

Greeneville Middle School

Home of the Greene Devils!

Athletic Department Handbook



To provide Parent and Student Athletes with
Information, Policies, and Procedures
for Greeneville Middle School Athletics

Go Devils!

Superintendent, Steve Starnes

Greeneville Middle School Principal, Dr. Rachel Adams

Greeneville Middle School Athletic Director, Jeremy K. Simerly

Greeneville Middle School

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Greeneville Middle School Athletics website :

<http://gms.gcschools.net/>

- Click on GMS Menu, then Athletics
- Click on individual sport for information

Follow Us on X (Twitter) :

Greeneville Middle School: @GMS_greeneville

Jeremy K. Simerly, Athletic Director: @jeremy_simerly

To Share Sports Scores, Pictures, and Information :

School Website and School Twitter, Megan Wilson: wilsonm@gcschools.net

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III. Athletic Forms (Located at the end of the Athletic Handbook)

A. Athletic Physical Form

- A current athletic physical must be on file with the Athletic Director each year to participate in school athletics.
- Athletic Physicals must be dated April 15th or after each year to be eligible for school athletics.

B. Player and Parent Contract

- Must be returned and on file with the sports' Head Coach before participating in a school sport.

C. Concussion Form

- Must be returned and on file with the sports' Head Coach before participating in a school sport.

D. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Form

- Must be returned and on file with the sports' Head Coach before participating in a school sport.

E. Greeneville City School Board Policy regarding transportation

- Parent permission for school sports activities.
- Must be returned and on file with the sports' Head Coach before participating in a school sport.

F. Proof of Insurance Form

- Must be returned and on file with the sports' Head Coach before participating in a school sport.

G. Greeneville Middle School Equipment Policy

- Must be returned and on file with the sports' Head Coach before participating in a school sport.

H. Medical Card for Student Athletes

- Must be returned and on file with the sports' Head Coach before participating in a school sport.

1. Athletic Director's Welcome

I would like to personally take this opportunity to thank everyone for your support of the many activities and athletic programs here at Greeneville Middle School. Whether you are a parent, teacher, staff member, or simply a Greene Devil supporter, we thank you.

We encourage participation in our educational based athletic programs because it provides our students with important lessons for life such as teamwork, self-discipline, courage, and a positive self-image. With a wide variety of programs, our students can find a place where they can apply their skills and talents as our school continues its rich tradition of success. While we pursue with honor, we understand the ultimate victory is honorable citizenship.

Our school and community have high standards regarding sportsmanship and conduct. We always expect our students and coaches to uphold these standards. I would ask that you, as a spectator, reinforce these standards when you interact with the opposing teams, coaches, and contest officials. The athletic department is grateful to our parents and members of the Greeneville City community who provide unrelenting support, energy, and enthusiasm for our student athletes and coaches.

Jeremy K. Simerly

Athletic Director

Greeneville Middle School

simerlyj@gcschools.net

2. Our Mission

The Greeneville Middle School Athletic programs strive to positively affect the academic, personal, social, and athletic development of each student-athlete in our program by increasing self-confidence, pursuing academic excellence, and improving their overall skills. We provide athletes with a constructive environment that allows them to use sports to develop inner strength and learn life lessons that will prepare them for the future.

Our coaches mentor our young athletes and instill in them values such as character, courage, discipline, confidence, and respect so they can learn to pursue their goals fearlessly, build meaningful interpersonal relationships, and positively contribute to society. Our student athletes strive to be there very best they can be through the way they conduct themselves in competition, in the classroom, and in the community.

3. Purpose of the Handbook

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a practical guide for athletes and parents in regard to the mission, philosophy, standards, rules and expectations of the Greeneville Middle School Athletic program at the middle school level. It is our goal to expose as many students as possible to the benefits derived from participation in education-based athletics at the scholastic level. Further, the experience possible is best served when students, coaches, parents and administrators are informed, have open lines of communication, know what is expected of

them, and truly commit to assuring that the mission and ideals of education-based athletics are aligned with daily practice in the operation of these programs.

4. Athletic Opportunities

Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports	All Year Sports
Cross Country (B) (G)	Basketball (B) (G)	Baseball (B)	Cheer (B) (G)
Football (B) (G)	Wrestling (B) (G)	Softball (G)	Dance (B) (G)
Volleyball (G)		Golf (B) (G)	
Soccer (G)		Track & Field (B) (G)	
		Soccer (B)	

5. Head Coaches

Baseball	Cody Baugh	baughc@gcschools.net
Basketball, Boys'	Andy Barnett	barnetta@gcschools.net
Basketball, Girls'	Jacob Hodge	hodgej@gcschools.net
Cheer	Brianna Allen	allenb@gcschools.net
Cross Country, Boys	Laura Lenker	lenkerl@gcschools.net
Cross Country, Girls	Kelly Lamons	lamonsk@gcschools.net
Dance	Missy Crouch	crouchm@gcschools.net
Football	Todd Pait	paitt@gcschools.net
Golf	Jason Shelton	sheltonrj@gcschools.net
Soccer, Boys	Rustin Jones	Jonesr234@gcschools.net
Soccer, Girls	Rustin Jones	Jonesr234@gcschools.net
Softball	Terrance Johnson	johnsont@gcschools.net
Track & Field	Michael Bowman	bowmanm@gcschools.net
Volleyball	Beth Catron	catronb@gcschools.net
Wrestling	Jason Shelton	sheltonrj@gcschools.net

6. Conference Affiliation

Greeneville Middle School is a member of the Middle 9 Conference and is committed to adhere to the rules and regulations of the organization. Presently, there are six member schools.

- Note that certain sports have additional conference teams in addition to the list below.
- Note that Coaches may play other teams out of the conference as non-conference opponents.

