

**GOSHEN CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL**  
**STUDENT ATHLETIC CODE**

**Approved by Board of Education**  
**On May 21, 2001**

**Daniel T. Connor**  
**Superintendent**

**James Polunci**  
**Interim Principal**

**Thomas Heinzelman**  
**Interim Director of Physical Education and Athletics/  
Assistant High School Principal**

## **STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

The primary purpose of the athletic program in the Goshen Central School District is to promote the physical, mental, social, emotional, and moral well being of the participants. It is hoped that these activities in our schools will be a positive force in preparing youth for an enriching and vital role in American life.

The athletic program is an important and integral part of the total educational curriculum and is open to participation by all students regardless of individual differences. Through voluntary participation, the student gives time, energy, and loyalty to the program. The student also accepts the training rules, regulations, and responsibilities, which are unique to this program. More importantly the student must recognize the fact that participation is a privilege, not a right; and that this privilege can be denied. The concepts of self-discipline and individual responsibility are inherent for success in high school athletics. Students who will not discipline their minds and bodies for such participation compromise the objectives of the interscholastic program and the fostering of athletic/academic excellence at Goshen Central High School. In addition, a student whose academic and behavioral performance is substandard detracts from the quality of the type of individual that characterizes interscholastic participants.

## ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES CODE

- I. New York State Public High School Athletic Association rules govern all matters of eligibility, transfer, physical examinations, insurance coverage, starting date, use of school equipment, etc. Any athlete who intends to participate in a non-school organized sport must verify with the Director of Athletics and coach that there will be no conflict regarding eligibility to participate on a school team. This should be done at the start of a sports season. Goshen Central High School states that:
  - A. Mondays through Saturdays are reserved for school games and practices, which shall have priority over outside practices and games.
  - B. If there is no conflict with the school schedule, the non-school organization may allow the students to participate in games or practices.
  - C. Players will not be penalized for dual practices or games on Saturdays provided the public school game or practice shall take priority, and as long as the players are not overworked in the judgment of the school coach.
  
- II. Any conduct in violation of the Athletic Code by a student that is determined by the Head Coach, Director of Athletics, and Principal to be in violation of the Student Disciplinary Code or this code, will result in counseling by the Head Coach, Director of Athletics, the Principal, and/or parent contact. Such violations could result in suspension from the team.
  
- III. CHANGING TEAMS
  - A. An athlete may not quit one team and join another after 12 practice days have elapsed. This restriction may be waived with the permission of both coaches after consultation with the Director of Athletics.
  - B. If an athlete is dropped from a team for disciplinary reasons, he/she may not join another interscholastic team in that season.
  - C. In case of overlapping sports seasons, if a student quits the in-season sport, he/she will not be allowed to practice with the next season's sport until the in-season sport has finished (this includes post-season championship play).
  - D. Students may only participate in one sport team per sport season (Fall, Winter, Spring).

#### IV. TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM ATHLETIC CONTESTS

Students must travel to and from away contests/activities in transportation provided by the school. The only exceptions are:

- A. Injury or health concerns to a participant which would require alternative transportation.
- B. A written arrangement between the participant's parent/guardian, school Administrator (Director of Athletics, School Principal, Assistant Principal) for the student to ride with the parent/guardian only. Students must present their parent/guardian in person to the head coach prior to leaving a contest/activity involving non-school transportation.
- C. In emergency situations direct communication between the coach and parent is acceptable.

#### V. UNSPORTING CONDUCT

- A. A display of unsporting conduct towards a coach, fellow student, opponent or official, or use of profanity during a practice or contest, will result in counseling by the head coach. Upon affording due process (set forth in paragraph XVI), suspension from the team and/or school may result.
- B. The Section IX has unsportsmanlike conduct rules for all sports and the head Coach will follow these guidelines:

Players:

- 1) Any member of a squad ruled out of a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct or for a flagrant foul will have the following occur:
  - a) First Ejection – that player(s) cannot attend or participate in the next scheduled contest.
  - b) Second Ejection – that player(s) cannot attend or participate in the next two scheduled contests.
  - c) Third Ejection – that player(s) cannot attend or participate in any remaining scheduled contest for the remainder of that sports season. If the season has ended, the player(s) cannot attend or participate in the next three scheduled contest in his/her next season of participation.

Please note: Disqualifications from one season carry over to the next season of participation.

- 2) Any member of the squad who strikes, shoves, kicks or makes other physical contact with the intent to do so to an official shall be expelled from the game immediately and banned from further participation in all sports for one year from the date of the offense.

VI. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FROM PRACTICE

Unexcused absence from a scheduled practice will result in:

- A. Make-up – Performance enhancement program under the direct supervision of a coach may be required either before or after practice.
- B. Suspension from one contest for type “A” sports, and two contests for type “B” sports for the second violation (type “A” sport has a maximum of 12 competitive dates, while a type “B” sport has more than 12 competitive dates).
- C. Suspension for the remainder of the sport season upon the third violation. All absences, with the exception of emergencies, must be cleared in advance with the coach. Attendance at all practices and contest is mandatory unless otherwise stated by the coach.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE DISCIPLINE FOR BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

- A. Administrative Detention and A.L.P. – A student who is assigned administrative detention or A.L.P. may not practice or participate in a contest or activity on the day of that detention/suspension. It is expected that the coach working with this student will assist to see that the behavior of the student improves.

\* **PLEASE NOTE:** Lack of adequate practice time due to serving Administrative detention or being placed in A.L.P. may affect the student’s ability to play in athletic contests. The head coach will determine the status of one’s readiness to play.

