

GRUNDY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Athletic Codes of Conduct and Athletic Policies and Procedures

The Grundy County Board of Education (GCBOE) has established codes of conduct for coaches and athletes to follow as they represent our schools in athletic competition. Athletic competition is a public platform that can promote the image and character of a community. It is important for coaches and athletes to remember participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right. It is imperative that our coaches and our athletes conduct themselves with a behavior that reflects class, pride, and commitment to excellence to provide a positive perception of our community.

Athletic Code of Conduct

The GCBOE Athletic Code of Conduct establishes standards by which student athletes are expected to conduct themselves as representatives of the Grundy County School System (GCSS). Parents are expected to discuss these regulations and consequences with their child or children that participate in athletics so that informed and appropriate decisions about behavior are made.

It is imperative that students and parents understand that the GCSS Student Handbooks {GCHS and Elementary School) and GCBOE Athletic Code of Conduct are two separate sets of standards. The GCBOE Athletic Code of Conduct, which is written specifically for student athletes, is intended to use concurrently with the GCSS Student Handbooks, but the two codes differ procedurally and substantively. If a student athlete is suspended for a violation of the student handbook, then the student athlete will not be permitted to practice or participate in contests during the suspension. If the same misconduct also constitutes a violation *of* the GCBOE Athletic Code of Conduct, then the student athlete will be penalized accordingly.

The GCBOE Athletic Code of Conduct sets a high standard because of the school system's desire to help protect the health, safety, and welfare of all students and community members. The GCBOE Athletic Code of Conduct applies to all athletes. A student is deemed to be an athlete for purposes *of* the GCBOE Athletic Code *of* Conduct once the student is notified by the coach/designee

that the student has made his/her team. Thereafter, the student is deemed to be an athlete for the remainder of his/her school career as long as they participate in athletic competition. This includes all athletes "in season" as well as those athletes whose season has been completed but who intended to compete in subsequent seasons or sports. The strenuous nature of athletics and the rigors of competition demand that a high standard of behavior on the part of student athletes be maintained at all times. Furthermore, the GCBOE Athletic Code of Conduct provides parents with support in dealing with potential problems with their child, and it provides incentive for the athlete to deal appropriately with negative peer pressure.

The GCBOE Athletic Code of Conduct applies to behavior that takes place ON AND OFF school grounds. These violations may take place at ANYTIME during the student's enrollment in our school system, including the off-season as well as the summertime. The GCBOE Athletic Code of Conduct will be in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for 365 days a year. It applies to all athletes, whether in season or out of season, on or off school property including, but not limited to, school sponsored/sanctioned events on or off campus, and private activities or events. When off-campus or private behaviors are proven through a court of law to violate the school system policy or the GCBOE Athletic Code of Conduct, then consequences will follow if brought to the attention of the athletic director and/or the principal.

Consequences for violating the GCBOE Athletic Code of Conduct will be in effect for non-district, district, regional, and state contests and championships. With regard to suspensions from contests, school year to school year and will be in effect for the duration of the athlete's high school participation.

Suspensions will only be served during scheduled TSSAA contest that will be recorded as a win or loss on the team's season record. Scrimmages, JV contest, Freshman contest, jamborees, play days, Hall of Fame contest, marathon contest, alumni contest, and pre-season contest will not be used to count as a game/contest suspension.

Coaches, Student Athletes, and parents must sign.

This means the student's record of GCBOE Athletic Code of Conduct violations will follow him/her from one sport to the next, from one year to the next, as well as from one GCBOE school (elementary to high school) to another.

TYPES OF VIOLATIONS

1. Drug or Alcohol Use, Possession, or Distribution

Student athletes are not to (regardless of quantity) use, possess, sell, distribute or procure any amount of alcohol, drugs, other controlled substances or drug paraphernalia or be under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or other controlled substances.

The student athlete shall be suspended for the following portion of his/her competitive season immediately and consecutively under these violations:

1st Violation

20% of contests

Cross Country, Cheerleading (football season), Football, Golf, Baseball, Basketball, Cheerleading (basketball season), Softball, Volleyball

2nd Violation

50% of contests

Cross Country, Cheerleading (football season}, Football, Golf, Baseball, Basketball, Cheerleading (basketball season), Softball, Volleyball

3rd Violation

The student athlete will be suspended from all athletic participation for 365 consecutive days from the date of the violation.

4th Violation

The student athlete will not be allowed to participate in athletics for the remainder of the student's enrollment in our school system.

2. Being in the Presence of Others Using, Possessing or Distributing Drugs or Alcohol

Student athletes who are found to have been voluntarily associating with others who are illegally using, possessing, or distributing drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol, and who do not attempt to remove themselves in a reasonable amount of time (constructive possession) are in violation of the GCBOE Athletic Code of Conduct. This regulation applies to circumstances that take place ON OR OFF school grounds and at ANYTIME during the student's school enrollment in our school system, including the off-season as well as the summertime.

1st Violation

10% of contests

Cross Country, Cheerleading (football season), Football, Golf, Baseball, Basketball, Cheerleading (basketball season), Softball, Volleyball

2nd Violation

25% of contests

Cross Country, Cheerleading (football season), Football, Golf, Baseball, Basketball, Cheerleading (basketball season), Softball, Volleyball

3rd Violation

The student athlete will be suspended from all athletic participation for 365 consecutive days from the date of the violation.

