

Athletic Philosophy

The interscholastic athletic program at Grand Haven Area Public Schools is a vital and integral part of the total educational program. Research indicates a student involved in extracurricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school.

The purpose of interscholastic athletics is to make a positive contribution to the development of the participants, spectators, school and community.

As an integral part of the educational process, the athletic program should always conform and support the objectives and standards of the school. The total educational curriculum must take precedence to the athletic program. Athletes should strive for educational excellence, playing excellence, and staying within the boundaries of good sportsmanship.

We hope the information provided here makes both your student-athlete's and your experience with the Grand Haven Area Public Schools athletic program less stressful and more enjoyable.

Parent Code

As parents of students at Grand Haven Area Public Schools, we understand that attending any school activity or athletic event (paid or unpaid) does not give us the right to be unsportsmanlike, abusive physically or verbally

to advisors, officials, players, coaches or fans. We understand that attending a Grand Haven Area Public Schools athletic event or extra-curricular activity is a privilege and that school personnel may revoke the privilege temporarily or permanently for inappropriate conduct.

Objectives of Participation

1. To provide a positive image of school activities at Grand Haven Area Public Schools.
2. To provide students with opportunities for physical, mental, and emotional development.
3. To experience team play along with loyalty, cooperation, and fair play.
4. To create a desire to succeed and excel.
5. To practice self-discipline and emotional maturity while learning to make decisions under pressure.
6. To develop an understanding of the value of extra-curricular activities in a balanced educational experience.
7. To demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.
8. To develop leadership qualities and skills.

Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each role, we are able to communicate the benefits of extra-curricular activities to children. As parents, when your children become involved in an athletic program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communications from the coach.

Communication You Should Expect from Your Son/Daughter's Coach

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, etc.
5. Procedures to be followed should your child become injured during participation.
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.
7. Parent/athlete feedback forms will be available for your constructive input at the conclusion of the season.
8. Evaluation procedures and criteria when "tryouts" are required for team member selection.

Communication Coaches Expect From Parents

The coach of your child's sport expects to receive the following communications from parents:

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of schedule conflicts well in advance whenever possible.
3. Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your child becomes involved in athletic programs at Grand Haven Area Public Schools, he or she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of his or her life. It is

important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is strongly encouraged.

Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches

1. What the expectations are for your son/daughter during practices and games.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child.
4. Academic support and college opportunities.

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other concerns/issues must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches

It is inappropriate to discuss the following topics with coaches:

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other student athletes.

If You Have A Concern To Discuss With A Coach, This Is The Procedure You Should Follow

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach, the student-athlete and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that all parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's positions. All communication will include the student-athlete. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be used to help promote a resolution of the issue:

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment with yourself, and your student-athlete.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director at 616-850-6030. He will help arrange a meeting for you.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.
4. Use the 24-hour rule – wait to discuss a situation with a coach until 24 hours after the contest.

What Can The Parent Do If The Meeting With The Coach Did Not Provide A Satisfactory Resolution?

1. Call and set up an appointment to meet with the Athletic Director at 616-850-6030 to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined if the situation is not resolved.

Expectations for Grand Haven Area Public Schools Student/Athletes

The following statements encompass the expectations for Grand Haven Area Public Schools student/athletes:

1. Follow all training rules, school rules and regulations.
2. Exhibit good sportsmanship towards opponents, officials, teammates, coaches, and fans.
3. Work to excel in academics.
4. Put team goals ahead of personal goals.
5. Be an ambassador for your school and community.
6. Demonstrate pride in yourself, your team, your school, and care for your facility.
7. Respect, but never fear your opponent.
8. Work harder than the competition, both in and out of season, and never quit.
9. Be on time and prepared for practices, meetings, and games.
10. Accept the results, learn from the mistakes, focus on the goal, and never give up.
11. Accept responsibility for your performance, regardless of the outcome.



Athletic Department

Scott Robertson, *GHAPS Director of Athletics*
Ron Allen, *GHHS Asst. Director of Athletics and MS Athletic Coordinator*
Tracy Wilson, *GHHS Principal*
Rita Way, *GHHS Athletic Secretary*
Kevin Polston, *LMS Principal*
Kim Boersma, *LMS Secretary*

Superintendent Office

Andy Ingall, *Superintendent*
Tina Vanderwall, *Secretary to the Superintendent*

Grand Haven Area Public Schools do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, height, weight, marital status, handicap, disability, or limited English proficiency in any of its programs or activities. The following office is designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:
Assistant Superintendent of Human Services, Grand Haven Area Public Schools,
1415 Beechtree Street, Grand Haven, MI 49417 616.850.5085



Guide for Parent/Coach Communications



 **Grand Haven**
Area Public Schools

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