



Athletic/Extracurricular Code of Conduct 2017-2018

Fall Sports

Football – Varsity
Football – JV
Football – Modified
Cross Country – Boys/Girls Varsity
Cross Country – Boys/Girls Modified
Soccer – Boys Varsity
Soccer – Boys Modified
Soccer – Girls Varsity
Soccer – Girls JV
Soccer – Girls Modified
Swim – Girls Varsity
Swim – Girls Modified
Volleyball – Girls Varsity
Volleyball – Girls JV
Volleyball – Girls Modified
Cheerleading – Football

Winter Sports

Basketball – Boys Varsity
Basketball – Boys JV
Basketball – Boys Modified
Basketball – Girls Varsity
Basketball – Girls JV
Basketball – Girls Modified
Wrestling – Varsity/JV
Wrestling – Modified
Swim – Boys Varsity
Swim – Boys Modified
Cheerleading – Basketball
Indoor Track – Boys/Girls Varsity
Indoor Track – Boys/Girls Modified
Hockey – Varsity (Merger)

Spring Sports

Baseball – Varsity
Baseball – JV
Baseball – Modified
Softball – Varsity
Softball – JV
Softball – Modified
Track & Field – Boys/Girls Varsity
Track & Field – Boys/Girls Modified
Golf

Extracurricular Club/Activities

Deanonian
Marching Band
Select Choir
Select Strings
Jazz Band
Pep Band
Color Guard
Winter Color Guard
High School Musical
Middle School Musical
Thespian
Drama Club
Future Farmers of America
History Club
Chess Club
CODA

Junior National Honor Society
National Honor Society
Key Club
Hospitality Club
Varsity Club
Student Council/Class officers
Student Senate
Whiz Quiz
HS/MS Robotics
Communication Club
Competitive Speaking Club
HS/MS Tech Clubs
Future Homemakers of America
Math Club
Art Club

INTRODUCTION

Athletics and extracurricular activities are an important component of the Gouverneur Central School District's (GCS) educational program. The Athletic/ Extracurricular Code of Conduct applies to student athletes and those students who participate in the many Board of Education (BOE) recognized clubs and activities. The rules governing these students are in effect from the moment a student signs the paperwork indicating their intention to participate in a sport or activity and apply to all of these students grades seven through twelve. These rules are in effect 24 hours a day, 12 months a year, regardless of whether an athletic season or activity is currently active, and covers a participant's behavior both in and outside of school.

Student participation in athletics/extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. A student's participation in interscholastic athletics and any other activity is contingent upon their full compliance with all provisions of this Athletic/ Extracurricular Code of Conduct. Students must also comply with the District's Code of Conduct for the maintenance of order on school property. The following goals will serve as the foundation for the specific provisions within this Code of Conduct:

Our goals are:

1. To develop and maintain the highest level of sportsmanship and citizenship.
2. To develop proper attitudes toward winning and losing, success and failure.
3. To encourage and develop respect for fellow athletes whether they are teammates, members of other Gouverneur athletic teams, or members of opposing teams.
4. To assure that the amount of time required for athletic/extracurricular participation does not interfere with academic success.
5. To develop proper attitudes toward individual health habits, appearance on and off the field, and citizenship in and out of school.
6. To encourage competition not only for the tangible rewards but also for the development of positive attitudes that makes competition valuable and worthwhile.
7. To orient all athletic staff members and club advisors to abide by the rules, regulations, and officials' decisions that govern each sport/activity.
8. To maintain the highest standard of ethics, recognize each participant as an individual who will conduct him/herself in a manner befitting his/her responsibilities, and develop the kind of rapport with the broader school community that will improve the total educational program.

COACHING and ADVISING

At Gouverneur, coaching or advising an extracurricular activity is considered an extension of the academic environment, and an opportunity for students to learn. This implies that Coach/Advisor responsibility for supervision, preparation, and training is just as essential in these activities as it is for a teacher in the classroom, especially if we are to justify our interscholastic program on a sound educational philosophy. Therefore, the District expects that the individual Coach/Advisor will apply him/herself to these assignments in the same professional manner displayed in a formal classroom situation.

