

# Oak Grove High School Athletics Handbook

## INTRODUCTION:

Oak Grove High School takes great pride in athletics and setting a tradition of excellence. We are proud members of the Central Carolina 2A Conference. Participation in high school athletics is a privilege, and we encourage students to participate in order to learn the value of teamwork and to work toward a common goal. Oak Grove is fortunate to have excellent athletic facilities, thanks to the efforts of a caring coaching staff and community.

Students who participate in athletics choose to do so, and as a result, those students are expected to display above average character as they represent themselves, their families, and Oak Grove High School. Student-athletes at Oak Grove are expected to behave as ladies and gentlemen, and to be positive representatives of our school and community in competition, in the classroom and hallways, and in and around our community beyond school hours.

Winning is important, but building good character and presenting a positive image for Oak Grove High School is far more important. Student participation in athletics is dependent upon compliance with all applicable rules and regulations. The following concerns, as well as others, apply:

- Good citizenship: students are expected to abide by all school and team rules, policies, and regulations, and to comply with all state and federal laws.
- School rules and policies apply to all student-athletes, both on and off school grounds at all times.
- All student-athletes must pass a minimum of three of their four classes in the semester prior to the current season, and must be promoted in order to participate in high school athletics.
- In accordance with NCHSAA policy, student-athletes must meet the attendance requirements set forth by Davidson County Schools in order to be eligible to participate in high school athletics.
- To participate in extra-curricular activities a student must be present one-half of the school day and the missed portion must be coded as lawful. Case-by-case scenarios will be examined by school administration.
- All athletes must follow the Davidson County Athletic Drug Policy that is located on the Davidson County Schools website.

## PURPOSE:

The athletic handbook is designed to explain and inform prospective or current athletes, parents and coaches of certain expectations relative to participation in interscholastic athletics at Oak Grove High School. This handbook covers some of the rules and policies of the athletics program, but not all. Please refer to the Student Handbook for all other rules, regulations, and policies.

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## CONDUCT:

As stated above, all Oak Grove prospective or current student athletes are expected to adhere to all rules and responsibilities as outlined by the school and coach. Athletes are expected to understand that incidents of misconduct in or out of school may have a definite effect on participation on the athletic team. You must remember that being a member of one of our teams is a privilege, not a right.

A student-athlete may be prohibited from tryouts or suspended for all or part of a sports season for demonstrating behavior that is detrimental to the team. These situations will be dealt with on an individual basis. The approach of our athletics administration will be dealing with situations in accordance to what is best for the team, first and foremost, and then what is best for the individual athlete. A few specific expectations of student-athletes are:

1. All policies and procedures outlined in the Davidson County Athletics or NCHSAA Handbook shall be adhered to, which includes the following, but is not limited to:
  - a. Academic requirements
  - b. Attendance requirements
  - c. Eligibility Forms signed and on file at school
    - i. Current physical exam on file (NCHSAA Sport Preparticipation Examination Form)
    - ii. Davidson County Schools Student Athletic Participation Form
    - iii. Gfeller-Waller NCHSAA Student-Athlete & Parent/Legal Custodian Concussion Statement Form
    - iv. NCHSAA Eligibility and Authorization Statement
    - v. Residency Verification Form
    - vi. Acknowledgement of limitations provided by helmets
  - d. Compliance with all applicable Board policies, including legal issues, applying to both on and off campus behavior.
  - e. Adherence to school and county tobacco, alcohol and drug use policy.
  - f. Adherence to school and county harassment and bullying policy.
  - g. Adherence to school and county theft and vandalism policy.
2. All policies and procedures outlined by a specific coach or sport shall be adhered to as well. (ie, ISS/detention punishment procedures, profanity, disciplinary issues, repeated offenses, etc.)
3. General conduct in and out of school shall be such as to bring no negative representation to the student-athlete, parent/guardian, coaches, team or school. In instances of negative representation not covered by Oak Grove High School policies and procedures or by this handbook, penalty will be decided by the coaches, athletic director and administration of the school.
4. A student-athlete must be in attendance for ½ of the school day to be eligible to practice or play in a contest. Limited exceptions will apply as approved by the Principal.

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## EQUIPMENT/UNIFORMS:

Equipment and uniforms purchased by Oak Grove High School are to remain on campus at all times. Cleaning, conditioning, storing and inventory will be the responsibility of the coaching staff of that particular sport. Any non-compliance to this policy from the student-athlete may result in that student owing reimbursement costs to Oak Grove High School.

## PROTOCOL TO DISCUSS CONCERNS WITH A COACH:

Our coaches are here to give the student-athlete the best possible interscholastic athletic “team first” experience possible. With that said, issues that may concern a player or parent should be dealt with in the following way:

1. The student-athlete should first discuss the issue with the coach. In most instances, a player/coach conversation should resolve the concern.
2. If the player/coach conversation did not resolve the concern, a parent may email or call the coach directly to have conversation about the concern. If a meeting is needed, an appointment must be made during a time that is appropriate for the coach and parent. Please DO NOT approach a coach before, during or after a game or practice to discuss a concern.
3. If a parent and coach conversation does not satisfy the concern, the parent may contact the Athletic Director via email or phone.

The Oak Grove coaching staff is willing to discuss any concern that a parent/player may have. Playing time for a student-athlete is a topic that will not be discussed, but coaches will rather speak of how that athlete can improve as a player to earn time. Other student-athletes of a team that are not the children of the parent in the meeting will not be discussed.

## TRANSPORTATION:

All Oak Grove High School student-athletes must ride to and from all athletic contests on the school activity bus. Only two instances will be approved for a student-athlete to ride home with a parent or guardian exclusively:

1. An emergency situation deemed appropriate by the coach’s discretion only.
2. A necessary arrangement in which a parent/guardian contacts the Athletic Director and signs a travel release form at least 24 hours in advance of the contest that is approved by the Athletic Director.

