



**Smithville High School  
Green Middle School**

**Athletic Handbook**

Revised May, 2019, 2020

**Green Local Schools Athletics**  
**Smithville High School/Green Middle School**

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**MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION**

This handbook is presented to you because your son/daughter desires to participate in interscholastic athletics in the Green Local School District. Your family's interest in this phase of our school program is gratifying. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences that assist students in personal growth and development.

It is the role of the athletic department to make rules governing interscholastic competition. These rules need broad-based community support to be fully effective. This is achieved only through communication between the athletic department and the parents/guardians/custodians of our athletes. It is our hope to accomplish this objective through this athletic handbook for students, parents, and coaches.

Yours in sportsmanship and success,

Jennifer Shutt, Athletic Director

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## MISSION

### Our **ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT** Mission

Green Local Schools sets high expectations for its coaches and student-athletes. The athletic program in Green Local Schools will promote interscholastic athletics that provide lifelong learning experiences to student-athletes while enhancing their achievement of educational goals.

Our goal is to teach the values of teamwork, leadership, pride, respect, commitment, good work ethic, sportsmanship and development of the proper winning attitude. It is our hope that through our athletic programs, participating student athletes will adopt these guidelines and develop a positive winning attitude that will carry over into all aspects of their lives. In order to maintain an effective athletic program, it is necessary to establish a body of rules and regulations. Students representing Green Local Schools in athletics must maintain proper character and conduct so as not to discredit themselves, the school, the team and the community.

**An athlete participates by choice. In doing so, the athlete must choose between the rules of athletics and non-participation.**

The following rules and regulations apply to all interscholastic athletes at Green Local Schools. ***The extra-curricular code of conduct shall be in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.***

***Violations that occur in grades 7 and 8 will not carry over to high school, there is a restart when entering ninth grade; however the assessment/counseling component must be completed prior to any participation in a high school extra-curricular activity.***

***Violations in Grades 9-12 are cumulative.***

Violations are cumulative throughout the athlete's four years of high school participation and disciplinary actions will carry over from one season to another or from one year to the next. A student entering Green Local Schools who is serving a violation from his/her previous school will serve the remainder of that penalty at Green Local Schools, as soon as the school administration has knowledge of the discipline.

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## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SMITHVILLE ATHLETE**

Being a member of a Green Local School District athletic team is the fulfillment of an early ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great athletic tradition is not built overnight. It takes hard work of many people over many years. As a member of an interscholastic squad, you have inherited a wonderful tradition, a tradition you are challenged to uphold.

Our tradition has been to win with honor. We desire to win, but only with honor to our athletes, our school and our community. Such a tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned. Over many years, our squads have achieved numerous league and tournament championships. Many individuals have set records and won All-Conference and All-State honors.

It will not be easy to contribute to such a great athletic tradition. When you wear your school colors, we assume that you not only understand our traditions, but are willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them. However, the contributions you make should be a satisfying accomplishment to you and your family.

### **Responsibilities to Yourself**

The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden yourself and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible good from your school experiences. Your studies, your participation in other extracurricular activities as well as in sports, prepare you for life as an adult.

### **Responsibilities to Your School**

Another responsibility you assume as an athletic member is to your school. Green Local School District cannot maintain its position as having outstanding programs unless you do your best in whatever activity you wish to engage. By participating in athletics to the maximum of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school.

You assume a leadership role when you are on an athletic squad. The student body and citizens of the community know you. You are on the stage with the spotlight on you. The student body, the community and other communities judge our school by your conduct and attitudes, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride. Make Green Local Schools' proud of you and the community proud of your school by your faithful exemplification of these ideals.

### **Responsibilities to Others**

As an athletic member, you also bear a heavy responsibility to your home. You must measure up to all of the training rules. You should practice to the best of your ability every day. If you have played the game "all out," you can keep your self-respect and your family can be justly proud of you. The younger students in the Green Local School District are watching you. They will copy you in many ways. Do not do anything to let them down. Set good examples for them.

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## **CODE OF CONDUCT OF ATHLETE**

### **In the classroom**

In the academic area, a good athlete becomes a good student. A person must give maximum effort in the classroom at all times. If you are lazy in class, you will be lazy on the practice field or floor and will never reach your full potential. As an athlete, you must plan your schedule so that you give sufficient time and energy to your studies to insure acceptable grades.

