

Genesee Athletic Handbook

Genesee Jr./ Sr. High School 2018-19

XXIV. ATHLETIC RULES & ATHLETIC CODE GUIDELINES

The Athletic Code applies to all students who participate in competitive sports, cheerleading and dance. This code applies in addition to other rules and regulations concerning student conduct and imposes additional requirement on student athletes and cheerleaders.

Participation in athletics is a privilege. Those who participate in athletics have a responsibility to favorably represent the school and community. Student athletes are expected to conduct themselves both in and out of school in a manner appropriate to their responsibilities as representatives of the school and district. If a student fails to comply with the terms of this code, the privilege to participate in athletics may be lost in accordance with the terms of this code.

MHSAA: Eligibility for most athletics is also governed by the rules of the Michigan High School Association and, if applicable, these rules will apply in addition to this Athletic Code. In a case of conflict between MHSAA and this Athletic Code, the most stringent rules will be enforced.

Eligibility: A student athlete must be passing 4 of 6 classes to be eligible. Additionally, in order to maintain eligibility to participate in contests, athletes must meet the biweekly eligibility requirement which requires athletes to be passing 4 of 6 courses. Students failing more than two courses (GCI = 3 courses, Dual Enrollment = 3 courses) will be ineligible to participate in athletic contests until the next grade checks. Students who failed 3 or more classes at the end of a semester must sit until the 61st day of school of the next semester.

Requirements for Participation: An athlete must have the following fully executed documents on file at the Athletic office before the athlete's first participation in any activity. Athletic equipment should not be issued and students must not be allowed to try out or practice until an acceptable signed statement of physical examination and consent has been provided.

- A current physical examination report (given on or after April 15 of the previous school year) completed by the M.D., D.O., or Physician's Assistant who administers the physical examination and which finds that the athlete has passed a physical examination and is physically able to participate in athletic tryouts, practices and contests; and
- A permission slip to participate in the specific sport in which the athlete intends to participate signed by the athlete's parent or guardian; and
- Proof the athlete is covered by medical insurance; and
- Completed signature form showing the athlete and his/her parents received a copy of the Athletic Handbook (which further outlines parent, coach and athletes expectations), understand the terms of the Athletic Handbook and agree to abide by its terms and conditions.

Behavioral Conduct and Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco: Coaches and school officials will impose consequences as outlined in the Student Discipline Code of Conduct of this guide. Additionally, the rules set forth in the Student/Parent Success Guide are in effect throughout the school year for all athletes from the first tryout or practice session for any particular sport during a particular school term until the last day of that sport or until the last day of the school term

whichever comes later and 24 hours a day, whether or not school is in session and including vacation periods and holidays.

A student serving a suspension, either in-school or out-of-school, may not participate in athletics until the first school-day back from his/her suspension and will be suspended from competition for a minimum of one game. This regulation is in effect for practices, scrimmages, games, contests, or meets. A student suspended 5 or more days must schedule a meeting with the Athletic Director and their coach and attend with his/her parent within three (3) school days following the suspension to determine the student's status on the team.

Any student athlete who is caught with a prohibited drug or alcohol either in school or out will be put on these steps. This step system will remain with the student athlete throughout their high school careers. Once they are put on step one they will never get taken off.

Step 1: Student athlete will miss 20% of the games in the current season. (If the offense occurs outside of a sports season the student athlete will miss 20% of the games in the next sport season they play. Ex: If a student does not play a fall sport and gets caught smoking in September. The student athlete would miss 20% of the winter season if that is the next sport they play.)

Amount of games that equal 20% of a season:

Football : 2 games **Basketball boys/girls:** 4 games **Baseball/Softball:** 8 games

Track and Field: 3 games **Cross Country boys/girls:** 3 games

Cheer (fall): 2 games **Dance:** 4 games

Step 2: Student athlete will be suspended the remainder of the school year for all athletic activities. Students may be reinstated the next year after a meeting with the Athletic Director and a panel of varsity coaches.

Step 3: Student athlete will be suspended for the rest of their high school career from all and any athletic activities.

Absences from School on Day of Activity: An athlete who is absent from school is ineligible for any activity on that day unless the student is in school for 3 consecutive hours of the day. If the student misses the last three hours of the day it is the responsibility of the student athlete to get a documentation of an excused absence to the Athletic Director so the student athlete can remain eligible to play that day.

Absences from School on Day of Activity: An athlete who is absent from school is ineligible for any activity on that day unless the absence is (1) for a medical purpose pre-arranged with the coach and has written documentation, or (2) for court appointment (court documentation), or (3) for a death in the athlete's family. The athlete must be in attendance for at least (3) class periods (even with these exceptions).

Travel: All athletes shall travel to athletic events and return home from athletic events with the team on which the athlete competes by use of school-approved transportation. A written waiver of this rule may be issued by a coach or administrator upon advance written request (day prior) of an athlete's parent or guardian.

