

GREENE COUNTY ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



REVISED: JULY 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Purpose	4
Profile	5
Ticket Prices	6
Athletic Behavior	7
Code of Ethics-Athletes	7
Code of Ethics-Coaches	8
Expectations of Spectators	9
How can I Help	10
Athlete/Parent/Coach Communication Process	11
Parent/Coach Communication	11
Attendance Policy for Athletic Participation	13
Athletes Going From One Sport to Another	14
Awards/Lettering	14
Budget	15
Coaching Expectations	16
GHSA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS GRADES 9-12	17
Equipment	18
Equity in Sports Act	19
Facilities	20
Insurance	20
Injuries	20
Inventory	21
Media	21
Multiple-Sport Athletes	21
Officials	21
Parent Meeting	22
Physical Examinations	22
Purchase Orders	22

Schedule.....	23
School Colors	23
Supervision	24
Transportation and Travel.....	24
Tryouts and Team Selection.....	25
Weight Training Room.....	26
Social Media	27
Heat Guidelines	28
Reporting Scores	29
Parent's Consent to Participate Form	31
Student/Parent Concussion Awareness Form	32

INTRODUCTION

The Athletic Department is an integral part of the educational environment of Greene County High School. We believe that athletics has a major role in the development of our young people physically, as well as mentally. Participation in the athletic program is a privilege granted to the young men and women of our school in return for compliance with certain rules and regulations. Athletic competition adds to the GCHS spirit and helps all students, spectators as well as participants, develop pride in their school and community. Every student athlete, through their public participation, is an ambassador of our school and community. We expect excellent behavior from all of our student athletes both on and off the playing field. All student athletes will adhere to the BOE Student Code of Conduct.

The Athletic Department at GCHS provides a comprehensive program of team and individual sports opportunities – including football, basketball, cross country, volleyball, baseball, soccer, flag football, track, and cheerleading.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Greene County High School Athletic Handbook is to provide coaches, student athletes, and parents/guardians with the necessary information to make the athletic experience a rewarding one for all involved. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the rules and regulations which govern the GCHS Athletic Program. In addition, each coach and student-athlete is responsible for adherence to the rules and regulations of the Georgia High School Association (www.ghsa.net).

PROFILE

Greene County High School (GCHS) offers athletic opportunities for students in grades 9 through 12 on varsity, junior varsity and Middle School level.

GCHS currently sponsors the following activities for the fall, winter, and spring seasons:

FALL

VARSITY

Cheerleading
Cross Country (B & G)
Volleyball
Football

WINTER

VARSITY

Basketball (B & G)
Cheerleading
Wrestling

SPRING

VARSITY

Baseball
Golf (B & G)
Soccer (B & G)
Track (B & G)

Middle School

Football

Volleyball

Cheerleading

Cross
Country

Middle School

Basketball (B)

Cheerleading

Wrestling

Middle School

Baseball

Soccer

Track

***** Junior Varsity teams may be formed whenever we have the needed number of participants.**

***** Teams will be sponsored depending on the interest of student athletes.**

***** 8th Graders may participate on JV sports at GCHS with the discretion of the Varsity Coach. An 8th grader may not displace a GCHS athlete in the 9th-12th grade.**

**GREENE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
TICKET PRICES
2021-2022**

VARSITY FOOTBALL	\$8.00	All tickets sold online
J.V. FOOTBALL	\$5.00	All Tickets sold online
Volleyball	\$5.00	All Tickets sold online
WRESTLING	\$5.00	All Tickets sold online
BASKETBALL	\$6.00	All Tickets sold online
SOCCER	\$ 5.00	All Tickets sold online
BASEBALL	\$5.00	All Tickets sold online
Track	\$5.00	All Tickets sold online

***** ALL TICKETS WILL BE SOLD on GO Fan APP and No cash will be taken at the gate.**

***** Playoff game prices are set by the GHSA. Playoff ticket prices will be release for the post season. Prices above are regular season only.**

*****NOTE: Ticket prices may increase without notice.**

ATHLETIC BEHAVIOR CODE

A mission of the Greene County Schools athletics program is to teach and reinforce in student athletes values relating to wholesome competition, good sportsmanship, and fair play. It is expected that spectators reinforce these values by exhibiting appropriate behavior at athletic events. A condition of entry into a Green County Schools athletic event is that all spectators agree to recognize the event as an extension of the learning process, and that all present have the responsibility to model appropriate behavior. The event is a unique opportunity for spectators to be a part of a positive and productive learning environment and to model behavior appropriate to an athletic contest.

- Expectations for Spectator Behavior:
- APPLAUD players for their efforts
- ACCEPT the decisions of officials
- APPRECIATE participants for their commitment
- SUPPORT school personnel in conducting an orderly and spirited contest
- MAINTAIN composure when breaks seem to go against your team
- RESPECT the rights of other spectators
- REWARD sportsmanlike behavior through cheering
- FOCUS attention on positive aspects of competition
- ENCOURAGE players by showing enthusiasm and positive recognition
- DEMONSTRATE concern for the welfare of athletes

Remember . . . these young men and women are students and not professional athletes. They will make errors in the course of competition, as will the game officials and coaches. However, all participants are trying their best. Negative criticism and booing will not help them to improve and are unacceptable forms of expression at athletic events. You can assist in their development as athletes by focusing attention on the positive aspects of their performance. Your cooperation is important and appreciated.

Please remember that most of all, it is the duty of all parties concerned with high school athletics to remember that each individual athletic contest is only a game and should be kept in that perspective.

CODE OF ETHICS-ATHLETES

The Varsity Head Coach should make sure all athletes understand the Code of Ethics. All coaches must enforce on a consistent basis the expectations set on the code of ethics.

