

GREENEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
ATHLETICS HANDBOOK



2018-2019

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## **SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION TO GREENEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS**

### **PURPOSE OF ATHLETIC HANDBOOK FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES**

This athletic handbook informs athletes and their parents or guardians of the rules, regulations and policies relative to participation in interscholastic athletics at Greeneville High School. Participation in high school athletics is a privilege that carries with it varying degrees of honor, responsibility and sacrifice. Since athletic competition on high school teams is a privilege and not a right, those who choose to participate will be expected to follow the Code of Conduct established by the administration and coaches along with other specific rules for their sport. The governing authority for the conduct of high school athletics in Tennessee is the Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association (TSSAA) via the principals of member schools. The athletic director and head coaches assist the principal. The TSSAA adopted “an essential inter-related group of minimum eligibility requirements which establish the threshold for participation for all students within the interscholastic program.” Schools have the authority to establish guidelines in addition to those set by the state. The athletic department and administration depend on parent/guardian help and cooperation to aid coaches and athletic directors in promoting a successful athletic program. Student-athletes represent their school and student body. Student-athletes are to conduct themselves in a manner that is becoming to Greeneville High School and the community.

### **GHS ATHLETICS VISION**

To develop student-athletes who live by championship principles on and off the field.

### **GHS ATHLETICS MISSION**

The Greeneville High School Athletic Department will develop student-athletes who enrich the lives of others:

- strengthening kids through encouragement
- shaping kids through discipline
- growing kids through challenges
- nurturing kids through relationships.

### **GHS ATHLETICS CORE VALUES**

Accountability – set and uphold expectations

Communication – provide information clearly and consistently

Compassion – demonstrate empathy and concern for others

Diligence – plan well and work hard

Integrity – exhibit honesty and sincerity in all words and actions

Respect – appreciate and honor the role and work of others

Teamwork – work together for the best of all

## ATHLETIC PROGRAM PROFILE

Greeneville High School supports twenty sports for girls and boys. All students with sufficient ability are eligible to participate, provided they meet the established scholastic standards and conduct requirements.

### Girls Sports

Fall	Winter	Spring
Bowling: <i>Varsity</i>	Basketball: <i>Varsity, JV</i>	Softball: <i>Varsity, JV</i>
Cheer: <i>Varsity, JV</i>	Wrestling: <i>Varsity</i>	Tennis: <i>Varsity</i>
Cross Country: <i>Varsity, JV</i>		Track: <i>Varsity, JV</i>
Dance: <i>Varsity</i>		
Golf: <i>Varsity</i>		
Soccer: <i>Varsity, JV</i>	(Bowling, Cheer, and Dance	
Volleyball: <i>Varsity, JV</i>	Continue)	

### Boys Sports

Fall	Winter	Spring
Bowling: <i>Varsity</i>	Basketball: <i>Varsity, JV, Fr</i>	Baseball: <i>Varsity, JV</i>
Cross Country: <i>Varsity, JV</i>	Wrestling: <i>Varsity, JV</i>	Soccer: <i>Varsity, JV</i>
Football: <i>Varsity, JV</i>		Tennis: <i>Varsity</i>
Golf: <i>Varsity</i>	(Bowling continues)	Track: <i>Varsity, JV</i>

Our teams compete in various conferences with teams of similar enrollments.

Currently, the TSSAA uses multiple classification systems to place schools. Greeneville competes in

- 4A: football (6 class system)
- AA: basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, and soccer (3 class system)
- Large School Division: Cross Country, Track, Golf, Tennis (2 class system)
- A/AA: Wrestling (2 class system)
- Division 1: Bowling (1 class system)

## SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY AND COMPLIANCE

### ATHLETICS FORMS FOR ELIGIBILITY

All athletes and their parents must complete certain forms in order to be eligible for participation in athletics at GHS. Below you will find the forms required and when they are due.

Form	Date Due	Return of form
Preparticipation Physical	Prior to first practice	Turn in to the athletic trainer or your coach
Consent for Participation and Treatment	Prior to first practice	Turn in to the athletic trainer or your coach
Consent to Drug Testing	Prior to first practice	Online
Greeneville High School Athletic Handbook	First week of practice	Turn in to the athletic director or coach
Concussion Awareness	Prior to first practice	Online
Sudden Cardiac Arrest	Prior to first practice	Online

### **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

Per TSSAA Bylaws: To be eligible to participate in athletic contests during any school year, the student must earn six credits the preceding school year. All credits must be earned by the first day of the beginning of the school year. Academic eligibility for a student is based on the requirements of the school the student was attending at the conclusion of the previous school year. Students who are ineligible the first semester may gain eligibility the second semester by passing three blocks (one credit per block).