T.A. Dugger Junior High School (Elizabethton City Schools)	Ross N. Robinson Middle School (Kingsport City Schools)
Greeneville Middle School (Greeneville City Schools)	John Sevier Middle School (Kingsport City Schools)
Tennessee Middle School (Bristol City Schools)	Liberty Bell Middle School (Johnson City Schools)
Sullivan Heights Middle School (Sullivan County Schools)	Indian Trail Middle School (Johnson City Schools)

7. Greeneville Middle School Athletic Advisory Committee (GMSAAC)

1. To promote and facilitate communication between athletic administration and student athletes regarding concerns, problems, or suggestions.
2. To provide feedback and insight into athletic department issues
3. To generate a student-athlete voice within the formulation of athletics policies
4. To continually strive for improvement in all aspects pertaining to Greeneville Middle School Athletics (from academics to facilities)
5. To build a sense of community and encourage unity, common purpose, and camaraderie between teams and among all athletes in the program.

Rachel Adams	Principal	adamsr2@gcschools.net
Bryan Everhart	Assistant Principal	everhartb@gcschools.net
Jeremy Simerly	Athletic Director	simerlyj@gcschools.net
Kelly Lamons	Cross Country Head Coach	lamonsk@gcschools.net
Laura Lenker	Cross Country Head Coach	lenkerl@gcschools.net
Andy Barnett	Boys' Basketball Head Coach	barnetta@gcschools.net
Michael Bowman	Track & Field Head Coach	bowmanm@gcschools.net

8. Athletic Training

Greeneville Middle School employs a certified athletic trainer. The athletic trainer works in cooperation with the coaches and student athletes to promote a safe and healthy environment in the athletic program. Student athletes should consult with the athletic coach when sustaining an injury. The athletic coach will then refer student athletes to the athletic trainer when they are injured to receive the proper treatment and direction to get back to play as soon as safely possible.

Concussions and sudden cardiac arrest are major concerns in the realm of sports medicine. All parents, coaches, and athletes should familiarize themselves with the signs and symptoms of each. Parents and student athletes are required to sign off on both a concussion and sudden cardiac arrest form before participating in a sport at GMS.

New student athletes will be required to take a concussion baseline test prior to their first competition. The athletic trainer will administer this exam.

Alisa Fillers fillersa@gcschools.net

II. Policies and Procedures

9. Communication

Communication between your child(s) coach and student athlete is very important.

Coaches will provide parents with their specific means of communication regarding practice, game times, cancellations, etc.

These will include Remind, Twitter, Bright Arrow, Sports App, etc.

10. Players Code of Conduct

1. We do not limit ourselves in any way. All things are possible. You have the potential to become everything you are capable of being.
 2. We intend to promote an environment in which champions can develop and flourish. We recognize the importance of working together.
 3. We take responsibility for all our actions, their consequences, and our own physical and mental preparation.
 4. We keep lines of communication open and attempt to be straight with each other by speaking clearly and directly. One way we do this is by listening carefully to everyone.
 5. Anything worth doing is worth having fun doing it. It is our intention to get as much enjoyment as we can from the team, practice, games, and other team activities.
-

11. Players Pre-Season Requirements

1. All athletes must complete and turn in a current athletic physical to the Athletic Director and / or coaches prior to trying out, practicing, or playing in games with any of the Greeneville Middle School athletic programs.
 2. Players, parents, and coaches must sign the Player / Parent contract form located at the end of the athletic handbook.
 3. The athletic training staff must complete a concussion baseline test prior to playing a sport.
- Tryout dates will be posted on the sports' individual website, announcements, athletic bulletin board, and on the Athletic Director / School Twitter accounts.

12. School, Game, and Practice Attendance

1. Players are required to be on time to every practice, game, and bus departure. It is best practice to always arrive early in order to better prepare for practice, game, game travel, etc. Practice will **START** at the designated time. If you are in school, you are expected by the coaching staff to be at practice unless you have made prior arrangements with the coach. Sending another student, athlete, or any other individual other than your parent with a message that you will be late or not be attending practice is unacceptable. It is the responsibility of the student athlete to communicate with their coach.

2. If you miss school, student athletes must contact their coach before 2:00 p.m. of that day.

Please refer to the coaches' email list in the handbook or on the individual sport website.

3. It has been a Greeneville Middle School policy not to schedule athletic events nights of other school functions such as Chorus or Band concerts. However, some circumstances will not allow for this. In the event that this occurs, the student athlete will need to attend the school function, as this will count towards the student's overall academic grade for this class.

13. Absences (Excused and Unexcused)

Excused Absences

Any student athlete with an excused absence during the school day must be present for at least half of their academic periods. (School starting time until 11:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. until school is complete).

An excused absence from practice or game is defined as any missed practice or game that is excused prior to the absence by the coach. (School Activities, Sickness, Church Activities, Family Emergencies, Funerals, etc.).

For all absences, the coach should be notified before or on the day of that absence, prior to 2:00 p.m.

Unexcused Absences

Any student athlete with an unexcused absence for **ANY** period during the school day will not be allowed to participate in practice or game that evening.

Unexcused absences from practice or game will be defined as any missed practice or game that is not excused prior to the absence by the coach.

14. Suspensions

If a student receives a school suspension, whether an in school or out of school suspension, they **CANNOT** participate in practice and / or games during this suspension period.

If a game or competition is not on the day of the athlete's suspension, the athlete will sit out of the next game that occurs. This will also result in an unexcused absence for that / those day(s).

15. Academic Expectations (Eligibility)

Eligibility

Participation in athletics is a privilege, **NOT** a right. Students can earn the privilege through hard work, dedication, desire, and self-discipline. All students in grades sixth - eighth grade in good academic and athletic standing will be eligible to participate in middle school sports.

Expectations

Student Athletes are expected to maintain passing grades in **ALL** classes (Academics and Related Arts), have good attendance, and good conduct in the classroom. When a student athlete receives a failing grade of an “F” in a class, that student athlete will be placed on academic probation for a period of no less than one week until the grade is brought up to passing standards. This probation lasts no less than one week but ends when the grade is no longer an “F”. Student athletes who are placed on academic probation will continue to practice with the team but will not compete in games during this time. They are encouraged to attend practice and fulfill their teammate duties.

