

Athletic Handbook

For Coaches, Student-Athletes and Parents

2020-2021



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ATHLETIC STATEMENT

This Athletic Handbook is designed to acquaint all student-athletes, parents and coaches with the philosophies, policies and procedures of Greer Middle College Charter High School Athletic Department. Participation in athletics is a privilege which carries with it varying degrees of honor, responsibility and sacrifice. Because it is a privilege to participate, student-athletes who are involved will be expected to follow the policies and procedures outlined in the Athletic Handbook, as well as those rules established by the coaches in their respective sport(s). Student-athletes should understand that they represent their school and community at all times. They are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that would not bring discredit to their school, community or family. This includes but is not limited to classroom behavior, behavior in the community, and their social media behavior.

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY & MISSION

The Athletic Department will be centered on the welfare of the student-athletes. As a school, we will strive to procure the best coaching personnel available and provide the best athletic facilities affordable. We will make every effort to provide student-athletes the opportunity to excel in teamwork, sportsmanship, self-discipline and moral character. As a school, we will make every effort to provide student-athletes with experiences that will help them to develop their own personal philosophy toward **commitment**, **responsibility**, **team** and **loyalty**.

The administration will strive to provide a sound program of athletics in an effort to contribute to the growth of every student, the school, and the community. We believe the mental, physical and emotional growth of high school students can be greatly enhanced by participation in extra-curricular activities such as athletics. We also believe that athletics can be a catalyst in increasing school morale, and can provide a channel through which students can take pride in themselves and their school. We pledge to adhere to all accepted standards of good sportsmanship and to the rules and bylaws of the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL).

ATHLETIC PROGRAM PROFILE

The athletic program at Greer Middle College is operated in such a manner as to provide any boy or girl, with athletic skill and ability, the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics. Greer Middle College provides opportunities to participate in the following SCHSL sanctioned sports or sport activities: boys cross country, girls cross country, boys soccer, girls soccer, girls volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, boys golf, girls golf, boys swimming, girls swimming, boys baseball, boys track and girls track to over 200 students in grades 9–12. Student–athletes are allowed to only participate in one sport per season, unless written consent has been obtained from both head coaches from the teams the student athlete is trying to participate in, as well as the Athletic Director. The athlete must also choose a primary sport in which they will compete in 75% of play.

Greer Middle College is a member of the SCHSL and belong to region I in the AA classification. Other members of this region include: Blacksburg High School, Brashier Middle College, Christ Church Episcopal High School, Greenville Tech Charter, Landrum High School, Southside Christian School, and St. Joseph s Catholic School.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To participate in the athletic program at Greer Middle College, all student–athletes must comply with the standards set forth in the student handbook as well as the regulations established in the constitution for Class AA and bylaws of the SCHSL. Student–athletes must adhere to policies and guidelines set forth in the athletic handbook as well as adhere to the player contract established by each individual coach. Grades are checked every two weeks from the Athletic Department. Athletes below mastery will face consequences set out by the coach's contract.

Before a student is eligible to participate in practice or pre–season conditioning, he/she must have:

- Physical and Health History from medical doctor cleared for participation
- Insurance Waiver form **signed** and **dated** by **parent/ legal guardian**
- Parent’s Permission & Acknowledgment of risk for son or daughter to participate in athletics form **signed** and **dated** by **athlete** and **parent/ legal guardian**
- Concussion Test with Athletic Trainer
- A completed consent for Emergency Medical Treatment Form
- Athlete/Parent Concussion statement form properly filled out, signed and dated by the athlete and parent/legal guardian
- "Acknowledgment of Athletic Handbook" form signed and dated
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Before a student is eligible to participate in SCHSL season he/she must have:

- **Paid athletic fee \$125.00 and all forms listed above**
- *For Fall Sports* – A passing average (80 or higher), at least 5 credits passed from the previous year and at least 3 credits passed from 2nd semester of previous year, and not be a same year transfer student to GMC from another Greenville County school WITHOUT a change of address OR completed transfer form signed and dated from athletic director and principal of previous high school
- *For Spring Sports*– a passing average from 1 semester, at least 5 credits passed from first semester, and not be a same year transfer student to GMC from another Greenville county school WITHOUT a change of address OR completed transfer form signed and dated from athletic director and principal of previous school
- Grades will be checked every two weeks to ensure that student athletes are remaining at mastery. IF a student is below mastery they have two weeks to pull their grade up. Failure to bring to mastery will result in loss of practice and play time until grade is mastery. Students will give the Athletic Director, Coach, and teacher of below mastery class a plan of action to demonstrate attention and continued work towards obtaining mastery.

