



# **HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

**2024 - 2025**

*Charlestown High School*

*Jeffersonville High School*

*New Washington High School*

## **WELCOME**

We are pleased to have you participate in the athletic program offered by the Greater Clark County School Corporation (GCCS). The primary purpose of our Athletic Program is to promote the physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being of our student-athletes. It is our hope that by participating in the Greater Clark County School Athletic Program student-athletes will be provided with an enriching and memorable experience that makes a positive impact on their preparation for becoming a productive community member and citizen upon graduation from high school.

The Athletic Program is an important and integral part of the total school program and is open to participation by all students regardless of individual differences. Through voluntary participation, the student-athlete gives time, energy, and loyalty to the program. He/She also accepts the regulations and responsibilities, which are unique to an athletic program. In order to contribute to the welfare of the group, the student-athlete must willingly assume these obligations, and as the role demands, the student-athlete will make sacrifices not required of others.

Since research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided within this handbook provides both parents and students a less stressful and more enjoyable experience with Greater Clark County Schools Athletic Programs.

## **EXPECTATIONS OF ATHLETES**

Participation in the athletic program is a **privilege** which carries with it varying degrees of responsibility, recognition, and reward. Participating student-athletes represent their school and other members of the student body, and it is their duty to conduct themselves in a manner that is positive for themselves, their families, their school and their community.

Contestants' conduct, in and out of school and season, shall be such as (1) not to reflect discredit upon their school, team, or family, and (2) not to create a disruptive influence on the discipline, order, moral, or educational environment of the Greater Clark County Schools.

1. This policy shall become effective for all athletes in all sports on the first day of fall practice (IHSAA selected date) of an athlete's freshman year and continue until our teams are eliminated from the state tournament in the spring season of an athlete's senior year.
2. The principal has the discretion to enforce stricter penalties for offenses deemed more serious. In cases that involve exceptional circumstances, principals may accept an appeal.
3. The head coach of each sport must read, understand, and distribute the Greater Clark County Schools athletic code and may have additional training rules, which are also valid and must be followed by athletes involved in their sport.

## **POLICY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT ON THE BASIS OF RACE, SEX, AND OTHER PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS**

1. The Greater Clark County School Corporation does not discriminate on the basis of sex (including transgender status, sexual orientation and/or gender identity), race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, ancestry, marital status, familial status, or veteran status in employment or in the educational programs and activities which it operates, in accordance with applicable state and federal statutes and regulations.
2. It shall be a violation of this policy for any employee, coach and/or athlete of the Greater Clark County School Corporation to discriminate against or harass another employee, coach, and/or athlete based upon sex (including transgender status, sexual orientation and/or gender identity), race, color, religion, national

origin, age, disability, ancestry, marital status, familial status, or veteran status. It shall be a violation of this policy for any student-athlete to discriminate against or harass another student athlete or an employee based upon any of the above mentioned protected characteristics.

3. **IHSAA Participation Component:** It is a tenant of the IHSAA that, except as permitted by rules 9-9 and 9-10, a student may only participate in interscholastic competition as a member of a single gender Athletic Team when the Gender of the Athletic Team matches the student's Birth Gender ("Participation Component"). A student may, however, apply for a Waiver of the Participation Component and then participate on a single-gender Athletic Team whose Gender does not match the student's Birth Gender.
  - **9-9 Participation in Interscholastic Competition on Single Gender Sport Teams.**

The IHSAA recognizes boys baseball, boys basketball, boys cross-country, football, boys golf, boys soccer, boys swimming, boys tennis, boys track & field and wrestling as Single Gender Sports offered just to male students and recognizes girls basketball, girls cross-country, girls golf, gymnastics, girls soccer, girls swimming, softball, girls tennis, girls track & field, and volleyball as Single Gender Sports offered just to female students.