Student Athletes committing a Level III violation or higher resulting in suspension, ASA, or any other punishment are not eligible to participate in practices, games, or team activities until cleared by GMS administration.

Mandatory Academic Tutoring (MAT) and Athletics

Student athletes in the MAT program will have a choice in an A.M or P.M. session. The A.M. session will not impede any after-school sport practice requirements. When a student becomes eligible based on the athletic policy, that DOES NOT excuse them from the MAT program requirements. (Ex. A student athlete is identified for the MAT program, which also qualifies them for academic probation. If a student raises their grades to be off athletic probation, they will still be required to attend A.M. or P.M. MAT sessions.)

16. Academic Grade Policy

The Greeneville Middle School athletic program will conduct grade checks at the 4 ½ and 9 weeks grading period. This will determine the current eligibility of all student athletes who are current in athletic season. Classroom teachers also reserve the right to notify the Head Coach and Athletic Director of a student-athlete that is not performing at any time during the grading period. The Head Coach and Athletic Director will determine eligibility based on the up-to-date PowerSchool gradebook and meeting with that teacher.

- If a student athlete appears on the grade report as having a failing grade, the Head Coach will contact the student athlete to let them know that they are currently ineligible and are placed on academic probation until the grade report is brought up to passing standards.
- If the student athlete’s season goes beyond a grading period in which they were deemed ineligible (ex. A failed class at the 2nd 9 weeks final grading period and the season continues to the 3rd 9 weeks):

1. The student will be ineligible for any games if a break occurs between the 9-week grading period (i.e. Christmas break and holiday tournaments)

AND

2. The student will be on academic probation for no less than one week in the new grading period before deemed eligible by classroom teachers and head coach.

17. Academic Grading Parent Communication

Student athletes and parents **WILL NOT** consistently call or email school staff asking for grades to be changed or work to be graded for eligibility status. Clarification on missing assignments and feedback are appropriate communications. Student athletes are encouraged to be proactive and complete assigned work daily and in a timely manner.

18. Sport Specific Grade Policy

Athletic program Head Coaches may choose to have additional policies in place for student athletes regarding grade requirements and to be removed from the team roster who appear on academic probation for extended periods of time. This would have to be approved by GMS Administration and Athletic Director prior to implementation. If adopted by a program, this would be communicated during the sports' annual parent meeting.

19. Athletic Dress Code

The student athlete's dress code for practice, game day attire, etc. will be chosen by the individual sport coaches and communicated to the student athletes as well as their parents.

20. Equipment

Equipment provided by Greeneville Middle School to each individual player shall be returned at the date and time designated by the sports' head coach.

Players failing to return all loaned equipment after the designated time or who returns damaged equipment will be charged accordingly. In addition, the middle school will be instructed to place a hold on the report card of players failing to return their equipment or remit payment. At the conclusion of the season, a list will be sent to the Athletic Director's office detailing equipment and replacement cost. An inventory will be kept of all equipment distributed for the season (uniforms, equipment, warm-ups, etc.).

See Attachment H, Equipment Policy

21. Practice Duration

If a practice plan is adhered to, most practices should not exceed the time designated by the coach from the practice schedule. We try to take into consideration that athletes have other commitments, such as homework, and fatigue can occur when practice is too long. However, there will be times when practices may exceed the scheduled time, and this will be at the discretion of the Head Coach.

Team practices are closed to family, friends, etc. Practice times are very precious, and the players need this time to focus solely on skill development and game prep.

22. Open Gyms and Weekend Practice

Open gyms & weekend practices may / will occur at times during the season. All players are expected to be at open gyms and practices. These are treated as regularly scheduled practices unless specified by the coaching staff.

Student athletes and parents will be notified in enough time to make appropriate plans to practice if an open gym or weekend practice is scheduled.

If a student athlete will be out of town or is unable to attend, please communicate this with the head coach of their sport.

23. Holidays and Breaks

Practice and competition may occur during school breaks and holidays. If a student athlete will be out of town during practice or competition or is unable to attend, please communicate this with the head coach of their sport.

24. No School, School Cancellations

If school is cancelled due to bad weather, all activities may be cancelled. This is a decision that will be made with the safety of the athlete in mind. The coach of your child's team will notify you and / or your child if there is a cancellation. If school is dismissed early due to bad weather, there will be no practice unless authorized by Greeneville City Schools' Superintendent and or Greeneville Middle School Principal. In the event that bad weather is not the cause of school cancellation, practices will be scheduled accordingly at the discretion of the head coach and Athletic Director.

Player safety will be our number one goal in mind when making decisions regarding cancellations.

25. Transportation

All players will be required to ride to the games on the team bus. However, some athletic programs will carpool to events such as Baseball, Golf, etc. Part of being a team member is riding to athletic contests on the bus together. If a player needs to ride home with her parents or any other parents following a game, that player's parent should complete the required form at the beginning of the season. This form can be located at the end of the athletic handbook.

If the team must wait through a game before or after we play at an away game site, the players are to sit together as a team in an area designated by their coach. Players are to always act appropriately and stay under the supervision of their coach.

See Attachments E. and F. for transportation guidance.

26. Parent and Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are very difficult. By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better able to accept the actions of others and provide a more positive experience for everyone. Parents have the right to know and understand the expectations placed on them and their child.

26a. Communication Parents Should Expect from their Child's Coach

1. Expectations the coach has for your child.
2. Locations and times of practices and contests.
3. Team requirements (i.e., special equipment needed, school & team rules, off-season expectations).

26b. Communication Coaches Expect from Parents

1. Concerns regarding their child, expressed directly to the coach, at the appropriate time and place.
2. Specific concerns regarding the coach's expectations.
3. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.

26c. Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with a Coach

1. The mental and physical treatment of your child.
2. What your child needs to do to improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

26d. Issues NOT Appropriate for Discussion with your child's Coach

1. How much time your child is receiving, should be receiving, or each athlete is receiving
 2. Team strategy
 3. Play calling
 4. Any situation that deals with any other student athlete (unless the situation deals with self-harm or an emergency situation).
-

27. Playing Time

It is our goal in team selection to find opportunities not only for participation, but more importantly, for success. Placing each student athlete at the level where he/she can contribute physically and gain positive feelings from his/her efforts is important to the coaching staff. Disappointments are inevitable when teams are selected, and it is very important that student athletes feel the support of teammates, parents, and coaches.