Of all educators, we feel that adults in these positions have the greatest opportunity to influence young people. A Coach's/Advisor's interaction with students/ athletes/activity participants during practice and game situations is considered an extension of the school day. The "Classroom" becomes the football/soccer field, the softball/baseball field, the basketball court, or the school bus carrying athletes home after they've just suffered a heartrending loss. It is also the community event, the volunteering, the stage, the music room/practice area, or the robotics and Whiz Quiz competition. These are teaching opportunities that can be used to help young people become better citizens and better human beings.

Our goal is to have as many students as possible involved in our athletic and extracurricular activities and we recognize that talking with peers, coaches and teachers can influence the decision to become involved. With this in mind, coaches will have the ability to recruit new players, and students will have the ability to change their mind on a sport, until the following cut off dates:

Fall sports - September 15th

Winter sports - November 20th

Spring sports - March 20th

Advisors of extracurricular activities will have the ability to use their discretion when allowing students to join.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR COACHES and EXTRACURRICULAR ADVISORS

At Gouverneur each student/athlete/activity participant should be treated as an individual whose welfare shall be primary at all times. The Coach/Advisor must be aware that he/she serves as a model in the education of the student/athlete/activity participant and, therefore, shall never place the value of winning above the value of character building.

The Coach/Advisor must, at all times uphold the honor and dignity of the educational profession. In all personal contact with the students/athletes/activity participants, parents, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, other activity participants and activity advisors, the media and the public, the Coach/Advisor will strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

The Coach/Advisor shall support and enforce the Code of Conduct for the maintenance of order on school property and this Athletic/Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct in all respects, including conduct involving drug, alcohol and tobacco use and abuse, and under no circumstances shall knowingly allow or condone the use of these substances. Nor shall a Coach/Advisor turn a blind eye to circumstances under which the Coach/Advisor could reasonably know that the Code of Conduct provisions regarding drug, alcohol and tobacco use and abuse will be, or are being, violated.

The Coach/Advisor shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct his or her program in balance with the total school program.

Open communication will be established with the family of team/group members through a team/group web page or phone tree which also includes the Athletic Director and Building Administrator. Individual texting between the Coach/Advisor and a student is discouraged.

The Coach/Advisor shall be thoroughly acquainted with contest, state, league, and local rules, and is responsible for their interpretation and dissemination to participants. The Coach/Advisor shall abide by the letter and spirit of these rules at all times.

Coaches/Advisors shall actively use their influence to promote sportsmanship by working closely with parents, students, and administrators.

Contest officials shall have the respect and support of the Coach/Advisor at all times. The Coach/Advisor shall not engage in conduct which will incite participants or spectators to act against the officials, or against each other.

Gouverneur Central considers public criticism of officials or participants as unprofessional.

Before and after each contest, Coaches/Advisors should meet and exchange friendly greetings to set the correct tone for the event.

CPR, FIRST AID AND COACHING COURSE REQUIREMENTS

ALL Coaches must have current and valid first aid and CPR certification. Coaches who are not certified in physical education must complete the coaching course requirement within three years.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS

1. Be positive with your son/daughter. Let them know that they are accomplishing something by being part of the team.
2. Do not offer excuses to them if they are not playing or participating. Encourage them to work hard and do their best.
3. Encourage your children to follow the rules. Whether they are a first stringer or seventh stringer, participants must follow rules pertaining to curfew, drinking, smoking, promptness and school, etc.
4. As a fan, you are entitled to cheer enthusiastically for your team, but don't become belligerent. Coaches/Advisors work with participants and know their talents. Respect that!
5. Insist that the participants respect team rules, school rules, game officials, and sportsmanship. Self-respect begins with self-control.
6. Encourage the participants to improve their self-image by believing in themselves.
7. Encourage your participant to play for the love of the game or activity.
8. Remember that the Coach/Advisor is involved because he/she sincerely enjoys working with students and is an experienced professional. Coaches/Advisors have different ways of dealing with people and situations. Participants' lives are enriched by interaction with different types of leaders.
9. Remember: at a competition you, the parent, represent your community, your school and your son/daughter. Please be a positive role model.

