

Athletic Handbook



2024-25 School Year
Granger ISD

**“Building Champions on and off the fields/courts of
competition.”**

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Lion Athletics

Forward

The Granger ISD Athletic Handbook is dedicated to the athletes of Granger Independent School District. It is designed to be the guide to give you the basic information concerning our Athletic Department.

Tradition

“We uphold the standards of those who came before us and set the standards for those who follow.”

It is the desire and goal of Granger Athletics to continue to strive to take our program to greater heights each year. It is our goal to consistently compete at the highest level in the state in every sport. This can only be accomplished through the dedication and hard work of the young women and men that make up our Athletic Program. Through our efforts, we can continue to build upon the great tradition that has been established over time for Granger High School.

Introduction

This handbook is designed to provide a successful experience for student athletes and the efficient operation of the Granger Independent School District Athletic Program. The GISD school board has approved the policies, procedures, and regulations in this handbook. The athletic handbook is designed to co-exist with the GISD Student Handbooks and the GISD Student Code of Conduct. Student athletes in grades 7-12 are accountable and responsible to the rules and requirements contained within this handbook.

It should be noted that different sports might have additional rules and regulations that go beyond what is listed in this athletic handbook. These rules may be in addition to this athletic handbook, but they shall not alter the rules of this handbook.

Philosophy

The athletic program at GISD is an integral part of the total educational program. Athletics are a vital part of the physical, mental, social, moral and character growth of our students. Athletics are not designed to transcend the academic program but to supplement it.

Athletic programs can provide valuable lessons for practical situations. Student-athletes experience daily victories discovering within themselves the ability to overcome adversity, to develop leadership skills, to develop winning attitudes, to be hard workers, and to be a part of a team that requires sacrifice and service to others. Many intangibles are taught in athletics that become lifelong lessons for the student athlete.

All students who are eligible under UIL rules may participate in all sports offered. Student-athletes must have the following forms on file to participate in athletics: The Online RankOne application will co.

1. **Medical History/Physical Evaluation** *(must have a valid medical history/physical form on file)*
2. **UIL Forms Signature Page** *(Acknowledgement of Rules, Authorization to Consent, Concussion Acknowledgement Form, Steroid Agreement, Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness, Electronic Signature Agreement)*
3. **Emergency Card**
4. **Lion Oath**

LION ATHLETIC VISION STATEMENT

It is our vision to develop well-disciplined student athletes who strive for educational and athletic excellence.

LION ATHLETIC MISSION STATEMENT

It is our mission to develop student-athletes who are committed to personal excellence and team success in everything that they do. We will provide inspirational and motivational environments where preparation, practice, and hard work generate legitimate opportunities for success. We will emphasize the importance and development of fundamentals and techniques necessary for positive experiences in athletics and in life. We will create a consistently exciting and entertaining program that generates huge levels of support, pride, and tradition for all our community to share.

OBJECTIVES OF GRANGER ATHLETICS

1. Develop confident and self-directed leaders.
2. Commit to focusing on the goals of the team and athletic program.
3. To excel in everything that we do on and off the field of play.
4. To exhibit good sportsmanship in victory and defeat.
5. To physically develop ourselves as complete athletes and commit to developing ourselves in the weight room.
6. To set lofty goals and hold ourselves and those around us accountable to attaining those goals.
7. To enjoy the experience that accompanies athletics and all that it has to offer.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM

The administration of the athletic program should provide every boy and girl with the opportunity to participate in any UIL sport that is in place with Granger ISD. Each head coach is responsible for making sure that all students are knowledgeable about tryout procedures and individual requirements for being in all sports. All students should be encouraged and will not be deprived of the opportunity to try out or participate in any sport if he/she has met the GISD Athletic Code. Note: In all sports that Granger ISD provides, all athletes must complete the previous semester strength and conditioning programs and/or meet the GISD Athletic Code of requirements prior to participation. Note: Participants who have quit or dropped out of the athletic program will not be allowed to participate in any sport until the athlete and the parents meet with the athletic director, where conditions will be set by the athletic director. The general administration of the athletic program is the direct responsibility of the athletic director and coaches. This includes the arrangement of all schedules, time and place of game, selection of officials, and the general management of all matters pertaining to the athletic program. In carrying out this program, each head coach in the department shall attend to details of their respective sports. The athletic director will oversee the development process and the scheduling process and give final approval of the season opening.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOL

- a. Transportation: To provide transportation to and from athletic contests
- b. Facilities, Supplies, and Equipment: To provide supplies, equipment, and facilities essential for our student-athletes to compete.
- c. Student safety and development: To employ and teach proper training methods, to provide properly fitted safety equipment, to provide first aid to injuries, and to seek the care of a trained medical professional for emergency injuries.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COACHES

- a. To provide first and foremost the safety of the participating student-athletes
- b. To encourage the student-athletes to give maximum effort in the classroom and to periodically monitor student grades to ensure academic success.
- c. To schedule games and to make travel arrangements.
- d. To carry out any needed discipline for infractions within the athletic program.
- e. To complete eligibility forms and to adhere to all UIL rules.
- f. To teach the skills necessary for the student-athlete to successfully participate in sports.
- g. To teach sportsmanship and respect for officials.
- h. To set the proper example of sportsmanship.
- i. To take care of equipment and facilities.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARENTS

- a. To give moral support to their son/daughter for their participation in athletics. This could include verbal encouragement; going to practices, games, or meets whenever possible; and participating in the Granger Athletic Booster Club.
- b. To encourage the student-athlete to attend all practices, games, or meetings and not to miss these events other than for illness or circumstances beyond his/her control.
- c. To provide transportation to and from school for practices, games, and meetings when necessary.
- d. To furnish that equipment which the school does not furnish.
- e. To work with the coach in identifying and correcting potential problems.
- f. To encourage the student-athlete to maintain passing grades in all subjects and to attend tutorials when necessary or scheduled due to unsatisfactory grade reports.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT-ATHLETES

Participation in athletics is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the sport, to the student body, to the community, and to oneself. Athletes have a unique role to play. Their peers, teachers, and the community are constantly monitoring them. Being under this scrutiny, athletes must have strength of character and be aware of the role they have chosen. They must be certain they present to their peers, teachers, and the community respect, sincerity, and honesty expected of a young lady or gentleman.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES EXPECTED OF GISD ATHLETES:

- 1) Maintain a satisfactory citizenship and behavior record in the classroom and on campus by treating teachers, administrators, and fellow students with respect.
- 2) Maintain passing grades in all classes.
- 3) Exercise self-control and display positive actions during competition and other school activities.
- 4) Have respect for the decisions of the officials during competition.
- 5) Refrain from juvenile behavior in and around the school buildings.
- 6) Be a law-abiding citizen both at school and away from school.
- 7) Display sportsmanship and class when representing Granger ISD.
- 8) Be committed to attending practices, contests, and meetings of any sport that they choose to participate in.
- 9) Abide by training standards/rules established in this handbook and by their coach.
- 10) Complete required UIL and school paperwork prior to participation.
- 11) Use the techniques and skills acquired in this athletic program to become better husbands/wives, fathers/mothers, and productive members of our community.

PARENTING & COACHING – SIDE BY SIDE

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefits to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of the child's program.

COMMUNICATION TO EXPECT FROM A CHILD'S COACH:

- a. Philosophy of the coach
- b. Locations and times of practices and contests
- c. Team requirements, e.g., practices, special equipment, out-of-season conditioning

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS:

- d. Concerns expressed directly to the head coach at an appropriate time (meeting scheduled).
- e. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance (practice, games, doctor appointments, sickness).

