

## **ATHLETIC POLICY**

Participation in interscholastic sports in the Gardner Public Schools is a privilege extended to those students who wish to represent our school and communities. The students who exercise this privilege of participation assume responsibility for their behavior. Student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that will reflect positively upon themselves, their school and their communities.

### **Rules for Student Athlete Participants**

In conjunction with this philosophy, the following regulations shall be adhered to by all student-athletes participating in any sport:

1. All student-athletes must abide by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (M.I.A.A.) rules. A copy of these rules may be found on the M.I.A.A. web site ([www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net)).
2. The athletic department provides bus transportation or a suitable substitute to all away games, scrimmages and or clinics. All team members are expected to travel with their team. Exceptions to this rule will be considered when a written request is made to the athletic director by the athlete's parent(s) or guardian prior to the contest. The athletic director may give permission for an athlete to ride HOME from a game site with their parents.
3. MIAA rule 56 states all students who participate in athletics must have written proof of a current physical examination and updated immunization records signed by a physician and dated within thirteen (13) months of the official starting date for that sport for any athletic participation.
4. "Captain's practices" are not endorsed or recognized by Gardner Public schools.
5. From the first allowable day of fall practice, through the end of the academic year or final athletic competition of the year, whichever is later, a student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use or consume, possess, buy or sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol, any tobacco product, marijuana, steroids, or any controlled substance.
6. All rules and regulations contained in the Student Handbook and Athletic Handbook must be followed.
7. Students are expected to be present for all practices in order to be considered eligible for games. Should a student miss practice for an unexcused reason; they will be considered ineligible for game participation. This includes vacation weeks (Christmas, February, April), Holidays, and Fall preseason (please note that the fall season begins in mid-august and participation guidelines apply accordingly). Exceptions to these rules are subject to review by the Athletic Director.

8. Students who are interested in participating in a sport are expected to join the team within one week of the start of the season to be considered eligible to participate. Please note that in the fall, this policy is extended through the first week of school. Exceptions to these rules are subject to review by the Athletic Director.

### **Athletic User Fees**

Students who wish to participate in the Interscholastic Athletic Program at Gardner Public Schools may be required to pay an Athletic User Fee. The payment of the fee does not provide a student with any special consideration or entitlement with respect to playing time. Rather, fees collected in this manner are designed to help defray the operational costs of the Gardner Public Schools athletic budget.

### **Fees**

A User Fee will be assessed at the discretions of the Athletic Director, and will be communicated for each season, a maximum fee will be set. for families, and. any waivers will be given at the discretion of the Athletic Director.

**In the event a student is unable to or decides not to participate in interscholastic athletics prior to the first contest for that sport, a full refund of the fee will be granted provided that the Director of Athletics is notified prior to and up to the date of that contest.**

[Adopted: December 2010]

[Revised: April 2017]

[Revised: April 2021]

[Revised: November 2024]