We believe in our coaches. Their job is to manage and direct a specific sport. Their responsibilities include evaluating and selecting students for teams, as well as determining the degree to which each student-athlete will participate, and they do this with considerable thought and sensitivity. During the selection process, coaches will evaluate skill level, athleticism, physical conditioning, positional play, trainability, punctuality, and various other attributes.

We want our student athletes to learn the value of being on a team and the contribution each must make. Team members have a responsibility to themselves, their teammates, and their coaches to learn and perform their role on the team. Teamwork requires the development of many interpersonal skills such as listening, following directions, accepting constructive criticism, being respectful, and supporting teammates and coaches. Student-athletes have an obligation to participate in practice sessions and games with full commitment and enthusiasm.

Playing time will NOT be discussed with parents.

Student athletes are encouraged to speak to their coach if they have any questions regarding playing time and / or improvement.

28. 24 Hour Rule

1. Wait 24 hours before proceeding. Many times, this ‘cooling off’ period gives you time to reflect and often takes the emotion out of the response. This is good in many ways. Maybe the issue is not as pressing as you thought when you were ‘in the moment’. Perhaps your son or daughter solved the issue on their own. Finally, if you do proceed to meet with the coach or coaching staff it is much more likely to be a productive meeting. In the end, we all want what is best for your child.

2. **NEVER** confront a coach immediately following a competition or practice. This is embarrassing for your child, and almost never is a positive experience for anyone involved.

3. Review the section in this handbook regarding our mission, the role of our athletic program, our values, and what topics are appropriate to discuss. It is vital that we aim for the same target.

4. Call or email your child’s coach and/or Athletic Director during office hours to request a time to meet.

5. In almost every scenario it is best to bring your child with you to the meeting. One of the most frustrating starts to a meeting comes when a parent opens the meeting by stating, ‘please do not tell my child that I am meeting with you, as they have told me that they do not want me to be involved.’ Again, it is their experience. Maybe all that is needed is the parent(s) being there to support their child in communicating what the issue is and assist everyone in working towards a solution.

6. Never rely totally on what you have heard or have been told. There may be more to the story, or your child may have taken what was said the wrong way.

7. Stick to subjects that are appropriate to discuss. These subjects include A). Areas to improve to increase playing time, move to a higher level, etc. B). Discussion of actual or perceived mistreatment. C). Clarification of role.

8. Avoid subjects that are not appropriate to discuss. These subjects include A). Playing time/squad selection – these are determined at the coaches’ discretion. B). Other students – if another student or students are discussed, it is only appropriate that their parents are involved. C. Hearsay or rumors.

9. Follow the communication process beginning with the lowest level. Most issues are solved by simply having your child meet with the coach. The only exception to following the prescribed communication process is to

report unlawful activity or physical abuse. In these circumstances, the parents should immediately contact an Administrator.

10. If an issue cannot be resolved informally, put all concerns or allegations in writing and include as much detail as possible prior to contacting the appropriate party.

If you have an emergency, please contact the Athletic Director, Jeremy K. Simerly, simerlyj@gcschools.net

Formal Communication Process :



29. Illness and Injury

All injuries should be reported to the athletic coach and athletic trainer at the time they occur so further injury can be avoided. If you are injured, remember the following:

- 1.) Tell the athletic coach and athletic trainer that you are injured before leaving practice / game.
- 2.) No matter how small the injury is, get treatment with the athletic training staff.
- 3.) No one should miss practice without a doctor's permission or the advisement of the athletic training staff.
- 4.) Student athletes are expected to attend team practices each day they attend school.
- 5.) Anyone who becomes sick, nauseated, dizzy, and / or hot should notify the coach and / or athletic trainer immediately.

For Athletic Trainer Information, please see Section 7, Athletic Training.

The Athletic Director will be notified of all serious injuries.

These injuries will require an accident report to be completed.

30. Insurance

Greeneville Middle School carries a secondary insurance policy with TSSAA that helps cover the cost of medical treatment of injuries sustained from school sponsored athletic events after the payment by the primary insurer.

- Injuries must be reported to the athletic trainer and paperwork filled out to receive the benefits of this insurance upon injury occurring.
- All requests should be emailed to the Athletic Director, Jeremy K. Simerly, simerly@gcschools.net
- All injuries should be reported to the athletic coach and athletic trainer at the time they occur so further injury can be avoided.

See 29. Illness and Injury

31. Sportsmanship

Greeneville Middle School believes that sports programs serve educational purposes in the lives of the students. One of these purposes is the development of good sportsmanship. The primary focus of the challenge of achieving good sportsmanship is on the student athlete, but others are involved.

Administrators and coaches shall practice good sportsmanship. Student athletes will be taught good sportsmanship and be held accountable for their actions. Spectators will be reminded and encouraged to be appropriate role models for young people. Greeneville Middle School will support staff and administrators who enforce sportsmanship rules at athletic and other competitive events, including evicting students or adults who violate school system policy.

