GCDSD Policy No. 3247

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION BOARD POLICY

The opportunity to participate in athletic programs offered by the Grand Coulee Dam School District is a privilege granted to all GCDSD registered students. Participants in these voluntary programs will conform to specific conduct and GPA standards. Those who participate in GCDSD athletics are not only members of a team but are also representatives of their student body, family and community. Therefore, it is necessary and desirable that high standards be maintained in academics, citizenship, sportsmanship, and student conduct, both in and outside of the school's athletic arena. Students involved in athletics shall abide by all rules and regulations established by the coaches, school administration, the student handbook, this policy and the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA).

Provisions are made for a student-athlete who has allegedly violated one or more of the established athletic standards to appeal the disciplinary action against him/her.

8th Grade Participation in High School Athletics

Lake Roosevelt Jr./Sr. High School Policy

(In accordance with WIAA Rule 18.21.0 – 2024–2028 Classification Cycle)

Lake Roosevelt Jr./Sr. High School, with an enrollment below the WIAA 2B classification cutoff of 157, may allow 8th grade students from its WIAA-member feeder middle school to participate in high school athletic programs. This policy aligns with WIAA Handbook Rule 18.21.0 and is enacted with league approval.

Eligibility & Participation Guidelines

1. **Feeder School Requirement:**
2. Only 8th grade students enrolled in the school district's WIAA-member feeder middle school are eligible for high school athletic participation under this policy.

3. **Sport Participation Approval:**
   8th grade students may participate in **any high school sport** offered at Lake Roosevelt **except football**, subject to:
   - League approval
   - Completion of all required WIAA paperwork and eligibility standards
   - Compliance with all practice and game participation rules

4. **Middle School Sport Offerings Not Required:**
   8th grade students may participate at the high school level even if the sport is offered at the middle school level or if it is not offered at all.

5. **No Roster or Team Structure Limitations:**
   Lake Roosevelt is not subject to roster minimums or JV/varsity team requirements in order to utilize 8th graders.

6. **Game & Practice Limits:**
   8th graders may participate in the full high school season for any approved sport. They are subject to high school practice and game limits and must meet WIAA practice requirements before game participation.

7. **High School-Level Accountability:**
   8th graders playing up on high school teams will be held to the same standards, expectations, and consequences as high school student-athletes. This includes:

a. Academic eligibility

b. Behavioral and conduct expectations

c. Compliance with substance use policies and athletic training expectations

d. Disciplinary consequences for violations of team or school policy

8. **Eligibility Timeline:**
   Participation as an 8th grader does **not** start the four-year high school eligibility clock. Eligibility begins upon entering 9th grade.

9. **Football Restriction:**
   Under no circumstances may 8th grade students participate in high school football.

10. **Non-Appealable Rule:**
    This policy is based on WIAA rules and **cannot be appealed** through the eligibility process.

7th Grade Practice-Only Participation in High School Athletics

Lake Roosevelt Jr./Sr. High School Policy

7th grade students may be allowed to **practice only** (not compete) with high school athletic teams **if no middle school program is offered** for that sport, and only under the following conditions:

Practice-Only Participation Guidelines

1. **Academic Eligibility:**
   The student must meet and maintain all school academic eligibility requirements.

2. **Attendance:**
   The student must have consistent, reliable school attendance.

3. **Behavior:**
   The student must demonstrate appropriate behavior and sportsmanship on campus and in the athletic environment.

4. **Case-by-Case Approval:**
   The Athletic Director must approve the student's participation after consultation with the head coach and review of the above criteria.

5. **Parental Consent:**
   Written permission and acknowledgement from the parent or guardian must be provided prior to participation.

Oversight and Discretion

At any time, the head coach or the Athletic Director reserves the right to discontinue a 7th grade student's participation in practices if concerns arise regarding safety, maturity, academic performance, attendance, or behavior. This policy is not intended to create an entitlement but rather a strategic developmental opportunity based on the best interest of the program and the individual student.

Two-Sport Participation Policy (Same Season)

At Lake Roosevelt Jr./Sr. High School, student-athletes may be permitted to participate in two sports during the same athletic season, provided one is a contact sport and the other a non-contact sport. Dual-sport participation is a privilege, not a right, and requires the careful coordination and approval of all parties involved to ensure academic success, physical well-being, and team commitment.

