

**2009-2010
GRANGER MIDDLE SCHOOL
ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

Being an athlete requires more than being a team member. It often causes many demands that may require personal sacrifices. *Being a team member is not a right, but a privilege.* If an individual athlete is willing to put extra effort into athletics, he/she will be rewarded many times over.

PREAMBLE

Participation in athletics means more than individual or team competition. It is more than winning or losing. Participating in athletics teaches many social and emotional lessons, sportsmanship, cooperation, teamwork, appreciation, understanding and pride. This guide has been prepared for all Granger athletes with these goals in mind.

As an athlete, you will be asked to read the following guidelines and submit a commitment to your coach.

1. Athletes will keep academics and citizenship on the highest levels.
2. Athletes must accept responsibility for taking proper care of all equipment and uniforms.
3. Athletes must realize that profanity will not be tolerated.
4. Athletes will demonstrate good conduct in or out of school.
5. Athletes need to realize that while winning is a desired outcome; they must learn to enjoy victory, yet maintain modesty. On the other side of victory is defeat. Athletes should be able to accept losing graciously.
6. After a completed, well-played contest, each athlete must courteously congratulate his or her opponents.
7. Athletes need to develop a pride in their coach, teammates, school, and most importantly THEMSELVES.
8. Athletes must encourage their teammates at all times. They should never criticize or blame another teammate for their play.
9. Athletes will never argue or dispute an official's call.
10. Athletes have a great influence on their fellow students. Good examples such as speaking with respect to all students, faculty,

and staff are a positive approach that is highly encouraged.

11. Athletes will remember to conduct themselves properly on all school busses as they represent Granger Middle School.
12. Athletes should maintain proper fitness throughout the year to avoid injuries.
13. Athletes should keep the locker room in proper condition: a) all clothes should be kept off the floor, and b) lockers should be kept locked.
14. Athletes should arrive to practice on time. Athletes should also be picked up from practice promptly.
15. Athletes who are on medical release from physical education class will not be allowed to practice or play.
16. Any violation of the previously listed guidelines will result in appropriate consequences by the coach, athletic director, and principal.
17. Athletes who miss practice may have a reduction in playing time based on the discretion of the coach.

ACTIVITIES ARE A PRIVILEGE

The activities / athletics included in this Code place the student participants in the role of representatives of Granger and their fellow students. Participation is a privilege extended to these students, which permits them to benefit from a well-organized program of special interest for which the school provides coaches, sponsors, equipment, and facilities. No student has the right to participate in any of these activities or any other extracurricular/co-curricular activities.

With the privilege of participation comes the additional responsibility of each participant to learn, understand, and follow the rules established by the District, the school and the coaches/sponsors of the particular activity.

Because these activities are voluntary and because those participating represent their school, we expect the behavior of those who try out and participate to be of the highest order. This is particularly true of academic requirements, honesty, school citizenship, and sportsmanship. The dignity of the school is reflected in its activity program. Since it is a privilege to participate and represent the school, it is logical that the school has the authority to revoke or restrict the privilege for those who do not conduct themselves in a

responsible manner. This sense of responsibility extends to the activity as well as to conduct inside and outside the school.

When the doors of participation and competition are opened to those who have questionable habits or who are not good citizens, the activity program can fail. The privilege of representing the school should be left in the hands of those who have earned it.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible to participate in any co-curricular activities, students must be in good academic standing as proscribed by the Board of Education in compliance with state law. Coaches and sponsors will review eligibility standards at the beginning of each season and as new members join the activity.

SPORTSMANSHIP MISSION STATEMENT

Good sportsmanship is the attitude and behavior that exemplifies positive support for the interscholastic programs, as well as for the individuals who participate in such programs. People involved in all facets of the interscholastic program are expected to demonstrate respect for others and display good sportsmanship.

SPORTSMANSHIP IS EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY

Sportsmanship starts on the court or athletic field and extends into the bleachers and beyond. In today's increasingly competitive environment, the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat seem to be more intensified than ever before. It is important to raise the public awareness of sportsmanship and interscholastic activities. It is everyone's responsibility to practice good sportsmanship. Recognizing the efforts by students, coaches, administrators, spirit groups, and fans is a valuable part of the interscholastic experience.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. All athletes **MUST** have on file a current physical exam certificate that will not expire within the season in order to practice or participate.

2. All athletes must show evidence of being covered by a health insurance plan. Students must show proof of insurance at registration by submitting insurance company name and policy # or by enrolling in the school insurance plan.

3. If the Athletic/Activity Director has reasonable cause to believe a student's health condition may pose a risk to the student or others in the activity, he / she may require a more current certification of fitness to participate from a physician.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, MEDICAL EXCUSES and VACATIONS

1. Daily school attendance, no less than 3 ½ hours, is required for a student to participate in daily practice, contest or events. Exception can only be made by the activity/athletic director(s). It will not be the practice for participants to purposely miss part of a school day. Documentation of medical appointments, etc., must be provided to the coach, athletic/activity director(s) prior to participation of practice, or contest/event.

2. Athletes who are medically excused from regular physical education classes may not participate in school activities, practices, or games without a doctor's release or a release from the school nurse. However, participation in athletics for such students may be limited by the school based on the safety judgment of the Athletic Director after consultation with the coach.

3. Vacation absences or missed practices during an activity or team season can result in **restricted participation**. See the individual coach/sponsor at the start of the sport/activity for details about absences.

ATHLETE ETHICS CODE

1. I will always be on time and prepared for practice and games unless previous arrangements have been made with the coach.
2. As a member of a team, I will be courteous, respectful, and practice good sportsmanship to my teammates, opponents, referees, coaches and teachers at Granger Middle School.
3. It is a privilege to represent Granger and proper behavior is required in class, practice, and athletic contests.
4. Proper care of equipment is mandatory.
5. I will use appropriate language at all times.
6. I understand that good sportsmanship is a must. Criticizing, blaming, or disputing my teammates, coaches, opponents or referees will not be tolerated.
7. Respecting another school's facilities and staff is proper behavior.
8. I will be alcohol, drug and tobacco free. These violations will result in immediate dismissal.

**VIOLATIONS OF THIS CODE OF ETHICS
WILL BE HANDLED AS FOLLOWS:**

- *First violation* - warning and conference with coach
- *Second violation* - conference with coach, principal, athlete, and parent
- *Third violation* - review with principal/coach for team dismissal

Finally, since it is our goal to have an excellent school and athletic program, violations of school rules are not acceptable.

Students who have reoccurring disciplinary actions may be reviewed for eligibility by the coach and/or administration.

Out of school suspension and/or extreme behavior will result in an immediate conference with the coach(es), principal, and parents for possible dismissal.

ADMINISTRATIVE DISCRETION

Because participation in athletics/activities is a privilege, this Code is merely a guide for responding to certain identified actions or conduct. Not every situation involving conduct inconsistent with a student participant's status as a representative of Granger is or can be covered. The school reserves the right, but not the obligation, to alter, revise, adjust, or increase sanctions and discipline on a case-by-case basis, as the interests of the school require.

ATHLETIC FEE

The middle school activity fees are \$50 *per season* for athletics and cheerleading with a maximum of \$100 *per school year*.

Checks should be made payable to Granger Middle School.

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PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS WHOLE COPY TO YOUR COACH

Student Name (Please Print): _____

Student-Athlete Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____ **Sport:** _____