Expectations

Individuals who are involved in athletic activities that represent Greeneville Middle School should make every effort to meet the following expectations:

School Administration

- Provide appropriate supervisory personnel for athletic events
- Recognize exemplary behavior and actively discourage undesirable conduct by participants, coaches, and fans
- Show commitment to students and school activities by regular attendance at school events
- Apply sportsmanship policies and rules equitably
- Be prepared to address fan and participant behavior at both home and away events

Coaches

- Accept decisions of officials
- Avoid offensive gestures and language
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat
- Avoid public criticism of game officials

Student-Athletes

- Always show respect for coaches, opponents, and game officials
- Accept the decisions of contest officials
- Avoid offensive gestures or language
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat
- Show respect for public property and equipment
- Remember that as a participant, you represent Greeneville City Schools

Spectators

- Avoid criticism and harassment of game officials and coaches
- Appreciate good performances by opposing players and teams
- Respect and show appreciation for coaches
- Stay off the playing area
- Show respect for public property and equipment
- Take part in cheers with the cheerleaders
- Work cooperatively with school officials and supervisors in keeping order

Cheer, Dance, and Band

- Know the contest rules and perform at the proper times
- Encourage support for any injured player
- Show respect for opposing players and cheerleaders, game officials, and spectators
- Lead positive cheers and praise for your team
- Show respect for public property and equipment

Appropriate Behaviors

- Applause during introduction of athletes, coaches, game officials
- Handshakes between participants and coaches at end of contest
- Applause at end of contest for performances of all participants
- Everyone showing concern for an injured athlete
- Showing respect for another school's logos, banners, Alma Mater, etc.
- Spirit leaders leading fans in positive manner

Unacceptable Behaviors

- Using disrespectful, taunting, or derogatory yells, chants, songs, or gestures or any cheers that gloat in victory
- Singling out individuals on an opposing team for derogatory or insensitive treatment
- Doing own yells instead of following lead of cheerleaders
- Using hand-held signs containing derogatory language or pictures
- Throwing of any objects onto or near the field of play

- Displays of temper with an official's call
- Using yells to antagonize opponents
- Refusing to shake hands or to give recognition for good performance
- Unauthorized visiting of other school's rooting section
- Using profanity or displays of anger that draws attention away from the game

Promotion of Sportsmanship

1. Sportsmanship Plan presented to every student athlete at a pre-season team meeting by the head coach.
 2. Pre-season Parents Meeting in each sport where the Sportsmanship Plan is explained, and expectations are listed
 3. Game programs will contain language reminding all involved with the event to practice good sportsmanship
 4. Sportsmanship Plan explained and expectations listed at booster club meetings
 5. Codes of Conduct signed by players and parents
 6. Pre-game messages by PA announcer promoting good sportsmanship
 7. Sportsmanship plaques may be presented to a deserving student-athlete at each sports awards program.
 8. Instances of failure to meet expectations will result in disciplinary action and failure to correct negative behavior could result in possible suspension from athletic events
-

32. Fan Ejection

Policy Statement

Behavior Expectations: All fans attending GMS athletic events are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship, respect for all individuals, and appropriate behavior. Any disruptive or unruly behavior will not be tolerated.

Grounds for Ejection

The following behaviors may result in a fan being ejected from a GMS athletic event:

- Profane language or gestures
- Verbal or physical harassment of athletes, coaches, officials, or other spectators
- Throwing objects onto the field or court
- Violation of any applicable state or local laws
- Any other behavior deemed disruptive or harmful to the event
- Athletic game official ejection

Ejection Process

- When an incident occurs that requires fan ejection, a designated event official or security personnel will identify the fan and issue a warning, unless under the direction of the head referee in which the fan can be ejected from the contest without warning.
- If the disruptive behavior continues after a warning, the fan will be ejected from the event and escorted out of the premises by security or designated personnel.

Consequences of Ejection

- Fans ejected from a GMS athletic event may not attend any GMS athletic event for a period of one week from the date of ejection and will be charged the \$250 fee by TSSAA. If the ejected fan does not pay the TSSAA charged fee, they will not be allowed back to a Greeneville Middle School athletic event for that school year or until paid.
- Note that TSSAA fees may change depending on the severity of the action.
- Note that suspension from Greeneville Middle School athletic events can be overturned by the school's Principal.

Appeals

- Ejected fans who believe they were unfairly ejected may appeal the decision by contacting the GMS administration within 24 hours of the ejection. The appeal will be reviewed by the GMS Administration and Athletic Director, and a decision will be communicated to the fan within three days.

Compliance

All fans attending GMS athletic events are expected to adhere to this policy. Failure to comply may result in ejection, as well as further disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the school administration.

By adhering to this ejection policy, Greeneville Middle School aims to maintain a positive and welcoming atmosphere for all participants and spectators at its athletic events.

33. Discipline

Disciplined athletes will be the cornerstones of the Greeneville Middle School Athletic Program. Players will conduct themselves in a professional manner reflective of our program. Stealing, fighting, and other prohibited activities, whether in or out of school, will not be tolerated. Any player found in violation of this will either be suspended or removed from the team. A player can be dismissed from practice for behavior detrimental to the team. Should this happen more than once, the Athletic Director will be contacted, and the player could be suspended or removed from the team. Depending on the severity of the infraction, this could result in immediate dismissal from the team.

34. Anti-Hazing Policy

Hazing is prohibited at Greeneville Middle School and will not be tolerated on our athletic teams. Everyone is considered equal on his or her individual team. Hazing is a practice that diminishes the integrity of individuals and their teams, activities, and organizations. Hazing occurs when an action is taken against a person for the purpose of initiation or admission into that organization or team where the action results in either humiliating, intimidating, demeaning, or endangering the physical/mental health of the person. Any player found in violation of this policy will either be suspended or removed from the sports team.

35. Substance Abuse and Tobacco Policy

Any student athlete found to be in violation of the school's substance abuse and tobacco policy will be automatically suspended from all team activities including practice, games, tournaments, etc. while the reported offense is under review by the coach, athletic director, athletic committee, and school administrators. Greeneville Middle School reserves the right to impose disciplinary action or other conditions, which it considers in its discretion, appropriate to the circumstances of any violation.

This may include suspension from the athletic team for the remainder of the season, as well as expulsion from the athletic program for the remainder of the school year.

36. Social Media Policy

Greeneville Middle School Athletics is dedicated to graduating champions for life by developing leaders through competition, academic achievement, diversity, and community service in the pursuit of personal excellence. Student-athletes should recognize that as representatives of our school they are held to a high standard of behavior.

Greeneville Middle student athletes are not restricted from using social media sites. However, student-athletes must understand that any content they make public - regardless of privacy settings - via social websites is expected to follow acceptable social behaviors and also to comply with Greeneville City Schools / Greeneville Middle School Athletics rules and regulations.