    - a. A student's interscholastic participation in a School's program in a Single Gender Sport is limited to students whose Birth Gender matches the gender of the Single Gender Sport.
    - b. A student whose Birth Gender is male may not participate in a Single Gender Sport program for female students.
    - c. A student whose Birth Gender is female may not participate in a Single Gender Sport program for male students.
    - d. Exception:
      - (1.) During the Contest Season: if a School has a boys' program in baseball, basketball, football, soccer or wrestling, but not a comparable girls' program in those sports (for the purposes of this section baseball and softball are not comparable sports), a female student may participate in the School's boys' program in baseball, basketball, football, soccer and wrestling.
      - (2.) During a Tournament Series:
        - (a) if a School has a boys' program in baseball, football or wrestling, a female student may participate in the School's programs in those sports, and
        - (b) if a School has a boys program in basketball or soccer, but does not have a girls program in those sports, a female student may participate in the School's boys program in those sports, but
        - (c) in cross country, golf, swimming and diving, tennis, or track and field, a female student may not participate in any boys program in those sports, but may only participate in the girls program in those sport during the Tournament Series.
  - **9-10 Gender Participation Component Waiver**

Interscholastic participation on a Single Gender Athletic Team is limited to a student whose Birth Gender matches the gender of the Single Gender Athletic Team. However, a student with a non-conforming gender may obtain a Waiver of the gender component, and participate as a Transgender student in interscholastic competition as a member of a Single Gender Athletic Team, through the Waiver Process outlined in the IHSAA Gender Policy.

## **HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS**

### **Hierarchy of Responsibility in the Athletic Program at Greater Clark County Schools**

- A. In accordance with the IHSAA By-Laws Handbook, the high school principal is the administrative head of all interscholastic athletic activities of the school.
- B. The IHSAA Handbook states:
  1. The principal of the high school will be his/her authorized representative to the IHSAA.
  2. The principal has the authority to designate a faculty member, who is employed in his/her school system, to act as manager or acting athletic director for the teams representing the school.

C. Designee

1. Scheduling of interscholastic athletic contests, hiring of officials for events, and purchasing by the athletic department requires the final approval of the high school principal.
2. The high school principals of the Greater Clark County School district have authorized the athletic director to act in this capacity and with their approval.

D. Coaches

1. All coaches are ultimately responsible to the principal.
2. Because the Athletic Director is the principal's designee, all coaches are under the direction of, and are answerable to the athletic director.

**The By-Laws of the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) state the following:**

**Rule 1-2 Recognizing Sports**

The following sports are recognized and regulated: Boys – Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Soccer, Swimming, Tennis, Track and Field, Wrestling; Girls – Basketball, Cross Country, Golf, Gymnastics, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Track and Field, Volleyball; Unified Sports© - Track and Field, Flag Football.

**CODE OF ETHICS**

It is the duty of all concerned with Greater Clark County School athletics:

- A. To model behavior and follow guidelines that are in compliance with Federal, State, County, and Local Codes and Laws, Greater Clark County Schools policies and regulations, rules and regulations of the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA).
- B. To model behaviors of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP during the course of competition.

Such behaviors and emphasis should include:

1. Proper ideals of ethical conduct, and fair play.
2. Elimination of all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
3. Stressing the values derived from playing the game fairly.
4. Showing cordial courtesy to visiting teams and school officials.
5. Establishing an amiable relationship between visitors and host.
6. Respecting the integrity and judgment of athletic officials.
7. Acquiring a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
8. Encouraging leadership, use of initiative, and good judgment by the players on the team.
9. Recognizing that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, moral, social, and emotional well-being of the individual players.
10. Remembering that an athletic contest is only a game - not a matter of life or death for player, coach, school, official, fan, community, state, or nation.

**Dismissal from Team**

A student athlete may be in jeopardy of dismissal from the team for any of the following reasons:

- Failure to meet academic standards
- Creating continuous problems for a teacher or coach
- Refusing to obey a coach's instructions
- Fighting
- Misconduct on team bus
- Vandalism
- Theft.
- Locker room problems.
- Poor sportsmanship by athlete or parent
- Possession or use of drugs.

- Possession or use of tobacco.
- Possession or use of alcohol.
- Other conduct recognized as being unacceptable in accordance with the [Greater Clark County Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook](#).

### **Drug and Alcohol Policy**

A student athlete will not possess, use, or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogen, any other controlled substance, or any alcoholic beverage except as prescribed medically by a licensed physician. There will be sufficient grounds to prove transmitting, possessing, or use of a substance governed by this policy if the student athlete transmits, possesses, or uses a material which he/she represents to be such a substance (look-alike drugs).