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

As your son/daughter becomes involved in an extracurricular program at the Gouverneur Central School District, 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. This is the opportunity for your child to talk with their respective Coach/Advisor and discuss the situation. When your child handles the problem, it becomes part of the learning and maturation process. There may also be situations that require a conversation between the Coach/Advisor and the parent. These are encouraged. It's important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other's position. Please follow the following procedures to help promote a resolution:

1. Begin with a respectful conversation with the Coach/Advisor.
2. If the concern is not resolved between your child and the Coach/Advisor, call the Athletic Director or, in cases of non-athletic extracurricular activities, the building administrator, to arrange a conference. The Athletic Director or building administrator will ask if you have worked with the Coach/Advisor to resolve the issue. A meeting will then be arranged by the Athletic Director/building administrator, including the Coach/Advisor and parent.
3. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.
4. Please do not attempt to confront a Coach/Advisor before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and Coach/Advisor. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolutions.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COACH

Pre-Season Duties:

Prior to the opening of each sports season, the head coach will:

1. Review annually the regulations governing athletics as they appear in the handbook of the NYSPHSAA.
2. Coordinate the coaching program in his/her specialty, resulting in junior varsity and/or modified teams following the varsity philosophy of play.
3. Inventory all equipment for his/her sport before any of it is issued. A copy must be turned into the Athletic Director.
4. Report unsafe equipment to the Director of Athletics and do not issue it to athletes until it has been repaired or replaced.
5. Organize a meeting with prospective team members.
 - (a) Check on physical examinations and medical questionnaire forms.
 - (b) Handout Eligibility Policies and Parental Permission Forms to all prospective team members.
 - (c) NO STUDENT IS TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY PRACTICE WITHOUT THE COACH HAVING THESE SIGNED FORMS IN HIS/HER POSSESSION.
 - (d) The coach will formally review the Athletic Code of Conduct along with all rules governing his/her sport at the initial preseason meeting. Athletes will not be permitted to participate if he/she does not attend a Code of Conduct meeting in its entirety and then sign the form stating they were in attendance.
6. All relevant forms should be turned into the appropriate school personnel:
 - (a) Medical questionnaire to the school nurse.
 - (b) Emergency medical forms should remain in the coach's possession at all times to ensure quick access.
 - (c) Signed parental consent form to the Athletic Director.

In-Season Duties:

1. Keep practice periods for the sport within the confines of the time specified by the Athletic Director and with due consideration to the coaching staff and best interest of the athletes.
2. Take full responsibility for the general upkeep, safeguard and protection of all equipment under the jurisdiction of the sports program.
3. Maintain open communication with the Athletic Director regarding any important developments in that sport, in particular, safety and discipline issue.
4. Take full responsibility for maintaining a complete inventory of all equipment used in that sport.
5. Take full responsibility for fostering and maintaining good sportsmanship and developing good public relations within the school and community.
6. Plan and schedule an appropriate program of team practices throughout the sports season, in coordination with the Athletic Director.
7. Work closely with the Athletic Director in scheduling interscholastic contests.
8. Take full responsibility for the appropriate supervision of all members of his/her team. No students will be left unsupervised at any time.
9. Take responsibility for the monitoring of the academic eligibility for each athlete involved in his/her sport.
10. Take responsibility for enforcing this Code of Conduct and the Code of Conduct for the maintenance of order on school property.
11. Oversee the safety conditions of the facility or area in which the assigned sport is conducted. Report all unsafe conditions to the Athletic Director as soon as possible.
12. Promote the sport by prompt and accurate score reporting to the local media.
13. Show interest and loyalty to the entire school program. Cooperate with other coaches in promoting all district sports team programs possible under existing condition.
13. Always communicate directly with the Athletic Director when there are serious discipline issues with students. **This must be done prior to any disposition being handed out.**
14. Conduct try-outs and establish a documented plan such as method of selection, cutting, notification of candidates, etc.
15. All game cancellations fall under the purview of the Athletic Director.
16. Accompany the team to and from athletic contests. If this is not possible, supervision of players on the school buses can be assigned to non-coaching personnel with the approval of the Athletic Director and High School Principal.
17. Will work cooperatively with other coaches and the Athletic Director when reserving the facilities for game or practice.
18. Insure that the team is properly attired for all athletic contests.
19. Insist upon the orderly conduct of players to and from athletic fields.