MEETINGS WITH COACHES

We strongly encourage communication between parents and coaches; however, we believe there is an appropriate time to do this. To set up a meeting with a coach, parents should understand that the first step should be a player to coach meeting and then contact the coach. If the coach cannot be reached, the parent(s) should contact the Girls Coordinator, then the Athletic Director, to schedule the day and time of the meeting. If the meeting with the coach does not result in a satisfactory resolution, parents should then contact the Athletic Director to set a date and time for a meeting with the Athletic Director. If the meeting with the Athletic Director does not result in a satisfactory resolution, parents should then contact the office of the superintendent, and set up a meeting with Jeni Neatherlin. Approaching a coach before or after team competition or practice is not appropriate. When meeting with a coach, please keep the following information in mind as to what is and what is not appropriate to discuss with the coach.

This information is contained in the University Interscholastic Parent Information Manual can be found at the following link.

https://www.uilTEXAS.org/files/athletics/manuals/Parent_Info_Handbook_22-23.pdf

Parent's: Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach:

- a. The mental and physical treatment of your child
- b. What your child needs to do to improve
- c. Concerns about your child's behavior

We know that it is very difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches' make decisions based on what they believe is in the best interest of all students participating in the sport. As you can see from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those listed next, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues NOT appropriate for discussion with your child's coach:

- a. Any situation that deals with other student-athletes.
- b. How much playing time each athlete is getting, playing time in general.
- c. Team strategy
- d. Play calling.

REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE

The following items must be turned in to the athletic department before participating in any practice or game in any extracurricular activity. The use of

- a. **Physical Examination/Medical History** A physical examination is required every other year for all school students beginning in the 7th grade. Grades 7, 9, and 11 are required by the U.I.L. to complete a physical examination prior to participation. The medical history form must be completed each year prior to participation. If a student was removed from participation by a doctor's order, the student must receive a release from the doctor prior to participation. If a student sustained a serious injury, which required surgery or removal from participation, the student will need to take a physical examination prior to participation. If a student checked "yes" on certain questions on the "Medical History" form a physical examination may be required. The physical examination forms are available from the coaches or the Athletic Trainer. Use only the approved UIL forms to record physical examinations. Club or organization forms will not be accepted.
- b. **Athletic Department Forms Packet**—Can be submitted via RankOne Digital Platform. This packet includes:
 1. **Medical History/Physical Evaluation** (*must have a valid medical history/physical form on file*)
 2. **UIL Forms Signature Page** (*Acknowledgement of Rules, Authorization to Consent, Concussion Acknowledgement Form, Steroid Agreement, Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness, Electronic Signature Agreement*)
 3. **Emergency Card**
 4. **Lion Oath**

Acknowledgement of G.I.S.D. Athletic Handbook/Lion Oath:

The student athlete and the parent/guardian should sign the Handbook Acknowledgement Card. It should then be returned to the athletic department. This shows receipt of the Athletic Handbook and/or acknowledges that the student athlete and parent/guardian will comply with the rules and policies in the Athletic Handbook.

Academic Eligibility:

1. A student in grades 9–12 may participate in extracurricular activities on or off campus at the beginning of the school year only if the student has earned the cumulative number in state approved courses:
 - i. Beginning the ninth-grade year: must have been promoted from the eighth to the ninth.
 - ii. Beginning the tenth-grade year: must have at least five credits toward graduation.
 - iii. Beginning the eleventh-grade year: must have at least ten credits toward graduation or during the preceding twelve months, he/she must have earned five credits.
 - iv. Beginning the twelfth-grade year: must have fifteen credits toward graduation or during the preceding twelve months, he/she must have earned five credits A student participating in U.I.L. activities will be suspended from participation in contest after a grading period in which the student received a grade lower than a 70 on a scale of 100 in any academic class (other than an identified honors or advanced class). This suspension continues for three weeks. The grades will be reviewed at the end of each three-week period; the suspension will be removed if the student is passing all classes with a grade equal to or greater than 70.

Attendance

It is the obligation and responsibility of team members to attend scheduled practices, contests, and meetings regularly and on time. If an unavoidable conflict arises with a practice or contest, one of the coaches should be notified before the workout or game. Failure to make contact prior to the practice, contest, or meeting may result in absence being considered unexcused.