4th Violation

The student athlete will not be allowed to participate in athletics for the remainder of the student's enrollment in our school system.

3. **Tobacco Use, Possession or Distribution**

Use, possession, or distribution of tobacco or tobacco products, in any form, is prohibited.

1st Violation

10% of contests

Cross Country, Cheerleading (football season), Football, Golf, Baseball, Basketball, Cheerleading (basketball season), Softball, Volleyball

2nd Violation

25% of contests

Cross Country, Cheerleading (football season}, Football, Golf, Baseball, Basketball, Cheerleading (basketball season), Softball, Volleyball

3rd Violation

The student athlete will be suspended from all athletic participation for 365 consecutive days from the date of the violation.

4th Violation

The student athlete will not be allowed to participate in athletics for the remainder of the student's enrollment in our school system.

4. **Unlawful or Delinquent Behavior**

An unlawful and delinquent act is a violation of any civil or criminal statute, ordinance, Regulation or court order (except for minor traffic offenses) including, but not limited to civil rights violations, theft, vandalism, destruction of property or other misdemeanors and felonies as defined by Tennessee Code Annotated. An athlete, who pleads guilty, is found guilty, or found to have committed a delinquent act by any court of law, pleads no contest to or dispositions through a settlement and charged with an unlawful act is also subject to sanctions in accordance with the GCBOE Athletic Code of Conduct. Incidents involving athletes either directly or as an accomplice will be subject to review by the athletic director and/or the principal. The Athletic Director and/or the Principal will decide the appropriate penalty for the athlete taking into consideration the seriousness of the offense, any harm or injury to person or property, the remorse of the athlete and any other relevant factors. The consequences shall follow the pattern of the violations in this code of conduct as similar to those of violation # 1 (Drug or Alcohol use).

5. School Suspension

Athletes who are suspended from school under the GCHS, Elementary Student, or Athletic Code of Conduct are prohibited from participation in practices and interscholastic events during the length of the suspension.

6. Attendance - Truancy

The school administration and coaching staff recognize that attendance at school is critical to a student athlete's success in the classroom, much the same as attendance at practice is essential. Student athletes are expected to attend all of their classes and avoid truancy. The coach and/or the administration reserve the right to limit athletic participation in cases of truancy on non-attendance at school or at practice.

7. Unsportsmanlike Conduct and Other Unacceptable Behavior

Unsportsmanlike conduct and other unacceptable behaviors not specifically covered in the GCBOE Athletic Code of Conduct, but which are contrary to the spirit of the GCBOE Athletic Code of Conduct, are subject to an appropriate penalty at the discretion of the athletic director and/or principal, taking into consideration the seriousness of the offense, any harm or injury to person or property, the remorse of the athlete and any relevant factors. The consequences shall follow the guidelines set forth by the TSSAA. The administration reserves the right to administer further consequences if appropriate.

8. Hazing

The GCHS and Elementary School Code of Conduct defines hazing *as* "engaging in or planning any form of verbal or physical hazing or initiation of other students. Hazing includes, but is not limited to, forcing prolonged physical activity, forcing excessive consumption of any substance, forcing prolonged deprivation of sleep, food, or

drink, or any other behavior that recklessly endangers the health or safety of an individual or is likely or intended to cause personal degradation or disgrace for purposes of initiation into any student group." According to the code of conduct, the principal may suspend or recommend expulsion for a student who engages in hazing.

9. Violation of Team Rules and Regulations

Coaches shall establish reasonable rules and regulations, subject to the approval of the athletic director and principal, for behavior not otherwise specified in the GCBOE Athletic Code of Conduct. Coaches shall determine reasonable consequences for violation of team rules and regulations subject to the review of the athletic director and principal.

Unusual or Special Circumstances

Notwithstanding consequences for violations prescribed in the above paragraphs, the principal has the discretion to reduce the penalty when unusual or special circumstances warrant such a reduction.

Application of the Code of Conduct

Starting April 12, 2013, the GCBOE Athletic Code of Conduct was put into effect.

New enrollees/Transfer Students

New enrollees, including transfer students, or any student that does not have an athletic record will have the GCBOE Athletic Code of Conduct applied when they join any athletic team.

Due Process and Appeal Process

Student athletes will be provided due process. The student athlete is entitled to be informed of the charges against him/her, and an informal meeting where he/she has an opportunity to heard before the athletic director. The athletic director shall render a written decision within one school day of the meeting. A student athlete and his/her parent(s) may appeal the athletic director's decision to suspend to the principal, in writing, within one school day of the decision to suspend. The principal shall render his/her decision within four (4) school days of the consideration of the appeal. A suspension may be deferred pending the outcome of an appeal at the discretion of the athletic director, the principal, or the Director of Schools. The principal's decision will be final unless the suspension is for 50% or more of the season. In such a case, the student athlete and his/her parent(s) may appeal within five (5) school days to the Director of Schools whose decision will be final.

I hereby certify that I have read, signed and was given a copy of GCS CODE OF CONDUCT. I understand my rights and obligations in upholding GCS CODE OF CONDUCT to maintain my privilege playing any sport for Grundy County Schools.

_____	_____	_____
Student Athlete (Print Name)	Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Parent Name (Print Name)	Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Head Coach (Print Name)	Signature	Date