The athlete is expected:

- To conduct themselves in a mature fashion at all times.
- To display a sense of pride and commitment when representing GCHS

- To respect the facilities of host schools and the trust entailed in being a guest.
- To be a positive role model for other students and athletes in academics, language, dress, behavior, both on and off the playing area. Remember that a student athlete assumes a leadership role and that younger students emulate their behavior.
- To be a positive role model to other students and athletes by not attending nightclubs, or other places of entertainment, which serve alcohol.
- To be respectful of those in authority.
- To attend school regularly and be punctual to class.
- To always be a good sport and demonstrate self-control and mutual respect at all times.
- To use self-discipline in coping with stressful situations.
- To avoid the use of profanity, abusive language or gestures in dealing with opponents, officials or spectators.
- To abstain from the use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco at all times.
- To accept decisions of officials without question.
- To accept victory with grace and defeat with dignity; poor winners or losers do a disservice to themselves. A true sportsman does not offer excuses for failures.
- To avoid displays of self-glorifications and always put the team first.
- **PLAY FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME.**

Violators of this code are subject to suspension/dismissal from the team.

CODE OF ETHICS-COACHES

The function of a coach is to properly educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. The interscholastic program is designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each child should be treated as though they were the coach's own and their welfare shall be uppermost at all times.

- **The coach** must be aware that they have a tremendous influence, either good or bad, on the education of the student athlete and thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest desirable ideals of character.
- **The coach** must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with the student athlete, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the Georgia High School Association, the media, and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
- **The coach** shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse and under no circumstances should authorize its use.

- **The coach** shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct their program in harmony with the total school program. **Any coach** who directly or indirectly pressures the student athlete not to participate in the entire interscholastic program will jeopardize their position as a coach in this program.
- **The coach** shall be thoroughly acquainted with the contest rules, and is responsible for their interpretation to team members. The spirit and letter of rules should be regarded as mutual agreements. The coach shall not try to seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.
- **Coaches** shall actively use their influence to enhance sportsmanship by their spectators, working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.
- **Contest Officials** shall have the respect and support of the coach. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which will incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.
- **Before and after contests**, rival coaches should meet and exchange friendly greetings to set the correct tone for the event.
- **A coach** shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give student athletes special consideration.
- **It is unethical** for coaches to scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the region and/or state high school athletic association.
- **A coach** shall facilitate and support the desires of the student athlete's academic, athletic, civic, and spiritual growth.
- The **Head Coach** should attend all practices and games/events. Any exceptions to this must be approved by the Athletic Director
- **Coaches** are personally responsible for any fines he/she received from GHSA

EXPECTATIONS OF SPECTATORS

All Greene County school community members are expected to behave responsibly while at school and while participating in athletic contests at GCHS and/or during school events at other campuses. During the season, student athletes must conform to several Athletic Department policies as outlined in this handbook.

The spectator is expected:

- To conform to accepted standards of good sportsmanship and behavior.
- To show respect and positive support for officials, coaches and players, prior, during and after the game.
- To recognize that good sportsmanship is more important than victory by approving and applauding good team play, individual skill, and outstanding
 - examples of sportsmanship and fair play exhibited by either team.
- To participate in cheers that support, encourage and uplift the teams involved.
- To understand that school athletics is an extension of the classroom, offering learning experiences for the student athletes.
- To treat visiting teams and officials as guests, extending every courtesy. Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
- To understand that schools are responsible for the conduct of their respective spectators **whether home or away**.

Violators of this code are subject to eviction from the event and possibly being banned from future events at GCHS.

How I Can Help My Child's Athletic Experience

- Allow your child to perform and progress at a level consistent with their ability. Athletes mature at different ages and some are more gifted than others.
- Teach your child to enjoy the thrill of competition and that improving skills and attitude are important.
- Don't relive your athletic life through your child! This creates added pressure that your child does not need. This is your child's experience, let them enjoy it.
- Don't compete with the coach. Keep in mind that they are balancing the development of your child with the growth and progress of an entire athletic team. Often coaches have many considerations that are not obvious to parents.
- Remember, young athletes tend to exaggerate when being praised and/or criticized. Temper your reaction until you investigate.
- An athlete's self-confidence and self-image will be improved by support at home. Comparison to others is discouraged. Encourage the athlete to do their best regardless of family or friends who may have been outstanding players.
- Insist on positive behavior in school and a high level of performance in the classroom.
- Numerous studies indicate extracurricular involvement helps enhance academic performance.
- Get involved. There are many ways parents can be involved with their child's sports program. Ask coaches how you can help, he/she are always looking for people to help in supporting roles, such as working during a game or volunteering time to help prepare pre-game meals, etc.
- Show sportsmanship by treating all players, coaches, officials, and opponents with respect. Most students will simulate your actions.

ATHLETE/PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION PROCESS

It is our expectation that communication will be encouraged and maintained between and among parents, student athletes and coaches. Parents are entitled to answers to legitimate questions regarding their child's performance and/or status. We understand during the season, concerns may arise. Our philosophy at GCHS is that we are student athlete advocates. The following communication process will be followed:

- **Player** meets with the coach to discuss concerns/issues, *if unresolved...*
- **Player**, parent meets with the coach for further discussion, *if unresolved...*
- **Player**, parent, and the coach meet with the Athletic Director for further discussion, *if unresolved as a last resort...*
- **Player**, parent, coach, and Athletic Director meet with the Building Principal

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

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 benefit to the student athlete. 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 regarding your child's program.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child, as well as all the players on the squad.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements (i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning).
5. Procedures should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that result in the denial of your child's participation.

