

## 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, GCDSD athletic code, 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 on High School Teams**

**A.1.** If a sport is not offered at a middle level feeder school, 8th 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** 8th 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 combined. or 25 for varsity/junior varsity sports combined.

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

**A.2.** If a team sport is offered at the middle level feeder school, 8th 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. 8th graders used to salvage a varsity sport must meet all WIAA practice requirements before being allowed to participate in a game.

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

**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.

#### **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](http://www.gcdsd.org/athletics)), including a current sports physical indicating the student-athlete is physically qualified to participate in athletics.

#### **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**

It is expected that student-athletes will attend school all day, every day.

- A student-athlete is **eligible** to participate in practice or a game:
  1. If absences are 3 periods or less on the day of practice or event and excused by a parent/guardian.
- A student-athlete is **ineligible** to participate in practice or a game:

1. If he/she has 2 or more tardies in a day or has any unexcused absence for the day including skipping, leaving class early, or leaving campus without permission.
2. If he/she has four or more excused periods for the day.
  - a. The exceptions to the above stated eligibility requirements include: 1) If a student-athlete has an **out-of-town medical/dental appointment** with **documentation** from the provider and his/her coach has **pre-excused the absence**; 2) If a student-athlete has cultural or religious traditions requiring their attendance and is excused by a parent/guardian, then the student-athlete is eligible for participation that day.

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

\*Student-athletes serving ISS or OSS are **not eligible** for participation in practice on the day(s) of their suspension.

- 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 more than one (1) 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.
- 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 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in September (on which day they must meet the minimum requirements). Student-athletes must bring a “Grade Check Form” to the Athletic Director’s secretary showing a current GPA of 2.0 with no more than one (1) failing grade (“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 GCDS 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.

## **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) Illegal Substance Violations (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 sports 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.

### **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 GCDS student handbook.**

**Note:** Penalties for the above violations will include suspension from practice and/or competition.

## **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.
  - a. The Athletic Director will call the parent/guardian and coach with the findings and consequences..
- 2.. A **letter** will be sent for illegal substance violations. This letter will include:
  - i.the violation
  - ii.the consequences
  - iii. the appeal processes

### **Penalties, Illegal Substance Violations:**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> 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 Process:** The student-athlete does have the opportunity to appeal the consequence for a 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Appeals 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 Appeals Council hearing date within 2 weeks.
- **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.
  - The Athletic Director will schedule the Appeals 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 Appeals Council hearing as observers only and upon an advance request made to the Athletic Director.
- Decisions by the Appeals 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.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> 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, 10.13, 10.23