Eligibility Requirements

- **Parent/Guardian Approval:** A signed permission form from the parent or guardian must be submitted before any dual-sport participation is allowed.
- **Primary & Secondary Sport Declaration:** The student-athlete must clearly declare one sport as their *primary* sport and the other as *secondary*. The primary sport takes precedence in the event of scheduling conflicts.
- **Minimum GPA Requirement:** A cumulative and current GPA of **2.7 or higher** is required to begin and continue in both sports.
- **Coaches' Approval:** Both head coaches (primary and secondary sport) must approve and sign the dual-sport request form.
- **Athletic Director Approval:** The Athletic Director will review the request and approve based on academic eligibility, schedule compatibility, and overall feasibility.

Academic & Attendance Requirements

- **Weekly Grade Checks:** The athlete must submit a weekly grade report. Falling below the 2.7 GPA for **two consecutive weeks** will result in a return to participation in the primary sport only.
- **Academic Support:** Students struggling academically may be required to attend study hall, tutoring, or academic support sessions.
- **School Attendance:** Athletes must adhere to school attendance policies in order to be eligible for practices and games.

Behavioral Expectations

- **School Conduct:** The athlete must remain in good behavioral standing. This includes no suspensions, detentions, or recurring disciplinary referrals.
- **Sportsmanship & Representation:** Athletes must represent Lake Roosevelt with integrity, sportsmanship, and respect in both sports at all times.
- **Weekly Behavior Monitoring:** School administration and coaches will conduct weekly behavior reviews.

Practice & Game Commitments

- **Primary Sport Priority:** In the case of scheduling conflicts between sports, the primary sport has priority unless an alternative arrangement is agreed upon by both coaches and the AD.

- **Secondary Sport Attendance:** The athlete is expected to attend all secondary sport practices and games that do not interfere with the primary sport.

- **Schedule Submission:** Athletes must submit a complete game and practice schedule to both coaches and the Athletic Director prior to the season for approval and ongoing coordination.

Injury & Fatigue Management

- **Communication:** Any injuries, fatigue, or scheduling conflicts must be immediately reported to both coaching staff and the Athletic Director.

- **Health and Wellness:** Athletes are strongly encouraged to maintain healthy habits including proper nutrition, hydration, and sleep to support performance and recovery.

Final Approval & Compliance

- **Signed Agreement:** The athlete, their parent/guardian, both head coaches, and the Athletic Director must sign a formal agreement outlining expectations and responsibilities.

- **Ongoing Review:** The Athletic Director and coaches will regularly review the athlete's academic progress, physical condition, and performance to determine continued eligibility and well-being throughout the season.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Prior to a student-athlete participating on any athletic team, the parent/guardian will complete all forms in the final forms portal (see www.gcdsd.org/athletics), including a current sports physical indicating the student-athlete is physically qualified to participate in athletics.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Full-Day Attendance

- Students must attend all scheduled classes for the entire school day to be eligible for any athletic activity that day (including practices, games, contests, or events).

  Exceptions to this policy include:

  1. **Medical or Dental Appointments** – Students must provide a doctor's note upon return to school for the absence to be excused.

  2. **Family Emergencies** – Must be reported to and verified by the Athletic Director or a school administrator as a legitimate emergency. While pre-approval is not required, timely communication is expected.

  3. **School-Sponsored Activities** – Absences due to school-sponsored events are automatically excused with proper documentation from staff or advisors.

  4. **Cultural and Religious Events** – Absences due to recognized cultural observances or religious practices will be excused when verified by a parent/guardian and approved in advance by the School Attendance Personnel. Pre-notification is required at least 48 hours before the absence whenever possible.

- Participation in Saturday events is based on attendance the previous school day (typically Thursday).
- Emergency exceptions must be approved in advance by school administration.

Unexcused Absences and Tardies

- Any unexcused absence—including skipping class, leaving class early, or leaving campus without permission—will result in ineligibility for that day's athletic activities.
- Two (2) or more tardies in a single day will result in ineligibility for the next scheduled practice or competition (whichever occurs first).

