

## **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's standards. Those who participate in GCDSD athletics are not only members of a team but also are representatives of their student body, family and community. Therefore, it is necessary and desirable that high standards be maintained in academics, citizenship, sportsmanship, loyalty, 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, GCDSD athletic codes, 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.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Participation on High School Teams**

**A.1.** If a sport is not offered at a middle level feeder school, 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be allowed to tryout and participate at the high school level subject to WIAA regulations. Limitations for specific sports shall be:

**A.1.1** 8<sup>th</sup> graders may participate in Baseball and Softball as long as the number of participating high school students does not exceed 16 for each varsity sport or 25 for varsity/junior varsity sport.

**A.1.2** Cross Country, Tennis and Golf shall be considered individual sports with no minimum limitations for 8<sup>th</sup> grade participation.

**A.2.** If a team sport is offered at the middle level feeder school, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students could be used to salvage the high school varsity team if at any time during the season the number of eligible participants on the high school varsity team does not exceed nine (9) for basketball and eleven (11) for volleyball. 8<sup>th</sup> graders used to salvage a varsity sport must meet all WIAA practice requirements before being allowed to participate in a game.

**A.3.** 8<sup>th</sup> graders will not be allowed to participate in high school football.

## **ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

Prior to a student-athlete participating on any athletic team or being issued any athletic equipment, the student-athlete is responsible for having on file with school officials, a record of the following:

1. GCDSD Participation Form
2. GCDSD Physical Form
3. GCDSD Concussion Information Sheet
4. GCDSD Emergency Information Card
5. GCDSD ASB Card for the current school year
6. GCDSD Sports fee

## **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**

It is expected that student/athletes will attend school all day, every day. If, however, a student/athlete has an unexcused absence for any portion of a game/practice day, they are

ineligible for participation that day. An excused absence exceeding three (3) periods in a day also makes a student/athlete ineligible for participation for that day. The exception to this rule is if a student/athlete has an out-of-town medical/dental appointment with documentation and his/her coach has pre-excused the absence, then the student/athlete is eligible for participation that day. (Participation in Saturday games or practices is determined by Friday or the last day school was in session.)

\* Student-athletes who are serving an Out-of-school suspension (OSS) are not eligible for participation in practice or contests on the day(s) of their suspension. However, they are eligible for Saturday games if they have served their suspension.

## **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.

\* Student-athletes must maintain a 2.0 GPA and no more than one (1) failing grade (“F”, “NC” or “INC”) per grading period.

\* 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.

\* Fall, winter, and spring sports eligibility are based upon the previous semester grades. (WIAA Previous Semester Rule) and the Grand Coulee Dam School District’s mid-quarter and quarterly grade checks. These grade check dates will be published by the Athletic Director prior to the commencement of each athletic season.

\* Student-athletes who started the season eligible, but who fail to meet the standard at grade-check will be placed on academic probation.

\* The student-athlete will be informed in writing, and parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified by the school.

\* The student-athlete will remain ineligible until they bring a “grade check form” to the AD showing a current GPA of 2.0 with no more than one (1) failing grade (“F”, “NC” or “INC”).

\* It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to obtain the “grade check form” from the AD and complete the form with grades and signatures from every class in his/her current schedule.

\* Student-athletes may check with their teachers before school, during his/her assigned period with the teacher, or after school, but should not approach the teacher for an updated grade during another class period.

## **ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES**

(Drugs, alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, and drug paraphernalia)

\* Student-athletes must be free from the presence of, or the association with, or the use of legend drugs (including anabolic steroids), alcohol, tobacco products, inhalants, and drug paraphernalia during the duration of the athletic season twenty-four (24) hours a day on or off campus.

\* Student-athletes must understand that their involvement in the use, possession, or association of any of the above listed items, may result in suspension from all athletics during the school year.

\* Student-athletes attending an event where underage drinking and/or drug use is taking place but not drinking or using any drugs will be suspended for being in attendance, if they do not leave immediately.

### **DETERMINATION OF VIOLATION**

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

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

### **CONDUCTING INVESTIGATIONS**

The school district will:

1. Actively investigate the violation upon receiving information.
2. Notify student-athlete and parent(s)/guardian(s) as soon as possible an investigation is taking place. Notification will include:
  - a. the violation
  - b. how it was determined
  - c. the consequences
  - d. the appeal process
3. Allow the student-athlete the opportunity to call parents/guardian prior to a school district interview.
4. Self-Referrals – Notify parents/guardians as soon as possible to inform them of the violation and potential consequences.

### **PENALTIES - ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES VIOLATIONS**

(Drugs, alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, and drug paraphernalia)

Penalties for student-athletes for the presence of, or the association with, or the use of legend drugs (including anabolic steroids), alcohol, tobacco products, inhalants, and drug paraphernalia during the duration of the athletic season twenty-four (24) hours a day on or off campus will be as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Violation: Removal from all athletic teams for the remainder of the school year, unless the student accesses an assistance program outlined in Part A.

Part A: Enroll in an approved alcohol/drug/tobacco intervention program. The student-athlete may remain on the team as an actively participating member in practice, during the intervention and/or appeal process. In order to attend or compete in contests, the student-athlete and their parent(s)/guardian(s) must appeal to the Eligibility Council with

a behavior contract from the intervening program, an explanation of conduct, and why they deserve a chance to compete again. The Eligibility Council will decide the length of the suspension; the student-athlete will be suspended from participating except in practices for at least a minimum of two (2) weeks.

**A student-athlete will be allowed only one (1) “first violation” Part A intervention program opportunity during his/her entire high school career.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Violation: “Zero Tolerance” - Ineligible for participation in all athletic teams for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of the second violation.

## **PENALTIES - CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS**

A student-athlete convicted of a felony will be ineligible to participate in GCDSD athletic programs.

## **APPEAL PROCEDURES**

Eligibility Council

\*The Eligibility Council shall consist of two teachers, the school counselor, one coach, and the Athletic Director or his/her designee. A member of the council who has a child/student enrolled at LRHS or GCDMS will not be eligible to serve on the Eligibility Council. The AD or his/her designee will preside at all meetings and will vote. The Eligibility Council members will remain in place for the entire school year.

Rights of Appeal and Notification/Due Process

\* The student-athlete accused of a violation, his/her parent(s)/guardian(s), and the coach will be notified of the violation and consequences within a reasonable time after such violations become known.

\* Student-athletes who wish to appeal the determination of a violation or the consequences applied by the AD or his/her designee to the Eligibility Council must notify the AD or his/her designee within two school days after receiving notification.

\* Student-athletes appealing the determination of a violation may, at the sole discretion of the principal or his/her designees, remain eligible for practice and/or contests until the appeal process is completed.

\* Student-athletes appealing the consequences applied will be ineligible for practice and/or contests throughout the appeal process.

\* Decision by the AD or his/her designee or Eligibility Council may be appealed directly to the building principal, next to the Superintendent, and finally to the School Board. At each step, the request for appeal must be made within two (2) school days of notification of the decision at the previous level.

\* The decision by the GCDSD Board of Directors will be final.

**Grand Coulee Dam School District**

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