### **ATTENDANCE**

All athletes must be at school by the beginning of 3rd period to participate in practice or games on that day unless they are on a school-sponsored field trip. There is room for consideration of extenuating circumstances in this policy. Ultimately, eligibility will be determined on a case-by-case basis according to student's attendance patterns, academic standing, and legitimacy of the absence.

### **CONDUCT**

A student who is a member of a Greeneville athletic team in any capacity (athlete, cheerleader, student manager, athletic training student assistant, or statistician) must be willing to assume the responsibilities that go along with being a member of a team and wearing the green and white. The student body, the community and others often judge our school by our student-athletes' conduct and attitude on and off the field, in season and out of season. The athletic department rule is "Don't do anything to harm or dishonor yourself or your school." Individual coaches have the latitude to determine the best mode of enforcement for each team. Below are some issues that will be handled at the administrative level:

#### Tobacco Possession and Use

A student-athlete shall not use or possess tobacco in any form (including but not limited to snuff, chewing tobacco, or smoking tobacco) on school grounds or at school activities. (School discipline applies.)

1<sup>st</sup> Offense – meeting with Athletic Director

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense – suspension for 10% of a season

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense – suspension for 50% of a season

### Alcohol Possession and Use

A student-athlete should not possess, use, transmit, sell or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage. A student athlete who finds himself/herself at places where illegal underage drinking is taking place should leave the area to avoid being associated with that behavior.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense – suspension for 25% of season
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense – suspension for 75% of season
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense – suspension for 1 calendar year

### Drug Possession and Use

A student-athlete shall not knowingly possess, use, transmit, sell or be under the influence of any illicit drug or illegally obtained (non-prescribed) prescription drugs. Proper use of a drug authorized by a medical prescription from a health care provider is not a violation of this rule. Possession of any drug paraphernalia such as but not limited to rolling papers or clips is also a violation of this rule. A student athlete who finds himself/herself at a place where any of the above substances are present should leave the area to avoid being associated with that behavior.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense – suspension for 50% of season
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense – suspension for 1 calendar year
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense – career exclusion from athletics at Greeneville High School

### Conviction of a Misdemeanor

A student-athlete convicted of a misdemeanor will face the consequences listed below in addition to any sentence proscribed by the courts. (Note: Some misdemeanors are not in view here, i.e. traffic tickets, etc.)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense – suspension for 50% of season
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense – suspension for 1 calendar year
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense – career exclusion from athletics at Greeneville High School

### Conviction of a Felony

A student-athlete convicted of a felony will face the consequences listed below in addition to any sentence proscribed by the courts.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense – suspension for 1 calendar year
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense – career exclusion from athletics at Greeneville High School

### Student Arrest

A student-athlete arrested or arrested and charged with a crime will be suspended from the team for at least one contest. The Athletic Department Disciplinary Review Board will hold a hearing within two school days of the suspension. The hearing will decide if the student will be suspended until charged or if charges have been filed until his/her trial is concluded or if the suspension will be lifted before the conclusion of the trial. The ADDRB will determine the length of a student athlete's suspension on a case-by-case basis. If the student athlete is guilty of a misdemeanor or felony, then the appropriate penalty will apply at the time of the conviction.

## Suspension Guidelines

- *Partial Season Suspension* – Student-athletes will continue to follow team rules and participate in team activities such as practice, team meetings, etc. but will not play in games.
- *1 Calendar Year Suspension* – Student-athletes will not continue with team activities.
- *Suspension Carryover* – When a violation of the code of conduct occurs in the last part of a sport's season and the violator cannot fulfill the terms of his/her violation in that sport, the suspension will carry-over until the suspension is fulfilled. This includes the next sport or the same sport next year. If a one-sport student athlete elects to participate in a new sport in order to serve a suspension, he/she will be required to complete that season in good standing.
- *Self-Reporting* – a student-athlete or parent of a student athlete who self-reports a violation prior to the administrators', athletic director's, or coach's confirmation that a violation has occurred can have their consequence reduced by half