A. Excused Absences:

Excused absences will be made up. The make up for an excused absence is not punishment but is administered so that the athlete can make up missed work and conditioning. Examples of excused absences are illness, a death in the family, school sponsored activities, or emergency situations. **Athletes should understand that when they must**

miss, it is imperative that a coach be notified prior to the absence. The high school phone number is (512) 859-2173. If you cannot reach anyone at the high school number, you may send an email to their respective coach. Athletes should understand that habitual absences, even though they may be excused, become detrimental to their ability to perform and to their knowledge of team concepts. Habitual absences will result in disciplinary actions, including loss of playing time and/or possible suspension or dismissal from the team.

B. Unexcused Absences:

Athletes and parents should understand that failure to notify the coach prior to an absence will usually result in the absence being considered unexcused. Some extenuating situations will be considered an excused absence without prior notification. If there is a question as to whether it is excused or not, the head coach and/or athletic director will make the decision. Unexcused absences will be made up and disciplinary action will be taken.

Disciplinary action for unexcused absences will be as follows:

- a. 1st unexcused absence – make up work plus additional disciplinary exercise.
- b. 2nd unexcused absence – make up work plus suspension from the next contest.
- c. 3rd unexcused absence – dismissal from the sport (Coaches Discretion/Team Policy).

***Unexcused absences will accumulate on a per sport/per season basis.

School attendance for participation is mandatory. In the event of an unexcused absence on the day of a contest, athletes must notify their coach in advance to not miss the opportunity to participate on that given day. Failure to attend school can result in the inability to be able to participate in a contest. Student athletes must be present for a minimum of 4 class periods on a contest day to participate in a contest—unless an excused absence note (Doctors appointment, DMV appointed, etc.) is provided. Failure to attend practice has a direct reflection of playing time and the discretion of that playing time is left up to the head coach of that sport.

Injured/Sick Athletes:

Injured athletes who cannot actively participate in the workout must still follow all the attendance policies. Being injured is not an excuse to miss practice. The injured athlete will be expected to dress out and participate mentally. This is also a time in which they may see the **Athletic Trainer** for treatment. (Some injuries may not allow the athlete to dress out or attend practice. If there is a question, the head coach will make the decision on the athlete dressing out or attending the workout). **If a Granger High School athlete is injured, it is their responsibility to attend morning treatments at the specified time. If the athlete fails to show up for their treatment, they may be required to participate in the daily workout and will be treated as an unexcused absence.**

Academically Ineligible Athletes/ISS Athletes/DAEP Athletes:

All students are required to maintain academic eligibility to participate in school sanctioned competitions per U.I.L. standards. Academically ineligible athletes shall attend and participate in workouts unless excused by the head coach. By attending and participating in workouts, the athlete may represent the team again after they have regained eligibility.

Athletes who are placed in ISS shall attend and participate in after school practices. By attending and participating in workouts, the athlete may represent the team again after they have completed their ISS sentence. Athletes are not allowed to participate in any team game day functions when in ISS. When a student completes their ISS sentence, students regain their participation eligibility the day their ISS sentence is complete, however, Head Coaches do have the ability to put in place a further suspension if deemed necessary by the head coach of that sport.

Athletes who are issued DAEP are not allowed to participate in anything on the normal GISD campus during their placement (practices, competitions, etc.). Upon completion of their DAEP assignment, an athlete will serve a mandatory 1 game/contest suspension in the next athletic contest that takes place in which he or she participates in. Student athletes who are not participating in a sport during the time in which the DAEP placement is issued, will automatically serve that 1 game/contest suspension when their next active sport begins.

Athletic Department Subheadings

Coach's Rule: Head Coaches may establish additional rules and regulations with the approval of the athletic director for their respective sports. These rules must be explained by the coach, and be in writing, at the beginning of the sport season. Copies of all the team rules will be on file in the athletic office.