EARLY SIGN-OUT POLICY ON COMPETITION DAYS

To ensure accountability, team unity, and competitive readiness, any student-athlete who signs out of school before the regular dismissal time on the day of a scheduled competition will be marked as having an **absence** for the remainder of the day. As a result the student athlete will be deemed ineligible to participate in that day's competition.

This policy is in place to promote commitment to both academics and athletics, and to maintain consistency and fairness for all participants.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

All participants are required to travel to and from athletic contests or events away from Lake Roosevelt using transportation provided by the school. This policy ensures the safety, supervision, and accountability of all student-athletes representing our school.

Exceptions to this policy may be permitted under the following conditions:

1. **Injury or Emergency -** In the event of an injury or emergency requiring alternate transportation, arrangements must be approved by the coach/advisor and the Athletic Director.
2. **Returning with Parent/Guardian -** If a student-athlete is returning home with their parent or legal guardian directly from an event, no advance notice is required. The parent/guardian must sign the student out with the coach or advisor at the event site. By doing so, they acknowledge and accept full responsibility and release Lake Roosevelt and the Grand Coulee Dam School District from liability for the student after departure.
3. **Approved Transportation Release – Riding with Someone Other Than Parent/Guardian** A student-athlete may return from an event with someone other than their parent or legal guardian only if a written note from the parent or guardian is submitted and approved at least 48 hours in advance. The note must be provided to the coach/advisor and the Athletic Director and must clearly state who the student will be riding with.

EQUIPMENT/UNIFORMS

School-owned equipment checked out by a participant in any athletic/activity is his/her responsibility. The loss or misuse of this equipment will be the financial obligation of the participant. Participants will not be allowed to continue competition, receive awards, or continue into succeeding activities until the financial obligation is fulfilled or equipment is returned to its original state.

COMMUNICATION AND ISSUE RESOLUTION POLICY

The Grand Coulee Dam School District and Lake Roosevelt Junior/Senior High School are committed to maintaining positive, respectful, and productive communication between student-athletes, coaches, families, and school staff. To ensure concerns are addressed constructively and at the appropriate level, the following chain of communication must be followed when resolving athletic-related issues:

1. Student-Athlete to Coach
   The student-athlete should first speak directly with their coach regarding any concern. This promotes personal responsibility, growth, and open dialogue between the athlete and coaching staff.
2. Parent/Guardian to Coach
   If the concern is not resolved through the student-athlete, the parent or guardian may request a meeting with the coach.
   Note: Meetings with coaches should not occur within 24 hours before or after a competition. This rule allows time for emotions to settle and for constructive conversations to take place.
3. Meeting with the Athletic Director
   If the issue remains unresolved, a meeting may be requested with the Athletic Director. The student-athlete and coach may also be included in this meeting, as appropriate, to provide clarity and ensure fair discussion.
4. Meeting with the Building Principal
   If concerns persist following the Athletic Director meeting, the parent or guardian may request a meeting with the Principal. This serves as the final step at the building level.
5. Contacting the Superintendent (District Level)
6. Only after all building-level steps have been completed may the concern be brought forward to the District Office. At this point, a parent or guardian may request a meeting with the Superintendent. This step should be reserved for unresolved issues that could not be appropriately addressed at the school level or that involve broader district policies or concerns.

Please Note:
Concerns should be handled at the lowest appropriate level to ensure efficient and respectful resolution. Skipping steps in the communication chain may delay the process and is strongly discouraged.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS) & OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS)

1. Student-athletes who are serving ISS or OSS are not allowed to participate in practices, competitions, or travel for away games on any day they are suspended.
2. Student-athletes serving OSS are **not eligible** to compete in contests the following week after they complete their OSS (For example: If an OSS ends on a Wednesday, they are not eligible to compete until the following Wednesday; however they must practice).

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Student-athletes must be enrolled in a full schedule of 7 classes in the Grand Coulee Dam School District. WIAA provisions will apply for all other student-athletes, including “Running Start” and “Alternative Learning Experience” (ALE) students.