Communication coaches expect from parents:

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts *well in advance*.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your children become involved in the program, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. **Coaches are professionals.** They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other topics, such as those listed below, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:

1. Team strategy.
2. Play calling.
3. Playing time.
4. Team position
5. Other student-athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, the procedure you should follow:

1. Call or email to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, email or call the Athletic Director at 706-453-2271
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

THE NEXT STEP

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call or email to set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation

Eddie Hood, Greene County
Schools Athletic Director
Eddie.Hood@greene.k12.ga.us
(706)453-2271

2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

1. A student athlete must be in attendance for at least a half day in order to participate in a practice or game.
2. A student athlete that has been assigned to OSS or ISS may not participate in a practice or a game until the OSS/ISS has been satisfactorily completed. (Out-of-school suspension is effective from the time the disposition is assessed until the beginning of the first day that the student is back in school). Students may NOT participate in athletic events if he/she has been assigned to ISS on that school day. ISS begins the morning of the first day and ends the next school morning provided that all work has been satisfactorily completed.
3. A student athlete who goes on a field trip is not considered absent.
4. All student athletes are required to attend all scheduled team practices and contests unless specifically excused for medical, religious, or other reasons deemed appropriate by the coach and/or athletic director.
5. Student athletes should be prepared to practice on weekends and during school vacations. Outside commitments that restrict practice attendance on weekends and during school vacations are not acceptable. Student athletes who miss practice will be subject to discipline by the coach. This policy does not apply to absences for religious reasons.
6. Student athletes cannot miss practices or events to attend other extra-curricular activities. This is one of the sacrifices student athletes must make and is essential to team building.
7. It is recommended that parents plan vacations so as not to conflict with their son's/daughter's participation on a team.

ATHLETES GOING FROM ONE SPORT TO ANOTHER

Whenever students enlist in the athletic program by joining or trying-out for a specific team, they assume a responsibility and commitment to that team and coach. Dropping out of a sport is discouraged. Dropping a sport and subsequent transferring to another sport shall be governed by the following guidelines:

1. No changing of teams will be allowed after the second week of a season or after the final cut has been made on the team being dropped or the team to be joined.
2. A student athlete who is dismissed from a squad for disciplinary reasons (i.e.: violation of the code of conduct, insubordination, excessive unexcused absences, etc.) shall not be allowed to participate in another sport for the remainder of the sports season or until the period of suspension expires. If an athlete quits a team before the season ends he/she may not begin a new sport until the prior sport season has ended, unless the athlete discusses the reason for leaving with the coach of the first sport and the coach agrees that this is in the best interest of the athlete and the team.
3. If the student athlete loses equipment, s/he will have to pay for it **before** they start the new sport. When the student athlete is cleared from their previous sport, s/he can begin the new sport. **The student athlete may not begin a new sport until s/he is released from their previous sport.**

AWARDS/LETTERING

All first and second year athletes in a particular sport will be awarded a certificate of participation or a letter if the coach of that sport determines that an athlete has contributed enough to earn a varsity letter. All third year athletes of a particular sport will earn a varsity letter. All fourth year athletes will earn a bar. Each year after earning a varsity letter an athlete will earn an additional bar for their letter. Individual awards given to athletes will be determined by the coach of that sport.

- Students must buy a letter jacket in order to receive a free letter. Students that want a letter after lettering must pay 10.00 per letter.

Patches – Patches are awarded for:

- Region Championships and Runner Up
- State Championship
- Individual State and Region Championships

Academic Awards – Each sport will be required to award at least one competitive academic award.

Additional Awards – Each coach is at liberty to present additional awards at the team awards Ceremonies. Coaches are responsible for ordering and purchasing these awards and setting the criteria for these awards.

BUDGET

The Head Coach of each sport will submit a yearly budget to the Athletic Director. This budget will reflect the needs for all teams in the particular sport. Fall and Winter sports are expected to submit their budget no later than two weeks after their season has ended prior to the budgeted year. Spring sports will submit their budgets no later than April 15 each year.

Each sport in the Greene County Athletics Program is afforded a budget for operational expenses. Our budgets are derived from two primary sources: gate proceeds and booster club donations. Items to be taken into account include but are not limited to the following:

- Uniforms
- Officials
- Entry Fees
- Equipment (varies by sport and by need each year)
- Transportation
- Security

Administrative Costs will be handled by the Department to include the following:

- Banquets and Awards in part and with help from the Booster Club.
- Gate Personnel
- Departmental dues for Region and State
- GHSA dues
- Publications (rules books, directories, etc...)
- Postage
- Miscellaneous Hardware
- Medical Supplies

COACHING EXPECTATIONS

All athletic programs at GCHS are governed by the rules and regulations of the Georgia High School Association (GHSA). It is the responsibility of each coach, and especially each Varsity Head Coach, to see that all rules and regulations are followed at all times. The Varsity Head Coach will be in control of the athletic event in which they are the Varsity Head Coach and will report directly to the Athletic Director, who in turn, reports to the Principal. School Administration is in control at all activities in the school. Head Coach must be present at all practices and team events/games/contest. ANY exception to this must be approved by the Athletic Director. All fundraisers must be approved by the AD and Principal prior to beginning any fundraising event. Please make sure the AD has a copy of any information, notes or memos sent home to parents.

ASSISTANT COACH MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

- To carry out the aims and objectives of the athletic program as outlined by the Varsity Head Coach.
- To instruct student athletes in individual and team fundamentals, strategy and physical training necessary for them to realize a degree of individual and team success.

SPECIFIC DUTIES:

- Coach and instruct the team in proper fundamental skills, constantly upgrading to the fullest technical skill level, to enable the athlete to compete in the best manner possible against opponents. Every athlete should be exposed to a progressive conditioning program. Be consistent, fair, and act in a non-prejudiced manner with every team activity.
- Know, observe closely, and enforce the GHSA regulations regarding scholastic eligibility requirements for students to participate in athletics.
- Thoroughly familiarize yourself with and explain to your athletes the GHSA rules and regulations regarding amateur status, eligibility, nutrition, supplementation, alcohol, and tobacco.
- Arrange organizational meetings for sports candidates.
- Discuss, distribute, collect, and enforce the Rules-Regulations.
- Return eligibility lists to the Athletic Director by the predetermined date.
- Insure that team members behave in an appropriate, responsible manner at all events.
- Strive to help each participant develop self-discipline and appropriate behavior.
- Cooperatively work with the Athletic Director in regard to team scheduling, bus departure times, and assignment of officials.
- Adhere to the schedule set forth by the GHSA for start/end dates, practice and limits of participation.

