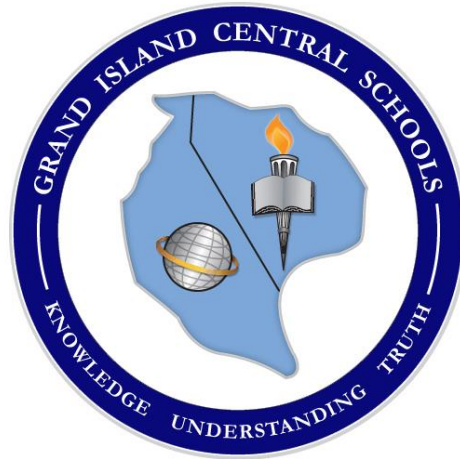


**GRAND ISLAND
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**



**ATHLETIC and EXTRACURRICULAR
CODE of CONDUCT**

July 2019

ATHLETIC/ EXTRACURRICULAR CODE of CONDUCT

Introduction

The following document is intended to communicate general rules and code of conduct expectations in effect for students. For the remainder of this document “student” will refer to any student who participates on an athletic team or in an extracurricular club/activity. “AECC” will refer to the Athletic and Extracurricular Code of Conduct. Questions regarding any part of this document should be directed to the Athletic Director/ Building Administration.

Understandings of the AECC

- 1) Applies to all athletic teams and extracurricular activities/clubs, but not co-curricular events. (i.e. concerts)
- 2) Applies to events that are held on/off campus.
- 3) Applies to activities/clubs that may fall under one of two categories:
 - a) Not board approved/student-led (i.e. Vikingettes, Inspire)
 - b) Board approved
 - i) those with competitions (i.e. Mock Trial)
 - ii) those without competitions (i.e. Student Council)

Eligibility for Student Athletes

The Niagara Frontier League and NYSPHSAA require that a participating athlete must be a bona fide student in the GICSD. He or she must also be enrolled in (and passing) a minimum of four (4) courses plus physical education in order to participate in interscholastic athletics. Students may appeal this eligibility policy to their building principal at the end of each 5-week grading period. Students who do not meet these minimum requirements will be required to get extra help before or after school a minimum of three days per week. To become eligible, they must improve their grades prior to the next 5-week review period. They may attend practice on a limited basis, but cannot participate in any game or contest during this “probationary” period until they are declared eligible by the building administrator or appropriate designee. (Eligibility for Participation in High School Extracurricular Activities and Athletics – see Attachment 1)

Rules & Expectations

All school rules apply at all times. All students are accountable for following school district regulations throughout their school year as well as during the summer months.

It is the Athletic Director’s/ Building Administrator’s responsibility to declare a student ineligible due to:

- 1.) lack of acceptable performance in school
- 2.) conduct unbecoming a student

Students are accountable for violations of the AECC for a period of one year from the date of the violation. The discipline for that violation will be administered during the current activity/club/sport season. If the violation occurs outside the season a student participates, discipline will be administered during the next activity/club/sport season.

Possession and/or Consumption of Alcohol, Drugs or Any Other Illegal Substance

The GICSD’s Policy prohibits the possession of and/or use of any amount of alcoholic beverage, tobacco products, e-cigarettes, vaping or unauthorized use of drugs (controlled chemicals or substances) by students and student-athletes. Parents, by law, must not host or participate in any social functions where controlled substances are being used by minors. This includes events held on an adult’s property when the adult/owner is not present.

Regulations and General Conduct Expectations

It is the expectation of the GICSD that all students:

1. maintain the behavior expected of a good citizen and not exhibit any conduct unbecoming a Grand Island student;
2. not use or possess any tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, pipes, snuff, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaping etc.);
3. not use or possess alcohol or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages;
4. not use or possess drugs or be under the Influence of an illegal substance including, but not limited to inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, “look-alike drugs”, “designer drugs”, or prescription/over-the-counter medication except for prescription use;
5. abstain from using non-prescription performance enhancing substances;
6. not attend any social functions where alcohol and/or tobacco are being used by minors or where controlled substances are being used unlawfully by anyone. The student **must leave the site immediately** upon the knowledge of alcohol and/or tobacco use by persons under the age of 21 or unlawful use of controlled substances by anyone.

