

ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL

STUDENT-ATHLETE AND PARENT HANDBOOK

2009-2010

Revised 8/09

GUILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

PHILOSOPHY

It is our belief that as many students as possible should have the opportunity to experience interscholastic athletic competition at the middle school level. However the number of students given this opportunity may have to be limited in order to properly supervise and instruct the students while providing them with appropriate facilities and equipment.

When “cuts” are necessary, the coaching staff will inform the students how the decisions will be made and what criteria will be used to evaluate performance. In addition to athletic ability and sport specific skills, students’ classroom behavior, academic progress and grade level may be used to determine if they will “make” the team. Although the length of time necessary to try out for a team will be limited, each coach will provide adequate time to assess each candidate.

When students are selected for a team it is expected that they attend every practice unless they are absent from school or excused by the coach or administration. Scheduled practices and games for the Adams Teams will take precedence over all other athletic participation.

The emphasis at Adams will be on education and participation. Winning is important but it will not be of a primary focus. This does not mean that every student will play in every game or that all students will receive equal playing time. Coaches will make these decisions based on a variety of factors.

Our goal is to make the Adams Interscholastic Athletic program a positive educational experience for all.

MISSION STATEMENT

Guilford High School and Adams Middle School Athletic Department Mission Statement

Striving to enhance learning, foster positive character development and encourage good sportsmanship through success in highly competitive interscholastic athletic competition while maintaining a safe, healthy environment for all.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Any student will be allowed to participate in the athletic program provided he/she meets the eligibility requirements, submits evidence of a yearly physical examination and submits a completed parental permission form.

2. PROGRAM OFFERING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

- **Fall:** Field hockey, boys soccer, girls soccer, boys cross country, girls cross country, girls volleyball - starting after Labor Day.
- **Winter:** Boys basketball, girls basketball, wrestling, cheering - starting mid November.
- **Spring:** Baseball, softball, track and field - starting mid to late March.
- Coaches will announce in school when organizational meetings will be held after school. At these meetings the coach will discuss the details of the program.

3. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

At the start of each new sports season the grades of each student-athlete selected for the team will be reviewed by the coach and the principal. At the beginning of the season if there is any indication of a student-athlete failing to work up to his/her ability, or if he/she has a poor grade or attitude problem during the season, a two-week probationary period will be put into effect. The student-athlete will be allowed to continue participation on the team during probation but must demonstrate improvement in the problem areas, or removal from the team may result.

4. PARENTAL PERMISSION

Before being allowed to try out for any team, each candidate must submit to the coach a completed parental permission form. This form is available online at:

<http://www.guilford.k12.ct.us/~ghs/athletics/publications.php>

or in the main office at Adams. It consists of the following:

- An acknowledgment by both the candidate and his/her parents or guardian that he/she has read, understands, and agrees to adhere to the regulations included in this athletic handbook.
- An acknowledgment that he/she understands that participation in the athletic program creates risks of injury normally associated with vigorous physical activity.
- Emergency medical information that will be carried by each coach to all practices and contests.

5. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Upon selection to a team the student must have a physical examination form filed with the school nurse before the first competition in order to continue participation. A physical exam is considered current if it has occurred within 365 days of the first competition.

Please note that the same physical examination form will be used for Adams and the High School, Adams students must understand that their forms are due by the first competition where as High School students must have their forms submitted by the first practice. Forms are available in the main office or at:

<http://www.guilford.k12.ct.us/~ghs/athletics/publications.php>

To facilitate the transition to Guilford High School parents are encouraged to schedule physical examinations for their children so that it is completed by the following dates to prevent potential eligibility problems:

Fall Sports	August 1 st
Winter Sports	November 1 st
Spring Sports	March 1 st

***Note: Parents must plan ahead, it may take several weeks before a doctor's office can schedule an appointment.

EXPECTATIONS OF A STUDENT ATHLETE

1. DEFINITION OF A STUDENT-ATHLETE

A student is considered a student-athlete AT ALL TIMES between the first practice and the last competition whether he/she is in school or out of school.

2. ATTENDANCE

A student athlete will not be allowed to attend or participate in a practice or contest the day he/she is absent from school unless he/she has received prior approval from the school administration.

3. SCHOOL CONDUCT

- **Student-athletes are expected to treat other members of the school community with proper respect, and to take pride in maintaining the quality of the facilities and equipment available to them.**
- **If school discipline is necessary, the discipline will take precedence over any practices or contests.**
- **Any student-athlete, who is suspended from school, will not be allowed to participate with the team in any way for the duration of the suspension.**

4. ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES

The student-athlete is expected to maintain the best academic standing that he/she is capable of attaining. Academic responsibilities will take precedence over athletics.

5. ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT

- **The student-athlete is responsible for the equipment that is issued to him/her. Any lost or destroyed equipment will be paid for by the student-athlete before he/she can participate in another athletic activity.**
- **Care must be taken when clothing is washed and dried to assure longevity.**
- **The student-athlete is expected to return any equipment issued to him/her within one week of the conclusion of the season.**
- **Athletic equipment is to be used only for team activities. Personal use of the equipment is not allowed.**

6. BUS CONDUCT

The safety of the passengers on a bus trip is of primary importance, and all student-athletes will adhere to the following rules while on a bus:

- **All passengers must use only the front door while loading and unloading.**
- **When the bus is in motion all passengers must be seated.**
- **Noise must be kept to a minimum.**
- **Hands, arms, etc. must remain inside the bus at all times.**
- **Objects are not to be thrown from the bus.**

In addition, the team is responsible for the condition of the bus after a trip and must leave the bus as clean as it was at the beginning of the trip and not damaged in any way.

7. SPORTSMANSHIP AND PLAYER CONDUCT

It is expected that everyone involved will adhere to the following Code of Sportsmanship for Guilford Athletics:

- Show respect for the opponent at all times.
- Know, understand and appreciate the rules of the contest.
- Maintain self-control at all times.
- Recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of affiliation.
- Do not interfere with the game.

8. PLAYER EJECTION RULE

Any student-athlete who is ejected, from any contest will not be allowed to participate in their teams next contest, at the same level of play. The Athletic Director must be informed of all ejections within twenty-four (24) hours.

STUDENT CONDUCT

5320
Students Conduct

Policy Statement: Behavioral Standards for Students Participating in Co-Curricular Activities

The Board of Education is concerned that communication with students, parents and/or guardians be a primary focus of dealing with student behavior and co-curricular activities. For example, a major concern in our community is adolescent use of alcohol and other substance abuse. The Board of Education believes it is important for the school system to work with families in dealing with this type of issue, recognizing that there will be times when inappropriate behavior will occur other than on school grounds. It is the intention of this policy, therefore, that school employees shall share, with the appropriate school administrator, concerns they have regarding student misbehavior, even if such misconduct occurs off school property, and the administrator shall have the responsibility to initiate a dialogue to share the concern with the student and parent /guardian. Not every such communication will lead to a suspension or a removal from an activity; in fact, it is hoped that such dialogue will be supportive of the Board of Education's commitment to emphasize the development of effective student self discipline and to be of assistance to families.

STUDENT CONDUCT

5320.1(a)
Students

Standards of Conduct for Students Participating in Athletic Activities

Participation on an interscholastic athletic team for the Guilford Public Schools is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities and an understanding of a standard of conduct that must be adhered to at all times whether on school grounds, at school sponsored activities or off of school grounds. Failure to do so may result in a suspension or a removal from the team. A student is considered a student-athlete at all times between the first practice and the last competition.

Code of Conduct for Student-Athletes

A Guilford High School Student-Athlete:

- will maintain an appropriate academic standing
- will adhere to all rules established by Guilford High School and the Athletic Department
- will respect and follow the laws of our community, state and nation
- will treat others with respect
- will respect the property of others
- will honor all team rules established by the coach
- will not use or be in possession of any controlled substances or drugs, or alcohol
- will be responsible for his or her own actions

Misconduct includes but is not limited to:

- possession or use of alcohol or controlled substances or controlled drugs as defined in Connecticut General Statutes §§21a-277 through 21a-279, 21a-240(8) and 21a-240(a) which include but not limited to: marijuana, crack, heroin, cocaine, steroids or any other illegal substance
- dispensing, selling, or aiding in the procurement of controlled substances or drugs
- intimidating, harassing or hazing others, in violation of Policy 5004 or 5321
- theft or vandalism
- trespass
- engaging in any activity that causes harm or potentially causes harm to another
- smoking or use of smokeless tobacco
- illegal gambling
- any conduct that displays disregard for the good order and discipline of the school or athletic department
- any violation of the rules contained in the Student/Parent Handbook of Guilford High School or the Student-Athlete/Parent Handbook of the Athletic Department
- any violation of the criminal laws of the State of Connecticut or the United States
- In the case of misconduct occurring off school premises and not at a school-sponsored event, and unconnected to the athletic activity, this policy will apply if participation in the activity would be seriously disruptive of the educational process, taking into account whether other students were involved, whether alcohol or illegal drugs were involved, and whether the misconduct involved a weapon or the use or threatened use of physical force.

Standards of Conduct for Students Participating in Athletic Activities (continued)

Procedures

All claims of misconduct by a student-athlete, whether the occurrence is on or off school grounds, and specifically including arrests, shall be brought to the attention of the adviser/coach/administrator by the student-athlete involved in a timely manner so that immediate dialogue with the parent/guardian can be established. The administrator or designee will initiate the contact with the parent/guardian. Coaches shall immediately inform the Athletic Director of any misconduct reviewable under this regulation.