- B. Out-of-School Suspension – Students who are suspended out-of-school may not practice, compete, or participate during the term of the suspension. An out-of-school suspension is defined as starting on the morning of the suspension and lasting until the morning of the next day that school is in session. Thus, students suspended on Thursday may not practice or participate until Monday.

## VIII. THEFT AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY

Theft or malicious destruction of any school or individual's equipment or property will not be tolerated. After appropriate proof of misconduct presented at an informal hearing before the coach, Director of Athletics, building administration, suspension for the remainder of the sports season/marketing period may result. A referral of the student to the Principal shall be required.

## IX. STUDENT OBLIGATIONS

A student may not participate on any athletic team at Goshen Central School unless he/she has turned in or paid for all equipment lost or stolen. Failure to meet all obligations can result in withholding of transcripts, and report cards.

## X. USE OF ATHLETIC UNIFORMS

Goshen Central High School athletes will not wear any part of their game uniforms at any time other than the actual game without the direct approval of the coach in conjunction with the Director of Athletics. Athletes may, for example, be permitted to "Dress Up" on special occasions by wearing their uniforms to school, to show school and team spirit. Any athlete who is found to be wearing his/her uniform at an inappropriate time will be subject to the following disciplinary actions:

- A. First offense: a warning and parent contact
- B. Second offense: suspension for one contest for Type "A" sport, and two contests for Type "B" sports.
- B. Third offense: suspension for two contest for Type "A" sports, and four contests for Type "B" sports.

## XI. ELIGIBILITY FOR ATHLETIC AWARDS

Completion of the sports season is required in order for the student to be eligible for a letter or other awards. (Exception: an injury which limits student participation). No awards shall be given to any student suspended for the remainder of a sports season/marketing period due to a violation of this code.

## XII. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

- A. A student must be in attendance for the entire day in order to practice or Participate in any school sponsored activity on that day. An exception will be made only if the student has a written verifiable emergency (doctor's appointment, hospital, court appearance, etc.)

- B. If a student is absent the last school day of the week, and competition Follows on a non-school day, the student must bring to the coach a signed statement explaining the reason for the absence. A note to the attendance office will still be required on the subsequent school day. A parental contact may be made by the coach regarding the absence.
- C. Students sent home by the school nurse before the end of a school day due to illness, may not return to school to participate in any activity for that day.

### XIII. MEDICAL CLEARANCE

Any time an athlete seeks medical attention for an injury or illness, he/she must obtain a letter of clearance from the attending physician, stating that the athlete may resume active participation, or that the athlete may not practice/compete until a specified date. If any questions arise regarding medical clearance, the school district appointed physician will make the final determination. Letter from parent and/or guardian will not be accepted.

### XIV. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Goshen Central High School students participating in interscholastic athletics will become academically ineligible if his/her overall GPA is below a 65% or has two or more failing grades (includes all subject areas) during the preceding marking period. The student can continue to practice during the probationary weeks but may not continue to participate in athletic contests/games unless official records indicate that the student has maintained at least a 65% GPA in the current marking period (Academic Progress Form required). Verification must be made by each coach at the beginning of each quarter to insure that the student is meeting eligibility requirements.

A student may lose eligibility only at the end of the previous marking period. Initial Fall Sports academic eligibility may be determined by the result of the previous year's 4th marking period grades, final average, or summer school course(s). A student who is declared ineligible may regain his/her eligibility at the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 10<sup>th</sup> week of the next quarter, depending upon student progress and teacher evaluation. The Student-Athlete Academic Progress Form must be filled out by all of the students' teachers that must include the current average and teacher's signature. The form is then taken to the student's guidance counselor to verify the classes and overall average, then to the director of Athletics or Principal for final approval. The student-athlete brings the signed form to their coach as proof that they are academically eligible.

A list of all high school students who may be ineligible after each marking period, will be sent from Guidance to the Director of Athletics, who will in turn give to each head coach. The Participation Form, that includes eligibility, must be turned

in to the Director of Athletics no later than one week following the first practice. A verification must be made at the beginning of each subsequent quarter to insure that the student is meeting the eligibility requirements. A goal of the athletic department is to have all student-athletes maintain academic eligibility throughout the school year.

XV. USE OR POSSESSIN OF ALCHOLIC BEVERAES, TOBACCO, OR ANY CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or any controlled substance by students is prohibited.

- A. First Offense: At the minimum, the individual will be suspended from the team activity for two contests. At the end of this period, following counseling by the Head Coach, Director of Athletics, Principal, and parents, a decision regarding further participation will be made. An athlete may not practice with the team during this time period.
- B. Second Offense: suspension for the remainder of the season and referral of the student to the school administration. Continued use or possession of such substance will further jeopardize his/her eligibility for remaining sports seasons.

XVI. ADDITIONL RULES AND DUE PROCESS

- A. Before any suspension by the Coach or administration provided for under These rules shall take effect, the student shall be verbally advised by the Head Coach of the charge(s), and the student will have an opportunity to explain or justify his/her behavior before a review committee consisting of a neutral coach and building administrator. The student will then be notified of the final decision, and a written notification sent to the parents.
- B. The rules and regulations in this code shall apply to any violations on and off school premises during the season of participation.
- C. Additional rules or regulations from the Head Coach must be cleared by the Principal and Director of Athletics. Any additional rules and regulations must be in writing and on file in the office of the Director of Athletics and in the Principal's office, and must be given to the students in a timely manner, normally at the beginning of the sports season.
- D. The first appeal from a student or parent must begin with the coach of that sport. If satisfaction is not achieved, additional appeals are to be submitted in writing to the Director of Athletics, Principal and Superintendent, in that order, with a copy sent to the coach. All decisions must be congruent with existing school codes and district policies.