In addition to maintaining good scholarship, an athlete should give respectful attention to classroom activities and show respect for other students and faculty at all times. Horseplay and unnecessary boisterousness are not approved habits of behavior.

### **Citizenship/Character**

Any conduct which may be deemed by the Athletic Director/Principal to be both of a serious nature, and a violation of state, local, or federal criminal or juvenile law, may cause the participant to be declared ineligible by the administrative office.

### **Enrollment and Attendance**

- A. A student becomes an athlete upon participating in the first scheduled day of coaching instruction for a sport. Any 9-12 grade student that is new to the district must schedule an appointment with the Athletic Director to verify eligibility.
- B. OHSAA Bylaw 4-3-1 All students participating in a school-sponsored sport must be enrolled in and attending full-time in accordance with all duly adopted Board of Education or similar governing board policies of that school. (There are six exceptions see OHSAA Bylaw 4-3-1).

Exception 5 – State law permits home educated students in accordance with ORC 3312.04 (A)(2) to be afforded the opportunity to participate at the public school in the district of residence of the parents without any enrollment obligations. If the residential public school district does not offer the sport, the home educated student MAY participate at another non-residential public school provided the superintendent of that district permits such participation.

### **School Absence**

- A. A student must be in school ½ of the school day (11:00am) to participate in practice or contest. This requirement may be waived by the Athletic Director or Building Principal for some excused absences (Example: Funeral). This absence must be approved in advance by the Athletic Director or Building Principal. In emergency cases, a phone call must be made to the athletic office.
- B. Any time an athlete is required to miss class to attend an athletic contest, the athlete is to consult with the teacher and obtain all assigned work prior to absence.

### **Physicals**

- A. All athletes must have a physical **PRIOR** to participating in any practice, organized team instruction, conditioning session or contest.

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**Equipment**

- A. Athletes are responsible for equipment issued to them. Failure to return issued equipment will result in loss of awards, payment for replacement cost, and grade reports/transcripts/diplomas not being released. Athletes may not be issued uniform for subsequent teams until past uniform is returned or paid for.

**Transportation**

- A. Transportation to athletic contests will be arranged by the athletic department in conjunction with the coaching staff. Arrangements other than the provided transportation must be approved by the athletic director.
- B. Athletes must always travel with the team unless the coach/advisor excuses a player to travel with his/her parent.

**Withdrawal/Dismissal**

- A. Any athlete who withdraws (quits) from a team within the first five days of practice from the beginning of the official OHSAA start date may participate in another in-season sport or off-season program. Any athlete who withdraws (quits) after the first five days of practice must receive written permission from the head coach of the sport withdrawn to participate in another in-season sport or off-season program.
- B. Any athlete who is dismissed from a team for violations of the Athletic Code of Conduct or Team Rules may not participate in another in-season sport or off-season program without the written permission of the head coach from the sport dismissed and the Athletic Director. The coach must inform the Athletic Director and communicate to the parent the reason for the dismissal.
- C. Any athlete who is dismissed from a team for violations of the Athletic Code of Conduct or Team Rules will not be eligible to receive any team or individual awards.
- D. Any athlete who withdraws from a team before the season is completed will not be eligible to receive any team or individual awards (excluding injury or illness).

**APPEARANCE**

At the beginning of each sports season, the coach and players shall determine appearance rules. Suggested guidelines are:

1. Uniforms should be clean and neat and in good repair.
2. The school Dress Code will be in effect.
3. Athletes are expected to be well groomed and appropriately dressed at all times.

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## **STUDENT DRUG, TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL POLICY - ATHLETICS**

Participating in extracurricular activities with the Green Local School District is not a right but a privilege which may be regulated by the Board of Education. It is required that students participating in athletic activities become familiar with and understand the rules and regulations required of students participating in athletic activities within the Green Local School District. Students participating in athletic programs are required to abide by the rules and policies as set forth in the policy at all times regardless of whether or not the student is on school grounds, attending a school function or activity, on private property or at a private party.

**Alcohol**—Any liquor, wine, beer or other beverage containing intoxicating substances.

**Alternative Nicotine Products**—An electronic cigarette or any other product, device or personal vaporizer (e.g., JUUL) that consists of or contains nicotine that can be ingested into the body by any means, including but not limited to chewing, smoking, absorbing, dissolving or inhaling.