Reporting a Violation

These expectations apply whether on or off school property. Any student observed engaged in unbecoming conduct at any time on or off school grounds must be referred to the Athletic Director/ Building Administration. All reported incidents, in or out of season, will be investigated by the Athletic Director and/or Building Administration to determine if there is a cause for school discipline. Evidence from a GICSD employee, parent, student or law enforcement unit shall be considered in the investigation. Such violations may be reported by any student or adult. The Athletic Director/ Building Administration will investigate the alleged violation and determine what disciplinary action, if any, should be imposed.

Stage	Action
1	Athletic Director/ Building Administration is made aware of an incident
2	Athletic Director/ Building Administration investigates incident, speaks with student, and determines the discipline, if appropriate.
3	Athletic Director/ Building Administration contacts student's parent(s) with disciplinary decision. Parent(s) have the right to an informal conference, if requested.
4	Parents concur with decision or appeal
5	If an appeal is submitted in writing within 3 days of the decision to the Athletic Director/ Building Administration, he/she will summon the Appeals Board. During this time the student may return to practice, competition, or participation in the athletic team or extracurricular activity pending the outcome of the Appeals Hearing.
6	Following the Appeals Hearing the Appeals Board makes a decision, and any consequence will go into effect immediately.

Violations and Penalties

Participation in athletics and extracurricular activities/clubs for the GICSD is a privilege. Most of the regulations cited above and many others not listed should be self-imposed rules. Nevertheless, if a student violates any of the above regulations, it will be necessary to invoke disciplinary action. Each penalty shall be commensurate with the circumstances and possible mitigating factors respective to each specific incident in question.

Athletic Penalties

1. First Offense: 20% suspension from the regularly scheduled competitions in that season.
2. Second Offense: 50% suspension from the regularly scheduled competitions in that season.
3. Third Offense: All athletic competitions revoked for a period of up to one (1) calendar year from the date of the infraction.

Extracurricular Penalties

1. Students, who participate in a club/activity that involves competitions and/or special events (i.e. Masterminds, Musical), are subject to the same penalties (i.e. 20% suspension from the scheduled competitions/events for the 1st offense) that an athlete would receive.
 - a. Example: A student participating in a club/activity that had 10 competitions throughout the school year would receive a 2 competition penalty for a 1st offense. They would still be allowed to participate in practices/meetings.
2. Students who participate in a club/activity that do not involve competitions and/or special events (i.e. Bookstore, Student Council) will receive a 20% suspension from participation in the club activities (i.e. meetings, rehearsals, etc.).
 - a. Example: A student who participates in a club/activity that meets once per week throughout the entire school year would receive an 8 meeting penalty for a 1st offense.

Penalty Carry-Over

Beginning July 1st of the school year prior to students entering grade 9, offenses will carry over from year to year. If disciplinary requirements are not completed during the season in which they occurred, they will be carried over to the next season for that student. For example, if all the disciplinary action imposed on a spring sport athlete is not completed, the remaining percent to be completed will be carried over to the next sport season in which that athlete participates. Students in a "carry-over" situation are able to try out and practice but will not compete until the full discipline is completed. The carry over clause also applies to extra-curricular programs.

In addition, for Middle School students, offenses carry over from July 1 before entering Grade 6 to June 30 of Grade 8. They do not carry over to the High School.

NOTE: Middle School students who are selectively classified to compete at the High School level will be treated as High School students. The GICSD strongly recommends that any student who has violated our substance abuse regulations participate in a professional counseling program. The District will assist in locating outside counseling options if needed. Participation may impact the disciplinary sanction. The academic and behavioral records of transfer students will be reviewed and may impact eligibility.

Suspension begins from the date a determination of guilt is made and is inclusive of all days beginning with the first day of school in the fall through the official end of the school year. Students whose suspension carries over into a subsequent season may try-out for an activity/club/sport in this new season, but are ineligible to participate in any contest until their suspension period is complete. Summer weeks may not count in the suspension should there be a carry over in the event the school year ends before the suspension is completed.

