



**Gouverneur Central School District  
Athletic/Extracurricular  
Code of Conduct**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Participation in athletics and other extracurricular activities at Gouverneur Central School is a privilege that carries significant responsibilities. All BOE recognized teams, clubs and other activities are integral to the educational experience, offering students avenues to develop physically, mentally, and socially. Engaging in sports and clubs allows students to develop teamwork, leadership, and discipline, while also fostering a sense of school spirit and community pride.

Representing our school is an honor that extends beyond the playing field or rehearsal space. It reflects our commitment to uphold the values of civility, mutual respect, and integrity, both within and outside the school environment. As outlined in the district's Code of Conduct, students are expected to demonstrate responsible behavior at all times, recognizing that their actions reflect on themselves, their teammates, coaches, school, family, and community.

To maintain eligibility for participation, student-athletes must meet prescribed academic standards and adhere to the Athletic/Extracurricular Code of Conduct. This includes a commitment to academic excellence, proper training, and exemplifying positive citizenship. By signing this letter of commitment, both the student-athlete and their parent or legal guardian acknowledge and accept these responsibilities, affirming their dedication to uphold the high standards set forth by Gouverneur Central School District.

## **ATHLETIC/EXTRACURRICULAR GOALS**

- Develop and maintain the highest level of sportsmanship and citizenship.
- Develop proper attitudes toward winning and losing, success and failure.
- Encourage and develop respect for fellow athletes whether they are teammates, members of other Gouverneur athletic teams, or members of opposing teams.
- Assure that the amount of time required for athletic/extracurricular participation does not interfere with academic success.
- Develop proper attitudes toward individual health habits, appearance on and off the field, and citizenship in and out of school.
- Encourage competition not only for the tangible rewards but also for the development of positive attitudes that makes competition valuable and worthwhile.
- Maintain the highest standard of ethics, recognize each participant as an individual who will conduct themselves in a manner befitting to their responsibilities, and develop the kind of rapport with the broader school community that will improve the total educational program.

## **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

Academic achievement is the primary focus of Gouverneur Central School District. Students will be encouraged to maintain and improve academic performance during the entire school year. All students who participate in extracurricular activities are subject to eligibility requirements. The purpose of these eligibility requirements is to emphasize the importance of academics, promote a sense of order and discipline and to keep each student's extracurricular endeavors in the proper perspective.

Students will be reviewed academically every five (5) weeks to determine eligibility.

### **Probation**

If a student is found to be failing two (2) classes, the student will be placed on probation for a ten-school-day period. During this time students will be allowed to actively participate in extracurricular activities. At the end of the probation period, the student may not be failing more than one class. Any student failing two or more classes at the end of their ten-school-day probation period will be placed on ineligibility for an additional ten-school day period.

### **Ineligibility**

If a student is found to be failing three (3) or more classes, the student will be placed on ineligibility for a ten-school-day period. During this time students are allowed to practice with their club/team. However, playing in games or participating in major club activities during this period is prohibited. Any student failing two or more classes at the end of the ten-school-day ineligibility period will be removed from the team.

### **Eligibility Review and Student Expectations**

During periods of academic probation or ineligibility, students are responsible for actively seeking academic support from their teachers and/or participating in after-school programs. They must also maintain full compliance with the Interscholastic Eligibility Agreement. After each period of ten-school-days, students' progress will be reviewed. Students who are non-compliant or do not show timely and appropriate academic progress will be removed from the team.

Exceptions may be made upon deliberation and agreement by/amongst the Principal and the Athletic Director and communicated with applicable coaches, the student, and parent/guardian.

### **Physical Education Requirements**

Any student who is a member of an interscholastic or modified athletic team must maintain a 65 average or better in physical education. Failure to maintain a 65 or better average in physical education will place the student on academic probation. In cases where a student is officially injured or on a medical leave from participating in physical education, said conditions shall be taken into consideration.

***For the fall season, students who failed two classes at the end of the previous school year and did not attend or pass summer school will begin on probation until the first five-week report. Students who failed three or more classes and did not attend or pass summer school will begin on ineligibility until the first five-week report.***

## **APPROPRIATE CONDUCT REQUIREMENTS**

### **Application of the Code**

The Code of Conduct is in effect during the athletic season in which the athlete is participating. The season is defined as beginning with the first day of practice set by Section 10 and the Northern Athletic Conference and ending with the last contest in that sport which includes post-season play.

If a consequence cannot be fulfilled because of an occurrence late in the season or due to the fact that the athlete does not complete the season, it will be carried over to the next sports season in which the athlete competes. The number of games suspended in the new sports season will be based upon the percent served in the original offense season subtracted from the total percent to be served.

There are circumstances in which an out of season violation could have an impact on an athlete's eligibility. The building Principal and the Athletic Director may determine if a violation that takes place in the school environment counts as an offense even if it is in between seasons.

### **Penalties**

Violations of the Code will result in penalties as determined formally by the building Principal and the Athletic Director. In determining appropriate penalties, the building Principal and the Athletic Director shall be guided as follows:

#### **First Offense**

If an offense occurs that is deemed to be a violation of the Code, the student will be allowed to practice with the team, but shall not be allowed to participate in the team's scheduled competitions according to the eligibility chart. For example, a student on a team with a 16-game schedule found guilty of smoking or vaping during the season, would be expected to practice with the team but would not be permitted to participate in the next four regularly scheduled contests.