## Appeals

Appeals can be made to the Athletic Disciplinary Review Board in regards to suspensions. An appeal on a one-year suspension may be made after one full sports season while an appeal on a career exclusion may be made after one calendar year. A student athlete and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) have the right to hearing on the removal from participation by notifying the Greeneville High School athletic director by phone or in writing within two (2) school days after the removal. The right of appeal is forfeited if this is not requested within this two (2) school day limit. The purpose of the appeal hearing is to inquire into the student athlete's alleged violation and allow the student athlete and parents of guardians to present evidence on behalf of the student athlete. The removal from participation will remain in effect during the appeal process. The Athletic Disciplinary Review Board is a four-member panel made up of the Athletic Director, the Principal, and the Assistant Principals. The board will conduct the hearing with regard to suspensions due to arrest and appeals to imposed penalties. The student athlete's head coach may act as an advisor for the student athlete and help present the student athlete's case. The head coach may be a part of the decision making process with the board. The board may hear testimony from the student athlete, the coach, and parents(s) or guardian(s) of the student athlete. It is not the Board's job to supercede the decision of the court of law, but to act in the best interest of Greeneville High School. The Board must be unanimous in its decision on suspensions and appeals. The student athlete and their parents or guardians will be notified of the Athletic Department Disciplinary Review Board's decision within five (5) days of the hearing.

## **HEALTH**

According to the TSSAA by-laws, students may not participate in practice sessions or in athletic contests until there is on file with the principal a pre-participation medical evaluation form signed by a doctor of medicine, osteopathic physician, physician assistant, or certified nurse practitioner. The form must state that the student has passed a physical examination, not prior to April 15, and that in their opinion the student is physically fit to participate in interscholastic athletics. In lieu of the form, the principal may accept a signed statement from

the health care provider certifying that the student has passed a physical examination that encompasses all elements on the pre-participation medical evaluation form and attesting that in their opinion the student is physically fit to participate in interscholastic athletics. No student shall be required to submit to a physical exam if his/her parent(s) or legal guardian shall file with the principal a signed, written statement (affirmed under the penalties of perjury) declining such physical examination on grounds of sincerely held beliefs or practices. It is required that no student be permitted to participate in practice sessions or in athletic contests until there is on file a parental consent certificate signed by a parent or legal guardian stating that the student has the consent of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian to participate.

### **SECTION 3: SPORTS MEDICINE**

#### **ATHLETIC TRAINING**

Greeneville High School employs a fulltime, certified athletic trainer. The athletic trainer works in cooperation with the coaches and student-athletes to promote a safe and healthy environment in the athletic program. Student-athletes should consult with the athletic trainer when injured to receive the proper treatment and direction to get back to play as soon as safely possible.

Concussions and sudden cardiac arrest are major concerns in the realm of sports medicine. All parents, coaches, and athletes should be acquainted with the signs and symptoms of each. Parents are required to sign off on both a concussion and sudden cardiac arrest form.

The Greeneville High School Athletic Training Room contains equipment to help student-athletes recover more quickly from their injuries. Operation of training room equipment must be done in the presence of and under the direction of the athletic trainer or coach.

#### **INSURANCE**

Greeneville High School carries a secondary insurance policy that helps cover the cost of medical treatment of injuries sustained from school sponsored athletic events after the payment by the primary insurer. Injuries must be reported to the athletic trainer and paperwork filled out to receive the benefits of this insurance.

#### **DRUG TESTING**

Greeneville High School conducts a drug testing program of their student athletes. To participate in athletics parents must sign a drug testing consent form. Testing is done at various times during each season.

### **SECTION 4: TEAM ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

#### **SEASON**



### Tryouts

Tryouts for athletic teams will take place at a time set by the head coach of that sport. Individuals desiring to play for the team must be at tryouts to be considered for the team. In extenuating circumstances, alternate tryout times may be scheduled if the coach deems it appropriate.

In most cases tryouts consist of both objective and subjective observations made by coaches. Coaches will make decisions about personnel based on what they think is best for the team.

### Equipment

All school uniforms and equipment distributed to students will be checked out to athletes in an orderly manner and returned to the coaches in an orderly manner. Uniforms and equipment not returned to the coaches will go on the athlete's obligation list. If the uniform or equipment is lost or damaged the athlete must pay the replacement price for the item.

