

GRCH ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

INTRODUCTION

Athletes: CONGRATULATIONS! As a member of an athletic high school team at Grand Rapids Christian High School, you have achieved a position of accomplishment, honor, and responsibility. High school sports are a privilege to play and a privilege to watch—a privilege that depends on Christian responsibility and sportsmanship.

Parents: The coaches and administration of Grand Rapids Christian High School appreciate your willingness to support your athlete in the activities of the approaching season. We understand that this will often mean adjustment in family schedules, commitment of time and effort and emotional involvement in your athlete's successes and disappointments.

THE ATHLETIC CODE GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

Athletes at GRCH are highly visible in the school community and in society. This means the school and community have high standards and great expectations for the conduct, performance, and commitment of GRCH athletes. At Grand Rapids Christian High School, we expect the following:

- The athlete is expected to exhibit Christian values and conduct at all times. As a GRCH student athlete, you are a representative of GRCH not only during contests, but also after school hours and throughout the calendar year. Athletes must realize that actions and attitudes reflect on individuals and on Grand Rapids Christian High School.
- The athlete is expected to maintain top physical condition by eating properly, getting sufficient rest, and observing other good health and fitness habits. As athletes, it is essential to abstain from the use of tobacco products, alcohol, illegal drugs, anabolic steroids, and other performance-enhancing substances.
- The athlete is expected to be committed to team goals. This implies that personal performance is not focused on the individual but is directed toward achieving team goals and team unity.

- The athlete is expected to be loyal to the coach. The quality of athletic experience and success depends on loyalty and a good working relationship between team members and coaches. If a problem between coach and athlete arises, both have the responsibility to work out a solution through good communication.
- The athlete is expected to attend every practice and to give full effort both in practice and in competition. Any exception to attendance at practice and contests must be resolved by the athlete, the athlete's family, and the coach.
- The athlete is expected to accept responsibility for the care and maintenance of all school-issued equipment.

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS

Parents are an important part of the athletic program at Grand Rapids Christian High School. The support and encouragement given to coaches and athletes are highly valued. Parents, as well as coaches and athletes, represent the school to the community.

- The parent is expected to display Christian sportsmanship that reflects positively on the GRCH school community. It is important that respect for opponents and officials be shown at all times.
- The parent is expected to encourage loyalty and dedication to the coach and to the team. Attitudes of parents have great impact on the attitudes of athletes.

PARENT AND HOME COMMUNICATIONS

Establishing and maintaining communication with the home is an important aspect of coaching at Grand Rapids Christian High School. Coaches are expected to meet with parents prior to the beginning of the competition season. (Athletes may or may not be present at this meeting.) Information presented at the meeting should include the following:

- Game and practice schedules and, if appropriate, information regarding travel arrangements to and from practices and games.
- Information about any special apparel or gear that will be required for team members.
- Your coaching philosophy related to practice and contest participation.
- (Where appropriate) How playing time is determined at the varsity level and sub-varsity levels.

There is a policy regarding parent-coach communication developed and adopted by our school board. The following is a summary of that policy:

In resolving conflicts with coaches the following steps of communication should be followed. The next step should occur only if the conflict is not resolved:

1. Player – Coach
2. Parents(s) – Coach
3. Parents(s) – Athletic Director
4. Parent(s) – Principal (and Athletic Director)
5. Parent(s) – High School Board

VIOLATIONS OF THE ATHLETIC CODE

Adherence to the Athletic Code is important for the good of each athlete and the success of the team. It is important to note that the code of conduct is not confined to school time or school functions, but reflect an expectation and commitment to an everyday lifestyle in and outside school. Team members who violate the rules of the Athletic Code will be subject to discipline by the coach or Athletic Director. The following guidelines apply:

Violation Categories

Category I violations include, but are not limited to:

- Use or possession of tobacco in any form
- Repeated school behavior referrals

Category II violations include, but are not limited to:

- Use, possession, or being under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance (other than prescribed by a physician)
- Actions which would be deemed misdemeanors under the criminal code (e.g. minor theft, vandalism)

Category III violations include, but are not limited to:

- Sale or distribution of a controlled substance or alcoholic beverage
- Actions which would be deemed felonies under the criminal code

Disciplinary Actions for Violations--% of contests suspended

	Category I	Category II	Category III
First Offense	10%	20%	Calendar Year
Second Offense	20%	Calendar Year*	Permanent
Third Offense	50%	Permanent**	Permanent

*If the violation involves alcohol or a controlled substance, this penalty may be reduced to 50% of contests in the next season of participation if the athlete completes a school-approved substance abuse program.

**The student may rejoin the athletic program after one calendar year only after completing a school-approved substance abuse program.

Notes:

- 1) Any suspension from competition will be applied to the contests in which the athlete would participate immediately following the administrative discipline. If the suspension exceeds the remaining contests in a season, the remainder of the suspension will be served during the next season in which the athlete participates.
- 2) During any suspension which is less than a full season the athlete is expected to participate in all team practices and attend contests dressed in appropriate street clothes.

Appeals related to disciplinary action may be brought to the Athletic Director.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for participation in any sport the Michigan High School Athletic Association requires that a student shall have passed at least 20 hours of credit during the semester previous to the semester of athletic competition. In addition, Grand Rapids Christian High policy requires that a student be passing at least 20 hours of subject matter during the semester in which the athlete participates and must maintain a 1.5 current GPA based on the previous nine-week reporting period. Appeals regarding academic requirements may be made to the Athletic Committee of the High School.