#### **Second Offense**

If a second offense occurs within twelve (12) months of the last offense, the student will be allowed to practice with the team, but shall not be allowed to participate in the team's scheduled competitions according to the eligibility chart. For example, a student on a team with a 16-game schedule found guilty of smoking or vaping prior to the start of the season and again during the season, would be expected to practice with the team, but would not be permitted to participate in the next eight regularly scheduled contests.

#### **Third Offense**

If a third offense occurs within twelve (12) months of the last offense, the student shall be removed from participation in **all** interscholastic athletics for one calendar year beginning on the date the penalty for the third offense is imposed.

## ELIGIBILITY CHART

# Of Regular Season Scheduled Contests	Contest Penalty First Offense	Contest Penalty Second Offense
7	1	3
8	2	4
9	2	4
10	2	4
11	2	4
12	3	6
13	3	6
14	3	6
15	3	6
16	4	8
17	4	8
18	4	8
19	4	8
20	5	10

*It should be noted, notwithstanding the above chart of penalties, that the facts of an incident may warrant immediate removal from the team if the Athletic Director and the building Principal believe that the offense committed by the athlete warrants such action.*

### Appeal Procedure

The student and/or parent/guardian have the right to appeal penalties imposed under the Code to the school Principal and Athletic Director. Appeals must be made in writing within three school days of assignment of a penalty for a code violation. A response to the appeal will be provided within three school days after receipt of the letter by the Principal and the Director of Athletics and Physical Education.

### Out-of-School (OSS)/In-School Suspension (ISS)

A student may not participate in any extracurricular activity until the suspension period has concluded and the student has been formally readmitted to school. Any student serving a full day of ISS cannot participate in after-school activities. Any student serving a full day of OSS/ISS on Friday cannot participate in a contest held on the weekend.

## **Detention**

A student may not participate in any extracurricular activity until detention has been completed on the day of.

## **Offenses Resulting in Arrest or the Filing of Formal Charges in Court**

In the case of the arrest for a criminal offense or filing of charges, if the District has adequate and competent evidence that the student participated in the offense for which the student is charged, the student shall be removed from the team until the matter is effectively reviewed. It shall be considered as a 2<sup>nd</sup> offense at a minimum pursuant to the eligibility chart. A penalty shall be immediately imposed pursuant to the Athletic Code of Conduct regulation prior to completion of the criminal proceeding. The District reserves the right to prefer stricter disciplinary consequences, including suspension in future seasons upon the completion of the criminal proceeding.

## **SPECIFIC RULES AND EXPECTATIONS**

### **School Attendance**

In order for a student to be eligible to participate in or spectate an extracurricular event on any given day, they must be in regular attendance at school as per the student attendance policy unless excused for legal reasons other than illness.

1. Legal or excused absences are defined as:
  - Illness or death in the family
  - Doctor's appointment(s)
  - Driver's test
  - Impassable roads
  - Religious observance
  - Required court appearance
  - Approved college visit
  - Military obligations
2. All students must be in school by 10:45 AM in order to participate in practices or games.
3. Students excused from PE or released from school early due to illness or injury will not be allowed to participate in any event or game that evening.
4. Students must provide prior notification to their coach/advisor concerning any anticipated absences from athletic/club activities. Failure to notify the coach/advisor may result in disciplinary action at the coach's/advisor's discretion.
5. Any requests for variance on these stipulations must be directed to the Principal prior to the activity.

## **Sportsmanship**

Any student exhibiting unsportsmanlike conduct or failing to maintain a positive attitude will be subject to a formal meeting with the coach, Athletic Director, advisor, or Principal. The purpose of this meeting is to address and rectify the behavior. Consequences for such conduct may include suspension or removal from the team or extracurricular activity.

## **Hazing/Initiation**

Hazing or initiation by athletes is prohibited by Gouverneur Central School District. Violation of this section will result in suspension and/or removal from the team.

## **Transportation of Athletes to Away Contests**

All student-athletes are expected to ride to away contests on the bus with their teams. Any student-athlete who does not ride the bus to an away contest with their team will be ineligible to participate. Exceptions may be made under special circumstances with prior approval from the building Principal and Athletic Director.

## **Equipment and Uniforms**

All Gouverneur Central School issued uniforms/equipment must be returned at the end of each season. Students will be responsible for the cost of replacing any lost, stolen or damaged uniforms/equipment.

## **Vacation**

If a vacation or extended period of absence during the season is unavoidable, please inform the coach well in advance to facilitate appropriate planning. Please note that extended absences may influence a player's role and playing time upon return. Missing practices can impact team cohesion, individual development, and overall game preparation. Consistent attendance is crucial for maintaining team dynamics and ensuring all players are adequately prepared for upcoming competitions.

## **Practice/Contest Policy**

Penalties for absences from practices will be at the discretion of the coach. Gouverneur student-athletes must understand that commitment to the school team comes first, and participation in outside activities should not be detrimental to an individual or interscholastic team.

## **Team Rules**

Coaches have the authority to establish team-specific rules that promote discipline and positive behavior. These rules must align with this Athletic Code of Conduct and not contradict its principles. If any conflicts arise, coaches should consult with the Athletic Director to ensure consistency across the athletic program.

*The Consequences set forth in this Athletic Code of Conduct are in addition to any consequences that may be imposed by the School's Code of Conduct OR ADMINISTRATION.*