Violation of the above rule will result in the following disciplinary action:

**First Violation**- Exclusion from participation in all athletic contests for a total of 25% of their teams' games once the Principal, Athletic Director, and Coach have met with the athlete concerning the violation. No participation will be permitted until a meeting is held, and the suspension will begin with the athletes next scheduled contest.

**Second Violation** – Exclusion from participation in all athletic contests for a total of 50% of their teams' games along with enrollment in a substance abuse program of assessment, counseling, screening and/or indicated therapy (the cost of the program shall be the responsibility of the student and/or his/her parents or guardian) once the Principal, Athletic Director and Coach have met with the athlete concerning the violation. No participation will be permitted until a meeting is held, and the suspension will begin with the athletes next scheduled contest. Successful completion of a substance abuse program and a written appeal to the principal may reduce this penalty.

**Third Violation** – Suspension from participation in athletic events for one calendar year. (Further violations will result in the loss of the student's athletic eligibility)

**\*\*\*This policy is cumulative and applies to a student-athlete's four-year high school eligibility in the Greater Clark County School Corporation.\*\*\***

### **Use or Possession of Tobacco/Nicotine Products (any form) Policy**

#### **Minimum Penalties:**

**First Violation**-Exclusion from participation in all athletic contests for a total of 15% of their teams games (minimum of one game or event) once the Principal, Athletic Director, and Coach have met with the athlete concerning the violation. An athlete shall not participate before a meeting is held, and any suspension will begin with the athletes next scheduled contest.

**Second Violation**-Exclusion from participation in athletics a total of 30% of their teams games (minimum of two games) once the Principal, Athletic Director, and Coach have met with the athlete. An athlete shall not participate before a meeting is held.

**Third Violation**-Suspension from athletics for one calendar year along with enrollment in a substance abuse program of assessment, counseling, screening and/or indicated therapy (the cost of the program shall be the responsibility of the student and/or his/her parents or guardian) once the Principal, Athletic Director and Coach have met with the athlete concerning the violation. No participation will be permitted until a meeting is held, and the suspension will begin with the athletes next scheduled contest. Successful completion of the substance abuse program and a written appeal to the principal may reduce this penalty.

**\*\*\*This policy is cumulative and applies to a student-athlete's four-year high school eligibility in the Greater**

**Clark County School Corporation.\*\*\***

**The following explanation provides further details:**

- a. If the sport in which the athlete participates is not in season at the time of the infraction, the suspension will take effect during the first one-half (1/2) of his/her next sport participation period.
- b. The number of season contests to be suspended will be calculated by using the number of scheduled season contests plus one sectional contest. Suspensions will be for entire games. In calculating the number of games an athlete is suspended, a fraction of a game will be rounded up to the next whole number. For example: 10% of 21 games equals 2.1 games, which will result in a three (3) game suspension.
- c. If the suspension occurs toward the end of a season and there are not enough contests, the suspension will carry over to the next sport in which the student participates.
- d. If the percentage cannot be satisfied, then the suspension will carry into the next sport.
- e. If the suspension occurs while the athlete is unable to play due to illness or injury, the suspension will not start until the athlete has been cleared to participate in the sport.

**\*\*\*This policy will not be in conflict with the school district's drug and alcohol policy.\*\*\***

The above drug/alcohol/tobacco policies are in effect during the student athlete's school year and extended sport season if the participant's sport extends beyond the school year. These policies are in effect 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. It includes all Greater Clark County School activities or when observed by a Greater Clark School coach, faculty member, law enforcement personnel or by the athlete's own admission.

**Violations of School Rules**

**Penalty** – Student athletes may not compete, practice, or participate in any way with an athletic team during a suspension from school. Less serious violations of school rules are to be handled by the head coach.

**Expectations**

Because athletic teams represent the school and are a source of school and community pride, and because they are recognizable in the community and often serve as role models for younger students, high school students who choose to participate in the athletic program are expected to exhibit standards of character and behavior both in and out of school beyond what may normally be required of other students.