Suspension Appeal Process

- **Suspension decisions made by the Athletic Director/ Building Administration** may be appealed by the student, his/her parent(s) and/or the advisor/coach. The appeal must be made in writing to the Athletic Director/ Building Principal within three (3) calendar days of the suspension decision. The Athletic Director/Building Principal will then convene a hearing with the Appeals Board. From the time a formal appeal is submitted, the student is able to participate in the sport/ club/ activity until the Appeals Board makes its decision. Any penalty given by the Appeals Board will be immediately imposed. The Appeals Board has the authority to uphold, rescind or modify the penalty imposed by the Building Athletic Director/ Building Administration in any way.
- **Suspension decisions made by the Appeals Board** may also be appealed by the student, his/her parent(s) and/or the advisor/coach to the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools. The appeal must be made in writing to the president of the Board of Education through the Superintendent within three (3) calendar days of the Appeals Board decision. The Board of Education will review the transcript of the hearing in an executive session. The Board of Education shall have the authority to uphold, rescind or modify the penalty imposed in any way. The Board of Education decision will be reported in writing and will specify the basis for its decision. Any penalty given by the Board of Education will be immediately imposed, even if the decision is appealed.
- **Suspension decisions made by the Board of Education** may be appealed by the parent(s) of the student to the Commissioner of Education in Albany. The parent(s) have thirty (30) calendar days to initiate the appeal from the date of the Board of Education decision. During this time the student must adhere to any disciplinary action imposed by the Board of Education until the Commissioner makes his decision. The decision of the Commissioner is final and has no appeal provision.

Appeal Step	Action
1	Student and/or parent/guardian appeal the suspension to the Athletic Director/Building Principal in writing within 3 days of notification of discipline.
2	Athletic Director/Building Principal convenes the Appeals Board and an Appeals Board Hearing is scheduled.
3	Appeals Board renders a decision
4	Student and/or parent/ guardian has the right to appeal the decision to the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools in writing within 3 days of being given the decision of the Appeals Board. The transcript of the hearing will be reviewed and a final decision will be made.
5	Student's parent/ guardian has the right to appeal the decision of the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools to the Commissioner of Education in Albany in writing within 30 calendars days of the Board of Education decision. Discipline imposed by the Board of Education remains in effect until the Commissioner makes his decision.

Appeals Board Hearing

- Prior to the hearing, the student and his/her parent/guardian will be notified in writing of the allegation and potential disciplinary action.
- The student and parent/guardian will have the opportunity to be present at the hearing and to provide evidence to support the appeal.
- The student will be given the opportunity to explain any circumstances surrounding the alleged conduct pertinent to his/her defense.
- The hearing will be digitally recorded.

The Appeals Board

The Appeals Board will be chaired by the building principal and will include one assistant principal, one coach/advisor from the Middle School or High School, one community member and one teacher for a total of five members. The Appeals Board will be responsible for conducting hearings of appeals of decisions made by the Athletic Director/Building Administration on violations of the AECC.

Appeals Board Decisions

- The decision will be based on all the evidence presented.
- The decision will reflect the impact on the school community or violation of school rules.
- The decision will be based on a majority vote of the Appeals Board.
- The decision will be reported in writing specifying the evidence upon which the decision was made and specifying the extent of the disciplinary measure to be imposed.

“Sportsmanship”

Students are expected to act in a sportsmanlike manner toward each other, their opponents, officials and fans before, during and after athletic or extracurricular contests.

A student may be suspended from participation by the advisor, athletic director, coach, and/or the principal for inappropriate behavior including but not limited to:

- Use of profanity or exhibition of unsportsmanlike conduct
- Verbal or physical abuse, bullying, harassment
- Willfully damaging facilities or property at Grand Island or at another school (vandalism)
- Theft of items from an individual or school
- Acts of insubordination or endangering the safety of others

A suspension shall be determined by the advisor, coach or administrator based upon the severity of the actions and/or repeated offenses. All disciplinary actions are at the discretion of the school principal. If a student, parent or guardian should wish to appeal this decision all appeals will be handled in the manner discussed above.

If a student is dismissed from or quits a club/activity, all awards earned shall be forfeited (i.e. Varsity Letter, Bar, Championship T-shirt, certificates, etc.). It is the student's responsibility to inform the coach/ advisor if he or she desires to leave or quit a team or club/ activity. The coach/ advisor can additionally make the determination that a student has left the team based on nonparticipation.

Athletic Note: The Niagara Frontier League Sportsmanship Code will be in effect for all student/athletes and coaches at all contests. An automatic one game suspension will result for player(s) or coaches for the next scheduled contest following ejection from competition by game officials for unsportsmanlike conduct. An extended suspension may result from repeated acts of unsportsmanlike conduct.

Violence Prevention

The following actions are against the law and will not be tolerated at Grand Island:

- Hazing
- Sexual Harassment
- Aggressive Behavior
- Verbal or Physical Abuse, Harassment/ Bullying

Any student found guilty will be sanctioned accordingly by the School Superintendent, Building Administration, Athletic Director, Advisor, Coach or legal authorities.