Consequences:

The head coach of a sport and the athletic director may determine the consequences for failure to follow the policy as outlined above. The consequences are to be equally enforced and continued. Non-compliance can result in being suspended from athletics for a full year. Repeat offenses will result in a disciplinary action that is progressively stricter. Since circumstances surrounding each action may vary greatly, the coaching staff will make every effort to allow the punishment to fit the offense. Punishments extended in similar cases will help guide coaching decisions, but each case will stand independently, and comparisons to punishments extended to other student-athletes are not valid. Parents may schedule a conference with the coach of the sport to discuss punishment assigned to their student-athlete.

Hazing:

Hazing is against the law and will not be tolerated in the athletic program. Hazing means intentional or reckless harassment or action (or knowing of) directed against a student, by one person alone, or acting with others, occurring on or off school property, that endangers the mental or physical health or the safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliated with, holding office in or maintaining membership into any organization whose members are to include other students.

Under Education Code 37.152 a person commits an offense if he/she commits any of the following:

- a. Engages in the act of hazing.
- b. Solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid in hazing.
- c. Recklessly permits hazing to occur.
- d. Has firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident, or firsthand knowledge that a hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report that knowledge in writing to the principal, athletic director, or designee.

Transportation to/from Contest:

Student athlete transportation to Granger Athletic competitions will be provided by Granger ISD and is not optional to contest. Head Coaches of each sport are allowed to determine if they permit after game transportation by a student athletes guardian. Each head coach determines after game transportation request and will generally insist that athletes ride home with their team, however, in rare circumstances head coaches might make exceptions (SAT testing the next morning, family emergencies, transportation issues).

Disciplinary Removal:

If it becomes necessary to consider removing a student from the athletic program, the coach of that team will notify the athletic director. The student will have an opportunity to confer with the coach and the athletic director. Parents will receive notification and will be invited to attend the conference. Participation in Granger Athletics is a privilege and a student athlete's dismissal can be determined based upon various accounts: disrespect to staff, classroom/academic issues, prior record, etc.

DRESS & APPEARANCE/QUITTING/REENTRY

Student athletic participation is voluntary, and by entering the program, the athlete agrees to abide by the spirit, rules, and regulations which pertain to athletes. Every athlete will wear his/her uniform in the same manner; no one will be different. We will furnish equipment, so do not bring personal equipment. To attain a team appearance, no unusual hair colors will be permitted. Both male and female athletes will be neat and clean in appearance.

Proper Dress for All Athletes

- a. The Granger ISD dress code will be in place.
- b. Athletes will adhere to all school policies regarding grooming and hair.
- c. Jewelry (including piercings) is not to be worn by athletes in athletic practices (includes the athletic period) and games.

Quitting a Sport

Quitting is an intolerable habit to acquire. Athletes that quit are “giving up” on themselves and those that depend on them. Commitment to being a Lion and Lady Lion team member is one of the most valuable lessons learned in athletics. Concerns and frustrations can often be worked out with proper communication between the athlete and the coach.

Procedure for Quitting a Sport

1. If an athlete begins participation in a sport, he/she will have two weeks to determine if it is in his/her best interest to participate in the sport (grace period). After two weeks, if the athlete decides to quit the sport, he/she will follow the procedures for quitting.
 - a. Any athlete wishing to quit a sport should notify the head coach first. After meeting with the head coach, if the athlete remains committed to quitting said sport; he or she will abide by the following:
 - i. If an athlete quits a sport, he/she will not be allowed to participate in another sport until the completion of that sport. In addition, the athlete must make sure all equipment and clothing is turned in from that sport and complete the physical requirements expected by the athletic department before starting the next sport.
 - ii. If an athlete quits a sport, he/she may regain participation privileges in that sport the following season by requesting a meeting with the head coach/athletic director.
 - iii. An athlete quitting a sport and not wishing to participate in another sport will be removed from the athletic program and athletic class period. The schedule change will be made as soon as it is possible. In some cases, this change may not be possible until the end of the semester.