**Felonies, Misdemeanors, Acts of Delinquency, Expulsions**

**Penalty:** Any student/athlete arrested or detained as a juvenile on such a charge may be suspended from any participation (games and practices) pending investigation of the incident. Attending an event where this rule is knowingly being violated will be treated the same as violating the above rule unless the athlete leaves immediately. The student/athlete may be excluded from extra-curricular activities for 365 days (one calendar year) from the date of the violation. Any student/athlete expelled from school, regardless of abeyance, may be excluded from extra-curricular activities for 365 days (one calendar year) from the date of the violation. The principal has the discretion to reduce this penalty under certain circumstances.

**Involvement in Law Enforcement Agencies** – Based on conviction, admission by the athlete, or police report. (Minor traffic violation excluded.) Any student-athlete legally charged with, arrested for, or convicted of a crime may be subject to disciplinary action ranging from a warning to immediate ban from athletics. If a court case ensues and a student-athlete claims innocence the athlete may be able to participate based on "administrative review." If suspended, the student-athlete will be expected to participate in all practices during that time to remain

in the athletic program. However, if there is an admission of guilt by the athlete or after an “administrative review” of the case and school officials believe there is strong evidence that link the student to the crime then the school may enforce the consequences previously mentioned.

**IHSAA Rule 8-1 Student Conduct:** Contestants’ conduct, in and out of School, shall be such as (1) not to reflect discredit upon the school or the association, or (2) not to create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral or educational environment of the school. NOTE: It is recognized that principals, by the administrative authority vested in them by their school corporation, may exclude such contestants from representing their School.

**Amnesty Rule (Designed to help an athlete that wants to help himself/herself)** – If an athlete has a dependency problem and he/she admits to it before they are caught or investigative procedures begin and with the idea of seeking professional help, then the athlete will not be penalized as long as they enroll and successfully complete a certified abuse program.

## **GREATER CLARK COUNTY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC PROGRAM POLICIES AND GUIDELINES**

**Student Insurance** – Every year a few of our athletes are injured while participating in interscholastic athletics. All parents whose child participates in athletics must understand that there is an element of risk, and that even though serious injury is a rarity, it is a definite possibility inherent in any vigorous activity. GCCS and GCCS personnel assume no financial responsibility for medical expenses, treatment, or damages resulting from injuries sustained by students while participating in any GCCS sponsored educational program or practicing for or participating in athletics or other school activities. It is the parent’s responsibility to be sure your insurance coverage will adequately cover your child. Greater Clark recommends that families have adequate medical insurance coverage; however, students may participate without medical insurance. If you do not have a medical policy, the student accident policy offered by the **school corporation is recommended**. **Information regarding student accident insurance may be found online at [www.studentinsurance-kk.com](http://www.studentinsurance-kk.com).**

### **During School Year / In-Season Participation Limitations – IHSAA By-Law 15-1.1a, 15 1.2a**

#### **15-1.1 Individual Sports (Cross Country, Golf, Gymnastics, Swimming, Tennis, Track, Wrestling)**

a. Participation in organized non-school sports competition during the Authorized Contest Season, or at any time prior to the conclusion of the student’s participation in the IHSAA Tournament Series, in that sport shall cause such students to become ineligible for their School team in that sport for a period not to exceed Three-hundred Sixty-five (365) days as determined by the Commissioner, unless an outstanding student athlete waiver for said competition is approved by the coach, principal, and the IHSAA office and is on file in the principal’s office. A maximum of Two (2) waivers may be granted during a contest season.

#### **15-2.1 Team Sports (Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball)**

a. Participation by a student in any organized non-school sports competition during the Authorized Contest Season, or at any time prior to the conclusion of the student’s participation in the IHSAA Tournament Series, in that sport shall cause such students to become ineligible for their School team in that sport for a period not to exceed Three-hundred Sixty-five (365) days as determined by the Commissioner.

**During School Year / Out of Season Participation Limitations – IHSAA By-Law 15-1.2, 15-2.2**

**15-1.2 Individual Sports (Cross Country, Golf, Gymnastics, Swimming, Tennis, Track, Wrestling)** Students may participate in non-school Contests as individuals or as members of a Non-School team in non-school Contests provided that participation during school time is approved by the School principal or his/her designee.

**15-2.2 Team Sports (Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball)** Students may participate in Team Sport Practice and Contests as members of a Non-School Team provided no more than the following number of students, (i) who have participated in a Contest the previous season as a member of One (1) of their School teams in that sport or (ii) who were incoming freshmen in either the current or in the immediate prior School Year (and who seek to participate on a Non-School Team from Monday of Week 5 until the date of the first authorized Practice in that sport), are rostered on the same Non-School Team, at the same time. Seniors, who have exhausted their eligibility in a particular sport, do not count in the maximum number of students that can participate on a Non-School Team in that sport.