Note: Physical exams are valid from April 1, 2019 through May 30, 2020.

PLAYER CONTRACTS

After tryouts, if a player has made the team, he/she will be required to sign a player contract. This contract describes the duties of a player and what is required of him/her as a student-athlete on that team. Each contract covers behavior, academics, and commitments for that athletic year. Player contracts are strictly adhered to by players, coaches, and administrators. Player contracts are submitted by each coach and approved by Athletic Department Administration.

TRYOUTS

Tryouts will be held for every team sport. Coaches at GMC are required to cut their teams to a manageable number of athletes but in some cases cuts may not be made due to a low volume of participants in a particular sport. Junior Varsity is available for 9–11th grade student athletes that need extra development. If numbers allow a JV team will be present for Volleyball, Basketball Baseball, and Soccer.

QUITTING A TEAM

Any student-athlete who chooses to break his/her player contract and quit a specific team after starting, unless he/she is released in good standing by the head coach and Athletic Director, may not join another team until the sport season for the team he/she quit has ended. That student-athlete may not participate in conditioning, practice, small group workouts etc. **NO PARTICIPATION IS ALLOWED UNTIL AFTER THE FINAL CONTEST FOR THE TEAM THE STUDENT-ATHLETE QUIT.**

However, student-athletes that are cut from a team may join another athletic team during the same season.

ALCOHOL/DRUG POLICY

Any student-athlete caught using alcohol or drugs during school, after school, any school function, or any athletic event will be dismissed from any current team and/or ineligible for next sport season in relation to date of offense. Each offense will be dealt with individually and consequences may differ based on magnitude of offense. All offenses are referred to administration and the student handbook and consequences are approved by administration.

LOCKER ROOM AND TEAM ROOM POLICY

Many of our sport facilities at GMC are rentals. However, if the student-athlete participates in a sport that is provided with a team room or locker room the student-athlete is expected to assist in keeping the locker room neat and clean. Each student-athlete is responsible for picking up his or her own clothes and towels from the floor. Horseplay, loud or boisterous behavior, or vulgarity will not be permitted in the locker room.

INJURIES

Any and all injuries are to be reported to the coaching staff, Athletic Director and Athletic Trainer within 2 hours of injury in order to obtain correct medical attention and documentation. Student-athletes who are absent for five (5) consecutive days or who are physically unable to practice for five (5) consecutive days must present a statement (release statement) from a licensed physician that they are again physically able to participate in athletics before they will be allowed to participate in practice or contests. These documents must be filed with the Athletic Director. Individual team coaches may require a physician's statement with less than five (5) absences from school/practice. If an athlete suffers a concussion or has suspicion of concussion, it must be reported to the Athletic Trainer and Athletic Director immediately. An athlete cannot return to play until examined and cleared by an **MD** or **DO** and has completed a return to play examination by the Athletic Trainer. This policy is per state law.

Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer and Baseball will have a certified Athletic Trainer from Prisma Health Care at all home contests. They will also see a GMC student athlete at GMC during their office hours. Hours are posted on the Athletic Trainer's door. IF the Athletic Trainer is not present the Coach and the Athletic Administrator on site will contact the Athletic Trainer immediately for a plan of action.

NOTE: if a student athlete sustains a season ending injury that athlete is not dismissed from the team and is not required to be at contests. However, the athletic department encourages all injured athletes to continue to participate in team activities and functions as their injury permits.

FACILITIES

Because GMC athletics does not own any facilities currently, a degree of creativity must be used from time to time to secure practice facilities and game facilities. We try to provide facilities that are safe, clean, have a short distance from the campus, appropriate for the number of fans we house for each sport, and adhere to SCHSL rules. However, there are occasions when one or two of these factors are less ideal than what we at GMC want for our parents, fans, and student-athletes. We ask that you be patient as we are in the process of adding an activities center and other areas for practice and play at our school. We will make every effort to provide the best possible option for our coaches, fans, student-athletes and parents. Each student-athlete and his/her family should be aware of practice facilities and playing facilities along with their location. Locations for home venues are found on the GMC Athletics Website under the Locations Tab.

ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT

The Athletic Department has invested heavily in equipment and uniforms for athletes at Greer Middle College. Because of limited revenues, it is imperative that the Athletic Department operates in a fiscally conservative manner. This means that each student-athlete must take total responsibility for school-owned property issued to him/her. If equipment should be damaged while the athlete is involved in practice or competition, repair or replacement will be the responsibility of the school. If any school-owned property is lost or damaged while under the care of the student-athlete, he or she will be responsible for any and all replacement/repair costs. School-owned uniforms, equipment or clothing of any kind are to be worn to athletic contests or practices only unless specifically instructed otherwise by the coach of that sport.

In addition, all school uniforms are to be turned in to the head coach immediately after the conclusion of the season. After two weeks from deadline a student failing to return his/her uniform or replacement costs shall not be able to participate on any other school team until those needs have been met. Students who fail to turn in uniform or pay for lost or destroyed uniform will not receive their report card until matter is settled (Seniors' transcripts are withheld).

INCLEMENT WEATHER

When seriously inclement weather occurs (snow storm, ice, excessive rain, etc.), the Athletic Director will determine if and when any athletic practices or contests will take place. If GMC is in session and released early (prior to normal dismissal time) due to inclement weather, school activities could be canceled for that day based on available forecasts provided by weather departments for our area. Also, if inclement weather occurs during the school day and school is NOT released early, the Athletic Director along with the Principal, and the opposing Athletic Director and/or Principal will make a decision about that day's activities before students are released from school. If GMC is not in session due to inclement weather, sporting events for that day will be canceled. Every decision in these matters will be made with the safety of the student-athlete and his/her families as the only priority. There are times where our home field may cancel due to their regulations for play and to protect their fields. All parties will be notified as soon as possible should this be the case.

VARSITY LETTERS

The varsity head coach is responsible for keeping accurate record of playing time and/or quarters of participation for purposes of determining awards. At the end of each season, the head coach for each sport will present a season record summary/inventory as well as a list of awards to the Athletic Director. In order to receive a varsity letter, a student must be in grades 9-12 and meet the following requirements by sport:

- Basketball – player must play in 3/4 of contests for the season and to get credit for one contest that player must have played at least a cumulative time of 8 min per game.
***Boys Basketball:** if the student makes the varsity team and isn't dismissed during the year then they will receive a letter at the end of season team banquet
- Soccer – player must play in 3/4 of contests for the season and to get credit for one contest the player must have played at least a cumulative time of 20 min.
- Volleyball – player must have participated at the Varsity level for the entire season and be in good standing with coach and Athletic Department at conclusion of season.
- Baseball – player must play in 3/4 of contests for the season and to get credit for one contest that player must have played in at least 3 innings.

- Swimming – a player must swim in 3/4 of contests for the season or must qualify for region meet and if there is no qualifier for region must qualify for state
- Golf – Player must play in more than 70% of matches in a 1-5 position throughout season.
- Track – player must place in 3/4 of varsity meets, or qualify for region or state, or meet specified time, height, or distance set forth by the coach for event if he/she does not place in required meets or qualify for region or state meets.
- Cross Country – player must participate in 3/4 of the meets for the season and qualify for the regional or state, or meet specified time set forth by the coach for 3.1mi if he/she does not place in required meets or qualify for region or state meets.

Injured Athlete

If a student-athlete has a season-ending injury which keeps him/her from meeting normal lettering requirements, the varsity coach may grant the student-athlete a varsity letter if they attended all practices and contests for the remainder of the season following the injury, and (in the coach's professional opinion) would have met the standards for a varsity letter had the injury not occurred.

Lettering Process

Initial lettermen receive a Letter and a Pin for their sport

If lettering in 2 sports, that athlete will receive a pin for each individual sport. After initial letter, the athlete will receive a gold bar for subsequent years. Captains Stars are awarded for all team captains.

Individual & Team Patches

Any student-athlete who is recognized with All-State honors (either athletic or academic) will receive a special chenille patch for his/her jacket. Additional chenille patches will be awarded to Region I 2AA individual or team champions as well as state individual or team champions.

Numerals for Jackets

Numerals for jersey numbers may be purchased, by the student-athlete, for jacket.

VARSITY ATHLETIC LETTER JACKET ELIGIBILITY

High school student-athletes who have earned a varsity letter in any sport are eligible to purchase a letter jacket. Eligible student-athletes should purchase the jacket through First Team Sports or Jostens. Information on Letter Jackets can be acquired by the Athletic Director. Student-athletes are responsible for the whole cost of the jacket.

