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# GTCHS ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

At Greenville Technical Charter High School (GTCHS), we believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences which assists students in developing multiple skills and many intangible traits that can be used throughout life.

We are concerned with the educational development of students through athletics and feel that a properly controlled, well-organized sports program meets with the students' needs for self-expression, physical growth, and discipline. It is our goal to maintain a program that is sound in purpose, positive in its experience and will further each student's athletic, social, academic, and emotional growth

Our commitment to the GTCHS school community is

- To provide adequate equipment and facilities
- To provide well-trained coaches
- To provide leadership for every athlete
- To provide a commitment to meet the needs of every athlete

As a school, we believe that being a GTCHS athlete carries with it traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great athlete is not built in one season. It takes the hard work of many people over many years. We strongly desire to win, but only with honor to our athletes and our school. GTCHS has had State Champions and All Region Athletes. We expect all of our teams to embrace the challenge of continuing this tradition.

## **II. PARENT ROLE and RESPONSIBILITY**

It is the role of the athletic department to make rules that govern the spirit of competition for the school. These rules need a broad basis of community support, which is achieved only through communication to the parent. To that end, every athlete and his/her guardian/parent will receive a copy of the GTCHS Athletic Handbook. We seek a partnership with parents to support our coaches as they implement these rules in each of our programs.

We believe that every parent that becomes a part of our athletic program deserves the right to be made fully

aware of and understand the expectations being placed on his or her child. Coaches are professionals and decisions are made based on what they believe to be in the very best interest of the team. There are times when parents may disagree with the coach about decisions made. Because of this, it is necessary to note that some areas of conversation that should never need to be discussed with a coach by a parent include playing time, team strategy, play calling, line-ups, or substitutions. Coaches and parents should also recognize that there should never be a discussion that involves other team members, other parents and past teams and/or athletes.

If a parent requests a meeting to discuss concerns with a coach, the parent is asked to set up an appointment with the coach within 24 hours of an incident/game. The Athletic Director will attend the meeting with the coach and parent with the coach leading the meeting. In the event that this meeting does not reach a satisfactory conclusion, the parent should set up an individual appointment with the Athletic Director for a second meeting. If a meeting with the Athletic Director does not offer a satisfactory understanding, parent may request a conference with the Principal and the Athletic Director.

### **III. GTCHS STUDENT-ATHLETE DUTIES**

When students wear the colors of GTCHS, we assume they not only understand our goals for our athletic program, that they aspire to uphold our school traditions, and that they are also are willing to assume the duties and responsibilities that go with them.

**DUTY/RESPONSIBILITY TO YOURSELF:** The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden yourself and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible good from your school experiences. Your academic studies, your participation in other extracurricular activities, as well as in sports, prepare you for your life as an adult.

**DUTY/RESPONSIBILITY TO YOUR SCHOOL:** Another responsibility you assume as a student-athlete is to your school. GTCHS cannot maintain its position as having an outstanding school unless you do your best in whatever activity you compete in. By participating in athletics to the maximum of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation to your school. You assume a leadership role when you are on an athletic squad. The student body and the community judge our school by your conduct and attitudes, both on and off the field or court. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to school spirit. Make GTCHS proud of you and your community proud of your school by accepting this leadership role as a duty for you to fulfill.

**DUTY/RESPONSIBILITY TO OTHERS:** As a team member you also bear a heavy responsibility to your home. You represent yourself, your parents, and your school. Other students of GTCHS are watching you. Do not do anything to let them down. You have a duty to set a good example.

## **IV. ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY**

### **A. Statement of Philosophy**

The GTCHS Athletic Program should provide a variety of experiences to aid in the development of favorable habits and attitudes in students that will prepare them for adult life in our society. Some of these habits and attitudes that we strive to develop include **respect for rules/laws and authority, a belief in a “hard work ethic,” a commitment to a group, the pursuit of excellence, cooperation/teamwork, a strong sense of duty and honor, and a general outlook of positive expectancy.**

The interscholastic athletic program shall be conducted in accordance with existing policies, rules and regulations. While the program takes great pride in winning, it does not condone “winning at all cost.” It discourages any and all pressures which might tend to neglect good sportsmanship and good mental health.

### **B. Athletic Program Description**

The athletic program at GTCHS is operated in such a manner as to provide any student with athletic skill and ability the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics. GTCHS provides opportunities to participate in the following SCHSL sanctioned sports or sport activities: Cross Country, Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Golf, Swimming, Baseball, Track. Student-athletes are allowed to only participate in one sport per season, unless written consent has been obtained from both head coaches from the teams the student athlete is trying to participate in, as well as the Athletic Director. The athlete must also choose a primary sport in which they will compete in 75% of play.

GTCHS is a member of the SCHSL and belong to region I in the AA classification. Other members of this region include Blacksburg High School, Brashier Middle College, Christ Church Episcopal High School, Greer Middle College, Landrum High School, Southside Christian School, and St. Joseph's Catholic School.