Baseball - 5	Basketball - 3	Football - 6	Soccer - 7	Softball - 5	Volleyball - 3
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**POLICIES GUIDING ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION**

**A. ELIGIBILITY GUIDING POLICY**

In accordance with IHSAA, a student must have met the following basic requirements in order to participate in athletics at Greater Clark County Schools.

1. Must have received passing grades at the end of their last grading period in school in at least seventy percent (70%) of the maximum number of full credit subjects that a student can take.
2. The preceding notwithstanding, a student must have been enrolled in a minimum of Five (5) full credit courses during the last grading period, and must be enrolled in a minimum of Five (5) full credit subjects (or the equivalent) during the current grading period. Semester grades take precedence.
3. A student may use up to Two (2) semesters of the state-required physical education courses for eligibility purposes, with each semester’s course counting as One (1) full credit.
4. Physical education credit earned by participation on an athletic team, may not count toward academic eligibility.
5. Consent and Release Certificate (physical form): Between April 1 and the student’s first participation in a workout or practice in preparation for inter-school athletic participation:
  - a. IHSAA Rule 3-10 requires that between April 1 and student’s first Practice in preparation for inter-school athletic participation, the student shall have a physical examination by, a physician holding an unlimited license to practice medicine, a nurse practitioner or a physician assistant, who shall clear the student for athletic participation using the current IHSAA Pre-Participation Evaluation form.
  - b. The parent or guardian, and student-athlete, shall complete all required online forms (“Final Forms”) and give written consent on the IHSAA Pre-Participation Evaluation Form and IHSAA Consent and Release Form for such participation, prior to the student’s first day of practice.; Physical form and consent form must be on file in the Athletic Director’s Office, prior to the student’s first participation in a workout or practice. A physical form *must* be obtained from the athletic director’s office or online at <http://www.ihsaa.org>
6. Must have a transfer form on file (if a student transferred from another high school within the last 365 days)
7. Must **not** have reached his/her twentieth birthday prior to or on the scheduled date of the IHSAA State Finals in a sport.




**B. FOOD SUPPLEMENTS**

1. School personnel and coaches will not dispense any drugs, medication, or food supplement. Any Prescription or over-the-counter medication should only be dispensed by a parent or licensed physician.
2. Use of any drug, medication, or food supplement in any way not prescribed by the manufacturer should not be authorized or encouraged by school, personnel and coaches. Even natural substances in unnatural amounts may have short-term or long-term negative health effects.
3. In order to minimize health and safety risks to student athletes, maintain ethical standards, and reduce liability risks, school personnel and coaches should never supply, recommend, or permit the use of any drug, medication, or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes.  
*IHSAA Policy Statement (supporting the NFSMAC and NFSHSA positions)*

**C. PREGNANCY**

1. The student athlete who has made the coach or the administration aware of pregnancy must refrain from all school contact sports and must have permission from a physician in order to compete in any other sport/activity which the school supervises.

**D. OTHER**

1. At no time is it permissible for individuals or groups not directly associated with GCCS to work-out in the gym, weight room, or any other athletic facility without prior authorization from the school principal, athletic director and the GCCS Director of Facilities. Facility Use forms may be obtained from the main office or athletic office.
2. No athlete may quit one sport and immediately begin working out with, or trying out for, another sport without the consent of both coaches and the athletic director.
3. Athletes must travel to and from contests in transportation provided by the school. The only exceptions are:
  - a. Injury to a participant, which would require alternate transportation.
  - b. Prior arrangement between the participant’s parent/ guardian and the coach for the student to ride with the parent/guardian.  Travel Release
4. A student must attend at least one-half of the school day to be eligible for an activity on that day. An exception will be made for medical appointments, college visits, funerals, or any emergency that has been cleared in advanced through the athletic director and substantiated in writing or phone call from parent/guardian or physician.
5. Students assigned In-School or Out-of-School Suspension are excluded from participating in and/or attending extracurricular and school-sponsored activities for the duration of their suspension.
6. It is understood that practice is mandatory at all levels of participation.