The following guidelines outline the expectations of every student athlete in regard to social media:

- Understand and follow the rules of each particular social media site.
- Do not post anything private, confidential or sensitive.
- Do not post comments that attack a student-athlete, coach or athletic administrator from Greeneville Middle School or another institution.
- Do not post information, photos, or other representations of sexual content, harassing language, inappropriate behavior or items that could be interpreted as demeaning or inflammatory.

In an effort to guide social media practices, the Department of Athletics suggests the following:

- Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. Social media websites are NOT a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions.
- Think twice before posting. If you would not want your parents, family, coaches to see your post, do not post it!
- Remember the Internet is permanent. Even if you delete something on the Internet, it still exists out there somewhere.
- Remember many different audiences will see your posts, including fans, children, student-athletes, parents, staff, faculty, etc.
- Be honest, respectful, and positive.

- Be professional and polite.
- Be accurate. If you make a mistake, own up to it and correct it quickly.
- Remember coaches and administrators monitor social media websites.
- Remember potential future employers use social media websites to screen candidates. Your career path can be directly impacted by your actions on social media websites.
- Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image that you can be proud of years from now.
- Use the privacy/security settings made available on social media sites.

Violation of the student athlete social media policy may result in one or more of the following disciplinary actions:

- Meeting with the Athletic Director, and/or the Head Coach, and/or GMS Administration.
 - Requiring removing the unacceptable content.
 - Deactivating the social media profile.
 - Temporary suspensions from the team until the prescribed conditions are met.
 - Suspension from the team for a prescribed period of time.
 - Indefinite suspension from the team.
 - Dismissal from the team.
-

37. Sports Banquet

The head coach may schedule a banquet at the conclusion of each season to honor participating athletes. This will be a semi-formal event, and the parents are encouraged to attend. The date of this banquet will be determined at a later date and sent out to the parents / players as the season is concluded.

38. Booster Club and Fundraising

All members of the Greeneville Middle School Athletics family may engage in fundraising projects for the good of our student athletes. Parents have the opportunity to get involved with these projects through individual booster clubs for each sport. All fundraisers should be brought to the Athletic Director's attention; with the proper fundraiser form being completed. Once this form is submitted, it must be approved by the Athletic Director, GMS Principal and GCS Director of Schools before the fundraiser can begin.

Fundraising is not required by any student athlete in order to participate in a sport at Greeneville Middle School. Greeneville Middle School Athletic Boosters members and contact information are located on the Greeneville Middle School Athletic website.

39. Reminder

The coach reserves the right to take additional disciplinary action against players violating policies located in the Athletic Handbook.

The School Administrators, Athletic Director, and Athletic Committee will handle exceptions and rulings on an individual basis as they occur and are brought to the attention of the group.

We realize that every possible event or circumstance that could potentially go wrong / happen during the season may not be covered in this handbook. Events and clarifications not covered in this handbook will be resolved at the discretion of the head coach in collaboration with the Athletic Director and Athletic Advisory Committee.

We apologize if we have overlooked some things; please feel free to bring it to our attention.

40. Attachments

A. Physical Form

- (A current physical must be on file with the Athletic Director each year in order to participate in school athletics).
- Physicals must be dated on or after April 15th each year.

B. Player and Parent Contract

- Must be returned and on file before participating in a school sport

C. Concussion Form

- Must be returned and on file before participating in a school sport

D. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Form

- Must be returned and on file before participating in a school sport.

E. Board Policy regarding transportation

- **Parent permission for school sports activities, transportation Form**
- Must be returned and on file before participating in a school sport.

F. Proof of Car insurance Form

- Must be returned and on file before participating in a school sport.

G. Greeneville Middle School Equipment Policy

- Must be returned and on file before participating in a school sport.

H. Medical Card for Athletes

- Must be returned and on file before participating in a school sport.

B. Greeneville Middle School Athlete Player & Parent Contract

To inform the parents or guardians, as well as student athletes, of the regulations governing participation in Greeneville Middle School Athletics, we ask you to read the Greeneville Middle School Athletic Handbook and return this form with your signature.

My son/daughter and I have read the Athletic Department Handbook and are familiar with the rules governing his/her participation. As a Greeneville Middle School athlete, I agree to follow the stated policies and rules of this athletic handbook.

As a parent/guardian, I agree to work with the Athletic Department to reinforce the stated policies and rules of this athletic handbook with my son/daughter.

_____ Print Name of Student-Athlete

_____ Signature of Student Athlete

_____ Date

_____ Print Name of Parent / Guardian

_____ Signature of Parent / Guardian

_____ Date

A copy of this contract will be placed in a file maintained by the coach for each athlete during the season.

*** Page to be removed from Athletic Handbook and given to the GMS Head Coach**

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C. Concussion Information (Parent to Keep)

For additional information, please see the TSSAA Link below. This includes additional information regarding concussion protocol and includes **Return to Play Form**.

<https://cms-files.tssaa.org/documents/tssaa/health-safety-information/TSSAA-Concussion-Policy-9-29-2025.pdf>

Protocol for schools when players exhibit signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion during practice or competition.

1. Continue to monitor players for possible signs of injury as usual.
2. Remove any player that shows signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion from the activity or competition.
3. The school shall have the player examined by the school's designated health care provider. If the designated health care provider determines that the student has not sustained a concussion, the player may return to the activity or competition.
4. The head coach shall be responsible for obtaining clearance from the school's designated health care provider.
5. If the school does not have access to a designated health care provider, or if the school's designated health care provider suspects that the athlete may have sustained a concussion, the only means for an athlete to return to practice or play is for the student to be evaluated and cleared by a licensed medical doctor (M.D.), Osteopathic Physician (D.O.) or a Clinical Neuropsychologist with Concussion Training.

The person clearing the student must complete and sign the "TSSAA Concussion Return to Play" form.

Schools must keep this form on file.

What Is a Concussion?

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury -or TBI caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or by a hit to the body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. This fast movement can cause the brain to bounce around or twist in the skull, creating chemical changes in the brain and sometimes stretching and damaging the brain cells.