**Drugs**—Any drug, including illegal drugs, narcotics, hallucinogens, cocaine, amphetamines, steroids, barbiturates, marijuana, inhalants, legal prescription and over-the-counter drugs used or possessed or distributed for unauthorized purposes, counterfeit (look-alike) substances and clove cigarettes.

**Drug Paraphernalia**—Equipment or apparatus designed for or used for the purpose of measuring, packaging, distributing or facilitating the use of drugs, including, but not limited to, pipes, roach clips, syringes, hypodermic needles and cocaine spoons and kits.

**Electronic Cigarette**—Any electronic product, device or personal vaporizer (e.g., JUUL) that produces a vapor that delivers nicotine or any other substance to the person inhaling from the device to simulate smoking and is likely to be offered to or purchased by consumers as an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo or electronic pipe.

**Tobacco**—Any product with tobacco as an ingredient that is smoked, chewed, inhaled or placed against the gums.

**Under the Influence**—Manifesting signs of substance abuse, such as staggering, reddened eyes, odor of alcohol or drugs, nervousness, restlessness, falling asleep or dosing, memory loss, abusive language or any other behavior or physical appearance normal for the particular student (determination by school authorities as to what constitutes “under the influence” is distinct and separate from any such determination by the courts).

**Distributing**—Making available to or passing on to another individual, even if not for profit or trade, any alcohol, drug or tobacco products.

Together with the Ohio High School Athletic Association, the Green Local Schools Board of Education recognizes that the use and abuse of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs have a negative effect on behavior, learning, athletic development and performance of the student-athlete. In addition, the use and abuse by an athlete affects teammates, family members and other significant members of his/her life. The Board has established this year-round policy in regards to tobacco, drugs and alcohol use:

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The Athletic Department recognizes that the use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco has a negative effect on behavior, learning and performance. In addition, such use affects fellow participants, family members and other significant individuals in one's life. The Athletic Department further recognizes that representing Smithville in any contest is a privilege, not a right, that calls for students to demonstrate the highest qualities of leadership and citizenship throughout the entire year. Therefore, a year-round code of conduct is established for students involved in extracurricular events. Students shall not possess, use, sell, give, or otherwise transmit or be under the influence of any drug, alcohol or tobacco as a member in any school sponsored extracurricular activities during their school career.

An athlete may not remain in the proximity of illegal alcohol or drug use. An athlete will be considered "in the proximity" if they do not remove themselves from the place where alcohol/drugs are being used illegally. Athletes may call a parent, relative, coach, school administrator, or the athletic director to be removed from the situation:

1.) An athlete may not possess, consume, distribute, or sell tobacco products (Nicotine in any form), alcohol, drugs, controlled substances, inhalants (vape pens, e-cigarettes, juuls) look-alikes and/or other illegal substances, including drug paraphernalia and over the counter or prescription drugs (not prescribed to the athlete):

Offenses and Disciplinary Action Use, sale or possession of tobacco products, alcohol, drugs, controlled substances, inhalants, electronic cigarette, personal vaporizer (e.g., JUUL) , electronic nicotine delivery system, look-alikes and/or other illegal substances, including drug paraphernalia, lighters, matches and other flame producing materials, etc., is strictly prohibited throughout the calendar year (365 days). Any extracurricular participant hosting or attending (as confirmed by a law enforcement agency or school district employee) a party where tobacco products, alcohol or other drugs are consumed shall also be prohibited. A student's second infraction builds on the student's first infraction no matter what type of offense. For example, a student with a disciplinary incident of citizenship/character as a freshman and then an alcohol/drug/ tobacco offense as a junior will be dealt with on the second offense level and vice versa.

<u>First Violation</u>	<u>Second Violation</u>	<u>Third Violation</u>
Student will be suspended from participation for 50% of regular/post-season scheduled contests of current season and/or the first scheduled sport in which the individual participates and successful completion of a self-funded Educational Diversion Program.	Student will be suspended from participation for 70% of regular/post-season scheduled contests of current season and/or the first scheduled sport in which the individual participates, successful completion of a self-funded Educational Diversion Program, and <i>will serve twenty hours of community service</i>	Suspension from all athletics for the duration of high school career.
<b><i>If the student-athlete completes ten hours of community service, they may reduce the first offense to 30%. This must be documented and approved by the Athletic Director before</i></b>		<b><i>After one calendar year from the date of a third violation, the student may appeal to the athletic director, superintendent and board of education</i></b>



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<i>reinstatement back to participation occurs.</i>		<i>representative for reinstatement. The decision on this matter is final.</i>
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In cases where the suspension occurs near or at the end of a season, the balance (%) of the suspension will be applied to the next sport in which the athlete participates. Game suspensions not fulfilled during the school year in which the incident occurred are carried over into the following school year. The athlete may participate in practices if the coach desires, but may not dress for any athletic contests during the suspension.