- Provide issuance of equipment, the care and maintenance of the equipment and maintain a complete inventory of all athletic equipment. Make sure all equipment is stored and cared for daily.
- Compile a team roster in a timely fashion for distribution.
- NEVER LEAVE A STUDENT ATHELETS UNSUPERVISED AT ANYTIME.
- Ride with the team to and from athletic contests.
- Explain to the athletes, before the season, requirements for earning a varsity letter in your sport.
- Provide for collecting equipment at the end of the season and the completion of an inventory, noting which equipment needs repair or should be discarded.
- Submit budget requests by the predetermined date for equipment and supplies for the following year to the Athletic Director.
- Select student managers and instruct them in their responsibilities and conduct.
- Cooperatively with the trainer, oversee issuance and use of first aid supplies.
- SUPERVISE LOCKER ROOM ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES.
- Act in a reasonable and prudent manner showing concern for the health and welfare of the athletes in your care. Attempt to foresee the possibility of a hazardous situation and take action to correct it.
- Never use student/athlete assistance for personal gain with the promise of reward in any fashion.
- Perform all other duties as may be delegated by the School/System Administration.
- In cooperation with the Athletic Director and Trainer, develop, teach and practice an appropriate Emergency Action Plan for your facility.
- Take necessary steps to make sure all staff members are certified in CPR and the operation of the Automated External Defibrillator.
- Use the "Chain of Command." Handle all issues at the lowest level possible, but ALWAYS communicate infractions and discipline with the Athletic Director.

GHSA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS GRADES 9-12

Every Varsity Head Coach is responsible for familiarizing himself/herself with the state and county eligibility requirements and assuring the local administration that there are no violations. Every Varsity Head Coach, in conjunction with the local school Athletic Director, must complete eligibility papers.

Eligibility must be in the G.H.S.A. office **20 days** before the first date allowed for competition by the G.H.S.A. Every coach should read and be very familiar with the G.H.S.A. Constitution and By-laws and State Policy concerning eligibility and follow the directions carefully. All coaches should familiarize themselves with Greene County eligibility standards.

For transfer students, coaches need to be sure the information listed below is correct:

- Who did he/she live with and where did he/she live prior to moving to the Greene school district?
- Exact date he/she moved and who he/she moved with.
- Where he/she now lives and with whom?

To be eligible for high school competition, students must satisfy the following requirements:

1. **First year students - Rising 9th graders** are eligible academically. Second semester first-year students must have passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units the previous semester in order to participate.
2. **Second year students - Rising 10th graders** must accumulate five (5) Carnegie units in the first year, and passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units in the previous semester.
3. **Third year students- Rising 11th graders** must accumulate eleven (11) Carnegie units in the first and second years, and passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units in the previous semester.
4. **Fourth year students - Rising 12th graders** must have accumulated seventeen (17) Carnegie units in the first three years, and passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units in the previous semester.

Loss of Eligibility: Student assigned to an alternative school or on out-of-school suspension for disciplinary reasons, or adjudicated to YDC, lose their eligibility. Suspension is considered to have ended when the student is physically readmitted to the classroom.

EQUIPMENT

It is important to emphasize to all student athletes their responsibility as team members to take good care of school equipment and report any abuses to their coach or Athletic Director. Replacing or repairing equipment is expensive.

1. Athletic Department issued equipment is to be worn only during practice and interscholastic contests, or with the permission of the coach. At no time are student athletes to wear school issued equipment or uniforms for:
 - a. Physical education classes.
 - b. Work or job.
 - c. Social events.
2. A student athlete may wear their entire uniform, uniform top or game jersey only under the direction of their coach.

3. Each student athlete is solely responsible for all the equipment and uniform components signed out in their name. Lost, stolen or intentionally damaged uniforms or equipment must be replaced at the student athlete's expense.
4. A student athlete must immediately report any loss, theft or damaged equipment or uniform to their coach. Lost, stolen, or intentionally damaged uniforms or equipment must be replaced at cost. Cost may include replacing a complete set when items cannot be replaced individually. The student athlete is notified in writing of the amount they owe.
5. All uniforms and equipment must be returned in good condition and on the date specified by the coach, or the student athlete will be charged the replacement cost. Compensation is ***required regardless of whether or not the student athlete still has the item! Student athletes will not be permitted to practice or tryout for another sport until the school is compensated for all unreturned items.***
6. Each Varsity Head Coach is directly responsible for the care and control of all equipment used in their program.
7. Each Varsity Head Coach must establish a system to distribute and collect athletic equipment.
8. The Varsity Head Coach is ultimately responsible for the issuing of equipment to all team personnel. However, each coach must have the knowledge to ensure properly fitting equipment.
9. All coaches must instruct players in the proper use, care (cleaning), and maintenance of their equipment at the time of issue.
10. All coaches must periodically inspect and review the equipment issued to the student athletes to ensure safety. Equipment may break or deteriorate and become unsafe during the year. Coaches are required to replace unsafe or defective equipment. Facility hazards should be reported to the Athletic Director immediately.

All **equipment purchases** should follow this procedure:

- Varsity Head Coaches or their designee should contact several vendors to insure the lowest cost for the needed items. Single item purchases over \$500.00 should be accompanied by bids from three vendors.
- A purchase order form should be filled out and signed by the Athletic Director and the Principal prior to placing the order. Funds should be available in appropriate account prior to order being placed.
- When items arrive, the Varsity Head Coach or their designee should verify contents for quality and quantity shipped.
- The new item(s) is logged on the inventory form.
- When vendor invoice arrives, the Varsity Head Coach will approve for payment.

