

DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

**Greensburg Central Catholic High School,
Geibel Catholic High School
And
Geibel Catholic Middle School**

**DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG
ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY AND POLICIES**

The Diocese of Greensburg believes that our high school and middle school interscholastic athletic programs are based on sound educational principals. The school years will be highlighted and enhanced by participation in the Greensburg Central Catholic High School (GCC), Geibel Catholic High School (Geibel) and Geibel Catholic Middle School (GCMS) interscholastic athletic programs. Being a member of the GCC or Geibel High School athletic team or the GCMS team is a fulfillment of many students. The attainment of this goal comes with certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. As a member of a team at GCC or Geibel High School you have inherited a fine tradition, a tradition you are challenged to uphold.

Parents and student/athletes are urged to review this athletic policy carefully. We want your years at GCC and Geibel High School to be enjoyable and rewarding. Athletics are considered to be an essential aspect of the educational process at GCC and Geibel High School. We are convinced that young people learn a great deal from their participation in interscholastic athletics. Lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, competition and how to win and lose gracefully are an integral part of each team in our athletic program.

ATHLETES' RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Responsible to broaden yourself and to develop strong strength of character.
2. Responsible to your school to maintain its reputation by doing your very best.
3. Responsible to your teammates and your coaches.
4. Keep all uniforms and equipment in good condition.
5. Promptly return uniforms and equipment at the end of the season or pay for missing items.
6. Maintain the required academic, disciplinary and attendance standards for eligibility.
7. Make up any missed school work promptly
8. Maintain high standards of sportsmanship conduct.
9. Inform parents of estimated time of arrival home from away games.

ELIGIBILITY

Student athlete eligibility regulations are as prescribed in the PIAA-WPIAL Handbook and shall be adhered as they apply to age, attendance, and academic qualifications.

AGE

Maximum age—a pupil shall be *ineligible* for interscholastic competition upon attaining the age of 19 years except if the age of 19 is attained on or after July 1, then the pupil shall be of eligible age throughout the particular school year.

ATTENDANCE

If a pupil is absent 20 or more days in a semester, they shall not be eligible to participate in any athletic contest until they have been in attendance for a total of 60 school days following the 20th day of absence, except when there are 5 or more days of absence due to a confining injury or death in the immediate family. Attendance in summer school does not count toward the 60 days required. For a pupil transferring into GCC or Geibel High School, attendance from the transferring school shall be considered in the attendance policy. Being absent 20 or more days

during the second semester carries forth into the 1st semester of the following school year until 60 consecutive attended days have lapsed.

A student must be in attendance at school in order to participate in a practice or event. Students who are late to school must arrive before noon in time to attend at least 4 classes. In extraordinary situations a review of specific circumstances may be made by the principal.

When a game or practice is held on a non-school day, to be eligible to participate the student *must* have been in school for the last day prior to the practice or game or receive prior approval from the athletic director or principal.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

A student athlete must be passing 4 full credit courses or the equivalent. Eligibility shall be cumulative from the beginning of a grading period and shall be reported on a weekly basis. (If not passing as of Friday of a given week the athlete will be *ineligible until the next Friday*.) If the work in the class or classes in question shows an improvement for the particular grading period to meet passing standards as evaluated by the teacher, the athlete will be declared eligible. If not passing at least four (4) credits by the end of a grading period, the athlete is *ineligible* for the next 20 school days.

If the athlete fails to pass at least four (4) full credit courses by the end of a school year, the athlete will be *ineligible* until the results of the 1st grading period of the following school year, unless the deficiency has been made up in summer school.

Student athletes new to GCC or Geibel High school will have their athletic eligibility determined through a review of school records from the transferring school.

If an athletic has been assigned an out of school suspension they cannot participate with the team on those days. These days do not count as one of the 20 days absent.

Detentions must be served within one (1) week from the day of issue. If not, participation is denied until served.

Students should have the opportunity to participate in as many interscholastic athletic experiences as is reasonably possible. No coach is to involve off-season conditioning until at least 30 days have lapsed for the sport in season.

OBLIGATIONS

Any student who owes any obligations to the school, i.e., lost books, library fines, equipment from other sports, etc., will not be permitted to try out for a team until obligations are satisfied.