20. Take responsibility for building and facility security. All rooms, physical activity areas and outside doors shall be locked at the conclusion of your activity.
NO KEYS WILL BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS.
21. Remain and supervise all students until they have left the building.
22. Insure that all practice equipment is put away in its proper place following each practice or contest.
23. Prepare first aid kits with necessary supplies for emergencies. The kit should be checked daily and replenished when necessary.
24. Performs other duties as related to his/her assignments as directed by the Athletic Director.
25. Notify the Athletic Director of any team dismissals or quitters. No athlete can be dismissed from a team without consultation with the High School Principal and Athletic Director.

Post-Season Duties:

At the conclusion of each sports season, the coach will:

1. Arrange for the systematic return of all school equipment and hold the athlete responsible for all equipment not returned. Arrange for cleaning, sorting, and inventory of all equipment. Submit a copy of the inventory to the Athletic Director.
2. Submit all requisitions to the Athletic Director for the next year's budget.
3. Submit an End of Season Report to the Athletic Director.
4. Submit the current score book and summary of season statistics to the Athletic Director.
5. Arrange for the issuance of athletic letters and awards. Document these awards and forward them to the Athletic Director.
6. Your attendance and participation in the end-of-year Sports Banquet is mandatory.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN ADVISOR:

1. To know the expectations and governing policies of an organization that is a National organization.
2. To know GCS expectations of extracurricular advisors.
3. To stimulate conversations and ideas among the student participants to help them think outside the box and take ownership of the group.
4. To support officers of the group and make sure that GCS policies are followed regarding paperwork, reports, the handling of money and communications with the community.
5. GCS recognizes that there are activities our group members participate in such as bell ringing, the community dinner, helping at events in other school buildings, and the concession stand at athletic events that occur frequently and/or make it unreasonable to expect an advisor to attend.
6. It is the expectation that an advisor will make sure that there will be other adult supervision at these events if the advisor will not be in attendance. However at any regularly scheduled meetings and events not listed above, the advisor will be present for the duration of each.
7. To make sure the necessary paperwork required for a student to participate is signed and turned in and to make sure the Athletic/Extracurricular Code is reviewed with your participants.

8. Work with group officers and Building Principal to develop group expectations, requirements, membership and a calendar of events. To make sure community is aware of group's activities and events and to ensure proper forms are completed for facility use.
9. Take responsibility for building and facility security. All rooms, physical activity areas and outside doors shall be locked at the conclusion of your activity.
10. Remain and supervise all students until they have left the building after an event.
11. To enforce this Code of Conduct and the Code of Conduct for the maintenance of order on school property.
12. **NO KEYS WILL BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS.**

ATHLETIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT

Rules for Student Conduct

- (A) Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility as an athlete and the privilege of representing your school and community.
- (B) Learn the rules of your sport or activity thoroughly. This will assist you in achieving a better understanding and appreciation of the game or activity and promote fair play.
- (C) Cooperate fully with coaches, advisors and officials, always exercise good sportsmanship, and abide by the rules as they are stated.
- (D) Only the captain may communicate with officials on the clarification of rules. It is his/her responsibility to communicate what was said back to his/her teammates and/or coach.
- (E) Always respect the official's judgment and interpretation of the rules. Never argue or make non-verbal gestures that indicate disagreement. This type of immature activity may invite undesirable behavior on the part of teammates or spectators. Remember, you are an important role model for others.
- (F) Congratulate opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat. This is a true measure of character and sportsmanship.

Athletes/extracurricular participants are expected to exemplify good citizenship in both the school and community at large. When a student/athlete violates this Code of Conduct or the Code of Conduct for the maintenance of order on school property, the consequences will result in any one or more of the following:

- Verbal warning
- Suspension from team
- Removed from team
- Lost eligibility for a sports season
- Lost eligibility for the school year or career

Reporting of Violations

Reports of alleged violations of this Code of Conduct or the Code of Conduct for the maintenance of order on school property received from the individuals listed below must be investigated. These reports should be made in **writing** to the Athletic Director, within three days of the incident in question.