Athletic Re-entry Program

If an athlete has quit a sport and then decides that he/she would like to participate in that sport the next season, these steps need to be taken.

1. The student needs to meet with the head coach of the sport in which he/she would like to participate. During this meeting, the coach will go over the expectations and guidelines for their sport. The student must agree with the expectations and guidelines set forth by the head coach of that sport.
2. The student needs to get a course change form from the counseling office. **This form needs to be filled out, signed by the parents, and returned to the head coach of the sport.**
3. The head coach will deliver the course change form to the Athletic Director, who will then send it to the counselor.

CONFLICT IN ACTIVITIES

An individual student who attempts to participate in several extracurricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of conflict of obligations. The athletic department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity to participate in a broad range of experiences. We will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts. When a conflict arises, the sponsors and coaches will work out a solution, so the student does not feel caught in the middle. If a solution cannot be found, the athletic director and principal will make the final decision. Once a decision has been made, the athlete will not be penalized in any way by either faculty sponsor or coach. At no time will it be appropriate for any coach or athletic peer to influence in any way another athlete to limit athletic or academic participation. It should be noted that if an athlete can participate in both extracurricular activities and chooses not to participate in one, the athlete is taking responsibility for missing an athletic competition. This is considered an unexcused absence and may result in the reduction of playing time upon the coach's discretion (playing time may be one game or several; it is solely up to the coach's discretion).

Representing Granger

All athletes represent the community, school, and coaches, so it is expected that all athletes will dress in an acceptable manner on trips and conduct themselves in a proper manner. When missing classes because of an athletic event, it is the responsibility of the athlete to see his/her teacher the day before the missed classes. All work shall be made to the convenience of the teacher. All athletes making a school sponsored trip shall be required to ride in transportation provided by the school to and from the event. Students may return home with parent or guardian when the parent or guardian presents a written request to the coach if team rules permit. Individual sport policies and rules may require athletes to always ride home on the bus; it is the responsibility of the student athlete/parent to make themselves aware of the specific sports traveling procedures. If an athlete is injured in a contest away from home, the above policy may be altered to meet the circumstances.

Vacations

As an athletic program we highly discouraged students and parents from planning vacations during a sports season. We urge parents not to plan their vacations during times when there will be a conflict. In the event of an absence due to a vacation that is unavoidable, an athlete must:

- a) Contact the head coach prior to the vacation.
- b) Be willing to assume the consequences related to their position on the squad as a starter, second string, etc. for the time missed.
- c) The Athlete must understand that he/she could see a reduction in playing time because of missed practice time.
- d) Club sports are sports programs outside the school that are not affiliated with U.I.L. athletics. We feel our athlete's obligations are to their school team first. We will not excuse our athletes to miss a school contest or practice for a club event.

GRANGER ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES

PURPOSE OF THE DRUG TESTING PROGRAM

Granger Athletics has a vital interest in maintaining a positive learning environment that is safe and healthy for all students. To fulfill that purpose and as a proactive measure to keep our schools' drug free, the District is adopting a random drug testing policy for students participating in school-sponsored competitive extracurricular activities. By adopting a random drug testing policy, the Athletic Department desires to:

- (1) To provide for the health and safety of all students/athletes,
- (2) To undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing a legitimate reason for students/athletes to refuse to use illegal drugs,
- (3) Deter students/athletes from using drugs,
- (4) Prevent injury or harm to students/athletes that may arise because of drug use, and
- (5) To encourage students/athletes who use drugs to participate in drug treatment programs. Granger ISD Athletic department will be following the random drug testing policy adopted by Granger ISD. This program is outlined in Granger ISD Student Drug Testing Program.

DRUG POLICY CONSEQUENCES

Any student who tests positive for a drug in a test conducted under the provisions of this policy will face the following consequences. Offenses are cumulative for the duration of a student's attendance during grades 7 through 12.

