

**Grandville Middle School
Student Athlete Handbook
2015-2016**

I. Philosophy

Athletics is only one part of the total educational program at Grandville Middle School. We realize not everyone can be a member of the team, but we also realize everyone can benefit from the programs of the Athletic Department. Our purpose is to provide positive experiences not otherwise available in the middle school curriculum. Our philosophy is based on the following:

1. Athletic participation is a privilege, not a right.
2. Participation is for those who have the skills, attitudes, and desire to improve in their respective sports.
3. Success is not measured by the win/loss record.
4. The coaching staff, athletes, administration, parents, and fans should never act in a manner that would be detrimental to the school and/or the community.

II. Objective

The main objective of the Grandville Middle School Athletic Department is to promote a series of athletic contests with other schools for the purposes of establishing friendly rivalries, new friendships, improving skills, community relations, and good sportsmanship. Through this the athlete will be offered increased opportunities for:

1. Improving physical skills and exercise habits which promote good health.
2. Developing strong and lasting friendships.
3. Learning sportsmanship and all the ensuing characteristics, such as honesty, perseverance, and....
4. Developing the understanding that the rules of a game are similar to the rules of everyday life.

III. General Information

1. Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA)- The Athletic Department of Grandville Middle School will abide by all rules and regulations of the MHSAA including those dealing with eligibility, number of allowable contests and the use of registered officials.
2. Offerings- The following athletic activities are sponsored by the Grandville Middle School Athletic Department:

School-Sponsored Sports

Fall

7th Volleyball 2 Teams Cut Sport
8th Volleyball 2 Teams Cut Sport
7/8th Girl's Tennis 2 Teams No Cut
Co-Ed Cross Country 1 Team No Cut
7th Boys Soccer 1 Team Cut Sport
8th Boys Soccer 1 Team Cut Sport

Winter I

7th Boys Basketball 2 Teams Cut Sport
8th Boys Basketball 2 Teams Cut Sport
7th Competitive Cheer 2 Teams Cut Sport
8th Competitive Cheer 2 Teams Cut Sport
7/8th Girls Swimming 1 Team No Cut
7/8th Girls Diving 1 Team No Cut

Winter II

7/8th Wrestling 1 Team No Cut
7/8th Boys Swimming 1 Team No Cut
7/8th Boys Diving 1 Team No Cut
7th Girls Basketball 2 Teams Cut Sport
8th Girls Basketball 2 Teams Cut Sport

Spring

7/8th Girls Track 1 Team No Cut
7/8th Boys Track 1 Team No Cut
7/8th Boys Tennis 1 Team No Cut
7th Girls Soccer 1 Team Cut Sport
8th Girls Soccer 1 Team Cut Sport

3. Conference- Grandville is a member of the Central Division of the KO Conference, the middle school equivalent of the OK Red Conference.

IV. Student Athlete Responsibilities

Being a member of an athletic team is an important activity for the student. Despite its importance, it is only one part of the responsibilities of the student athlete. There may be occasions when the athlete will have conflicts of responsibility.

We suggest the athlete follow the prioritized list below when determining his/her prime responsibility:

1. Home and church responsibilities
2. Academic responsibilities
3. Athletic responsibilities
4. Other school and social responsibilities

Despite all scheduling efforts by the administration, conflicts will develop between extracurricular activities. The Athletic Department recognizes each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in all extracurricular activities. If a conflict should arise, it is the ATHLETES responsibility to report the conflict to her/his coach. The Athletic Department will do everything it can do to work out all conflicts to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

V. Participation Criteria

Before each student will be allowed to participate in practice or contests, he/she must:

1. Complete and turn into the Middle School office: the Grandville Public Schools Physical Form, dated after April 15 (of the school year in which the athlete intends to participate). Both sides of the form must be completed to participate.

2. Sign up in the cafeteria on the posted date. This allows the office to prepare the Pink Permission to Practice Forms ahead of time.

2. Receive a Pink Permission to Practice Form from the Middle School office to present to the coach before beginning any type of practice.

3. Present the Pink Permission to Practice Form to the coach. From this point, the student athlete must follow the Athlete's Code of Conduct, meet the Eligibility Requirements (Paragraph VI), and the Behavioral Regulations (Paragraph VII) in order to remain a member of the team.