EQUITY IN SPORTS ACT

The GCHS Athletic Director has been assigned to render decisions regarding

complaints relating to sex equity issues.

Parents and/or the student may contact the Athletic Director to complete the appropriate form for filing a complaint.

1. Once filed with the Athletic Director, a written decision will be made within 30 days.
2. A copy of the decision will be provided to the complainant.
3. A complainant has the right to appeal the decision to the local board of education within 35 days of the date decision.

FACILITIES

The supervision and care of all facilities is a part of the overall public relations effort of the individual Varsity Head Coach. Supervision must be provided by an adult anytime students are in the dressing rooms or using other school facilities.

Members of the faculty may not give permission for non-school use of school facilities. No keys are to be loaned or duplicated except by permission of the Principal and/or the Athletic Director. No student manager is to have keys.

The Varsity Head Coach is responsible for checking out all aspects of the physical facilities on which games are to be played at least five days before the first contest. This check should include such things as: scoreboard, lights, field equipment, dressing rooms, rest rooms, safety or stadium seats, press box, public address system, benches, fences, gates, goals, setting up game field's ,courts etc.

INSURANCE

A student athlete must have adequate health insurance in order to be allowed to participate in school athletics. The Athletic Department will purchase a supplemental school accident policy. This policy will only pay after the students personal insurance has paid. This policy only pays a portion of bills, so all students are encouraged to have a personal insurance policy.

INJURIES

It is the Varsity Head Coach or their designee's responsibility to see that all injuries are attended to. Injuries, regardless of how minor, should be reported to the Varsity Head Coach.

If the injury only requires more than basic first aid treatment, the injury should be

reported to the Athletic Trainer. The Varsity Head Coach must communicate with the Athletic Trainer on what step the athlete needs to take in order to restart participation. Student athletes with injuries that require medical attention should be sent to the doctor of the student athlete's choice. In case of an emergency the Head Coach should call 911 and contact the parents of the injured athlete.

The Varsity Head Coach must follow up immediately or after practice/athletic contest. Student athletes who are transported to a medical facility should be accompanied by a coach or designated school personal.

INVENTORY

A yearly up-to-date inventory must be on file with the Athletic Director. The inventory will greatly enhance the budgeting process for the next year. All inventories should be submitted within two weeks following the completion of the last contest.

MEDIA

The Varsity Head Coach is solely responsible of informing the media of their schedules, scores, tournaments, special recognitions, etc. Varsity Head Coaches should make arrangements with the media in order to secure proper recognition for team and individual accomplishments. All programs must have a twitter account and use Max Preps to post their schedules.

MULTIPLE-SPORT ATHLETES

All Greene High School student athletes, parents, and coaches should understand the importance of the multiple-sport athlete to our program. We support, encourage, and allow student athletes to participate in one, two, or three seasons as they so choose.

It should also be understood that students who are finishing one athletic season while tryouts are in progress for another season will be given special consideration and an opportunity for a delayed tryout. However, it is the duty of the athletes to discuss this with their coaches well in advance. All athletes should complete one sport before starting another sport.

Injury, illness, and other special situations will be taken into consideration as well, but must be authorized by the Varsity Head Coach and Athletic Director. At no time should a coach encourage a student athlete to specialize in one or more specific programs. All coaches will support the multiple-sport concept.

OFFICIALS

The Varsity Head Coach and or Athletic Director will initiate contact with the officials' associations of his choice or those that are assigned by GHSA and provide them with the necessary information concerning the contests. All officials must be properly licensed by the G.H.S.A. Written contracts must be made with the officials' association and must be verified by Athletic Director and signed by the Head Varsity Coach and Principal.

In the case of cancellations, the Athletic Director/Varsity Head Coach will contact the officials. A safe place for officials to meet away from spectators should be provided for pre-game, half-time and at the conclusion of the athletic contest.

PARENT MEETING

Each Varsity Head Coach will meet with the parents of their team to explain details of the upcoming season and what is expected of the student athletes and from the coaching staff. The Varsity Head Coach will outline their philosophy, practice schedule, game schedule, tryouts, making the team, etc.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

1. All student athletes who participate in competitive interscholastic athletics and cheerleading shall have an annual physical examination prior to participation in any tryout, practice or conditioning, whichever comes first.
2. The physical examination form shall indicate approval for participation and be signed by a doctor of medicine or by a doctor of osteopathy, or a physician's assistant.

The physical examination form shall also include the date the exam was performed (month, date, and year), the student's name and the physician's signature.

The form **must** be on file for all athletes in the Athletic Director's office ***prior*** to participation. Physicals taken after April 1 of the previous year are good for the entire subsequent school year. Although the athletic department may offer dates for athletes to receive physicals, it is the responsibility of the athlete to get a physical.

PURCHASE ORDERS/

MONEY COLLECTION

Coaches must follow these procedures when ordering equipment and supplies:

- Needed items must be given to the Athletic Director for approval, including price, quantity of items and vendors name and address.
- The Athletic Director will give the Items to be ordered to the bookkeeper which will get approval from the principal for his signature.
- If PO is not approved, Athletic Director will call a meeting with the coach and Principal if necessary for discussion.
- Principal will sign PO's only after the Athletic Director has approved it.
- After approval, A.D. or coach will take it to the bookkeeper, available money will be verified, and a check will be written for the amount on the purchase order form.
- **If you purchase anything without an approved PO, you will be responsible for the expense.**

When collecting money, be sure to write a receipt for all money collected. The money should be turned in to school bookkeeper with a receipt sheet. (See bookkeeper for receipt sheets) When you turn the money in be sure to get a receipt from the bookkeeper so you have proof of turning the money in. Money collected should never be left in your classroom/office or taken home. All money collected should be turned in each day.