### Season Completion

Athletes must complete the athletic season of their sport before proceeding to and another sport unless a mutual agreement is reached among the two coaches involved and the athletic director. Athletes changing sports will have 5 school days to get their equipment and uniforms turned in to the coaches. After 5 days, the equipment and uniforms will go on the athlete's obligation list.

### Dismissal From Team

Any student dismissed from an athletic team by the coaches or administration may not participate in any activities for any other GHS athletic team until the original team's season is completed. A student dismissed from the team will have 5 school days to turn in the equipment and uniforms to the coaches. After 5 days, the equipment and uniforms will go on the athlete's obligation list.

## **PRACTICE**

### Attendance

Each coach is entitled to have their own specific set of attendance/tardy policies. Missing practices during school vacations or extended breaks is always a concern, and depending upon the game schedule, different coaches may have different consequences. As a courtesy to the coach and fairness to the team, it is vital and expected that the athlete, and if necessary the parent, communicates any vacation plans, or any other situations that may require the athlete to miss practices, to the coach well ahead of time. When parents and student-athletes choose to take family vacations during a sport season, it must be understood that the time missed by the student-athlete may affect team performance and chemistry. Student-athletes who miss practices or competitions for reasons related to vacations can (and likely will) have their playing time adjusted. The coaching staff certainly recognizes that there are extenuating circumstances that may lead to an athlete missing practices.

### Non-School Teams

Greeneville High School expects a commitment to school teams first if a conflict arises between school and non-school teams. Students choosing to participate in a non-school team event in favor of a GHS team event should expect to face consequences as decided upon by the coach including potential suspension and/or dismissal from the team. The coach must be informed of any such conflicts well in advance. All student participants are expected to honor their commitment to our teams for the duration of the season.

### Overlapping Seasons/Offseason Training

Multi-sport athletes are extremely important to the health of any athletic program. At GHS, we want to ensure the well-being of athletes, teams, and coaches with how we handle multi-sport athletes. Athletes that are in-season are to take care of their bodies in such a way that they can be at their best in both practices and games for their in-season teammates. As such, athletes should only participate in school sponsored off-season conditioning or practice if prescribed by the in-season coach. This helps protect our student athletes from burn out and also helps them focus on finishing well for their teammates in each season. This does not prohibit skill development that does not take a toll physically, but any school sponsored skill development activities should be cleared with the in-season coach.

## **GAMES**

### Attendance

See the school attendance policy above.

### Transportation

In the interest of building and maintaining team spirit and unity and limiting athletic program liability, all players, managers and anyone traveling on the bus to a contest, are strongly encouraged to return with the team on the bus.

In cases where there is no bus transportation (like intra-county games, some practice sites) parents are responsible for ensuring their students arrive safely and return safely home. In the case of off-site practices, most of our sites have an afterschool bus that can transport athletes to the site. Parents should contact school administrators if they would like their student to ride the bus to practice to ensure the safety of all.

In cases of athletes not wanting to ride the bus back from athletic contests, parents must provide the coach with a mode of return request via text message, phone confirmation, face-to-face confirmation, or written request. Otherwise, students must return from the athletic contest on the bus.

In cases of parents providing transportation in personal vehicles for the team, parents must fill out the appropriate liability form as parents assume all liability. Additionally, the students riding in the vehicle must have a "permission to ride" form completed by their parent or guardian. Forms can be obtained from the coach of the team.

## Behavior

Athletes are expected to exhibit the following behaviors while traveling to a game, at a game site, and traveling back to school:

- \*Follow your coaches' directions and team policies.
- \*Treat teammates, coaches, opposing coaches and players, referees, and fans with respect.
- \*Stay out of unauthorized places.
- \*Show respect for school facilities.
- \*Exhibit good sportsmanship, win or lose.

## **PRE-SEASON/OFF-SEASON WORKOUTS**

The TSSAA allows offseason workouts with the following stipulations:

### Open Facilities

Permitted at all times except during the Dead Period. Schools may use their facilities for students in their building prior to or at the conclusion of the school day, Monday-Friday. Coaches may serve in a supervisory capacity only. There is no instruction, no teaching, no coaching, etc. Coaches may not participate or play in any manner. It is a free play type atmosphere. Sport specific skills cannot be taught. ATTENDANCE CANNOT BE MANDATORY.

