ACTION - OFF CAMPUS NON-SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITY.

Abuse of controlled substances (i.e. hallucinogens, amphetamines, alcohol, barbiturates or narcotics) by an athlete will be acted upon by the Athletic Director in conjunction with a court office. (See Roman Numeral III for the discipline action to be taken.)

III. USING, UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF, OR POSSESSING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO PRODUCTS, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE (DRUGS) OR DRUG PARAPHERNALIA NOT RELATED TO POLICE AND/OR COURT ACTION - OFF CAMPUS NON-SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITY.

A twenty (20) 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 substance (drugs) or drug paraphernalia. The suspension takes effect immediately, if in season. If the offense comes with less than twenty (20) 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. The suspension takes place with the first contracted contest. If the offense occurs during the school year or summer months when an athlete is not participating nor trying out for an athletic team, a twenty (20) calendar day suspension from all athletic competitions and practices will occur. The suspension will begin with the first contracted contest. If a student does not try out for an athletic team within a calendar year from the date of the offense, the twenty (20) calendar day suspension from all athletic competition and practice sessions will be waived.

It should be noted to athletes that the *Student Rights & Responsibilities Handbook* governs offenses of student athletes at school sponsored activities, either on or off campus.

IV. SECOND, THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS OF THE ATHLETIC DISCIPLINE CODE BY AN ATHLETE DURING HIS/HER ATHLETIC 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. (All conditions listed in Part III also apply.)

V. VOLUNTARY REFERRALS

Coaches need to inform athletes that disclosing information about a peer is actually helpful. Athletes need to know how to make a "concerned-person referral". Such a referral needs to be distinguished from "narcing". The important message is that it is not okay to use tobacco and controlled substances, but that if someone needs help, it is safe to seek help. Team captains need to take an active role in supporting chemical-free alternatives and insisting on a team norm of non-use.

In a concerned-person referral, the coach gets the student help and does not suspend him/her. Often the help begins with a referral to qualified helping personnel. The parents would not necessarily be involved in the first report, but would be involved in the second report.

TYPE I - Concerned Person (not actual incident, only suspicion)

TYPE II - Self Referral

VI. OTHER INFRACTIONS

No athletic code can cover in writing all violations that could result in disciplinary action on the part of the coach or Athletic Director. Repeated or severe cases of classroom problems can result in athletic discipline, even to the extreme of suspension or removal from an athletic team. Our athletes are expected to conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen at all times. All squad members must abide by any additional rules or regulations as set forth by the coach. It is recommended that all coaches provide a written copy of these rules to each team member. Coaches have the right to discipline team members for violations of team rules. Long suspensions or team dismissal should be discussed with the Athletic Director and the athlete's parents. The coach may recommend permanent dismissal from the team, but the suspending official should be the Athletic Director.

VII. 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.

VIII. DUE PROCESS

Prior to acting upon a coach's recommendation for a long term suspension or dismissal from athletic competition, the Athletic Director 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 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 high school administration will afford the same Due Process to the student as in all school-related incidents.

IX. 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 Athletic Discipline Code to participate in athletics will be reviewed by the Athletic Director. 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 high 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 Athletic Discipline Code. 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.

X. PROCEDURE ON RECRUITMENT

When college recruiters come to our school, it will be our procedure not to release athletes from class to meet with them. Such meetings must be scheduled through the Athletic Director. A college representative may wish to visit with the coach first, but his or her next contact must be with the Athletic Director if a conference is desired with a particular athlete. Reputable college recruiters will understand and accept this requirement since it is, in fact, the way most high schools operate with regard to recruiting. Our goal is to provide a systematic way for athletes to consider college opportunities athletically and academically.

XI. NCAA Division I and II - ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

If you are a student who intends to participate in athletics at a Division I or II school, it is your responsibility to check with your counselor to see if you are meeting the initial qualifications of core classes and/or ACT or SAT scores as mandated by the NCAA.