SCHEDULE

It is the Varsity Head Coach's responsibility to coordinate a varsity and /or sub-varsity schedule for the sport. The G.H.S.A. handbook should be strictly adhered to when scheduling events. The school calendar should be considered when making schedules. Whenever possible, coaches should hold travel to a minimum and try to avoid playing games on holidays.

Contracts for athletic events will be made and filed with the Athletic Director. Rescheduling will be done by the individual Varsity Head Coach with the approval of the Principal and Athletic Director.

No contest should be canceled or rescheduled without contacting the building Athletic Director or Principal.

SCHOOL COLORS

Greene County High School colors are Black and Vegas Gold. To continue and honor our “Tiger Pride” all athletic uniforms worn by our student athletes must have black and gold as the predominant color. **All uniforms must be approved by the Athletic Director before ordering.**

SUPERVISION

Varsity Head Coaches are responsible for the student athletes under their supervision and should be present and in control of the activities taking place while student athletes are under their care. All coaches’ responsibilities start at the arrival time the student athletes have been instructed to report for practice, games, meets (home or away), and ends when the last student athlete has left. Since the coaches are required to remain until all student athletes have been picked up, transportation arrangements by parents needs to be done in advance. Parents should be on time for pick up after athletic contests and practices.

TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL

Trip Tracker - All transportation is the Varsity Head Coach’s responsibility. It is the Varsity Head Coach’s responsibility to make sure all rules and regulations of buses are followed. During an away contest the following procedures should be followed:

1. While visiting another school, student athletes representing GCHS should dress and act appropriately at all times. Student athletes are expected to travel to contests in appropriate attire as dictated by the Varsity Head Coach. Coaches inform team members of the appropriate travel attire at a pre-season meeting or on the first day of practice.
2. Student athletes are strongly advised not to travel with expensive jewelry, large amounts of cash, or other valuable items. A student athlete who does so is solely responsible the safekeeping of these items. GCHS or the host school will not be responsible for damage, loss or theft.
3. Student athletes should bring just enough money to pay for meals required during the trip. All teams are not required to stop for a meal after every away contest. Varsity Head Coaches will consider time and/or location, when deciding to stop for an after contest meal.
4. Transportation to all athletic contests is provided by the school via school bus. All student athletes and support personnel must travel to and from the contest on school transportation. Student athletes are not permitted to drive themselves, drive other students, or ride with other students to athletic contests. Exceptions may be granted for some circumstances, and only if a written request is made to the coach by the parent/guardian before the trip. The request for exception will be judged individually and may or may not be granted.
5. Student Athletes are expected to be ready to board the bus at the time designated by the Varsity Head Coach. Coaches are instructed not to wait for tardy student

athletes. Habitually tardy student athletes may face disciplinary action by the Varsity Head Coach.

6. Occasionally, a team travels overnight for a contest or tournament. Student athletes are held to all school policies for the duration of the trip. Essentially, the student athlete will be “on school grounds” for the entire trip, and any violation of school policy triggers the appropriate disciplinary action by the school. If a student athlete disrupts the team or is a danger to themselves or others, the parent or guardian is called and the student athlete is sent home.

Each Varsity Head Coach is responsible for arranging transportation to away games for their particular sport. At least 15 days prior to the game/event, a Bus Request Form must be completed and turned into the Transportation Director. This form which includes information regarding the departure time, return time and number of buses needed. A copy of the arrangements will be provided to the Athletic Director.

If a game/contest/meeting is canceled, the Varsity Head Coach of the game/contest/meeting will notify the Transportation Director at 706-453-4115, and the Athletic Director over your sport.

Transportation back to the school following away contests must be provided by the Varsity Head Coach. Written permission from a parent/guardian must be given to the Varsity Head Coach or their designee in order for their student athlete to return home by transportation other than that provided by Greene County School System.

TRY OUTS AND TEAM SELECTION

Our philosophy of athletics is driven by a desire to see as many students as possible participate in the athletic program at Greene County High School.

We encourage coaches to select as many student athletes as possible without compromising the integrity of their sport. Time, space, facilities, equipment, athletic ability and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport. However, when developing procedure in this regard, Varsity Head Coaches will strive to maximize the opportunities for student athletes without diluting the quality of the programs. Choosing the members and captains of an athletic team is the sole responsibility of the Varsity Head Coach.

Prior to trying out, the Varsity Head Coach will provide the following information to all candidates for the team:

- ☐ Extent of the tryout period.
- ☐ Criteria used to select the team.
- ☐ Number of students to be selected.
- ☐ Practice commitment for those who make the team.
- ☐ Game commitments.

Sports are competitive and team rosters are limited. All students who try out may not be selected for the team. In all possible situations, student athletes will be told by the Varsity Head Coach or their designee when they have been cut. If circumstances dictate, rosters of the student athletes who made the team may be posted at a location designated by the Varsity Head Coach.

It should be noted that making a Junior Varsity or a B team does not mean that the student athlete will automatically make a Varsity team in the future. The student athlete will have to tryout each year to earn a position on a Varsity team.

There may be some overlapping of sports seasons. Student athletes who are participating in a previous season's sport may not quit that sport to practice in another. There is no penalty or disadvantage in the second sport because of this rule.

The goals of the tryout process are as follows:

- ☐ To judge the relative ability of the student athletes and determine which student athletes are likely to contribute the most to the program.
- ☐ To select the student athletes that will benefit the most from the experience.
- ☐ To maintain a roster size that maximizes practice and playing opportunities for all participants.
- ☐ To maintain a roster size that can be properly uniformed and equipped within the financial constraints of the Athletic Department budget.
- ☐ Students may be removed or excluded from participating in extracurricular activities as deemed necessary by the school principal based on academic and conduct standings. Student enrolled in alternative settings for discipline concerns will not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities until the student completes one semester with good conduct after being enrolled in the alternative setting. Students may petition the school principal for a waiver to participate immediately after the being enrolled in the alternative setting.