### **c. Athletic Objectives**

The student athlete should learn

- \* To work with others-- In society a person must develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. The team and its objectives must be placed higher than personal desires.
- \* To be successful-- We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do so. You can learn to accept defeat only by striving to win with intense dedication. Develop the desire to excel.

- \* To develop sportsmanship-- To accept any defeat like a true sportsman. Knowing we have done our best, we must learn to treat others, as we would have others treat us. We need to develop desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation and dependability.
- \* To improve-- Continual improvement is essential to good sportsmanship. As an athlete, you must establish a goal and you must constantly try to reach that goal. Try to better yourself in the skills involved and those characteristics set forth as being desirable.
- \* To enjoy athletics-- It is necessary for athletes to enjoy participation, to acknowledge all of the personal rewards to be derived from athletics, and to give sufficiently of themselves in order to preserve and to improve the program.
- \* To develop desirable personal health habits-- To be an active, contributing citizen, it is important to obtain a high degree of physical fitness through exercise and good health habits, and to develop the desire to maintain this level of physical fitness after formal competition has been completed.

### III. ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

GTCHS must follow rules set forth in the South Carolina High School League Handbook Article VII – Section 3 Student Eligibility. There is a copy of this handbook in the athletics office or you can access it online at [www.schsl.org](http://www.schsl.org).

Every student athlete at GTCHS is required to maintain eligibility throughout the sports season. To this end, all GTCHS student-athletes are responsible for maintaining a grade of 75% or higher in all high school and college classes. If an athlete's grade in any class falls below 75%, it is his/her responsibility to notify the coach and contact the teacher for whom he/she is failing. The student-athlete is not allowed to participate in practices or games until the grade is above 75%. Failure to notify the coach of a failing grade will result in the athlete sitting out one additional game once all grades are above 75%. If, at any time, a student-athlete is failing three or more classes, he/she will be removed from the team for the remainder of the season in order to fully focus on academics.

**Fall Sports requirements:** Student-athletes must maintain an 75% or higher in all classes for the entire season.

**Winter Sports requirements:** Student-athletes must have a grade of 75% or higher in all classes at the time of try-outs.

- ✎ If one or two classes are below 75%, students are allowed to try-out, but will not be permitted to practice until grades for all classes are above 75%.

**Spring Sports requirements:** Student-athletes must have a grade of 75% or higher in all classes for first semester and at the time of try-outs.

- ✎ Student-athletes whose grades are below 75% in one or two first semester classes are allowed to try-out for a spring sports team as long as they are passing all second semester classes at the time of try-outs.
- ✎ Student-athletes whose grades are below 75% in one or two classes at the time of try-outs are allowed to try-out, but will be suspended from participation until grades for all classes are above 75%.
- ✎ Student-athletes whose first semester grades are below 75% in three or more classes will not be eligible to try-out or participate on any spring sports team.

**VARSITY LETTER:** To be eligible for a letter in the following Varsity sports athletes must compete/dress out in at least 75% of the scheduled practices and contests through the season: Baseball, Basketball, Cheer, Golf, Softball, Soccer, Swim and Volleyball. Cross Country and Track athletes must also qualify and compete in the region meet.

#### **IV. CODE OF CONDUCT**

A firm policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the athletic department. The community, school, administrators and coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics. The welfare of the student is our major consideration and transcends any other considerations. When an athlete has a disciplinary incident within the school day, he/she should be aware that the incident may be shared with the coach or with the Athletic Director if deemed appropriate by the Assistant Principal of Student Services.

All athletes shall abide by a code of ethics, which will earn them honor and respect that competition in the interscholastic program affords. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the athlete, team or the school will not be tolerated.

Acts of unacceptable conduct include, but are not limited to, theft, vandalism, violations of law, bullying and harassment, and inappropriate postings (words or photos) on social network sites. These types of conduct tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the athletic programs and will not be tolerated.

**PENALTY FOR UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT: Due to the serious nature of this rule, the coach, the Athletic Director and the Principal shall meet and determine the penalty according to the degree of**

**the infraction. The penalty shall range from a minimum of one game/contest suspension in the season or succeeding season to a maximum of permanent denial to participate in the entire athletic program.**

Violations of this rule that involve breaking civil law will be handled as follows:

- \* Any student-athlete that is charged with any violation of law other than minor traffic violation will be placed on temporary suspension from athletic activities. Additional suspension or penalty may be assessed pending the guilt or innocence of the student.
- \* Any student-athlete that is charged for possession of ANY illegal substances will be dismissed from the athletic program indefinitely.
- \* Any student-athlete that is found guilty of a felony will be dismissed from the athletic program indefinitely.

**NOTE:** Suspension means that the athlete is not allowed to dress out or participate in an athletic contest, but must attend and support the team. However, the athlete may be required to continue to practice with his/her team. Dismissal from a team means that the student is no longer a part of the team.