How Can I Help Keep My Children or Teens Safe?

Sports are a great way for children and teens to stay healthy and can help them do well in school. To help lower your children's or teens' chances of getting a concussion or other serious brain injury, you should:

- Help create a culture of safety for the team.

- Work with their coach to teach ways to lower the chances of getting a concussion.
- Talk with your children or teens about concussion and ask if they have concerns about reporting a concussion.
- Talk with them about their concerns; emphasize the importance of reporting concussions and taking time to recover from one.
- Ensure that they follow their coach's rules for safety and the rules of the sport.
- Tell your children or teens that you expect them to practice good sportsmanship at all times.
- When appropriate for the sport or activity, teach your children or teens that they must wear a helmet to lower the chances of the most serious types of brain or head injury. However, there is no "concussion-proof" helmet. So, even with a helmet, it is important for children and teens to avoid hits to the head.

How Can I Spot a Possible Concussion?

Children and teens who show or report one or more of the signs and symptoms listed below-or simply say they just "don't feel right" after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body-may have a concussion or other serious brain injury.

Signs Observed by Parents or Coaches

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Forgets an instruction, is confused about an assignment or position, or is unsure of the game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows mood, behavior, or personality changes
- Can't recall events prior to or after a hit or fall

Symptoms Reported by Children and Teens

- Headache or "pressure" in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness, or double or blurry vision
- Bothered by light or noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Confusion, concentration, or memory problems
- Just not "feeling right," or "feeling down"

C. Concussion Form (To be turned into Head Coach)

Student-athlete & Parent/Legal Guardian Concussion Statement

Must be **signed and returned** to school or community youth athletic activity prior to participation in practice or play.

Student-Athlete Name: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Name(s): _____

After reading the information sheet, I am aware of the following information:

Student-Athlete initials		Parent/Legal Guardian initials
	A concussion is a brain injury which should be reported to my parents, my coach(es) or a medical professional if one is available.	
	A concussion cannot be "seen." Some symptoms might be present right away. Other symptoms can show up hours or days after an injury.	
	I will tell my parents, my coach and/or a medical professional about my injuries and illnesses.	N/A
	I will not return to play in a game or practice if a hit to my head or body causes any concussion-related symptoms.	N/A
	I will/my child will need written permission from a <i>health care provider*</i> to return to play or practice after a concussion.	
	Most concussions take days or weeks to get better. A more serious concussion can last for months or longer.	
	After a bump, blow or jolt to the head or body an athlete should receive immediate medical attention if there are any danger signs such as loss of consciousness, repeated vomiting or a headache that gets worse.	
	After a concussion, the brain needs time to heal. I understand that I am/my child is much more likely to have another concussion or more serious brain injury if return to play or practice occurs before the concussion symptoms go away.	
	Sometimes repeat concussion can cause serious and long-lasting problems and even death.	
	I have read the concussion symptoms on the Concussion Information Sheet.	

* *Health care provider* means a Tennessee licensed medical doctor, osteopathic physician or a clinical neuropsychologist with concussion training

Signature of Student-Athlete

Date

Signature of Parent/Legal guardian

Date

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D. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information (To be turned into Head Coach)

Athlete/Parent/Guardian Sudden Cardiac Arrest Symptoms and Warning Signs Information Sheet and Acknowledgement of Receipt and Review Form

What is sudden cardiac arrest?

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is when the heart stops beating, suddenly and unexpectedly. When this happens, blood stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs. SCA doesn't just happen to adults; it takes the lives of students, too. However, the causes of sudden cardiac arrest in students and adults can be different. A youth athlete's SCA will likely result from an inherited condition, while an adult's SCA may be caused by either inherited or lifestyle issues. SCA is NOT a heart attack. A heart attack may cause SCA, but they are not the same. A heart attack is caused by a blockage that stops the flow of blood to the heart. SCA is a malfunction in the heart's electrical system, causing the heart to suddenly stop beating.

How common is sudden cardiac arrest in the United States?

SCA is the #1 cause of death for adults in this country. There are about 300,000 cardiac arrests outside hospitals each year. About 2,000 patients under 25 die of SCA each year. It is the #1 cause of death for student athletes.

Are there warning signs?

Although SCA happens unexpectedly, some people may have signs or symptoms, such as:

- fainting or seizures during exercise;
- unexplained shortness of breath;
- dizziness;
- extreme fatigue;
- chest pains; or
- racing heart.

These symptoms can be unclear in athletes, since people often confuse these warning signs with physical exhaustion. SCA can be prevented if the underlying causes can be diagnosed and treated.

What are the risks of practicing or playing after experiencing these symptoms?

There are risks associated with continuing to practice or play after experiencing these symptoms. When the heart stops, so does the blood that flows to the brain and other vital organs. Death or permanent brain damage can occur in just a few minutes. Most people who experience SCA die from it.

Public Chapter 325 – the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act

The act is intended to keep youth athletes safe while practicing or playing. The requirements of the act are:

- All youth athletes and their parents or guardians must read and sign this form. It must be returned to the school before participation in any athletic activity. A new form must be signed and returned each school year.

D. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information (To be turned into Head Coach)

- The immediate removal of any youth athlete who passes out or faints while participating in an athletic activity, or who exhibits any of the following symptoms:
 - (i) Unexplained shortness of breath;
 - (ii) Chest pains;
 - (iii) Dizziness
 - (iv) Racing heart rate; or
 - (v) Extreme fatigue; and
- Establish as policy that a youth athlete who has been removed from play shall not return to the practice or competition during which the youth athlete experienced symptoms consistent with sudden cardiac arrest
- Before returning to practice or play in an athletic activity, the athlete must be evaluated by a Tennessee licensed medical doctor or an osteopathic physician. Clearance to full or graduated return to practice or play must be in writing.

I have reviewed and understand the symptoms and warning signs of SCA.