- Any District employee or school Board member
- Any adult acting as a chaperone or assisting with a school activity at the request of a District employee
- Any law enforcement officer or agency. It is understood that the District will generally allow law enforcement to take primary responsibility for investigating matters that may constitute a violation of criminal laws.
- A parent/legal guardian of a student participating in an athletic or extra-curricular activity.

Procedure for Investigation of Alleged Violations.

Once a written report of a violation has been received, the student, the coach, and parent will be notified that an investigation is taking place. Oral reports will be investigated when there are sufficient facts and allegations presented to allow an investigation to take place.

The student will be given an opportunity to explain his/her involvement in the violation. This will be done with the head coach of that particular sport/activity advisor and the Athletic Director/building administrator. Due Process will be afforded the student and parent/guardian prior to imposing any penalty in accordance with the standards established by the Commissioner of Education. It is understood that the due process afforded by Education Law Section 3214 is not applicable to a student's ability to participate in athletics or extra-curricular activities.

Specific Rules and Expectations

- (A) Students must abide by the Gouverneur Code of Conduct for the maintenance of order on school property, this Athletic/Extracurricular Code of Conduct, and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Guidelines.
- (B) Detention: A student may not participate in any extracurricular activity until detention has been completed.
- (C) 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 practices or games. Any student serving a full day of ISS on Friday cannot participate in a contest held on the weekend.
- (D) School Absences: An athlete may not participate in any extracurricular activity unless he/she has been present in school for a full day of attendance (must be in school no later than 7:35 a.m.). The only exceptions to this rule are accepted excuses such as doctor/dentist appointments - a note from the doctor's office will be required upon returning to school, college visitations, court appearances, or other extraordinary circumstances as determined by the building administrator. It is imperative that the parent ensures loss of school time is minimized when making such appointments. This rule applies to Saturday games if a student is absent on Friday.
- (E) Vacation: Participants are expected to be at all practices and events including those held during vacation periods. The entire team depends on full participation. In rare cases, a player may find it necessary to miss a practice or a game. The player must request permission from the Coach/Advisor and not pass on the reasons for being absent through another participant. This applies even if the participant is not in school that day.

If family obligations are known to a participant in advance that would cause a participant to miss a game or event, this must be made known to the Coach/Advisor at the earliest possible time. The Coach/Advisor will let the participant know if the reason is acceptable. Consequences will be established by the Coach/Advisor if necessary.

- (F) Dismissal/Quitting Team: Any student that is dismissed from an athletic team will not be allowed to participate in that activity or attend until the season has concluded. We realize that some team members are unfamiliar with certain sports or activities and may desire to drop out after trying the sport or activity. They may do so without penalty if they drop out prior to September 15th for fall sports, November 20th for winter sports, March 20th for sports, and with the Advisor's consent for extracurricular activities. Any exceptions to this rule for athletics is subject to review by the Athletic Council.
- (G) Sportsmanship: Any participant who exhibits unsportsmanlike behavior shall minimally be ineligible to participate in the next regularly scheduled contest. Repeat offenders may be removed for the entire season. The Coach/Advisor will generally decide whether a participant's conduct constitutes unsportsmanlike behavior and the level of penalty to be imposed. The Athletic Director and Principal will be involved in extenuating circumstances.
- (H) Transportation: All participants are expected to travel to and from contests or events with their teammates on the school bus. With the Coach's/Advisor's permission, parents can "sign-out" only their child from away contests.
- (I) If a team member is not functioning with a positive attitude, a formal meeting will be held with the Coach/athletic administrator, or Advisor/building administrator, and the player to correct the situation. The Coach/administrator, or the Advisor/building administrator, may suspend the participant for a period of time. If the behavior continues, the individual may be terminated from the team or extracurricular activity.