### Weight Training/Conditioning

Permitted at all times except during the Dead Period. Must be generic type program that would be beneficial to all students and not sport specific. Exception: In baseball and girls' softball, players may throw to condition arms. Sport specific skills cannot be taught. ATTENDANCE CANNOT BE MANDATORY.

### Preseason/Offseason Practice

Some sports have no restrictions on what time of year they can practice while others do. Coaches in sports with restrictions may provide individual instruction to no more than three athletes per day in the offseason and preseason.

## **BANQUETS AND AWARDS**

Most athletic teams have a banquet or end of season awards presentation. Athlete attendance at these events is expected. These events are the final opportunity for each team to be a team. In order to receive athletic awards, athletes must be in attendance at the banquet, otherwise, they forfeit their awards. Coaches do have the discretion to give awards to athletes not in attendance if they find the reason for an absence to be compelling.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

While social networking can be an important aspect of one's life, chat rooms, message boards, blogs, texting, and items such as Facebook, Twitter, SnapChat, Vine, Instagram, and others can pose a serious danger to personal health, safety, and welfare. Certain actions within these sites can also lead to serious issues at school and within athletic programs. As participation in athletics is a privilege, students and parent/guardian(s) must accept personal

responsibility for any images, postings, or information appearing on the Internet. When using electronic communication, visiting or appearing on any Internet sites, those involved in the GHS Athletic program are expected to maintain high standards of conduct and acceptable behavior. These acceptable standards are based upon the policies and regulations described in the Greeneville High School Student Handbook, this Athletic Handbook and individual team rules, regulations and expectations. Any electronic posting or communication that disrupts either the educational or athletic environment, which advocates the violation of any school or team policy, or attacks students, teams, coaches, or officials is unacceptable. These would include, but not limited to: the consumption of alcohol and/or the use of illicit drugs; inappropriate sexually-oriented material; activities involving bullying, hazing or intimidation; speaking ill of teammates or opponents, officials, or coaches. Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including removal from the athletic program.

## **SECTION 5: PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

### **PARENTS' ROLE**

Parents play a vital role in the Greeneville High School Athletics Program. Parents model attitudes and behavior for their children. We invite all parents to attend home and away games, support the team, and encourage their children to practice and play hard.

We are so appreciative of the assistance parents provide for their children in their athletic endeavors, whether driving them to an athletic event, volunteering to serve athletics as a member of the Booster Club, or working in the concession stand.

We also appreciate the support parents provide our coaches in their efforts to create a valuable athletic experience for all participants. It is important for parents to be mindful of and respect what the coaches are trying to do by avoiding interference or public criticism, especially in front of their children, other teammates, or community members. In regards to games, parents are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will bring honor and respect to our teams and school. At no time should a parent display inappropriate behavior toward an official, coach, administrator or student-athlete.

There are times that athletes and parents may have concerns that they wish to address with school personnel. The following outlines the protocol that should be followed in this situation.

### **CONCERN PROTOCOL**

1. The student athlete addresses their concern with their coach. We would prefer that the young people learn how to handle concerns on their own.
2. If the meeting is not satisfactory or player is too uncomfortable to express their concerns to the coach, then the parent of the student athlete contacts the coach to set up an appointment. This should not be done immediately before or after a game or practice.
3. If the meeting with the coach is not satisfactory, then the parent of the student athlete may contact the athletic director to set up an appointment.

4. If the meeting with the athletic director is not satisfactory, then the parent of the student-athlete may contact the principal to set up an appointment.

### **BOOSTER CLUBS AND FUNDRAISING**

All members of the GHS Athletics family are expected to engage in fundraising projects for the good of our student-athletes. Parents have the opportunity to get involved with these projects through individual booster clubs for each sport. All GHS booster clubs should be registered under the umbrella of the Greeneville School Support Corporation.

**NOTE:** Greeneville High School reserves the right to amend or modify this handbook as circumstances warrant.

**GREENEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HANDBOOK  
ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT PAGE**

I have read the entire GHS Athletic Handbook, and I understand what is expected of me as a student-athlete. I agree to follow all policies in this handbook, and I promise to always represent my school in a positive manner. I understand that any violation of this handbook will result in consequences.

Student Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

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

I have read the entire GHS Athletic Handbook, and I understand what is expected of me as a parent. I agree to follow all policies in this handbook, and I promise to always represent my school in a positive manner. I understand that any violation of this handbook will result in consequences.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

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