Additional Guidelines

- No student will be admitted to a team later than one week before the first game without agreement of the coach and athletic director.
- Athletic contests may be scheduled for play on Saturdays.
- Athletic teams (High School only) may enter holiday tournaments.
- Any additional policies involving practice regulations, training rules, eligibility, tec., will be given in writing to the Athletic Director for approval and then distributed to team members by the coach prior to the first scheduled game.
- A coach may at any time dismiss from his/her squad a student for violations of the Athletic Code Guidelines.
- Any teacher may report a student for actions that he/she deems prejudicial to the good of athletics and not specifically covered herein. The Athletic Council will take appropriate action on such a report.
- Dress, appearance, and conduct standards will be made and regulated by each coach.
- An athlete is financially responsible for all equipment checked out to him/her.
- All student team members and other student helpers, e.g. managers, scorekeepers, etc., are required to ride the team bus to and from contests when school transportation is provided.
- All athletes are required to attend all practices and games unless excused by the head coach of that team or the athletic director. Unexcused absences will result in disciplinary action by the coach. A second unexcused absence during that season may result in dismissal.
- Any athlete (1st offense) who is dismissed from or quits a team will be suspended from the athletic program. Reinstatement must be appealed (a letter of explanation and schedule a meeting) to the Athletic Director.

Recourse: Any student, who feels that h/she has been unjustly treated, has violated a rule for seemingly just cause, or whose case is not covered by the foregoing rules will be heard by the Athletic Council, consisting of the Principal, Athletic Director, and all members of the coaching staff. His/her parents and /or a representative may accompany the student if he/she chooses.

The request for a hearing must be filed within two school days of the offense and the Athletic Council must meet within five school days of the filing of the request.

ATHLETIC CODE GUIDELINES

Behavior & Sportsmanship Expectations

It is the expectation of Genesee Schools that participants and spectators exhibit appropriate decorum. Positive support of individual players and the team is encouraged. Negative behavior that detracts from the positive experience athletics can provide is not acceptable.

Participants and spectators exhibiting disruptive and/or negative behavior may be removed from the premises by school personnel or police. Persons exhibiting repeated negative behavior may be restricted from further attendance at school events.

The Genesee Athletic Coach and Athletic Department reserve the right to review and/or monitor student-athletes' social networking sites and postings. Any violation of law or of MHSAA, Genesee School District policies or evidence of such violation in the athlete's online content is subject to investigation and sanction by the Genesee Athletic Department, the Genesee School Board, MHSAA and law enforcement agencies.

Student Athlete Commitment

It is important that you progressively mature and develop positive strength of character. You owe it to yourself to gain the greatest possible good from your high school athletic experiences within the guidelines of the team and the school. Your academic studies and your participation in other activities as well as in sports help prepare you for your life as an adult. You assume a leadership role when you are on an athletic team. The student body and citizens of our school district judge our school partially by your conduct, attitude and athletic ability, both on and off the competition venue. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride. You bear a heavy responsibility to your fellow team members and coaches. When you have lived up to all the training rules, when you have practiced to the best of your ability every day, when you have played with focus and intensity, you can increase your self-respect as a result of your contribution to the team.

Dual Participation Policy

An athlete may participate in more than one sport per season. The athlete must declare which one is his/her primary sport and which one is the secondary sport. The athlete will only be able to participate in the secondary sport when there is not a conflict with the primary sport. Potential conflicts will be resolved by the parties involved.

Parent Commitment Information contained in this document is presented to you as your son and/or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics. Your interest in this phase of school life is encouraged. It can be very difficult to be a parent of a student athlete. There may be times of frustration for both your child and you as a parent. Frustrations could be caused by a variety of reasons ranging from injury, coaching decisions or unmet expectations.

If you wish to speak with a coach about a concern, please use established lines of communication outlined in Communication/Resolution of Conflict of this document. By doing so, the likelihood of a resolution of concerns in a positive manner is enhanced. A student who elects to participate in athletics is voluntarily making a choice that requires self-discipline. Good conduct and training habits are necessary. Failure to comply with the expectations outline in the Student Success Guide and other related documents will result in progressive disciplinary procedures.

Genesee Coach Commitment

The Genesee Athletic Coach is responsible for the organization of his or her respective sport. It is in the Genesee Athletic Coach's hands that the Genesee Athlete is molded. This responsibility must not be taken lightly and because of this the Genesee Athletic Coach:

1. Should demonstrate knowledge in the medical, legal, sociological-psychological areas and in the theory and techniques of coaching his or her respective sport.
2. Shall display coaching organizational abilities throughout all practices and contests.
3. Shall understand and abide with rules and regulations as set forth by all governing agencies of the sport.
4. Shall lead, teach and coach by example is responsible for team discipline and control.
5. Shall strive to develop the Genesee Athlete in his or her charge to their highest capabilities by:
 - a. Striving for proper conditioning.
 - b. Striving for the prevention of and the care for injuries.
 - c. Encouraging the development of leadership in individuals while at the same time encouraging team performance.