A. Athlete Code of Conduct

Not all students are fortunate enough to have the opportunity in their lives to participate in athletics. Therefore, being an athlete carries with it a tremendous responsibility. Since the conduct of athletes is closely observed in many areas of life, a very important responsibility of the student is to act in a mature, respectful and responsible manner at all times.

- i. On the field of competition the athlete's behavior must always be beyond reproach, always showing respect for the opponent and the officials.

- ii. In the classroom the athlete must try to be a good student. Student athletes at Grandville Middle School are expected to put forth their best effort in the classroom as well as on the practice field. Classroom behavior and academic performance are important responsibilities for all students, including athletes.

- iii. The way athletes look and act at school and in the community is of great importance. Athletes should be leaders and fellow students must be able to respect and follow them.

- iv. The athletes must also demonstrate respect and take pride in school equipment and facilities by helping to properly maintain and care for athletic equipment and uniforms.

- v. The student athlete is also expected to abide by all rules and regulations set forth in the Middle School Handbook Agenda.

vi. The athlete must recognize the value and meaning of sportsmanship. In the endeavor to win, the athlete must realize there is no dishonor in losing and learning comes from defeat. The athlete must always adhere to the rules of the game. Fair play should always supercede his/her desire to win. The student athlete must realize he/she represents not only him/herself but also coaches, parents, peers, school and community.

VI. Academic Eligibility

Once a student is a member of an athletic team he/she must meet the academic and behavioral expectations of Grandville Middle School. These include:

1. Not falling below a C- grade in any class.
2. Not receiving below a 3 in citizenship in any class.

Procedures

1. Eligibility Report will be generated on every Monday morning of each sport season. That list will be distributed to each coach on that Monday. Each coach will notify all students on the report.
2. If the student has a 2 or more failing grades, that student is put on probation for one week. If after the one week probationary period the student still has 2 or more failing grades, that student has made him or herself ineligible.
3. Probation is a one week period where the student has an opportunity to get their grades or citizenship up. If the student still does not have adequate grades at the next check they have made themselves ineligible. Ineligible means they may practice at the coaches discretion but they may not play or dress for games or travel with the team to away games. If the student does not have adequate grades for the third check in a row they will be removed from the team.
4. Eligibility results are binding for the one week period following the check. The status of the student may not be altered except in the case of computational error by the teacher. Turning in missed work, retaking a test/quiz or other methods of raising the grade will not be allowed after the form is filled out; the results of that check will stand for one week. Manipulation of the system is strictly prohibited. The time for parents and athletes to be concerned about their grades is before, not after, the results of the eligibility check are in.
5. The results of the check stand from the Monday after the eligibility form is due to the Monday after the next eligibility form is due. Students may be made eligible in extreme cases if both the building principal and the athletic director see clear and distinct advantages for the students' participation, despite their grades and behavior. This clause is primarily for special needs or behavioral problem students and they would have a continual probationary status which is subject to change if the Athletic Director determines that it is not beneficial to the student or the school.

VII. Regulations

A. Training and Conditioning – It is the athlete's responsibility to be in the best physical and mental condition when participating as a member of an athletic team. While a team member, the athlete will:

1. Get proper and sufficient rest
2. Exhibit healthful and nutritional eating habits.
3. Refrain from the use of:
 - a. All forms of tobacco
 - b. All forms of alcohol or controlled substances that would be harmful to his/her physical and/or intellectual performances

B. Attendance – The student shall be in attendance at school a minimum of 4 class periods on the day of practice or contest. Any athlete found in violation of this rule will be suspended from the next contest. During the season, any student athlete who is charged with an unexcused absence will be suspended from the next contest. NO WARNINGS!!!

C. Personal Appearance – Exemplary personal appearance is considered important and encouraged. A uniform dress policy may be established by individual coaches on game days.

D. Travel – Team members and coaches must travel to and from away contests on authorized, school approved transportation. Students riding home from an athletic contest may ride only with their own parents and only if parents have completed a "green slip" from the student's coach. Riding home with parents of fellow teammates is only allowable with permission, in advance, from school administration.

E. Sportsmanship – The athlete must exhibit good sportsmanship both on and off the field. He/she is to show respect for all other people with whom he/she may come in contact including teammates, coaches, teachers, officials, or opponents. The athlete will be expected to attend and participate in all practices and team meetings and carry out the directives of his/her coach.