A. First positive test result.

A conference must be held between the designated Athletic Director, personnel responsible for administering the extracurricular activities the student participates in (if applicable), the student, and the parent or guardian. If applicable, the student will be suspended from participation in all competitive extracurricular activities identified in this policy and will relinquish all parking privileges for fifteen (15) school days. This suspension applies to games/contests. A student under suspension for a first positive result will be allowed to practice his or her sport. To have extracurricular competition privileges reinstated, the student must:

1. Serve a (15) school day suspension from athletic contest/games.
2. Following the expiration of the suspension, submit a letter of intent expressing his/her desire to regain extracurricular competition privileges, as applicable. Failure to meet these requirements within the specified timelines will result in continuation of the suspension until such time as the student completes the requirements outlined above.

B. Second positive test result.

A conference must be held between the Athletic Director, personnel responsible for administering the extracurricular activities the student participates in (if applicable), the student, and the parent or guardian. The student will be suspended from participation in all competitive extracurricular competitions identified in this policy for thirty (30) school days. The student will automatically be tested during each subsequent random drug testing event for one school year. This suspension applies to games/contests. A student under suspension for a second positive result will be allowed to practice his or her sport. To have extracurricular competition privileges reinstated, the student must:

1. Serve a (30) school day suspension from athletic contest/games.
2. Following the expiration of the suspension, submit a letter of intent expressing his/her desire to regain extracurricular competition privileges, as applicable. Failure to meet these requirements within the specified timelines will result in continuation of the suspension until such time as the requirements are completed.

C. Third positive test result.

A conference must be held between the designated Athletic Director, personnel responsible for administering the extracurricular activities the student participates in (if applicable), the student, and the parent or guardian. If applicable, the student will be suspended from participation in all competitive extracurricular activities identified in this policy and will relinquish all parking privileges for fifteen (60) school days. This suspension applies to games/contests. A student under suspension for a first positive result will be allowed to practice his or her sport. To have extracurricular competition privileges reinstated, the student must:

1. Serve a (60) school day suspension from athletic contest/games.
2. Following the expiration of the suspension, submit a letter of intent expressing his/her desire to regain extracurricular competition privileges, as applicable. Failure to meet these requirements within the specified timelines will result in continuation of the suspension until such time as the student completes the requirements outlined above.

D. Fourth positive test result.

The athlete may be removed from the athletic program for the remainder of their high school career.

***End-of-the-year suspensions:**

A student serving a suspension that is not completed at the end of the school year shall complete the suspension during the first semester of the following school year until the entire length of the suspension has been served.

***Refusal to participate:**

Refusal to participate in a drug test after signing the Lion Oath form will result in the same consequences as if the student had received a positive test.

***Academically non-punitive:**

A positive drug test will not affect the student's grade in any curricular class associated with the extracurricular activities. However, if participation in the extracurricular activities is required for the class or affects the student's grade, the student may be required to satisfy participation requirements in alternative ways. The result of the drug tests will not be documented in the student's academic records.

ALCOHOL/TOBACCO POLICY

There will be no use of tobacco products, drinking alcoholic beverages, or use of illegal drugs at any time (calendar year) for those students who desire to take part in the Granger Athletic Program. The consequences for violation are a part of the Granger ISD Discipline Policy.

A. First Offense

An athlete that is served a MIP for possession, under the influence, selling or delivering alcohol at any time will be suspended from competition for five school days, including all school holidays during which a competition is held. If the athlete is active in a sport that has less than fifteen games (meets), a one game suspension will be imposed. A two-game suspension will be imposed for an athlete active in a sport that has fifteen or more scheduled games. If an athlete is in off-season, there will be a practice detention for ten school days and run 10 miles. The practice detention will be prescribed by the coach and approved by the Athletic Director.