Spectator Sportsmanship

The Grand Island team bench or team sideline area is off limits to all spectators. Only authorized school personnel are permitted. (Example: coaches, advisors, statisticians, chain crew, scorekeepers, clock operators, media, volunteer coaches, and managers.) The school reserves the right to remove any spectator from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct or behavior. The school also reserves the right to refuse attendance to those whose conduct is not appropriate to the spirit of good sportsmanship. Sportsmanship is the responsibility of all people involved in the school district.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all practices, rehearsals, competitions, meetings, games, and team affairs unless legally excused by the advisor, coach and/or school official. Excused absences include the following:

- Advisor/Coach permission
- Administration permission
- Legal absence from school
- Family emergency

Penalties for an illegal or unapproved absence from practice, rehearsal, competition, game, or team affair may include, but not be limited to:

- Disciplinary action by the advisor/coach
- Short/Long term suspension from competition
- Dismissal from the team/ activity.

It is the responsibility of the players to notify the coach/ advisor **in advance** if he or she cannot attend a practice, game, meeting, competition, etc.

Students who are suspended from school on the day of a practice, rehearsal, competition, game, or team affair are not eligible for participation. Students suspended on a Friday shall not be eligible for weekend contests.

In order for students to participate in practice or contests, students must attend at least 5 class periods on the day of the activity. All student-athletes must attend and participate in P.E. on the day of a practice or game if they are scheduled for P.E. that day. Students are exempt from this requirement if they have a written legal excuse from school for a portion of the day in which their P.E. class falls. The Athletic Director/ Building Principal may review unusual circumstances if necessary.

Team/ club members are required to travel to and from an away contest on the school bus or on transportation provided by the school district. *They cannot drive themselves or others to the competition.* Requests by parents for exemptions to this rule must be made to the advisor/coach in writing. These exemptions may be granted at the discretion of the advisor/coach, with approval of the Athletic Director/ Building Principal.

PART 1 – DUTY TO WARN - Inherent Risks Involved in Interscholastic Sports

As the parent/guardian of student athlete, who attends GRAND ISLAND Middle/High School, we hereby state that we understand that participation in sports involves rigorous physical activity and risks of physical injury and we assume these risks. We understand that the inherent risks involved in participation which may lead to serious injury. Should the student athlete's physical or medical situation change, I agree to notify the school district authorities. I hereby give consent for emergency transportation and treatment in the event of illness or injury. I further certify the participant is in good physical condition, and has no medical or physical conditions that should restrict his/her participation.

PART 2 – ATHLETIC AGREEMENT - Training Rules & Residency

We the parent/guardian of an athlete in the GRAND ISLAND Central School District, understand our child's/my role in accepting responsibility and the consequences for appropriate actions. We understand that as an athlete our child/I will be held to a high standard. We/I have read the Grand Island Central School District Athletic Agreement and will support the rules as set forth.

We pledge that our student athlete is a bona fide student in the Grand Island Central School District and that he/she resides in said district. We/I also have been made aware of the Niagara Frontier League's Academic Eligibility policies and agree to support those rules. (See Athletic Agreement/District Calendar/HS Student-Parent Handbook).

PART 3 RELEASE OF DATE – Statistics, Jersey Numbers, Rosters and Photographs

I hereby grant permission to the coaching staff and athletic department to release sports related data relevant to our son/daughter's team or individual accomplishments. The data that may be released may include sport specific statistics, jersey numbers, height and weight, grade level at times photographs of our son/daughter participating.

NYSPHSAA SPORTSMANSHIP PHILOSOPHY

- 1) We believe that interscholastic athletics is an important part of education and support the ideals and values embodied in good sportsmanship.
- 2) We believe that sportsman-like behavior is essential if interscholastic competition is to contribute usefully and constructively to the broad goals of education and to the quality of life of those involved.
- 3) We pledge ourselves individually and collectively to encourage and support the development and maintenance of a sportsman-like atmosphere for athletic competition.