GENERAL AWARDS

Coaches are provided with three general team awards for the season and cost of these awards are the responsibility of the Athletic Department. Any other team awards a coach may present will be either the responsibility of the coach through personal funds, donors, or individual team account (must be approved before purchased).

PLACING OF AWARDS ON THE LETTER JACKET

- A. Block Letter "GMC" on left breast
- B. Numerals on right sleeve
- C. All patches for special recognition on right sleeve (above the bicep) or back of jacket
- D. Sport pins and captains stars on letter
- E. Gold bars aligned in rows of NO more than 4 on right breast.

ATHLETIC CHAIN OF COMMAND

Greer Middle College's athletic program is established for the direct and long-lasting development of the student-athlete. Many of the lessons learned as a result of athletic participation are the same ones that will promote successful adult lives. In addition, we believe that every parent that becomes a part of our athletic program deserves the right to be made fully aware of and understand the expectations being placed on his or her child. However, there are decisions made by the coaching staff that are not appropriate to discuss with parents.

It is extremely difficult to accept a child not playing as much or as often as the parent wishes. Coaches are professionals and decisions are made on what they believe to be in the very best interest of the

team. Nonetheless, some areas of conversation that should never be discussed with a coach by a parent include: playing time, team strategy, play calling, line-ups, substitutions, other team members, other parents and past teams and/or athletes.

If a parent requests a meeting to discuss concerns with a coach, the parent is asked to set up an appointment with the coach no sooner than 24 hours if pertaining to an incident/game. The Athletic Director will attend the meeting with coach and parent with coach leading the meeting. In the event that this meeting does not reach a satisfactory conclusion, the parent should set up an individual appointment with the Athletic Director for a second meeting. If a meeting with the Athletic Director does not offer a satisfactory understanding, the final step in our chain of command is a conference with the Principal.

PARENT/SPECTATOR ATHLETIC INTERFERENCE POLICY

The purpose of the GMC Parent/Spectator Athletic Interference Policy is to prevent parent/spectators from exhibiting offensive or threatening behavior toward anyone at GMC school events. Persons coming onto GMC property or any facility used for its athletics shall be under the jurisdiction of the school system and the site administrator. Individuals who come onto GMC property or contact employees on school campus or in any facility associated with GMC athletics are expected to behave in a civil manner and abide by GMC policy. Actions that are discouraged and may warrant further action include, but are not limited to:

1. Cursing or use of obscenities (including obscene clothing) and gestures.
2. Disrupting or threatening to disrupt school or events operations.
3. Acting in an unsafe manner that could threaten the health or safety of others.
4. Verbal or written statements or gestures indicating intent to harm an individual or property.
5. Physical attacks (or threats of) intended to harm an individual or damage property.
6. Public intoxication.
7. Negativity on social media directed to the Athletic Department and/or athletes.

Established rules and regulations to enforce the Athletic Interference Policy are set forth by this policy as follows:

FIRST OFFENSE- Removal from the event immediately. The school administration will review the incident within five (5) school days to determine if further action should be taken which may include being suspended from attending school activities for one (1) calendar year.

SECOND OFFENSE- Same process as **FIRST OFFENSE** but may result in permanent suspension from school athletic events/ campus.

*Important: In the event a parent/spectator's behavior is such that it cannot be resolved in this manner, law enforcement will be notified and the situation will be handled by a court of law.

ATHLETIC TICKET INFORMATION

All-Sports Passes will be made available at the appropriate times through the Athletic Director. Availability will be announced through the school website and newsletter. 2019-2020 ticket prices are:

High School Single Session:	\$5	
	\$3 students	
	Children under 8 Free	
All-Sports Family Pass:	\$200	All Sports- entire 2019-2020 athletic season
Individual All-Sports Pass:	\$150	
Single Season Family Pass:	\$70	Single season- specific season ONLY
Individual Single Season Pass:	\$30	

*** Family passes are directed to immediate household family ONLY.**

*Important: All passes sold by GMC can ONLY be used at regular season GMC hosted events. GMC sports passes will not grant you entry to away games, tournament games, or SCHSL playoff games.

The following forms are to be signed to be eligible for athletics at Greer Middle College Charter High School.

Parents and athletes, please print pages 13-20 and return to Athletic Director.

Failure to submit forms will result in loss of play until ALL forms are completed and returned to the Athletic Director.

Please also include a copy of your athlete's birth certificate. This will only need to be given at the start of their time at GMC.