(J) ATHLETIC/EXTRACURRICULAR BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES:

Violations of the District Code of Conduct for the maintenance of order on school property; or if an investigation reveals that a student is involved in the possession, distribution, and/or use of drugs, tobacco, tobacco products, alcohol; or an incident is deemed a serious infraction has been verified by a member of the professional staff or is the subject of an arrest and/or conviction shall result in the following penalties. These rules apply to conduct that occurs off school grounds:

TIER 1: (Tobacco Violation, Suspension from School, In-School Suspension, School Based Offense, Serious Offense, etc.)*

Excluded from participation for duration of School Based Consequence. Athletes will be expected to practice with the team and/or attend games depending on consequences, but will not participate in the contests. This will be determined by Administration.

TIER 2: (Drugs, Alcohol, Arrest, Repeated School Offenses, Other Serious Offense, etc.)*

For a **first offense**, the student/athlete will be suspended from playing 25%, or no less than 3, of the NYSPHSAA (New York State Public High School Athletic Association) maximum allowable scheduled games. Example: football - 10 games is the maximum allowable contests by the NYSPHSAA, and suspension anytime during the season in this sport would result in not playing three games. Student/athletes will practice with the team even if not allowed to participate in games. The suspension will be carried into the player's post season play or the next sport season if applicable. The Athletic Director will determine the number of suspended games upon reviewing the NYSPHSAA handbook and applying the 25%/no less than 3 games rule. For the purposes of GCS 1 day = 1 event or game. In addition, the administration and guidance will come up with a plan to make sure student's needs are being addressed. Part of that plan will include the student being expected to successfully complete 10 hours of community service which will be handled by the administrator AND a substance abuse program the school will provide prior to being able to return to full participation on the team. The athlete will also forfeit any post season recognitions by GCS or Section X awards per Section X rules.

At the discretion of the administration and coach, athletes/extracurricular participants may be eligible to return to their activity after a long term out of school suspension.

TIER 3: (Drugs, Alcohol, Felony Arrest, Repeated School Offenses, Other Serious Offense, etc.)*

For any **second offense**, the athlete/extracurricular participant will be suspended from all activities for a period of 45 days. The student will not be eligible to participate at all during this period. In addition, the administration and guidance will come up with a plan to make sure student's needs are being addressed. Part of that plan will include the student being expected to successfully complete 10 hours of community service which will be handled by the administrator AND a substance abuse program the school will provide prior to being able to return to full participation on the team. The athlete will also forfeit any post season recognitions GCS or Section X awards per Section X rules.

At the discretion of the administration and coach, athletes/extracurricular participants may be eligible to return to their activity after a long term out of school suspension.

TIER 4: (Drugs, Alcohol, Arrest, Felony Charge, or Repeated Serious Offense, etc.)*

For a **third offense**, the student will be suspended for one calendar year from the date of the offense from all athletic and extracurricular activities. In addition, the administration and guidance will come up with a plan to make sure student's needs are being addressed. Part of that plan will include the student being expected to successfully complete 10 hours of community service which will be handled by the administrator AND a substance abuse program the school will provide prior to being able to return to full participation on the team. The athlete will also forfeit any post season recognitions GCS or Section X awards per Section X rules.

At the discretion of the administration and coach, athletes/extracurricular participants may be eligible to return to their activity after a long term out of school suspension.

**Designation of "Tier" for Arrests, School Based or Serious Offenses will be at the discretion of school administration and based on information available and nature of the offense. Serious offenses may include, but will not be limited to those involved with alcohol, drugs, arrest, vandalism, harassment, or any conduct unbecoming a student representing our school system. Any conduct not specifically referenced in this Code will be addressed in accordance with the Code of Conduct for the maintenance of order on school property, with the imposition of consequences associated with athletics and extracurricular activity participation imposed by the administration.*

The only exception to this Code is in regards to National Honor Society and Junior National Honor Society members. Discipline for these groups will be in accordance with the regulations established by the National organization.

(K) Hazing, as defined in Board of Education Policy, is prohibited in all forms on school grounds, buses, school sponsored programs and activities, including school events that take place at locations outside of the school district. Any offender shall be subject to the conditions outlined in this Code.

(L) Community Representation: Athletes/extracurricular participants are role models who should represent their team, school, and community in a positive manner. Consequently, any inappropriate or unlawful action committed by a participant on or off school property is subject to penalty. Such penalties may include referral to Youth Court and/or suspension from the athletic team or extracurricular group.