In general, the following procedure will be used as a guideline in dealing with behavioral concerns:

- For an initial incident that is self or parent-referred (meaning no involvement of any authorities and no arrest), there may or may not be a suspension from the team depending on the seriousness of the misconduct and the potential impact on the educational process. The student-athlete may be required to attend on-going sessions with a social worker or substance abuse counselor as determined by the nature of the referral.
- For an incident that is not self-referred (meaning the police, a coach or an administrator witnessed or was involved in investigating the incident), the following discipline guidelines will be followed. The coach shall investigate the allegation and the athlete shall have the right to be heard. If the coach, after reasonable investigation, concludes that the misconduct more likely than not occurred, then the coach shall impose appropriate discipline, subject to review and reconsideration by the Athletic Director. In the event of a disagreement between the coach and Athletic Director, the principal shall decide appropriate discipline.

Discipline Guidelines

- **First offense in the high school athletic career:** up to a four contest suspension. In addition, the student-athlete may be required to attend on-going sessions with a social worker or substance abuse counselor as determined by the nature of the incident, compliance with which shall be a condition of reinstatement.
- **Second offense in the high school athletic career:** up to an eight contest suspension. In addition, the student-athlete may be required to attend on-going sessions with a social worker or substance abuse counselor as determined by the nature of the incident, compliance with which shall be a condition of reinstatement.
- **Third offense in the high school athletic career:** may result in the removal from all athletic activities for up to one calendar year.

Standards of Conduct for Students Participating in Athletic Activities (continued)

- Some acts of misconduct may be considered serious enough to result in the immediate removal from all athletic activities for up to one calendar year. These include, but are not limited to:
 - Dispensing, selling or aiding in the distributing or possession with intent to distribute of controlled substances or drugs
 - Theft or destruction of property punishable as a felony under Connecticut law
 - Commission of an act punishable as a felony under Connecticut law which involves physical or sexual assault
 - Commission of any other act which is seriously disruptive of the educational process to the degree that the athlete's presence on the team would be so detrimental that participation would not be appropriate.

Notes:

- During the suspension, the head coach will determine if the student-athlete will practice with the team and, if so, to what extent, except that a person suspended for the year shall not practice with the team.
- If the suspension exceeds the athletic season in which the violation occurred, the remaining suspension will carry over to the next athletic season and be served from the date of the first regular season contest in that subsequent season.
- The CIAC game limitations per week will be used as a guideline to determine how many contests the student-athlete will miss during a suspension. For example, the CIAC allows one football game to be scheduled in a week, so a football player may miss one game; whereas, the CIAC allows three baseball games to be scheduled in a week, so a baseball player may miss three games during the same period of time.
- A student-athlete who is suspended from a contest will not be allowed to participate in the contest. The coach will determine if the student-athlete will travel with the team, be in uniform, or be allowed in the team area during the contest, except during the period of a one-year suspension.
- Any attempt to refer oneself in an effort to inform the adviser/coach/administrator before he/she is notified by the authorities will not be considered a self-referral.

Regulation
Approved: April 6, 1998
Revised: July 15, 2002
Revised: August 5, 2002

GUILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Guilford, Connecticut

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION FOR STUDENT ATHLETES AND PARENTS

1. TRANSPORTATION

- **Transportation will be provided to student athletes for out of town contests, and to in-town games and practices that must occur at sites other than at Adams Middle School. In-town trips will be on a drop-off basis only and parents or guardians are asked to pick up their son or daughter at the designated site.**

2. INCLEMENT WEATHER

- **In the event that school is cancelled due to inclement weather all middle school contests and practices will also be cancelled.**
- **If school is dismissed early due to inclement weather all after school athletic practices and contests will also be cancelled.**

3. SPORTS SPECIALIZATION

Specialization in one sport to the exclusion of others is contrary to the philosophy of Guilford Athletics and will be discouraged. The greatest possible personal growth of the student-athlete is best served by a varied program of activities, which keep proper perspective on the total development of the individual.

4. MULTIPLE SPORTS DURING THE SAME SEASON

Playing on an Adams team and on another team during the same season is not encouraged. Doing so could impede academic progress and could create physical problems due to overuse. If families pursue these additional programs they must inform the Adams coach. Priority must be given to the Adams program if conflicts arise.

5. INSURANCE

The Interscholastic Sports Accident Insurance policy provides excess hospital/medical expense benefits when injuries require medical, surgical, dental, or hospital treatment. This insurance may pay the amount by which the expenses exceed any other health insurance plan. Parents or guardians should first submit that injury claim through their own personal coverage, if any, and then through the school coverage for the excess expense allowance.

6. ATHLETIC DIRECTORY INFORMATION

**School Telephone - 203-453-2741
Chip Dorwin - Athletic Director
Lecia Scranton - Athletic Department Secretary
Mike Eldridge - Athletic Trainer
Carol Ott - School Nurse
Sports Hot Line - 453-2741 Menu Item 5 Then 1 For Updates On Game Schedules.
Web Site - www.guilford.k12.ct.us**

7. HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS

The Guilford Public School district is a member of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) and, as such, follows the rules of eligibility for students to participate in athletics in Connecticut. CIAC eligibility rules do not allow home schooled students to participate in interscholastic athletics.

8. SCHEDULES

**The most current competition schedules can be found online at:
<http://www.guilford.k12.ct.us/~ghs/athletics/adams/adamssportssite.php>**