Georgia High School rules require that, in order to be eligible to participate and/or try-out for an athletic contest, a student must be enrolled at the school seeking eligibility or, in the case of 8th grade student, must be enrolled in a feeder school. Students who are "planning" to move to Greene County, but who are not yet enrolled in the system, are not eligible to try out for any GHSA sponsored activity until they are actually enrolled in school.

In addition, middle school students participating in JV high school sports cannot displace high school students on a given team. In other words, if high school team membership is reduced at any time during the official Georgia High School Association season, middle school students will be "cut" first. The principal must approve all 8th grade participants prior to tryouts at the JV level.

WEIGHT TRAINING ROOM

Statement of Student Responsibilities for Weight Room Use

1. No loitering.
2. No horse playing.
3. Follow designated work-out, rules and schedule.
4. Only exercises from the approved list of exercises should be used (developed by the strength coach).
5. All injuries should be reported immediately.
6. All free weight exercises should be spotted by a person or persons physically able to assist with the weight.
7. Do not bang weights.
8. All weight equipment should be checked before being used by the student athlete to make sure it is in working order and it is safe to use. Immediately report any equipment malfunctions to a coach, supervisor, attendant, or instructor.
9. Clothing appropriate for weight lifting should be worn: athletic shoes, socks, properly fitted shorts, t-shirt. Jewelry and loose fitting clothing are prohibited. Towels are essential for wiping down equipment before use.
10. The student athlete should warm-up before attempting lifts with heavy weights.
11. Lifting belts should be worn for any exercise when the back is not supported.
12. All weights should be returned to the racks when they are not in use. Do not remove weights from lifting area.
13. No food or drink is allowed in the weight room.
14. No unattended personal equipment (books, book bags, clothing, etc.) should be left in the weight room.
15. No student athletes will be allowed in the weight room without proper adult (school) personnel.

Use of Proper weight lifting techniques is essential for student safety.

Social Media

Playing and competing for the Greene County High School is a privilege. Student-athletes at GCHS are held in the highest regard and are seen as role models in the community. As leaders you have the responsibility to portray your team, your School and yourselves in a positive manner at all times. Sometimes this means doing things that are an inconvenience to you, but benefit the whole team. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other social media sites have increased in popularity globally, and are used by the majority of student- athletes here at GCHS in one form or another.

Student- athletes should be aware that third parties - - including the media, faculty, future employers and recruiters, officials - - could easily access your profiles and view all personal information. This includes all pictures, videos, comments and posters. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the student-athlete, the athletic department and the School. This can also be detrimental to a

student- athlete’s future and employment options, whether in work, college, professional sports or in other industries. Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions or presentations of the following:

- Photos, videos, comments or posters showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco e.g., no holding cups, cans, shot glasses etc.
- Photos, videos, and comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.
- Pictures, videos, comments or posters that condone drug-related activity. This includes but is not limited to images that portray the personal use of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.
- Content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another institution; taunting comments aimed at a student-athlete, coach or team at another institution and derogatory comments against race and/or gender). No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, illegal drug use).
- Content online that would constitute a violation of recruiting (examples: commenting publicly about a prospective student-athlete, providing information related to sports wagering activities; soliciting impermissible extra benefits).

Heat Guidelines

GHSA By-Law 2.67 – “Practice Policy for Heat and Humidity”

Schools must follow the statewide policy for conducting practices and voluntary conditioning workouts in all sports during times of extremely high heat and/or humidity that will be signed by each head coach at the beginning of each season and distributed to all players and their parents or guardians. The policy shall follow modified guidelines of the American College of Sports Medicine in regard to:

1. The scheduling of practices at various heat/humidity levels
2. The ratio of workout time to time allotted for rest and hydration at various heat/humidity levels
3. The heat/humidity level that will result in practice being terminated

A scientifically approved instrument that measures Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) reading must be utilized at each practice to ensure that the written policy is being followed properly.

WBGT READING	ACTIVITY GUIDELINES & REST BREAK GUIDELINES
-----------------	---

UNDER 82.0	Normal activities --Provide at least three separate rest breaks each hour of minimum duration of 3 minutes each during workout
82.0 -86.9	Use discretion for intense or prolonged exercise; watch at-risk players carefully; Provide at least three separate rest breaks each hour of a minimum of four minutes duration each.
87.0 – 89.9	Maximum practice time is two hours. For Football: players restricted to helmet, shoulder pads, and shorts during practice. All protective equipment must be removed for conditioning activities. For all sports: Provide at least four separate rest breaks each hour of a minimum of four minutes each
90.0--92.0	Maximum length of practice is one hour, no protective equipment may be worn during practice and there may be no conditioning activities. There must be 20 minutes of rest breaks provided during the hour of practice.
OVER 92	No outdoor workouts; Cancel exercise; delay practices until a cooler WBGT reading occurs

Guidelines for Hydration and Rest Breaks:

1. Rest time should involve both unlimited hydration intake (water or electrolyte drinks) and rest without any activity involved
2. For football, helmets should be removed during rest time
3. The site of the rest time should be a “cooling zone” and not in direct sunlight.
4. When the WBGT reading is over 86:
 - a. Ice towels and spray bottles filled with ice water should be available at the “cooling zone” to aid the cooling process.
 - b. Cold immersion tubs must be available for practices for the benefit of any player showing early signs of heat illness.

Definitions:

1. Practice: the period of time that a participant engages in a coach-supervised, school-approved sport or conditioning-related activity. Practices are timed from the time the players report to the field until they leave.
2. Walk Through: this period of time shall last no more than one hour, is not considered to be a part of the practice time regulation, and may not involve conditioning or weight-room activities. Players may not wear protective equipment.
3. Penalties: Schools violating the heat policy shall be fined a minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$1000.