If in the opinion of a Coach/Advisor or administrator a student's character or image is in question, a conference will be held with the student and Coach/Advisor. Consideration will be made at that time to the student's future participation on athletic teams that represent Gouverneur Central School. It is expected that these conferences will rarely be necessary.

(M) Students who are waiting for practice or an activity should not be in the academic wing unless assigned to a teacher. Students waiting for practice or an activity should not congregate in the lobby area. Coaches/Advisors will notify students where they should be.

(N) Academic eligibility:

Philosophy

All parties (school personnel, parents, students and fans) of GCS acknowledge that academic endeavors have priority over athletics and extracurricular activities.

Participation in these activities is an honor and a privilege, and not a right. The School District recognizes that while extra-class activities provide opportunity for personal improvement, contribution to the school, self-realization of potential, and education of the whole person, participation in these activities cannot take precedence over academic pursuits. Every effort must be made to keep grades stable or improving.

Eligibility Criteria and Participation Guidelines

Student eligibility will be governed by rules set by the Gouverneur Central School District Board of Education, NYS Public High School Athletic Association, Section X, and the league association to which we belong.

Parents/guardians each set individual goals and standards for their children, and as such, may conclude the student's participation at any time.

Academic warning/remediation is defined as a warning period in which a student is expected to achieve a passing course and cumulative average.

Ineligibility means that students will not participate in **ANY** interscholastic activity. Extenuating circumstances must be approved by the principal and athletic director.

Procedure for grades 9-12:

1. Grade reports will be run at each 5 and 10 week mark for those students participating in athletics and extracurricular activities. It is the expectation that those participating in these activities will maintain a passing average in their academics. These reports will be provided to the Athletic Director's office.
2. **Academic Warning:** If a student is found to not be passing one class that student will be placed on warning for a two week period.
 - (a) The student will be expected to seek extra help twice a week either with specific teacher or with the after school help program.
 - (b) The student will need to have the teacher he/she worked with sign form verifying the extra help. This will be shown to the coach or advisor prior to practice.
 - (c) The student will continue to practice and participate in contests/events without restriction.
 - (d) At end of two week period student will arrange to meet with Athletic Director or administrator to discuss progress. Athletic Director will evaluate the student's progress and use discretion as how to proceed.
3. **Academic Remediation:** If a student is found to be failing two or more subjects the student will be placed on remediation for a two week period.
 - (a) While on remediation it will be expected the student will seek extra help at least twice a week with either a specific teacher or the after school help program.
 - (b) The student will need to have the teacher they work with sign a form to verify the extra help. This will be shown to coach or advisor prior to participation.

- (c) While on remediation the student will be expected to participate in practices and/or regular meetings, however the student will not participate in any contests or events for the entire two week period.
 - (d) It will be the student's responsibility to bring the necessary forms to the Athletic Coordinator's office before noon on the last day of the remediation period in order to be removed from remediation.
 - (e) An incomplete in a class will be treated as a failing class until requirements are met to remove the incomplete.
 - (f) If a student drops a failing class this will still be taken into account when the number of failing classes is looked at.
 - (g) June marking period will determine eligibility for fall sports. If failing courses are not rectified in summer school the student will remain on remediation for fall sports.
4. **Ineligibility:** If a student is not able to raise his/her grades to passing during the remediation period the student will become ineligible to participate in any athletics or extracurricular activities. It is expected the student will concentrate on academics while ineligible.
 - (a) The student will become eligible to participate once all but one class has been brought up to passing.
 - (b) It will be the responsibility of the student to bring the necessary forms stating he/she has met the requirement to be removed from the ineligibility list to the Athletic Coordinator's office. If the student still has one failing class the student will be placed on **Academic Warning**.
 - (c) Ineligibility will carry from one season to the next if necessary.
 - (d) Students that are ineligible in June will remain ineligible in the fall of the next school year until they show academic improvement by performing at acceptable levels.
 5. **Vacation:** Full weeks of vacation are not included in a remediation period. Administration will use their discretion when to begin and end a remediation period around a week or longer vacation. However, the remediation period will not be less than two weeks.
 6. Please take notice that beginning in the 2018-19 school year, a student failing 3 or more courses for two consecutive 5-week periods will be removed from all athletics and extracurricular activities for the rest of the season until such time he or she can show improvement and is working at acceptable levels.

