



Grand River Academy Athletic Informational Packet



Athletic Programs

National Heritage Academies (“NHA”) believes a dynamic program of student activities is vital to the educational development of the student, while recognizing that athletic programs are secondary to academic programs. The purpose of NHA athletics is to develop athletic skills and improve character traits among the program’s participants. Our programs expand the experiences available to middle school students while promoting the following:

- To provide students with several options to participate in athletic programs.
- To support and put into practice all the NHA moral virtues.
- To improve fundamental skills and gain a knowledge and appreciation for the game.
- To develop teamwork and good sportsmanship through competition.

GRA Athletic Calendar

Fall

- Girls’ Volleyball
- Boys/Girls Soccer Club
- *Boys’ Soccer (if have #)*

Winter

- Girls’ Basketball**
- Boys’ Basketball
- Cheerleading

Spring

- Coed Cross Country
(if have #)
- Girls’ Soccer

Parents

Responsibilities:

- Perform various duties as outlined and requested by the Athletic Director and coach
- Parents must be actively involved with supporting the team(s) their child participates on

Fees

Pay to Play

Grand River Academy is a pay to play school. Athletes are required to pay \$25 per sport season to participate in athletics. This covers cost of school uniform (return at end of season), coaches salaries, officials, equipment and end of season banquet (pop and pizza). If the fee is not paid, athletes will not be allowed to participate in practices or games.

Note: Cheer has to purchase their own skirt and shirt.

Pay to Play cost is not required to tryout for a sport.

Student Eligibility

Students participating on sports teams should meet the following eligibility requirements. Each requirement applies to each subject area and will be assessed on a weekly basis by the AD. The assessments will start one week before the season and continue every week throughout the season. Failure to meet the requirements will result in the student being ineligible to participate in games. If, at the next assessment, the student fulfills all the requirements, his/her eligibility will be reinstated

Academic Eligibility

- A student may not be failing (Below 60%) in any subject area.
- The student's grades should not include either three missing assignments and the athletes must be engaged in classwork.
- Three or more missing homework assignments and the student will be ineligible.
- Any student who is participating in educational services in the resource room (special education) will have their academic performance and the resulting eligibility examined on a case-by-case basis. This assessment should be done with the resource room professional, the athletic director, and the homeroom teacher.

Attendance Eligibility

- The student must be in attendance at school for minimum half day to be eligible to play on that day.
- During the season, any student charged with an unexcused absence will be ineligible for the next game.

Conduct Eligibility

- Student athletes are ambassadors from their school and whose behavior shall be held to a higher standard than other students.
- Student athletes should maintain a respectable attitude to all staff members.
- Any blue/red behaviors are any automatic game/practice suspension for the following day.
- All athletes are subject to the school's Student Code of Conduct. A violation of the school's Code of Conduct during practice, traveling to and from a game, or participating in a game shall result in a referral to the principal for further disciplinary action.
- The AD has the discretion to remove a student from participation during the disciplinary proceedings.
- Coaches have the prerogative to remove students from competition for unsportsmanlike conduct and/or unexcused absences from games/practice.
- Cheerleading and cheers must be school appropriate, remembering the moral focus of the school.
- If a student is ineligible, he/she may not dress for the game. The student is required to attend practice and attend games as a spectator.
- Students will not be eligible to participate or try out for a sport when on suspension.

Age Eligibility

- If a student turns 15 years old before Sept. 1st, they are ineligible to compete.
- NHA Sports are open to 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students only. No elementary students may participate.

Tryout Procedure

The philosophy for NHA athletics is to encourage all interested students to participate. However, time, space, facilities, equipment, and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport.

Cutting Responsibilities



Choosing the members of the athletic squads is the sole responsibility of the coaches of those squads. Lower level coaches shall take into consideration the policies established by the head coach in that particular program when selecting final team rosters.

Prior to try-outs, the coach shall provide the following information to all candidates for the team:

- Extent of try-out period
- Criteria to be used to select the team
- Number to be selected
- Practice commitment if they make the team
- Game commitments

Cutting Procedure

When a squad cut becomes a necessity, the process will include three important elements. Each candidate will:

- Have competed in a minimum of a one-week (2-3 days) practice session;
- Have performed in at least one intra-squad scrimmage;
- Be personally informed of the cut by the coach and the reason for the action.

Cut lists will not to be posted. The coach will talk one-on-one with each student who tried out. Coaches will discuss alternative possibilities for participation in the sport, or other areas in the activities program.

Disciplinary Action

Any student whose conduct is determined to be a discredit to him/herself, the team or the school during their middle school career shall be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the coach, athletic director, and/or principal. Being a participant in NHA's athletic program is a privilege and not a right. Any participant who does not treat it as such will lose his/her privilege to engage in it.

Suspension

Temporary suspension of participants may be made by the coach of the sport and the athletic director and/or principal. Suspension from a team results in nonparticipation in play/practice during the entire period of the suspension.