*****GCSS WBGT READING WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE GCHS ATHLETIC TRAINER, WHO WILL LET ALL COACHES KNOW IF WE ARE IN A HEAT RESTRICTED SITUATION**

Reporting Scores

Each head coach is responsible of reporting their scores on Max Prep within 48 hours after the competition. This is a GHSA requirement and the school can be fined for not reporting the scores.

Each coach or student designee has the responsibility of reporting the scores of all contests to the local newspapers, radio stations, webmaster (Mrs. Mansfield), and the communications coordinator (Robyn Brunson) following the contest. At the end of season, each coach should provide the Athletic Director with a complete report of all scores for the season as well as any region or state titles won. These will be filed for a permanent record.

The following are numbers and email addresses to be used for reporting results:

Media	Phone	email
GCSS – Emily McClure	706-453-7688	Emily.mcclure@greene.k12.ga.us
Athens Banner Herald	706-208-2239	
Atlanta Journal Constitution	404-897-7000	
Dock 103.9	706-453-4140	Dock1039@aol.com
Eatonton Messenger	706-485-3501	
Herald Journal	706-453-7988	thjads@gmail.com (Beth Lyons)
Lake Oconee News	706-485-3501	

Parent's Consent to Participate Form

Students who participate in the interscholastic program at Greene County Schools must meet and maintain the academic eligibility standards of the Georgia High School Athletic Association (GHSA) and the Greene County School Board. Students also must pass a physical examination by a licensed physician before they can try out or participate. The administration and coaching staff expect these students to maintain high standards of sportsmanship and citizenship at all times.

Student Name _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

Age _____ Grade _____ Sex _____

TRAVEL CONSENT AND TREATMENT AUTHORIZATION

We hereby give our consent for THE STUDENT NAMED ABOVE to represent Greene County Schools in interscholastic athletics. We give our consent for him/her to accompany the team on trips under the supervision of coaches employed by the Greene County Board of Education and will not hold the school responsible in case of accident injury.

If we cannot be reached, we give consent for school officials to obtain such medical care as is necessary for the welfare of our child.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Emergency Phone/s _____ Player's Cell _____

Students who participate in interscholastic athletes must verify that they have insurance that covers the participation. You should understand that injury is possible when students train for and compete in athletic contests. Greene County Schools cannot assume responsibility for medical expenses that might result from participation in interscholastic athletics. Please provide the information asked for below and sign this form. Your signature states that you understand the information given in this document and that you give consent for your child named above to represent his/her school in interscholastic competition.

Signature of Parents or Guardians

CHECK ONE:

_____ We do not have insurance that covers our child's participation and will need to purchase school insurance.

_____ Our child is covered by the insurance policy listed below:

Insurance Company _____ Policy # _____

Date ____/____/____

Student/Parent Concussion Awareness Form

School: Greene County High school

DANGERS OF CONCUSSION:

Concussions at all levels of sports have received a great deal of attention and a state law has been passed to address this issue. Adolescent athletes are particularly vulnerable to the effects of concussion. Once considered little more than a minor “ding” to the head, it is now understood that a concussion has the potential to result in death, or changes in brain function (either short-term or long-term). A concussion is a brain injury that results in a temporary disruption of normal brain function. A concussion occurs when the brain is violently rocked back and forth or twisted inside the skull as a result of a blow to the head or body. Continued participation in any sport following a concussion can lead to worsening concussion symptoms, as well as increased risk for further injury to the brain, and even death.

Player and parental education in this area is crucial—that is the reason for this document. Refer to it regularly. This form must be signed by a parent or guardian of each student who wishes to participate in Georgia High School Association (GHSA) athletics. Once copy needs to be returned to the school, and one retained at home.

COMMON SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CONCUSSION:

- Headache, dizziness, poor balance, moves clumsily, reduced energy level/tiredness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Blurred vision, sensitivity to light and sounds
- Fogginess of memory, difficulty concentrating, slowed thought processes, confused about surroundings or game assignments
- Unexplained changes in behavior and personality
- Loss of consciousness (NOTE: This does not occur in all concussion episodes.)

BY-LAW 2.86: GHSA CONCUSSION POLICY:

In accordance with Georgia law and national playing rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHSA), any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest and shall not return to play until an appropriate health care professional has determined that no concussion has occurred. (NOTE: An appropriate health care professional may include: licensed physician (MD/DO) or another licensed individual under the supervision of a licensed physician, such as a nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or certified athletic trainer who has received training in concussions evaluation and management.

1. No athlete is allowed to return to a game or a practice on the same day that a concussion (a) has been diagnosed, OR (b) cannot be ruled out.
2. Any athlete diagnosed with a concussion shall be cleared medically by an appropriate health care professional prior to resuming participation in any future practice or contest. The formulation of a gradual return to play protocol shall be a part of the medical clearance.
3. It is mandatory that every coach in each GHSA sport participate in a free, online course on concussion management prepared by the NFHSA and available at www.nfhslearn.com at least every two years—beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.
4. Each school will be responsible for monitor the preparation of its coaches in the concussion management course, and shall keep a record of those who participate.

I HAVE READ THIS FORM AND I UNDERSTAND THE FACTS PRESENTED IN IT.

SIGNED: _____

(student)

(date)

(parent or guardian)

(date)

—BASIC TRAINING—

1. If you open it. CLOSE IT!
2. If you turn it on TURN IT OFF!
3. If you unlock it LOCK IT!
4. If you break it, REPAIR IT!
5. If you can't fix it CALL IN SOMEONE WHO CAN!
6. If you borrow it RETURN IT!
7. If you use it. TAKE CARE OF IT!
8. If you make a mess CLEAN IT UP!
9. If you move it PUT IT BACK!
10. If it belongs to someone else, GET PERMISSION TO USE IT!
11. If you don't know how to operate it, LEAVE IT ALONE!
12. If it doesn't concern you DON'T MESS WITH IT!