- Student-athletes must maintain a 2.0 GPA with no failing grade (“F”, “NC” “INC” or “WP”) per grading period (midterm, and quarter). If the student-athlete fails this standard, then weekly grade checks will be performed to facilitate the student returning to competition, once meeting the requirements.

- Any student-athlete declared academically ineligible cannot suit up or participate in a contest, or travel with the team to a contest, but must continue to attend practice unless excused by the coach for pre-arranged tutoring.

- It is the student-athlete’s responsibility to stay informed about their grades and overall academic standing.

- Grade Checks:

  1, **Fall** sports eligibility depends on the prior spring semester's grades.

  a. If these grades do not meet GCDSD's minimum requirements for athletes, the student-athlete is placed on **probation** until the 4th Saturday in September (on which day they must meet the minimum requirements). Student-athletes must bring a "Grade Check Form" to the Athletic Director or Athletic Director's secretary Mrs. Gerard showing a current GPA of 2.0 with no failing grades ("F", "NC" ,"INC" or "WP").

  b. If not, the student-athlete will be **suspended** from competition (not practice) for **3 weeks**.

  2. 1st Semester grade checks, resulting in below GCDSD standards, will result in a minimum **5-week suspension**.

  Note: If a student-athlete is deemed athletically ineligible based on the above-stated criteria, then the student-athlete will be informed immediately, and the parent/guardian will be notified as well.

  3. Midterm grade check, resulting in below GCDSD standards, will require students to satisfy minimum requirements in order to return to competition, but will be allowed to practice.

  *Student-athletes may do personal grade checks with their teachers before school, during his/her assigned period with the teacher, or after school, but not during another class period. Grade checks may also be accomplished via "Skyward" at any time.

Weekly Grade Check Procedure (4-Day School Week)

To support the academic success of all student-athletes, Lake Roosevelt Jr./Sr. High School will conduct weekly grade checks throughout each sports season. The following process will be used to ensure timely communication between students, teachers, coaches, and the athletic department.

Grade Check Distribution and Collection Schedule:

- **Grade checks will be distributed every Monday morning** to all student-athletes during first period or designated team meetings.
- **Student-athletes must return completed grade checks by Wednesday at the end of the school day.**
- Grade checks must be filled out and signed by each teacher. If a student is receiving a grade lower than a C (70%), the teacher should include comments or notes regarding missing assignments, behavior, or needed interventions.

Eligibility Determination:

- The Athletic Director or Athletic Secretary will review all grade checks Wednesday evening.
- Students who are failing one or more classes will be placed on **academic probation** or declared **ineligible** based on the school's eligibility policy.
- **Coaches will be notified of student eligibility by Thursday morning** prior to any competition.

Notes:

- If a student fails to submit a completed grade check by the Wednesday deadline, they may be considered ineligible until the form is submitted and reviewed.

- The purpose of grade checks is not to punish but to provide accountability, encourage academic improvement, and open communication between all stakeholders.

- This policy applies during the entire duration of the sports season, including playoff weeks.

VIOLATIONS

Note: A student-athlete will be suspended from practice or a game at any time, on any day (including game day) for any of the following violations:

1) **Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, Inhalants, Drug Paraphernalia:**

*Student-athletes must be free from the presence of, the association with the use or distribution of legend drugs-prescription drugs (including anabolic steroids), alcohol, tobacco products, inhalants, and drug paraphernalia at any time between the first day of fall practice through the last day of school, twenty-four (24) hours a day on or off campus.

*Student-athletes must understand that their involvement in the use, possession, and/or association with any of the above-listed items will result in suspension from all athletics. The duration of the suspension is outlined in this policy.

*Student-athletes must be free from the presence of, the association with the use or distribution of legend drugs-prescription drugs (including anabolic steroids), alcohol, tobacco products, inhalants, and drug paraphernalia at any time during your academic career, as an enrolled student on or off-campus.

*Student-athletes must understand that their involvement in the use, possession, and/or association with any of the above-listed items will result in suspension from all athletics. The duration of the suspension is outlined in this policy.

Note: Athletic Code/ rules violations accrued to a junior high school (7th/8th grade) student -athlete will not count toward high school eligibility unless required by WIAA regulations, except that a student must carry out the full penalty of their middle school violation.