### **Off-Season and Off-Campus Behaviors**

Student/athletes represent GTCHS all year, not just during the sports season. As a result, GTCHS encourages safe and responsible student behavior with regard to internet use and personal behaviors. We highly recommend our students avoid inappropriate use of public web sites such as Facebook, Twitter, SnapChat, YouTube or any other such sites. Any identifiable image, photo, video, or posted on-line conversation discovered which implicates a student-athlete to have been in violation of our Alcohol and Drug Policy and/or Athletic Code of Ethics will be investigated. Any student/athlete who posts demeaning comments about any other athlete, coach, parent, or school administration and faculty will also face suspension. This includes GTCHS and any other school's teams.

### **Substance Abuse**

See GTCHS Drug Policy in Student Handbook.

### **Suspension**

Any athlete who is placed on out-of-school suspension for disciplinary actions will not be allowed to participate in games or practices for the extent of the suspension. Athletes who are suspended from participating in a game due to an athletic-associated or academic reason may be required to attend the game and sit on the sidelines to show support of their teammates.

## **V. ATTENDANCE**

An athlete shall not participate in athletics (practice or game) on the day they have been absent from class without just reason. Just reason shall be anything beyond the control of the student with the exception of illness. Doctor/Dental appointments are considered just reason. However, the athletic director or coach of that sport will require confirmation notes. An athlete who is absent or leaves school early due to an illness is considered too ill to participate in athletics that day. An athlete, must attend  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the school day to be eligible to participate in games/matches on that same day. If an athlete has less than 3 classes during the day, all classes must be attended. Coaches may have specific rules regarding attendance at practices for their sport; all parents and athletes will be made aware of these.

## **VI. EQUIPMENT FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Each athlete is responsible for the athletic equipment issued to them by the Athletic Department. This equipment is to be worn only for practice, coach designated demonstration, or school competitions in the sport for which it was issued. It is not to be worn at other times. This equipment represents a large expenditure of money by the Athletic Department and is to be returned to the coach upon completion of the sport season (within one week). If the equipment is **LOST, STOLEN OR NOT RETURNED**, the athlete will be held responsible for the replacement cost of the equipment. A \$100.00 replacement cost will be imposed for each uniform not returned. A hold will be placed on all report cards and diplomas until items are returned or paid in full.

## **VII. TRANSPORTION**

The Athletic Department will make every effort to provide transportation to all games within Greenville County. If transportation is provided, ALL student-athletes are required to ride with the team to the event. If special circumstances arise, they must be presented to the coach or AD prior to departure. Student-athletes are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from practices that are within a 10-mile radius of the GTCHS campus. GTCHS will make every effort to provide transportation to practices that start prior to 4:00 pm. Student-athletes must have a ride scheduled after practice. The GTCHS bus travel permission form will be completed by all parents. This form must on file with the school prior to the first away game of the season.

## **VIII. INDIVIDUAL TEAM RULES**

Coaches may establish additional rules and regulations with the approval of the Athletic Director for their respective sports. These rules as pertaining to a particular sport must be given by the coach in writing to all

team members and their parents and explained fully at the start of the season. Penalties for violations of these rules shall also be in writing and shall be administered by the coach.

## **VIII. INJURIES**

Any and all injuries are to be reported to the coaching staff, Athletic Director and Athletic Trainer within 2 hours of injury in order to obtain correct medical attention and documentation. Student-athletes who are absent for five (5) consecutive days or who are physically unable to practice for five (5) consecutive days must present a statement (release statement) from a licensed physician that they are again physically able to participate in athletics before they will be allowed to participate in practice or contests. These documents must be filed with the Athletic Director. Individual team coaches may require a physician's statement with less than five (5) absences from school/practice. If an athlete suffers a concussion or has suspicion of concussion, it must be reported to the Athletic Trainer and Athletic Director immediately. An athlete cannot return to play until examined and cleared by an MD or DO and has completed a return to play examination by the Athletic Trainer. This policy is per state law.

Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer and Baseball will have a certified Athletic Trainer from Prisma Health Care at all home contests. They will also see a GTCHS student athlete at GTCHS during their office hours. Hours are posted on the Athletic office door. If the Athletic Trainer is not present the Coach and the Administrator on site will contact the Athletic Trainer immediately for a plan of action.

NOTE: if a student athlete sustains a season ending injury that athlete is not dismissed from the team and is not required to be at contests. However, the athletic department encourages all injured athletes to continue to participate in team activities and functions as their injury permits.

## **IX. QUITTING A TEAM**

Any student-athlete who chooses to quit a team after final rosters are set may not join another team until the sport season for the team he/she quit has ended. The student-athlete may not participate in conditioning, practice, small group workouts etc. NO PARTICIPATION IS ALLOWED UNTIL AFTER THE FINAL CONTEST FOR THE TEAM THE STUDENT ATHLETE QUIT.

## **XI. APPEAL PROCEDURE**

A student may appeal the decisions of the Athletic Department to the Principal. A written appeal must be presented to the Principal within five business days of the initial ruling. The Principal shall render a decision within five business days.



***STUDENT-ATHLETES AND THEIR PARENTS WILL SIGN A FORM STATING THAT THEY HAVE BEEN PRESENTED THE ATHLETIC HANDBOOK AND THAT IT IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO READ AND UPHOLD ALL CONTENT WITHIN THIS HANDBOOK.***