**E. TRANSFERS** - A student who transfers to or within Greater Clark County Schools shall not be eligible to participate in inter-school athletics unless the student and his/her parent(s) or guardian meets with the Athletic Director and completes an IHSAA Athletic Transfer Report. The Transfer Report must be approved by the IHSAA. (This includes foreign exchange students.)

**F. PHYSICALS** – The IHSAA pre-participation physical evaluation form may be completed and signed by a physician holding an unlimited license to practice medicine, a nurse practitioner or a physician assistant who shall clear the student for athletic participation using the current IHSAA Pre-Participation Evaluation form. The proper Parent and Physician’s Certificate must be on file in the athletic office (By-Law 3-10), along with completed “Final Forms” (on-line) documents, prior to participation. Physicals must be updated yearly between April 1<sup>st</sup> and the student’s first participation in a workout or practice in preparation for inter-school athletic participation.

**G. Pre-Participation Practice and Other Practice Requirements – IHSAA By-Laws 50-1 & 50 -1.1**

**Rule 50-1 Pre-Participation Practice:** Prior to the date of a student’s participation in the student’s first Contest of the Season in a sport, the student must attend and actively participate in Eight (8) Pre-participation Practice sessions under the direct supervision of the high school coaching staff in that sport. Only one (1) pre-participation practice session may be counted on any One (1) day.

**Rule 50-1.1 Season-to-Season Pre-Participation Practice:** A student moving directly (within One (1) week) from One (1) sport season to the next sport season is eligible to participate in a Contest in a sport during the next sports season after completing, prior to the date of the student’s first Contest of the next season, Five (5) Pre-participation Practice sessions under the direct supervision of the high school coaching staff in that sport.

**H. Athletic/Activity Conflict Policy** - Greater Clark County School students are encouraged to participate in as many extra-curricular activities as their time and schedule allow; however, this sometimes leads to conflict when activities occur on the same dates and times. Coaches, sponsors, and students should work together to try to solve these conflicts before they occur. It is the student’s responsibility to inform the coach and/or sponsor at the first of the season of his or her intention to be involved in more than one activity. Students, coaches, sponsors, and the athletic director will meet to solve practice, game and performance conflicts. In those rare cases where a large number of conflicts cannot be avoided, the student may need to make a choice regarding participation. (In cases of event conflict, Conference, IHSAA, and State Performances will be given priority. When choices are made in regard to events or games, students should notify sponsors or coaches in writing.)

**I. Lettering Requirements** – Each individual sport has requirements for earning a varsity letter. In general, a student-athlete must be in good standing at the end of the competition season to be eligible for a varsity letter in addition to participation standards and the coach’s recommendation. Please contact the head coach if you have specific questions about lettering requirements.

**J. HAZING/INITIATION/BULLYING**

***Hazing: Any humiliating, degrading, or dangerous activity required of someone seeking to join a group, regardless of the individual’s willingness to participate. Hazing can be fairly harmless to serious physically/abusive acts.***

According to a national survey of high school students, hazing/initiations has become a widespread practice among high school age students. Almost half of high school students belonging to groups were subjected to some form of hazing.

**Indiana Code 35-42-2-2.5** defines criminal hazing as forcing or requiring another person to:

- With or without consent of the other person; and
- As a condition of association with a group or organization; to perform an act that creates a substantial risk of bodily injury.

A person who knowingly or intentionally performs hazing commits a Class B misdemeanor. However, the offense is a Level 6 felony if it results in serious bodily injury to another person, and a Level 5 felony if it is committed by means of a deadly weapon.

**Indiana Code IC 35-42-2-2** defines criminal recklessness as a person who recklessly, knowingly, or intentionally performs an act that creates a substantial risk of bodily injury to another person. Criminal

recklessness is a Class B misdemeanor. However, criminal recklessness is a Level 6 felony if it is committed while armed with a deadly weapon or the person committed aggressive driving that results in serious bodily injury to another person and a Level 5 felony if: (A) it is committed by shooting a firearm into an inhabited dwelling or other building or place where people are likely to gather; or (B) the person committed aggressive driving (as defined in IC 9-21-8-55) that results in the death or catastrophic injury of another person.