F. Equipment – It is the athlete's responsibility to properly maintain, clean and secure all equipment issued to him/her and return all issued equipment at the conclusion of the season or pay the replacement cost for items not returned.

G. Proper Supervision – Athletes are NOT TO BE IN THE LOCKER ROOMS, GYMNASIUM, OR ON THE ATHLETIC FACILITY unless properly supervised by their coach. If a practice or a game is not scheduled immediately after school, the athletes are to report to the locker room, gymnasium, and/or practice field ONLY WHEN THEIR COACH WILL BE AVAILABLE TO SUPERVISE THEM. Once a practice or contest has concluded, the athletes are to leave the building as soon as possible.

H. **Sport Switching** – During a season, sport switching is allowable if both coaches agree that all parties concerned will benefit by the switch, and all school-issued equipment is accounted for.

I. **Team Membership (Cut Sports)** – In some athletics at Grandville Middle School, limiting team size is necessary. When this occurs, the coach will explain to the athletes the criteria for gaining membership to the team before practices begin. Students not making a team are welcome to discuss the reasons why/why not with the coach.

J. **Coaches Regulations** – Individual coaches may institute other regulations for their particular sport not contained in this handbook. These regulations are to be written and distributed to all athletes at the beginning of each season.

VIII. Disciplinary Action

Any participant whose conduct is determined to be a discredit to him/herself, the team or the school during the middle school career shall be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the coach, Athletic Director, and/or Principal.

All members of athletic teams (players, managers) are bound by the following training rules (as they apply to substance use or possession) at all times throughout the entire calendar year (365 days).

Suspension from a team – Temporary suspension of participants may be made by the coach of the sport and the Athletic Director and/or Principal. Suspension from a team results in non-participation in **play/practice during the entire period of the suspension.**

A. Athletic training rules forbid the use, possession or distribution of tobacco (in any form) alcohol, drugs, including anabolic steroids, narcotics, or any controlled substance or any item represented to be a controlled substance by any athlete who represents Grandville Middle School.

1. First offense shall result in immediate suspension from the competition and/or practice for fifty percent (50%) of the athletic contest in the sport in which the athlete is participating, or will participate in. This fifty percent (50%) suspension may be reduced to thirty-three percent (33%) suspension if the student and parents wish to provide proof that the student is involved in an acceptable substance abuse prevention program. An “acceptable program” must be approved by the Athletic Director and/or Principal.

The suspension will carry over into the next season of competition if the athlete does not complete the required length of the suspension his/her present season or at anytime during the student’s enrollment in Grandville Middle School.

2. Second offense will result in suspension from all athletics for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of suspension.

3. Third offense at any time during this student's two year enrollment will result in permanent barring of the athlete from participation for his/her middle school years.

B. Removal From Participation – A student athlete may be removed from his/her team for the reasons listed below. The Athletic Director and/or Principal will confer with the coach prior to removing a participant from a team.

1. Continued violations of the Grandville Middle School student handbook.
2. Repeated violations of school, athletic, or team policies.
3. Personal misconduct that involves police or court action during the sport season either before, during or after school hours.
4. Verbal or physical attack upon any individual.
5. Continued acts of poor sportsmanship.
6. Continuous weekly ineligibility as determined by Athletic Director and coach.
7. Refusing to participate in athletic practices or contests.

Any athlete or team member suspended or removed from a team under this section will have the opportunity for a review of the disciplinary action taken.

IX. Review Procedures

Student athletes will have the opportunity for a review of punitive actions taken by a coach or Athletic Director.

Steps for Review:

1. The athlete must have met with the coach involved to try to solve the problem.
 2. The athlete may request a review by the Athletic Director who will arrange a meeting with the coach, the athlete, and the parents. This meeting shall take place within five school days of the request for review.
3. An athletic review committee shall consist of:
 - a. The Athletic Director
 - b. Principal or Assistant Principal
 - c. Three members of the coaching staff not involved in the dispute

Should the athlete request a review before the review committee, he/she must do so in writing within five school days of the meeting involving the Athletic Director's review of the problem. A meeting of the review committee, the athlete, and the parents will be arranged within five school days of this request. A written summary of the review committee's decision will be forwarded to the athlete, the parents, and the Superintendent within five school days of this meeting.

4. If the decision of the review committee is unsatisfactory to the student, he/she may appeal to the Superintendent for a formal hearing.