If the second offense occurs within the same school year, the athlete will be denied participation from all sports in the Green Local School District for one full year from the date of offense.

**Self-Referral**

~~If a student-athlete makes a "self-referral" (notifies Coach or Athletic Director by phone call or face-to-face meeting) prior to an investigation (one time use during duration of high school career), the athlete will be suspended 20% of the regular/post-season scheduled contests in his/her current season or the first scheduled sport in which the individual participates, and successful completion of a self-funded drug/alcohol rehabilitation program. All self-referrals by a student-athlete must be reported to the Head Coach, Athletic Director, or Building Principal prior to anyone else reporting the violation. Game suspensions not fulfilled during the school year in which the incident occurred are carried over into the following school year. Self-referrals count as First Offense and may not be used for a Second Offense violation.~~

The self-referral option is available to students only on the first infraction (no prior violations on record). If a student seeks assistance in dealing with an alcohol, tobacco-related or other drug problem by self-referral to their coach, advisor, school administrator or Athletic Director and agrees to participate in an assessment and carry out the recommendations, and attend a minimum of nine (9) hours drug and alcohol education, the student will be removed from all athletic activities for seven (7) days.

A self-referral cannot be used by a participant as a method to avoid consequences once the policy has been violated and a student has been identified as having violated such policy.

**Social Networking**

Student-athletes are responsible for information contained in written or electronic transmissions (e.g., email/text) and any information posted on a public domain (e.g., *Social Media* - internet, chat room, Facebook, YouTube, Snapchat, Twitter). Inappropriate or embarrassing information or pictures should not be posted in any public domain. Student-athletes are not restricted from using any on-line social network sites and digital platforms. However, users must understand that any content they make public via on-line social networks or digital platforms must comply with all policies, rules and regulations of the Green Local Schools Athletic Department and the OHSAA rules and regulations, as well as with federal, state and local law. Student-athletes must recognize the power of public media domains and the potentially negative image that they can portray about student-athletes, coaches, the athletic program and school district. Student-athletes should be reminded that they serve as representatives of Green Local Schools. Any individual that is identified on a social networking site which depicts illegal or inappropriate behavior will be considered a violation and is subject to athletic discipline, suspension, or expulsion.

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**Physical Confrontations**

Initiating, instigating, or willfully participating in a physical confrontation before, during, or after an athletic contest will result in a minimum one contest denial to participate to a maximum of denial to participate for remainder of season.

**Theft**

Any act of unacceptable conduct such as theft, malicious vandalism, or destruction of property in or outside the school may disqualify the athlete to represent Green Local Schools.

**Curfew**

Will be determined by the head coach during that season.

**Participation**

An athlete who tries out for a certain sport may quit and select another sport (in season) if the athlete does so *before the first scheduled game of the first sport*; however, this practice should be discouraged. If an athlete quits or is dismissed after the first scheduled contest, the athlete becomes ineligible for any conditioning program of any subsequent sport season until the conclusion of the said sport. Any athlete cut from a squad becomes eligible for another sport.

**Academic Eligibility**

Green Local Schools will follow the Ohio High School Athletic Association eligibility standards:

To be eligible (grades 9-12), a student-athlete must be currently enrolled in a member school and have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses, in the immediately preceding grading period.

To be eligible (grades 7-8), a student-athlete must be currently enrolled in a member school and have received passing grade in 5 of their enrolled classes' immediately preceding grading period.

Any violation of codes listed above, in-season or out-of-season will result in a penalty which may consist of a warning to denial of participation for the remainder of the student's athletic career. In the event that the Athletic Code of Conduct or other school policies or procedures do not cover situations that arise, the Athletic Director reserves the right to establish such rules, conditions, and penalties to respond effectively to unanticipated or unique circumstances.