A teacher or coach who knows hazing is occurring and either encourages or does nothing to stop it, runs a risk of being charged criminally, and obviously a great risk of liability for money damages resulting from an injury caused by hazing. Insurance would not cover this situation because the school employee would not be acting within the scope of his or her employment.

A person who makes a report of hazing or participates in court, in good faith (even with less than probable cause) is granted immunity for any civil damages or criminal penalties that might otherwise be imposed because of the report.

The Indiana law on hazing does cover secondary school hazing, as well as college hazing.

Penalty - Students who are in violation of any hazing and initiation practice are subject to school discipline. Students who are members of school organization or team who participate in such activities are subject to a 25% suspension and/or removal from the team/organization. Students who participate in more serious activities may also be subject to removal from that team/organization. As always, the Principal, Athletic Director and head coach has the discretion to strengthen penalties under certain circumstances.

#### **Indiana Code IC 20-33-8-0.2**

**Bullying** means overt, unwanted, repeated acts or gestures including verbal or written communications or images transmitted in any manner (including digitally or electronically), physical acts committed, aggression, or any behaviors, that are committed by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the targeted student and create for the targeted student an objectively hostile school environment that:

- (1) places the targeted student in reasonable fear of harm to the targeted student's person or property;
- (2) has a substantially detrimental effect on the targeted student's physical or mental health;
- (3) has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's academic performance; or
- (4) has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, and privileges provided by the school.

(b) The term may not be interpreted to impose any burden or sanction on, or include in the definition of the term, the following:

- (1) Participating in a religious event.
- (2) Acting in an emergency involving the protection of a person or property from an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or substantial danger.
- (3) Participating in an activity consisting of the exercise of a student's rights protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Article I, Section 31 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana, or both.
- (4) Participating in an activity conducted by a nonprofit or governmental entity that provides

- recreation, education, training, or other care under the supervision of one (1) or more adults.
- (5) Participating in an activity undertaken at the prior written direction of the student's parent.
- (6) Engaging in interstate or international travel from a location outside Indiana to another location outside Indiana.

**K.** Inappropriate use of social media by a GCCS student-athlete is strictly prohibited. Student-athletes choosing to violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

**L. DUE PROCESS**

It is the policy of the Greater Clark County School Corporation that all employees, parents/guardians, students, and members of the community are entitled to be treated and are obligated to treat others with courtesy, fairness and decency.

**The following procedures will be followed for Due Process:**

1. The athlete and his/her parents must put their appeal in writing to the Athletic Director within five (5) days.
2. The hearing with the Athletic Director or Principal for a decision to be made at the school.

**M. EQUIPMENT POLICY:** Quality athletic equipment is provided in each sport.

1. Athletes are expected to care for this equipment and return it immediately upon the end of the season.
2. School-owned equipment is to be worn only at school scheduled practices or events.
3. The student-athlete must pay for any lost equipment, or equipment not returned in proper condition. The cost of equipment will be determined by the athletic director and will be based on replacement cost.
4. Until equipment is returned or paid for, an athlete will be ineligible for any further athletics, awards, and/or diploma until this obligation has been met.
5. Any individual equipment, uniform needs that remain with the student athlete after the season will be the responsibility of the student athlete or their family to purchase.

**SPORTSMANSHIP EXPECTATIONS FOR PARENTS:**

Good sportsmanship is the attitude and behavior that exemplifies positive support for the interscholastic athletic programs of the Greater Clark County School Corporation, as well as for the individuals who participate. Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. The ideals of sportsmanship apply equally to all activity disciplines. Individuals, regardless of their role in activities, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and model good sportsmanship.

The following are expectations for the parents of Greater Clark County student-athletes:

1. Realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support high school activities. It is not a license to verbally assault anyone or act in an outrageous manner.
2. Realize that athletics are part of the educational experience and that its benefits go beyond the final score of the contest. Place the emotional and physical well-being of student athletes ahead of any personal desire to win.
3. Respect the decisions made by officials and learn the rules of the game to better understand their decisions.
4. Participate in positive cheers and refrain from encouraging those who take away from the spirit of the contest.

