

## RULES OF ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION IN ALL SPORTS

An athlete participates by choice. In so doing, he/she must choose between the rules of athletics and non-participation.

The following is a list of regulations and penalties that apply to all interscholastic sports in the GCSD. In addition to these rules, each coach of a sport may develop regulations and penalties that apply to his or her sport.

### A. Eligibility

1. An athlete must have no more than two failing grades, a 1.5 GPA, and be passing five one-credit classes or the equivalent to be eligible. Eligibility or ineligibility for the fall season is determined by the 4<sup>th</sup> nine weeks grades of the previous school year. Summer school grades may not be used to substitute for failing grades received in the final grading period of the regular school year.
2. All athletes must meet the requirements and guidelines set forth by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, the GAHS/GAMS Student Handbooks/Code of Conduct, and the Coaches' rules (i.e.: physical, insurance, eligibility, etc.).
3. If an athlete quits or is cut from a team, he/she may not join another team if the regular season has begun. The regular season is determined to have begun with the playing of the first interscholastic contest of either sport.  
An athlete may quit one team and join another if the regular season has not begun and the cut-off date set by the coach for players to join the team has not expired.
4. An ineligible athlete may join a team once he/she becomes eligible if the regular season has begun. The ineligible athlete is able to practice with the team but is not able to compete in scrimmages or games until he/she is eligible. A student may become eligible 24 hours after the mandatory grade reporting date (which is not the same day as the end of the grading period).

### B. Dual Sports

1. Team sports (i.e. football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball) take precedent over individual sports (i.e. cross country, cheerleading, wrestling, track, tennis, and golf). The team sport will be the "primary" sport.
  - a. A primary sport is defined as the sport which takes precedence over another sport in the event of a conflict of schedule or any other matter that could lead to a conflict. The student must adhere to the primary sport in the event of any and all conflicts of schedule. If one sport has a contest and the other has practice, the contest will take precedence.
  - b. After conferring with the coach of the secondary sport, the coach of the primary sport will provide the athlete and secondary sport coach with the schedule of practices and events the athlete will attend.
  - c. Approval of a parent is needed for the athlete to participate in two sports.
2. The coaches of both sports involved must give their approval before participation begins.
3. Written approval of participation and each set of team rules is to be signed by the coaches, student athlete, parent(s), and Athletic Director.
4. Approval may be denied because of academic concerns at any time during the sport season. The athlete then will participate in the primary sport only.
5. An athlete who is removed from a team due to disciplinary reasons will also be removed from any other team on which they are participating.
6. An athlete who violates training rules or becomes academically ineligible will have suspension/penalties affect both sports.
7. A dual sport athlete who quits one/both of their teams will not have the option to participate in any dual sports for the remainder of his/her high school career.

8. The Athletic Director will serve in the capacity of advisor and will pass final judgment on matters concerning dual sport participation.

C. Curfew

An athlete must keep the curfew rules for the sport as set by the coach.

**Penalty:**

As determined by the coach at the beginning of his/her season.

D. School Attendance

An athlete must be in attendance all day on the day of a game or practice unless he/she has a doctor's appointment excusing the athlete for the time missed. Extenuating circumstances are taken into consideration (i.e.: death in family, college visit, court appearance).

**Penalty:**

Athlete is not permitted to practice or play in that day's game.

E. Equipment

Each athlete is responsible for taking care of equipment issued to him/her. Unauthorized wearing of school athletic equipment, failure to return issued or stolen equipment, failure to pay for damaged or lost equipment, and stealing of school athletic equipment is prohibited.

**Penalty:**

Cannot participate in any sport, until the equipment is returned or restitution is made.

F. Transportation to and from Away Contests

1. Athletes are required to ride school transportation to away contests.
2. Athletes may ride HOME with their parents, providing the parent personally signs the sign out sheet releasing the athlete to the parent.
3. If the parent wishes the athlete to ride home with an ADULT other than them, the parent must personally notify the COACH prior to departure from Gallia Academy and send a note with the athlete expressing their wishes. The ADULT which the athlete is to be released to must personally sign the sign out sheet. Under no circumstances will an athlete be released to anyone other than an ADULT.

G. Disciplinary Appeals

Any discipline administered under the above rules may be appealed to the Athletic Director. In cases where the Athletic Director was involved in the discipline the Athletic Director's designee will hear the appeal. The appeal procedures should be followed as outlined on page 10, Section J - Removal of Player from Squad. If an athlete is suspended from participating in athletics, he/she is no longer a player in good standing and is not eligible for post-season athletic awards.

H. Illegal Drugs

The sale of any illegal drug is prohibited.

**Penalty:**

Permanent exclusion from all Gallia Academy High School sports.

I. Tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, and illegal drugs

Use or possession of tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, and illegal drugs is prohibited. This rule and its penalties shall be effective from the first day of official practice, as set by the OHSAA, until the day after the Awards Banquet for each season and/or the last official contest.

**J. GCSD DRUG TESTING POLICY**

The Board of Education recognizes the interscholastic athletic program as an integral part of the entire educational program. Through participation in interscholastic athletics, students are provided an opportunity for educational and character-building experiences.

The athletes assume responsibility for regulating their personal life in ways that will make them effective members of a team and worthy representatives of their school. Drug use/abuse by student athletes is a major detriment to these goals. The Board believes that by implementing a drug-testing program it will encourage students who want to participate in interscholastic athletics to remain drug free.

The purpose of this program is threefold: 1) to provide for the health and safety of all student athletes; 2) to undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing a legitimate reason for student athletes to refuse to use illegal drugs; and 3) to encourage student athletes who use drugs to participate in drug treatment programs. It is designed to create a safe, drug-free environment for student athletes and assist them in procuring help when needed.

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