6. Stressing the importance of academics and their relationship to athletics. Shall develop a positive rapport with team members, parents, and staff and provide open lines of communication with each.
7. Shall present and discuss this, the Genesee Athletic Code, at a meeting prior to the first practice of his or her respective sport and submit a signed acknowledgement for each Genesee Athlete to the Genesee Athletic Director before that athlete may participate in a practice or contest.
8. Shall present and discuss during this same meeting any specific training rules or conduct as they relate to the specific sport and his or her individual coaching theories and methods (it is suggested this be done in writing).
9. Shall adhere to and enforce the Genesee Athletic Code as well as any rules and guidelines which might be initiated for the Genesee Coaching Staff by the Genesee Athletic Director.
10. Shall be responsible for the proper care, distribution and recall of all equipment relating to his or her sport.

Injury Policy

Athletes who have sustained an injury must be released to return to competition or practice by their physician. An athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion, shall be immediately removed from physical participation and shall not return to the activity until evaluated by a health care professional and receives written clearance.

COMMUNICATION & RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT

It is the goal of Genesee Schools to encourage and promote effective communication among all persons. Coaches are expected to hold pre-season meetings with players and parents to outline procedures and expectations for participating on the team. During activities such as athletics, there are times when emotions run high. It is essential that communication occurs at appropriate times and tone. The following expectations regarding communication will help enhance appropriate communication.

1. It is essential that coaches know of significant events in the life of a student that may affect participation in practice, games and other activities. Parents are requested to communicate such situations to the coach.
2. It is equally important that the coach keep parents informed of significant events that may happen within the activities of the program. If the student has experienced an especially frustrating situation or has a significant accomplishment, it is expected the coach will communicate with parents so that parents may have information and perspective.
3. It is the expressed policy of Genesee Schools that coaches are not to be confronted in a negative manner by parents or players before, during or after a contest of practice. A 24 hour "cooling off" period must be granted before any complaints are initiated.
4. Parents and players should use the following procedures if concerns arise regarding a possible coach/player/parent conflict.
 - a. The student and/or parent should contact the coach to discuss the situation. This meeting should be private, away from the practice/game site and should be conducted face to face.
 - b. If the student and/or parent do not feel satisfied, they should contact the Athletic Director

- c. If there is not resolution to the concern of the player and/or parent after talking with the Athletic Director, the player and/or parent may request to meet with the Principal for further review.
- d. At this point in the process, individuals who still believe their disputes are not resolved can submit a written narrative of their complaint to the school Superintendent. A copy of this will be given to all parties, who will be afforded the option of a written rebuttal. After the superintendent has reviewed the documents he can conduct a meeting in a final attempt to resolve the conflict.

AWARDS

The matter of who is eligible for awards shall be left to the discretion of the individual coaches. However, a written copy of the policy used by each coach will be passed out and explained to all team members at the beginning of each season.

When earned, the following awards may be given: JV Sport – JV Letter, Numerals, Pin ; Varsity Sport – Varsity Letter, Pin Bar

A plaque will be awarded to each senior athlete who has participated for more than one year in any particular sport.

Elmer E. Bobb Award

1. Two awards may be issued annually in the high school: One for the outstanding female and one for the outstanding male athlete.
2. Any high school student who participates in two varsity sports offered during the school year will be eligible and must be a senior in good standing with the athletic department.
3. Approximately two weeks before the awards ceremony, the Athletic Council will meet to decide the recipients of the award.
4. Any member of the Athletic Council may make nominations. The person making the nomination will orally present their reasons to the membership and discussion will be held. By an agreed upon process of elimination, the nominations will be reduced to three for each award.
5. Each member of the Athletic Council will have only one vote.
6. The following attributes, both on and off the field, shall be taken into consideration by the Athletic Council:
 - a. Athletic ability and performance: The athlete's natural talent to perform in sports, and how well he/she utilizes those talents.
 - b. Attitude: toward team members, coaching staff, school, and officials at games.
 - c. Leadership: Whether or not the athlete has provided a favorable image for others to follow.
 - d. Sportsmanship: How well the athlete demonstrates fair play.

Wolf Award

The award will be issued annually to any sophomore, junior, or senior athlete(s) who have met the following criteria during the three previous sports seasons:

1. The athlete completed two sports seasons.
2. The athlete was not ineligible to participate in athletics because of academic standing.
3. The athlete completed the previous school year in good standing with the Athletic Department.
4. The athlete was not formally disciplined by the Athletic Director or Athletic Council for conduct unbecoming of a Genesee Athlete.

5. The athlete maintained a minimum grade point average of 2.5, calculated by using all final grades for both semesters.
6. The winner(s) of the award will be recognized at the annual high school awards night.