Signature of Student-Athlete

Print Student-Athlete's Name Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Print Parent/Guardian's Name Date

E. Greeneville City Schools' Board Policy, Private Vehicles (Parents to Keep)

Greeneville City Board of Education			
Monitoring: Review: Annually, in October	Descriptor Term: Private Vehicles	Descriptor Code: 3.404	Issued Date: 03/24/05
		Rescinds: 3.404	Issued: 12/01/04
1	The Board recognizes that certain employees may need to use their private vehicles for school purposes.		
2			
3	The Board also recognizes that students enrolled in certain classes (e.g. yearbook, school newspaper) may		
4	occasionally need to use their personal vehicle during the school day to conduct school-related business.		
5			
6	The Board also recognizes that in emergency situations and/or special circumstances parents and other		
7	individuals may volunteer to transport students in their private vehicles for school purposes.		
8			
9	All rules pertaining to employees will apply to non-employees.		
10			
11	With the use of private vehicles, the following policy shall be observed:		
12			
13	1. To use a private vehicle for school purposes, the person must have permission of an appropriate		
14	school representative, (central office or school administrator, athletic director, or head coach) and		
15	provide proof of his/her valid driver's liability insurance coverage.		
16			
17	The Board carries insurance; however, the driver of a professional vehicle can't be relieved of his/		
18	her personal liability.		
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E. Parent Permission for School Sports Activities Transportation

(To be turned into Head Coach)

Dear Parent or Legal Guardian :

Your son/daughter is eligible to participate in a school-sponsored sport activity requiring transportation in private vehicles to a location away from the school building. This activity will take place under the guidance and supervision of coaches. If you would like your child to participate in this sports activity, please complete, sign, and return the following statement of consent. As parent or legal guardian, you are responsible for any legal responsibility, which may result from any personal actions taken by the named student.

Option 1 :

I hereby request that my child, _____, be allowed to be transported to/from school sports activities by private vehicles. I understand that this event will take place away from the school grounds and that my child will be under the supervision of sports coaches.

Signature of Parent / Guardian

Date

Option 2 :

I hereby request that my child, _____, not be allowed to be transported to/from school sports activities by private vehicles. I understand that this event will take place away from the school grounds.

Signature of Parent / Guardian

Date

- i. I acknowledge that Greeneville City Schools is not responsible for any claims, liabilities, or damages arising from transportation in private vehicles, and I release and hold harmless the district and its employees from any such claims.
- ii. I understand that any private vehicle used is not owned or operated by the district, and that the driver's personal automobile insurance is primary in the event of an accident.
- iii. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless Greeneville City Schools, its agents, and employees from any liability, loss, or expense arising from my participation in this transportation arrangement.

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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F. Greeneville Middle School Proof of Car Insurance for Carpooling (To be turned into Head Coach)

In order to drive students other than your own child to/from sports activities, you must provide the school with proof of car insurance. This proof must be always kept up to date. Please check the appropriate statement below, sign where indicated, and attach proof of car insurance if necessary.

Option 1 :

_____ I am attaching to this form a copy of my automobile insurance card or the declarations page from my insurance policy and agree to transport students other than my own child to school-sponsored sports activities away from school premises.

The card I am submitting has a currently valid expiration date.

[Please note that you will be asked to submit a new card during the sports season if and when your current card expires.]

Option 2 :

_____ I have not previously nor am I now submitting proof of car insurance. I will not drive students other than my own child to/from school-sponsored sports activities away from the school premises.

_____ My child participated in a sport earlier this school year and I previously submitted proof of car insurance. I certify that my insurance coverage has not changed since my earlier submission. *[Please note that you must submit a new card if the card you previously submitted has expired.]*

I have submitted my proof of insurance to : _____.

Parent / Guardian Signature

Signature Date

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G. Greeneville Middle School Equipment Policy (To be turned into Head Coach)

Initial Issue - Practice Clothing / Equipment

Team sports equipment and/or uniforms will be issued by the Greeneville Middle School coach. Student Athletes must have a complete Athletic Physical on file to receive equipment. Parents and Student Athletes must complete the Athletic Equipment Policy: Student Responsibility form prior to a student receiving his/her items. If at any time during the current season a student should leave the team, he/she is responsible for the return of all team items issued within five school days.

General Equipment Policy

- Athletic equipment is the property of Greeneville Middle School and is to be used solely for the purpose of competing in an athletic program. It is not to be used for any other purpose other than team games / practice.
- Student Athletes are responsible for all lost or stolen items.
- The altering of team-issued clothing is strictly prohibited. If this occurs without the approval of the team coach, your student athlete will be billed automatically for a full replacement of the item(s).

Final Return of Equipment

- All issued items must be returned at the requested time. Generally, the return date will be the first or second day after the last contest. The GMS coach will confirm the date and time for the final return of equipment.
- If a student athlete is unable to be present for the final return of equipment, he/she will have five (5) days to return to the school office. After five (5) days, the parents will be billed for missing equipment items.
- Student Athletes quitting the team prior to the end of the season are responsible for returning all items issued within five (5) days of the date he/she quits the team.
- A student will not be reissued equipment for the next season or for another sport until all items have been returned and/or equipment has been paid for.
- All uniform items must be returned, washed and cleaned. Students accept responsibility for team items ruined by washing or drying. Items ruined by washing or drying will result in a student being billed automatically for a full replacement.

Agreement

We understand the expectations and terms of use for Greeneville Middle School's Athletic Equipment and Student Athlete policy. We accept full replacement responsibility for the issued team items should anything become lost, stolen, or damaged.

Student Signature: _____

Date : _____

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____

Date : _____

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H. Greeneville Middle School Medical Emergency Card (To be turned into Head Coach)

Greeneville Middle School | Office of Athletics



Medical Card for Athletes

This card should be kept on file for the coach for each sport.

This should accompany the athlete to the doctor or hospital when medical attention is required

Student Name		Date of Birth	
Street Address		City	State Zip
Home #	Mother's Work #	Father's Work #	Cell #
Family Physician	Physician's Phone #		Hospital Preference
Other Medical Information (allergies, etc.)			
I _____ give permission to treat my child in event of an emergency. (parent name, please print)			
_____ (Parent Signature)			