NYSPHSAA CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1) A genuine interest in and enjoyment of interscholastic competition requires conduct that reflects the understanding that contests, as a part of the overall school program are intended to be enjoyed. Behavior that reflects a winning at all cost attitude violates this standard.
- 2) Interscholastic competition provides valuable lessons and learning experiences that are not possible in the regular classroom setting. All involved must support the need to develop the ability to compete with enthusiasm and to accept winning with grace and losing with dignity.
- 3) Coaches, players, and fans should know that participation is an honor and privilege which requires them to conduct themselves in a manner that brings honor and pride to their school and community.
- 4) Respect for the cultural and ethnic diversity of one's opponents, their school, and community is a fundamental tenet of wholesome athletic competition. This standard suggests that planned activity is needed to demonstrate a warm and friendly welcome, mutual respect, and a genuine readiness to participate in a sportsman-like manner.
- 5) Players should demonstrate both knowledge of the rules and respect for game officials and their decisions. Coaches and school officials have the responsibility to teach and encourage these attributes.

Contact Information

Dr. Brian Graham
Superintendent of Schools
773-8800

Mr. Jon Roth
Director of Athletics
773-8812

Mr. Michael Lauria
High School Principal
773-1304

Mr. John Fitzpatrick
Middle School Principal
773-1403

Mrs. Karen Surdyke
Asst Athletic Director/Asst HS Principal
773-1306

Mr. Adam Buffamante
Middle School Vice Principal
773-1402

Mrs. Hillary Kretz-Harvey
Asst HS Principal
773-1305

Attachment 1

Eligibility for Participation in High School Extracurricular Activities and Athletics

Grand Island Senior High School has a credit-based eligibility policy for students to participate in extracurricular clubs, activities, and interscholastic sports for high school students. Both current and transfer students will be subject to meeting the minimum course credit requirements for the particular grade level, in addition to the current Niagara Frontier League (NFL) standard of passing four classes plus physical education. Students failing to meet this minimum credit requirement will be determined ineligible for the duration of that school year, or until they earn the appropriate number of credits.

The minimum credits a student must complete in order to participate in extracurricular clubs, activities, or interscholastic sports at the high school level is:

Cohort Year	Minimum Credits
Freshman Year	0 Credits
Sophomore Year	4.5 Credits
Junior Year	10 Credits
Senior Year	16 Credits

Philosophy:

At Grand Island Senior High School, we believe that academic success should be a student's number one priority. Additionally, we understand that a well-rounded education incorporates a variety of experiences including extracurricular clubs, activities, and interscholastic sports. Through active and consistent participation in these areas, students develop their unique abilities and talents, secure knowledge of themselves, and appreciate a broad range of endeavors. Moreover, students develop attitudes of respect, enter healthy lifestyles, and become responsible citizens. To that end, we uphold our belief that in order to for a student to achieve their personal balance, they must first be successful in the classroom and maintain a steady pathway towards high school graduation.

#1. Determining Minimum Course Credit Requirements

- The first test of eligibility is to determine if a student has earned the minimum number of course credits prior to the beginning of the cohort year. Any credits earned in Summer School will be included in this determination.
- The building principal, or his designee, shall make course credit determinations on all transfer students.
- School administration, or their designee, will provide a list of all students who fail to meet the minimum standard for eligibility prior to the beginning of the school year.
- All students failing to meet the minimum credit requirements will be determined ineligible for that school year, or until they earn the required number of credits needed for participation. See table on previous page.

#2. Notification of Status / Initiating Academic Recovery Program:

Participants in Extracurricular Clubs, Activities, and Interscholastic Athletics

- The building principal or his designee will issue a letter to inform students and parents/guardians of any ineligibility.
- The Athletic Director, Assistant Athletic Director, or his or her designee, will meet with the student to inform them of their status as ineligible, explain the terms of the status, and the procedures the student will need to follow to become eligible.
- The Athletic Director, Assistant Athletic Director, or his or her designee, will distribute the names of the student(s) declared ineligible to all affected advisers, supervisors, and coaches.
- The student will meet with a member of the school's Instructional Support Team, which includes at least one counselor, administrator, and teacher, to determine the best individualized plan to help the student earn credits. Once this plan is in place, the team will set goals and monitor progress toward meeting the set standards.

#3. Becoming Eligible:

Students can become eligible by earning the required credits in any of the following ways:

- Successful completion of the Summer School program.
- Successfully repeating and completing a failed course or earning the credit by demonstrating competency after completion of the first semester (with teacher or administrative approval).
- Upon approval from administration, participating in, and successfully completing, an Apex Online Credit Recovery program.
- Upon approval from building administration, specialized credit recovery.