5. Respect and support the task of the coaches. Respect the coaches' authority during games by not confronting them at the game site. Discuss any issues or concerns with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
6. Respect opponents as students, and acknowledge them for striving to do their best. Discourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of athletes.
7. Support a drug, tobacco, and alcohol-free sports environment for their child and refrain from their use at all events.
8. Be a parent your child would be proud of! Be a fan, not a fanatic!

## **PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION**

**A. 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 children. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communications from the coach of your child's program.

1. Communication you should expect from your child's coach at the team's pre-season meeting
  - a. Philosophy of the coach
  - b. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all players on the squad.
  - c. Locations and times of all practices and contests
  - d. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
  - e. Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
  - f. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.
  - g. Review of the Greater Clark County Schools Athletic Handbook.
  - h. Varsity Letter requirements.
2. Communication coaches expect from parents
  - a. Concerns expressed directly to the coach in a calm and respectful manner. Please do not attempt to confront the coach before or after a contest or practice.
  - b. Please allow the coach 24 hours to respond to parent concerns/communication.
  - c. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
  - d. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and /or expectations.

**B. Parent-Coach Conferences:** As your children become involved in the programs at Greater Clark County Schools, 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.

1. Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches
  - a. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
  - b. Ways to help your child improve
  - c. Concerns about your child's behavior.

At times, it may be very difficult to accept your child's role on the team. 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 things must be left to the discretion of the coach.

2. Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches
  - a. Playing time
  - b. Team strategy
  - c. Play calling
  - d. 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.

3. If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, the procedure you should follow:
  - a. Call to set up an appointment
  - b. Please do not attempt to confront the 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

4. What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?
  - a. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director.
  - b. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

## **GREATER CLARK COUNTY SCHOOLS COACHES' CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT COACHES' EXPECTATIONS**

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 shall be treated with dignity and respect and his/her welfare shall be uppermost at all times. In recognition of this, the following guidelines for coaches have been recommended by the Athletic Council and approved by the Board of School Trustees.

The *coach* must be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence either good or bad, in 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 position. In all personal contact with the student athlete, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media, the parents and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

The *coach* shall refrain from using profanity or racial slurs. In addition, the *coach* shall refrain from humiliating, demeaning, or belittling a player.

The *coach* shall show respect for contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which will incite players or spectators against the officials. Coaches should not publicly criticize officials.

The *coach* shall actively use his/her influence to enhance sportsmanship by the spectators.

The *coach* shall promote the interscholastic and extracurricular activity programs of the school and direct his or her program in harmony with the total school program.

## **SPECTATOR CONDUCT**

The Indiana High School Athletic Association requires its member high schools to monitor spectator behavior at all school-sponsored activities.

### ***IHSAA By-Law 3-6: Member School Responsible for Control of Athletic Program and Supporters***

*The member school's responsibility for the conduct of its athletic program includes responsibility for the actions of its staff members, its participants, and any other individual or organization actively engaged in activities promoting the athletic interests of the member School. A member School's "responsibility" includes the responsibility of instituting full and complete team and crowd control measures at all Contests in which such member School participates, assuring that the participants, staff and boosters of the member School conduct themselves at all times in a proper and sportsmanship like manner, and ensuring full compliance by participants, staff and boosters of the member School of all association rules, including those involving eligibility and undue influence.*

Accordingly, an event supervisor may request any person involved in misconduct at a school-sponsored activity to leave the premises if deemed necessary. The Greater Clark County Schools Board of Trustees has adopted a policy that supports such action by school personnel. The IHSAA Sportsmanship Program policy deducts (-5 pts) from a member school's "sportsmanship score" for the Ejection of a fan/patron. In addition, the ejected fan/patron is suspended from the next two (2) interschool HOME contests at that level of competition and all other HOME contests in the interim. Any ejection places the member school "at risk" of remaining a "member in good standing" with the IHSAA, and faces consequences ranging from a phone conference with the IHSAA to removal from State Tournament participation.

Available Links:

[Greater Clark County School Website](#)

[Greater Clark County Schools Rights and Responsibilities](#)

[IHSAA Sportsmanship Program](#)

[Greater Clark Final Forms](#)

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## **CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME TO GREATER CLARK COUNTY SCHOOLS**

I have read the Greater Clark County High Schools' Athletic Handbook. Parents and students acknowledge this requirement with their respective on-line signatures in the "Final Forms" software.