

# **GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTRACT/AGREEMENT**

The following contract has been established to provide communication between the coaches, the athlete and the family. The intent of the contract is to try to prevent any misunderstanding about rules and regulations. We ask that both athlete and parent sign this agreement fully realizing the effort and dedication the program demands.

One of the good things about interscholastic athletics is that it is a completely voluntary program. You are not obligated to take part in any interscholastic sport. Sports involvement **does** require extra effort and extra time on a voluntary basis. This is as it should be.

However, even though interscholastics are voluntary, those participating **do** represent their school. Therefore, the standards must be kept high. This includes academic requirements, school citizenship and sportsmanship. The dignity of your school program is reflected through interscholastic athletics, which is why you and your teammates must conduct yourselves in a manner that is above question.

Because it is a privilege to represent a school in athletics, it follows logically the school or the coach has the authority to revoke the privilege when the athlete does not meet specific standards while on the field, the court or the track, and while at school.

### **INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES**

On every Gloucester Township Public School athletic team, the coaches and players bring their unique perspective to the sport. This guideline is intended to help parents understand the school's position on participation in interscholastic athletic competition and to serve as a guideline for coaches and players.

The selection of players is determined from a hierarchy of factors that coaches must weigh when making this difficult decision. These factors include but are not limited to:

1. Player's current skill level and potential to develop in the context of their grade level.
2. Player's physical development and capabilities.
3. Player's cooperation and willingness to be coached.

After the selection of players, coaches are faced with the decision of playing time. Unlike community athletic teams, the middle school begins a process that is prevalent at the high school level. It is a process that is more exclusive in both selection of players and playing time. Selection to the team, more playing time, and competitive success are strong motivational factors for athletes to work hard at developing their skills. Coaches will make playing time decisions based on the interests and goals for team success. Ultimately, however, the middle school embraces skill development, teamwork, sportsmanship, and life-long fitness as the primary goal of interscholastic sports.

## **SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS**

An athlete suspended from school may not participate in practice or games for **10 school days**.

The student **must** fulfill the suspension requirement and the absence from the next scheduled event before again participating in competition.

A student suspended from school or given in-school suspension for the second time will be dismissed from the team for period of (10) days.

A student suspended from school three times during a season will be dismissed from the team. This also includes in-school suspension.

Any student whose behavior proves to be continually inappropriate and/or disruptive may be temporarily or permanently removed from participation at the discretion of the building principal.

Each athlete is expected to travel to and from an athletic event with the team. Exceptions can be made for emergencies only with written permission from a parent or guardian.

Each student is expected to take physical education during the scheduled time. A player who fails to meet this requirement may not participate in practice or the contest for that day.

Should an student athlete lose team status any time prior to the official close of the season, including tournament games, all awards for which the student-athlete may have been eligible to receive will be forfeited.

Extenuating circumstances will be dealt with by the coach in conjunction with the Athletic Director and school principal.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Every athlete is expected to attend school each day. An athlete who is late to school must report prior to the end of the third period in order to be eligible for practice or to participate in any interscholastic contest for that day. An athlete who is absent (unexcused) from practice the day before a contest **may not play in that contest**. Emergency situations will be handled by the coach in conjunction with the Athletic Director.

Athletes are encouraged to schedule medical appointments so that no confliction with practice or contests occurs.

## **ACADEMIC STANDARDS/ATHLETIC CODE**

It is the district's responsibility to ensure that students participating in co-curricular activities maintain a standard of academic performance that is consistent with the primary mission of the schools which is to provide an effective and appropriate education for all pupils including establishing acceptable standards of pupil performance. Therefore the following standards govern student eligibility for co-curricular activities:

1. First semester eligibility for students requires that students have passed three major subjects for promotion the previous school year.
2. Second semester eligibility for students requires that be passing three major subjects at the close of the preceding semester.
3. Students who are eligible at the beginning of a co-curricular activity shall be allowed to finish that activity.

All students participating in interscholastic athletics are expected to maintain a satisfactory level of academic achievement. Therefore the following standards govern student eligibility for interscholastic athletic participation:

1. Students are expected to maintain a "C" or better average in all major subject areas and indications of satisfactory progress in all related areas.
2. Students failing one major subject will be placed on probationary status and have until the interim progress report date to show satisfactory improvement.
3. Successive failures in any subject area will cause a student to be declared ineligible.
4. Two failures in any combination in major and/or related subjects will cause a student to be declared ineligible.
5. Any student with two "D's" will be placed on probationary status and have until the interim progress report date to show satisfactory improvement.
6. Any student receiving a combination of three or more grades "D" or below will cause a student to be declared ineligible during the next marking period.

\*\*N.J.S.I.A.A. rules now make it mandatory that any student or athlete disqualified from an interscholastic event for a flagrant or violent verbal or physical misconduct (unsportsmanlike conduct) will be subjected to disqualification from the next regularly scheduled game or meet. The Gloucester Township Public School System will abide by these rules.

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### **PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN TO COACH**

**I have read the Gloucester Township Public Interscholastic Contract and agree to abide by its tenets.**

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Interscholastic Coach Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Andy Champion, Athletic Director**

**Ann A. Mullen Middle School**