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## SPORT PARTICIPATION AND COMMITMENT:

When playing a sport, a student-athlete is making a commitment to more than just him or herself. That athlete is committing to the school and team as well. All athletes are expected to fulfill this commitment for the entire season. Dealing with adversity during a season is a part of sports and should be expected. Therefore, quitting on a team will not be accepted as a part of our culture at Oak Grove. In order to maintain a persevering culture, a player must follow through with the stipulations below in order to be relieved from a team:

1. The athlete must notify the head coach in person and parents will be informed.
2. The athlete that makes it to the first game of a season before he/she quits, is relieved, or dismissed from a team is not allowed to participate in any other sport season, practice or workout until the team that he/she quit is finished with their season.

## CULTURAL EXPECTATION:

The Oak Grove athletics department will operate under the “Team First, Integrity Always, Never Compromise” motto. All student athletes, parents and coaches will be expected to abide by this set of cultural expectations.

## PARENT EXPECTATION:

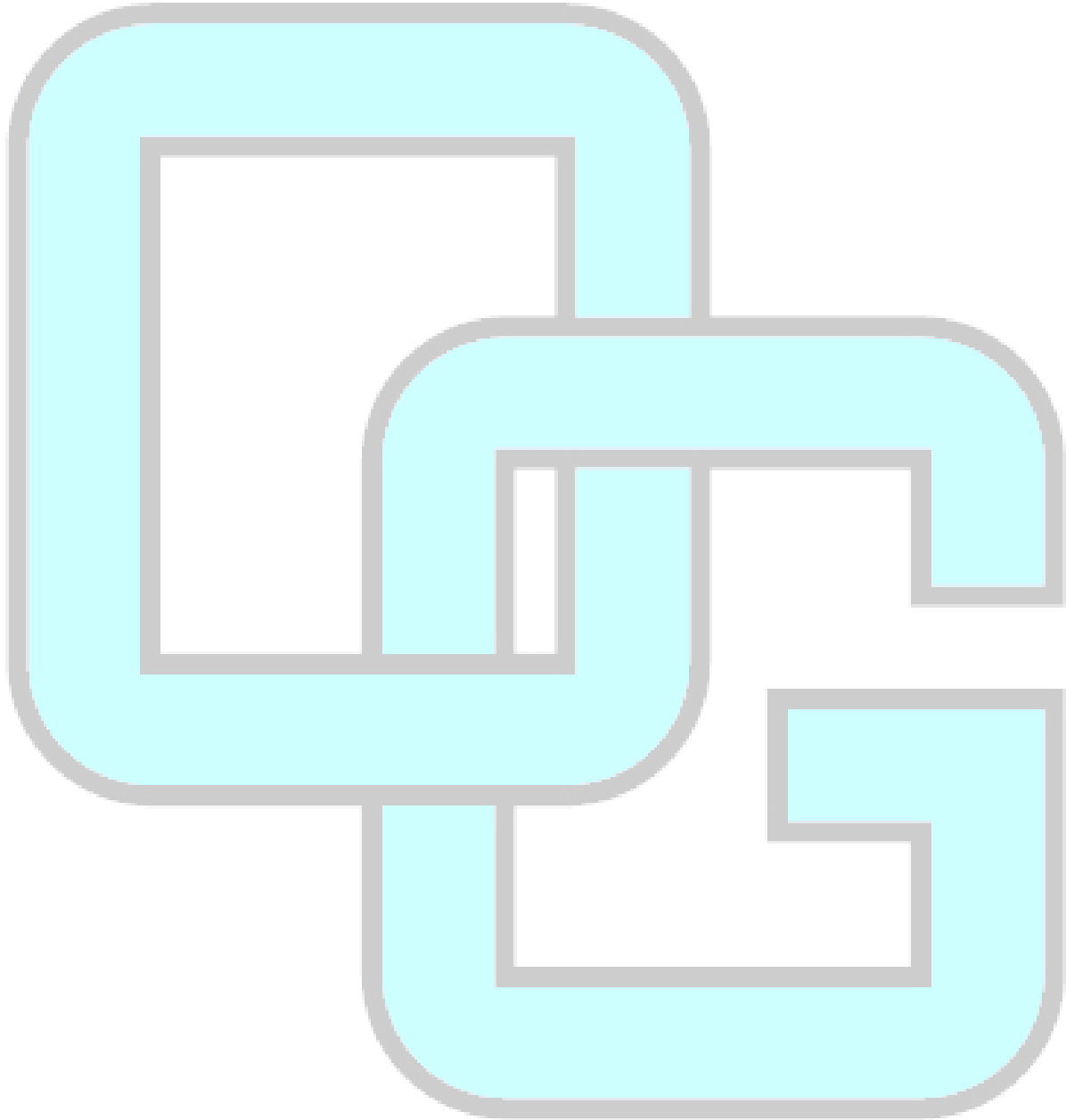
As presented on the Davidson County Schools Student Athletic Participation Form, all parents will be expected to abide by the code of sportsmanship and parent pledge that encourages participation and support of coaches, teams, officials and opponents and discourages disrespectful or vulgar actions and language. Consequences for non-compliance can result in ejections, suspensions and loss of privileges for parents and spectators.

## TEAM RULES/POLICIES/HANDBOOKS

Rules, policies and handbook initiatives are not limited to the policies and expectations referred to in this OGHS Athletic Handbook. Individual teams and coaches can and will have additional policies that are to be followed set forth by the head coach of that team. Parent meetings at the beginning of each team’s season are mandatory for parent attendance of each student athlete.

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