Athletic training rules forbid the use, possession or distribution of tobacco (in any form), alcohol, drugs, narcotics, or any controlled substance or any item represented to be a controlled substance by any athlete who represents this NHA academy.

- The first offense will result in a suspension for the remainder of the current athletic season.
- Second offense will result in a suspension from all athletics for twelve months.

Removal from Participation

A student athlete may be removed from his/her team for the following reasons:

- Violations of the school's Student Code of Conduct (shall also be referred to the school's Principal for disciplinary action).
- Violations of school, athletic, or team policies
- Acts of poor sportsmanship
- Continuous weekly academic ineligibility as determined by the Athletic Eligibility Form
- Refusing to participate in athletic practices or contests



Student athletes will be given the opportunity for a hearing with the appropriate school administrator if the student or his/her parent/guardian indicates the desire for one. A hearing shall be held to allow the student and his/her parent/guardian to contest the facts or to contest the appropriateness of the sanction imposed by a disciplinary authority. The suspension will be in effect until the appeal process has been resolved.

Extra-Curricular Conflict Resolution Process

All complaints **MUST** be heard at the lowest possible level **BEFORE** intervention by a higher authority can occur.

A 24 hour “cooling off” period must be granted before any complaints are initiated.

Complaints must be made within 10 days of the incident. For the sake of all parties, the entire process must be concluded within 30 days of the incident.

Step 1 **Start with the Coach**

The player or their parent or guardian will speak directly to the coach. Remember to abide by the 24 hour “cooling off” period. This meeting should be done in private, away from practice sites and game arenas, and should be conducted face to face. Students who do not feel comfortable speaking solely to the coach may request a parent/guardian to be present; however the meeting should be conducted by the athlete.

Step 2 **Contact Athletic Director**

If an agreeable solution with the Coach is not reached, then the parent should contact the school’s Athletic Director. The Athletic Director will conduct a meeting between the parties in an attempt to find resolution.

Step 3 **Contact Principal**

If an agreeable solution is still not reached, then the principal will conduct a meeting between the parties in an attempt to find resolution.

Step 4 **Notify the NHA Service Center**

At this point in the process, individuals who still believe their disputes have not been resolved adequately can submit a written narrative of their complaint to the Manager of Safety and Security at the NHA Service Center. A copy of this will be given to all concerned parties, who will be afforded the option of a written rebuttal. After the Manager of Safety and Security has reviewed the documents he or she can conduct a meeting in a final attempt to resolve the dispute.

Conducting a Meeting

1. Introduce yourself and vice versa. There is to be no yelling, verbal, or physical abuse by either side.
2. When each person is speaking there is to be no interruption. Let each person complete his or her version of the situation before the other person speaks. When stating a concern, be prepared with the facts in so far as you understand, or can ascertain them. **Be clear about what you hope will happen as a result of your meeting.**
3. As you talk with the coach, or other authority, repeat back what you hear him or her say to be sure that you understand the important points. Stay calm and friendly as you talk and listen. Take notes.



4. Assist in generating options to resolve the conflict. Make sure there is fairness to the proposed solutions.
5. Before the session ends, have a plan that is clearly understood by all parties. A written document restating the final outcome, what happens if the situation reoccurs, and signatures indicating understanding is appropriate. This written plan will check for mutual understanding. Make a plan to follow up soon after the initial meeting. Remember, each party has a stake in making the plan work. We always assume all parties have the best interest of the student-athlete in mind when concerns are discussed. Therefore, we make every effort to assure the student is not penalized or placed in an awkward position as a result of voicing a complaint. Parents, rightly so, tend to have single focus and advocate for their own child. Coaches, on the other hand, tend to have multi-focus and must safeguard the needs of every player as well as the team as a whole. Parents and coaches, in order to communicate effectively, must respect the legitimate perspective of the other.

SPORTSMANSHIP AND MORAL FOCUS

In order to promote sportsmanship and reinforce NHA's commitment to the moral focus, the following procedures should be followed at all athletic contests.

Consequences for Poor Sportsmanship Booing, taunting, disrespect of others, and profanity will not be tolerated at NHA school events. Spectators or participants displaying unprofessional conduct will not be permitted to remain at the contest.

Should the same individual(s) exhibit repeated behavior that is unsportsmanlike; they will be suspended from participation/observation of athletic contest for a time period determined by the athletic director.



General Guidelines

Sportsmanship

- Any foul language by a player will result in ejection from the event.
- If poor sportsmanship is a problem during a game, please notify the school's athletic director so they can address the issue.
- Abusive physical or verbal exchange will not be allowed. All involved will be ejected from the event.
- **Suspension of athletes and coaches will be one game if they are ejected out of sporting contest. The suspension will be served the next game.**
- Any athletes that are ejected out of any sporting contest must sit out the next game. They are not able to play for any reason, they are encouraged to attend the contest to support team but will not dress of competition.

Transportation

- Parents are responsible for making travel arrangements for off-site/non-home activities. If the parent fails to make appropriate arrangements, the school does not have to allow the student to participate in off-site activities.