

GENESEE VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL **ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS:

Interscholastic athletics are an integral part of a good school program. It is through our athletic teams that our towns, school and citizens are seen by others. Therefore, our athletes must present themselves as real ambassadors of Genesee Valley Central School, who hold high principles of sportsmanship, teamwork, sacrifice, citizenship and loyalty.

PHILOSOPHY OF COACHING:

We, as educators of young men and women at Genesee Valley Central School, believe that athletics provide a primary means through which habits, attitudes and ideals essential to ethical competition are devised. Athletics, when properly utilized, serve as a potential educational media through which the optimum growth – the physical, mental, emotional, social and moral development of the participants -- may be fostered. We believe that every boy or girl should be in a sport and there should be a sport for every boy or girl.

MODIFIED: No student who abides by the terms and conditions of this Code of Conduct will be cut from a modified sports team.

VALUES OF INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS:

The most desirable goal in all of education is the enrichment of life. Athletics contribute greatly to this goal in the following ways:

1. Develops physical fitness and alertness
2. Develops sportsmanship
3. Helps many students choose a vocation of teacher, coach or related field
4. Keeps many students in school who otherwise may not graduate
5. Develops teamwork
6. Develops good health and safety habits
7. Develops skills and courage
8. Teaches how to take instruction and orders, as well as gives them an opportunity to take part in the planning and leadership of athletics

PRACTICE AND ATTENDANCE:

Team members are required to attend all practice sessions and games unless excused by the coach. Each team member must meet the required number of practices required by the NYSPHSAA handbook for the specific sport being played. In-season sports takes precedence over clubs, out of season activities, travel teams, and AAU.

In order to participate in a game, practice or other activity, students must be in attendance at school for the entire day. Students who miss all or a part of the school day for an acceptable reason (medical appointment, legal appointment, funeral, etc.) may participate in a game, practice or activity with the approval of the principal. The student is responsible to bring a written excuse to the Welcome Desk. If an excuse is not brought to the Welcome Desk nor communicated with the Secondary Principal or Athletic Director, the student shall not practice or play that day.

Students who do not participate in their regular Physical education class during the day will not be allowed to participate in the next practice or game unless they have an acceptable excuse.

HEALTH EXAMINATION:

Any student who may engage in inter-school competition shall receive an athletic health examination and may not practice or participate without the approval of the school health officer. It is the responsibility of the student to fulfill this requirement.

INJURIES:

All injuries, regardless of how minor, must be reported immediately to the coach so that required procedures will be followed. DO NOT wait until after practice, after the contest or the next day.

Genesee Valley Central School has formed a concussion management team that consists of the Athletic Director, a Principal, two coaches, and a nurse. A student-athlete diagnosed with a concussion will have to meet the established criteria to be cleared to play.

INSURANCE:

Any claims must be submitted to the student's insurance company first. If the student does not have insurance or if the insurance does not cover all the expenses, a claim should be filed with the school nurse. The forms and instructions should be obtained from the school nurse no later than the next school day after the student reports the injury to the coach.

SPORTSMANSHIP AND INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR:

Unsportsmanlike or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated at any time and will result in disciplinary action which may include removal from the game, suspension from the team or suspension from school. Major or repeated violations will be reported to the District Athletic Director and, if the violation is repeated, then to the Secondary Principal. The Secondary Principal will meet with the coach involved, the Athletic Director, the athlete and his/her parents to review the violation. After completion of the review, the Secondary Principal, in consultation with the Coach and Athletic Director, will decide what disciplinary action will be taken and the Athletic Director will notify the parents of the athlete.

Interscholastic athletics are a school sponsored event, sanctioned by the New York State Athletics Association and Section 5. As a school sponsored event, students are reminded that all school behavioral expectations remain in place before, during and after practice, in the locker rooms, on the school bus and during competition. Student athletes are responsible to serve as positive role models and ambassadors of the district and are subject to consequences aligned to the Genesee Valley Code of Conduct.

SEASON SUSPENSION

If several athletes violate the Code of Conduct during the season, an entire season may be forfeited. Any single violation deemed serious enough may also require forfeiture of the season. Example: Hazing.

EQUIPMENT:

The athlete is responsible for the care of all equipment issued to him/her during the season. Issued equipment shall be used only for school sanctioned events when representing the team. Each piece of equipment issued must be returned at the end of the season in good condition. Any student who does not turn in all equipment at the end of the season will not be able to start the next season. Any fees or equipment replacement costs must be paid for before the athlete will be permitted to participate in another sport. The parents will be notified and billed.