2) **Stealing, Lying, Cheating, Bullying, and Inappropriate Use of Social Media, and Profanity**

*Definitions:(including but not limited to):

- Stealing – knowingly taking something you know doesn't belong to you (value of item is irrelevant).
- Lying: knowingly not telling the truth.
- Bullying: cruel, insulting or threatening behaviors…seeking to harm, or intimidate.
- Cheating: an act of lying, deception, or giving yourself an unfair advantage. For example plagiarism.
- Inappropriate use of social media: harassment (comments, photos, etc.), sexual harassment, or cyber bullying.
- Profanity: cussing, swearing, bad, foul, or obscene language and expletives.

3) **Any violation of the GCDSD student handbook.**

DETERMINATION OF VIOLATION

*Violations may be established by, but not limited to, the following:

1. Self-admission
2. School District investigation
3. Reports from law enforcement
4. Reports from the student-athlete's parent/guardian
5. Observation and verification by competent and reliable witnesses (student/adult witnesses will be required to write and sign a formal statement of the accusation).

Note: Sports participation may continue until a determination is made of a confirmed code/regulation violation.

CONDUCTING INVESTIGATIONS

The school district will:

1. Investigate the violation upon receiving information.
2. The Athletic Director will call the parent/guardian and coach with the findings and consequences.
3. A l**etter** will be sent for illegal substance violations. This letter will include:

    a. the violation
    b. the consequences
    c. the appeal processes

Penalties, Illegal Substance Violations:

1st Violation:

- **Consequence:** Removal from all athletic participation for the remainder of the current sports season or, if the violation occurs between seasons, then participation will be suspended through the upcoming sports season.
- **Appeal Council Members:** The Appeal Council shall consist of teachers, coaches, and the Athletic Director (a minimum of 5).The Athletic Director will serve in an advisory capacity only, not as a voting member.
    - If the Athletic Director is a coach of the student-athlete, the assistant principal will take his/her place on the Appeal Council. A member of the council who has a student enrolled at Lake Roosevelt Junior/Senior High will not be eligible to serve on the council.

- **Appeal Process:** The student-athlete does have the opportunity to appeal the consequence for a 1st violation.
    - Student-athletes have **5 school days** to submit, in writing, a request to appeal to the Athletic Director.
    - During the appeal process, the student-athlete **will** continue to practice **but not compete** until a decision has been made by the Appeal Council.
    - Student-athletes must submit proof of enrollment in a certificated alcohol, drug, tobacco, and/or vape intervention program.
        - Upon completion of that program, they must submit a certificate of completion.
    - The Athletic Director will schedule the Appeal Council hearing date within 2 weeks.
    - Student-athletes will prepare in writing a thoughtful statement explaining their conduct, what they have learned, what their plans are to not repeat the offense, and why they feel they should be allowed to return to competition.
    - Parents/guardians may attend the Appeal Council hearing as observers only and upon an advance request made to the Athletic Director.
    - Decisions by the Appeal Council may be appealed directly to the principal, then to the superintendent, and finally to the school board. At each step, the request for appeal must be made within **2 school days** of notification of the decision at the previous level. The decision by the school board will be final.

- A student-athlete will be allowed one (1) "first violation" appeal opportunity per his/her grade level/year.

2nd Violation:

- Zero Tolerance. Student-athletes are ineligible for participation in all athletics for a period of **one (1) calendar year** from the date of the second violation. This includes the cross-over period from junior and senior high school. An appeal process exists via the WIAA.

3rd Violation:

- Student-athletes will be ineligible to participate in all athletic events **for the remainder of his/her school career**. An appeal process exists via the WIAA.

Penalties for Criminal Violations:

A student-athlete convicted of a felony will be ineligible to participate in GCDSD athletic programs **for the remainder of his/her school career**.

*** Issues concerning the above Athletic Participation Policy should be forwarded to the GCDSD Athletic Director or to the junior/senior high school principal at (509) 633-1442.

Grand Coulee Dam School District ~ **Adopted:** 07.25.11 ~ **Revised**: 03.14; 07.14; 10.15; 9.17; 6.26