Procedure for grades 5-8:

The Middle School curriculum has 4 classes, in addition to Physical Education, that are year-long courses. These core classes are Math, Science, Social Studies, and ELA. The rest of a Middle School schedule is based on classes that are only 10 weeks long. Therefore, Middle School Eligibility will follow these guidelines:

1. Grade averages from June will be used to determine eligibility for fall sports and activities. Students will be expected to be passing 3 out of 4 of their core classes with at least 65%. If summer school is taken to bring failing courses to passing that will be taken into account.
2. If a student is not passing 3 of the 4 core classes when it is time to sign up for activities and sports he/she may sign up however, will not be able to participate in athletic contests or extracurricular events until after 5 week reports are run and show he/she is passing 3 of 4 classes.

3. Reports will be run at each 5 week mark for those students participating in athletics and extracurricular activities. It is the expectation that those participating in these activities will maintain a passing average in their academics.
4. Students failing one of their core classes will be able to continue to practice and play in contests. They will however be expected to stay at least twice a week for extra help in that subject either with a specific teacher or with the after school help program. There will be a form the teacher will have to sign off on to show the students received help which will need to be shown to coach or advisor.
5. If a student is failing 2 or more of their core classes the student will be able to practice but not participate in contests/events until the next 5 week report and it shows the student is passing 3 classes. The student will be expected to get extra help at least twice a week for the failing classes.
6. If a student is still failing 2 or more core classes after the second set of 5 week reports, the student will be removed from athletics and extracurricular activities until they are passing at least 3 core classes. The student progress will be reevaluated every 5 weeks.

All teachers will receive the list of students on academic warning, remediation and ineligible lists in an effort to create an environment in which the students affected are surrounded by people offering support and encouragement. It is the responsibility of the coach or the club advisor to be sure that no academically ineligible student participates in club or team activities, as well as maintain student/school/home contact during this period.

(O) Appeal Process: If a parent/guardian disagrees with a penalty placed upon their child the following are the guidelines for appealing the penalty:

1. Prior to any penalty being imposed, the student will be given notice of the results of an investigation and an opportunity to discuss the issue with the individual imposing the penalty.
2. The student-athlete or parent/guardian has the right to appeal a decision to the Athletic Council. The Athletic Council, is chaired by the high school principal, and includes the Athletic Director, and a representative of the Gouverneur coaching staff, but not the individual currently serving as the student's Coach or Advisor.
3. An appeal, in writing to the high school principal, must be requested by the parent within ten (10) calendar days of when a penalty is imposed. The Athletic Council will be convened within five (5) calendar days of the written request. The student-athlete and parent/guardian are expected to attend this meeting.
4. The Athletic Council will render a written decision within five (5) calendar days of the appeal meeting. A further appeal may be presented to the Superintendent of Schools. This appeal must be made in writing within five (5) calendar days of receipt of the Athletic Council's decision. A formal meeting will be scheduled within five (5) calendar days of the request. Both the student and parent would be required to attend the appeal meeting. A written decision would be made within five (5) calendar days of the appeal meeting with the Superintendent of Schools.
5. If displeased with the remedy at this stage the parent could appeal to the Board of Education. The appeal would be in writing to the Board of Education president within ten (10) days of the school superintendent's written decision. The Board of Education would hear the appeal within ten (10) calendar days of the written request. The Board of Education would render a written decision within five (5) days of the formal hearing.

STUDENT/PARENT ATHLETIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

I have read, understand, and support the rules and expectations governing my participation in any interscholastic athletic and extracurricular activities. In signing this contract I am agreeing to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in Gouverneur School Code of Conduct for the maintenance of order on school property and the Athletic/Extracurricular Code of Conduct. I further agree to abide by any approved training rules set forth by my coach / advisor. In signing this contract I understand that my signature as well as those of my parents will be valid for any and all seasons that I choose to participate in extracurricular activities throughout the time I am enrolled as a full time student at the school. I also recognize this contract is in effect each and every day for each calendar year I am enrolled as a student at Gouverneur.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____