TRIP REGULATIONS:

Coaches are responsible for the behavior of the players on the bus and all students must follow all bus rules. All students going on a trip as a member of a team must ride to and from the event on the assigned bus in order to participate in the activity unless previously excused by the Secondary Principal, Athletic Director and the coach.

If the parents are at the game or event, they may secure the coach's permission to bring the student home with them. This request must be in writing. If a student athlete does not abide by these trip regulations (i.e. go home from an away trip without proper permission), the Secondary Principal, Athletic Director and Coach will issue consequences that may include suspension from team, suspension from school and suspension from future competition.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND ILLEGAL DRUGS:

Athletes will not have in their possession, be associated with, ingest, absorb or use tobacco, alcohol, electronic cigarettes, vaping fluids, vaping devices, synthetic drugs or other foreign substances intended to alter homeostasis in any way. This includes look alike drugs and all those outlined in the Genesee Valley Central School Drug and Alcohol Policy. The term "possession and association" implies the legal definition according to the New York State ABC law, whereas "the intent to consume" alcohol or other chemicals may be reasonably inferred by the circumstances. Any charge of violation of this regulation, when made by school staff, board of education members, police officers, any eyewitness to the event or evidence on social media will be considered.

The Athletic Director and Secondary Principal will investigate alleged violations and report his/her findings to the Superintendent. The penalties for violation of this section of the Athletic Code are as follows:

FIRST OFFENSE: The athlete will be suspended for **50%** of the regularly scheduled athletic contests, rounded up to the next higher number. A suspension will include regular season, playoff, sectional, and state tournament games. The student will continue to practice with the team and will sit on the bench in street clothes during games. In the event that there are less than **50%** of the scheduled games left in the season, the suspension will carry over into the next athletic season in which the athlete participates. If the student decides to forfeit the remainder of the season there suspension will carry over to the next athletic season and or calendar year.

SECOND OFFENSE: The athlete will be suspended for one calendar year from participating on athletic teams. At the end of 6 months of suspension, assuming mandatory counseling has been attended, a committee consisting of at least 1 coach, the Building Principal, and the Athletic Director will review the situation. Reinstatement could be considered at this point if deemed appropriate by committee.

THIRD OFFENSE: **(Within 1 calendar year of the end of the second offense suspension)** the athlete will be permanently suspended from participation on athletic teams for the remainder of his/her schooling at Genesee Valley Central School. The school will make every attempt to assist students who wish to receive counseling, at parent expense, for alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drug habits but such counseling will not reduce the penalty imposed.

****If the student is honest and completely forthcoming when questioned by the Athletic Director, Principal or other person investigating the situation, they would be eligible for a reduced suspension from competition. This reduction comes at the sole discretion of the Secondary Principal, in consultation with those investigating or familiar with the situation.**

CONDUCT OFF CAMPUS / OUT OF SCHOOL:

Athletes, coaches, fans and volunteers serve as ambassadors of the Genesee Valley Central School District. Anyone associated with the GVCS athletics program who commits a crime or any misconduct while participating in a GVCS sanctioned event are subject to consequences. The behavior will be investigated by the Athletic Director and then referred to the Secondary Principal and Superintendent to determine if any disciplinary action is to occur.

All athletic and extracurricular events are subject to DASA (Dignity for All Students Act), the district Code of Conduct and behavioral expectations in effect during school hours. This is true for athletes, coaches, fans, and volunteers participating in the athletic program.

ACADEMIC AND BEHAVIOR INELIGIBILITY:

The academic and behavior ineligibility will adhere to the student handbook. The modified sports will follow middle school policies and JV/Varsity sports will follow the high school policies.

7-12 Grade Ineligibility

A list of students in grades 7-12 with a Level 1 or two Level 2's on the learner behavior rubric will be generated every week. Teachers will submit their learner behavior list to the main office the last day of the week so the athletic director will know before the weekend. If the student receives a Level 1 or two Level 2's, he/she will be on Probation for 1 week. If the student receives a Level 1 or two Level 2's any subsequent week thereafter; he/she will be ineligible for 1 week. They will remain on this list until the next report is generated. **At the end of each Quarter (10 weeks), all students are eligible to participate with a clean slate.** Parents will be notified if their child is ineligible for participation in extra-curricular activities.

Ineligibility Policy for Extra-Curricular Activities:

Probation – Student may still participate in all extra-curricular activities and athletic practices/events.

Ineligible – Student will sit ½ of practice to work on academics.

-Student will not participate in extra-curricular activities or athletic events (games).