All school issued equipment is the students' responsibility. The athlete is expected to keep it in good condition.

All athletes must travel to and from activities in transportation provided by the school. Only under special circumstances, with previous arrangements will this policy be waived.

All student athletes are responsible to do their share in keeping the locker room as clean as possible.

DROPPING OUT

A student dropping out of a sport has an obligation to confer with the head coach involved. When dismissed or dropping out, the student shall return all school issued equipment before being released.

CHEMICAL/SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Violation of the GCC or Geibel High School tobacco policy will result with the standard school discipline and denial of athletic participation during the discipline period.

The use of drugs or steroids will result in additional school discipline, removal from the team for the remainder of the season. A hearing before the principal and athletic director will be necessary for consideration to be reinstated in a sport for a new season.

If it has been determined that during a sport in season an athlete is involved in a alcohol violation (purchases, consumes, possession, transportation of liquor or malt or brewed beverage) on or off school property, the athlete will be suspended from athletic participation. The length of suspension shall be determined at a hearing before the principal, athletic director, coach and parents.

No coach at GCC or Geibel High School will advocate the use of any growth hormone product, including creatine. Any such recommendation is in direct violation of school policy and should be reported to school principals.

INJURIES

Injuries requiring medial attention but not of a medical emergency will be as follows:

- The student will be transported to a physician at the earliest opportunity, by the parents when possible. The choice of physician will be the parents or the students.
- To be reactivated after an injury, the student must obtain a clearance to participate in the sport in writing from the attending physician. The coach or parents cannot overrule a physician's directive.
- In the event an athlete is injured in practice or in a game situation, the athlete must report this injury to the trainer and/or coach. If the parent, due to circumstances, takes the athlete to an emergency room, the athletic director and coach must be informed the next school day. In the absence of a physician's report, the decision to allow an athlete to participate in a sport will be the responsibility of the athletic trainer.

HAZING

The Diocese of Greensburg does not permit hazing in any of its schools. Hazing is any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of a student. Injurious hazing activities of any type, on or off school property, by any student, staff member, group, or organization affiliated with any diocesan school is inconsistent with the educational process and shall be prohibited. Any student or athlete who shall plan, encourage, or engage in hazing activities, shall be subject to disciplinary action, which will include suspension from school and athletics.

PARTICIPATION CONDUCT

Student participation in athletic contests is a privilege. A student is expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner at all times. If an athlete is ejected or disqualified from participating in the remainder of a contest, the athlete may be disqualified from participating in the team's next contest. In addition, any athlete who physically assaults a game or event official shall be banned from interscholastic athletics for the remainder of the student's interscholastic eligibility.

A spot earned on a team for one year is not a guarantee for any the following year that a student tries out for that sport. Students are encouraged to work skill development and conditioning during the off-season.

PRACTICES

Practices are held daily and last for 1.5 to 2.5 hours, depending on the sport. Practice schedules are given by the respective coaches, either in written or verbal form. Unforeseen circumstances may warrant changes in the schedule. On days when school is cancelled due to inclement weather, no practices or home games are held.

PARENTAL CONCERNS

If your parents have concerns regarding the athletic program, they should first discuss the issues with the coach. If the issues are not addressed by the coach, parents can then submit them in writing to the athletic director and a copy to the principal. The athletic director will address the concern with the persons involved.

OFF-SEASON CONDITIONING POLICY

Off-season conditioning programs sponsored by the coaching staff of GCC and Geibel High Schools are designed for students to improve their skills

Participation in off-season conditioning programs is totally voluntary.

Participation in an off-season conditioning program will not assure a student athlete of playing time at either the Varsity or Junior Varsity level. Conversely, non-participation in an off-season conditioning program will not bar a student athlete from playing time at either the Varsity or Junior Varsity level.

Participation in off-season conditioning programs, competitions and team events is reserved for enrolled students of GCC and Geibel High Schools, and for incoming students who have made application and been accepted to GCC or Geibel High School.

Multi-sport athletes who have concurrent off-season conditioning programs, competitions, or team events in different sports are to give priority and commitment to the sport whose regular season begins next.