B. Second Offense

An athlete that is served a MIP for possession, under the influence, selling or delivering alcohol will result in suspension from competition for 20 school days including all school holidays during which a competition is being held. If the athlete is active in a sport that has less than fifteen games (meets), a four-game suspension will be imposed. An eight-game suspension will be imposed for an athlete active in a sport that has fifteen or more scheduled games. If an athlete is in off-season, there will be a practice detention for twenty school days and run 20 miles. The practice detention will be prescribed by the coach and approved by the Athletic Director.

C. Third Offense

An athlete that is served a MIP for possession, under the influence, selling or delivering alcohol will result in a full calendar year suspension from the athletic program.

D. Fourth Offense

An athlete that is served a MIP for possession, under the influence, selling or delivering alcohol will result in suspension for the remainder of the student's high school career from the athletic department.

Students who are suspended are still required to attend the athletic class and all after school practices.

THEFT

Taking things that do not belong to you, especially from your teammates will not be tolerated. A player caught stealing will be suspended from the athletic program for 10 calendar school days/2 mile run before returning to sport. A second offense will result in suspension from Granger Athletics for 30 calendar school days/5 mile run before returning to sport. A third offense will result in the permanent suspension from Granger Athletics. We ask that students not bring valuables or large sums of money to the dressing room. Keeping lockers locked is always the first step in theft prevention and should be practiced. Granger ISD is not responsible for stolen property.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Any activity that brings disgrace or dishonor to the athletic program will not be tolerated. Such activity may result in dismissal from the program. The consequences are also part of Granger ISD Discipline Policy.

EQUIPMENT/CLOTH

Student Athletes are issued various equipment and uniforms throughout the year. All clothes and equipment issued to a student-athlete are property of GISD. They must be returned or replaced if lost or damaged. All athletic equipment lost will be replaced at the full value of the item. Replacement cost will be paid for any equipment not returned. The wearing of GISD issued athletic clothes is restricted outside of sport and school activities.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Students are responsible for their social media activity (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.). If at any point a student/athlete engages in social media activity that can be construed as inappropriate for a Granger ISD athletic team member, he/she could be subject to dismissal from the athletic program or a punishment that is deemed appropriate by Granger ISD Administration. It is important that athletes and parents understand that each situation is different, and the consequences will vary depending on the circumstance.

AWARD POLICY

U.I.L. rules prohibit athletes from accepting anything of value other than what is listed in its policies. All athletes must strictly adhere to all training, attendance, conduct, discipline, and appearance rules set forth by the athletic department for the entire school year before being considered for an athletic award. All scholastic eligibility rules established by the Granger School Board, the University Interscholastic League and T.E.A. must be met. It must be

clearly understood that only the athletic director and a coach can recommend an athlete for a varsity letter award. Schools are allowed by rule to award one jacket award and one letter, not to exceed \$70.00 in combined value, to a student for participation in a varsity level activity.

CRITERIA FOR LETTERING IN A SPORT

Student athlete must be a member of a Varsity Level sport during that season. Head coaches of each given sport are responsible for submitting their Varsity Eligibility form on file with the athletic department office.

THE LION OATH

I have read the athletic handbook and understand the policies of the athletic program. I agree to follow all rules and guidelines expressed in the handbook. I am ready to make the sacrifices and to provide the effort necessary to make myself and GHS the best we can be.

1. I will strive to follow the following guidelines that exemplify the Lions’ behavior.
2. I will follow all Granger ISD and UIL rules and policies.
3. I will be a leader and will handle all my academic responsibilities.
4. I will have respect for myself and for those in authority.
5. I will not lie or steal.
6. I will not use alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, or other harmful substances.
7. I will always give my best effort.
8. I will not use profanity.
9. I realize the importance of practice, and I will personally strive to participate in 100% of the workouts. I am aware that missed workouts result in make-up the day I return.
10. I will never be out-worked or out-competed.
11. I will always put the interests of the team above my individual interests.
12. I will treat the locker-room as if it were my home away from home. I will keep it neat and always pick it up after myself.

I realize the terms and consequences of quitting.

STUDENT-ATHLETE’S NAME: _____

STUDENT-ATHLETE’S SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____