TABLE OF CONTENTS

PURPOSE 2
PHILOSOPHY 2
ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS (ELIGIBILITY) 2
ATTENDANCE 3
ILLICIT SUBSTANCES 3
CRIMINAL VIOLATION 3
MEDICAL 3
EQUIPMENT 4
SCHOOL CONTACT 4
PRACTICE 4
MISSING PRACTICE OR CONTEST 4
SUPERVISION/TRANSPORTATION 5
ATHLETIC TRAVEL 5
BUS WAIVER / PARENT RELEASE FORM 5
CONFLICTS WITH NON-ATHLETIC EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES 5
REPORTING OF INJURY OR ILLNESS 5
TEAM SELECTION AND CUTTING 6
POSTPONING CONTESTS 6
END OF YEAR CELEBRATION/CERTIFICATES 6
POSTING OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC HANDBOOK 6
PARENT / COACH EXPECTATIONS 7
Genoa-Kingston Middle School Parent Release Form 9
Genoa-Kingston Middle School Athletic Handbook

PURPOSE

The Athletic Handbook exists for athletes, their parents or guardians, and coaches to better understand athletes’ responsibilities and rights when participating in Genoa-Kingston Middle School athletics.

PHILOSOPHY

The goal of Genoa-Kingston Middle School athletics is to provide the best opportunity for our student-athletes to excel in teamwork, sportsmanship, self-discipline and moral character. The purpose is to provide participants with competition experiences that will be positive and memorable in order to set the groundwork for understanding fundamentals of the sport. In turn this will better prepare our student-athletes for participation and success at the high school level.

Participation in middle school athletics is a privilege with its own set of responsibilities. Since competition is a privilege and not a right, those who choose to participate are expected to follow the established guidelines contained in this handbook as well as specific coaches’ expectations for their sports. Athletes are expected to represent Genoa-Kingston Middle School in a positive and respectful light.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS (ELIGIBILITY)

In order to reinforce our primary mission of teaching and learning, all students who participate in sports must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. All student-athletes are required to participate in physical education class the day of an athletic event. If they do not, that athlete will be ineligible to participate in any extra-curricular activities that day.
2. For eligibility purposes, grades are due to the office Friday at 11:00am. The eligibility period affected will run from the following Monday to Sunday. Any students with four points will be ineligible. Each grade of “D” is one point and each grade of “F” is four points.
3. Five academic days after the start of the quarter or athletic season begins, students will be held to the eligibility point system. If a summative assessment has taken place and is in the gradebook sooner than five academic days then that buffer is forfeit.
4. Students who are indicated as ineligible need to focus on their academic responsibilities and are not permitted to attend practice. The expectation is that they are at home using practice time to catch up academically and not be a distraction to the team or a supervision responsibility of the coach. Students who are ineligible will not travel with the team for competitions/tournaments/games. Students who are ineligible are not permitted to attend the contest as a spectator either.
5. Students who are in ISI or OSS will be considered ineligible for any practice, game, or event on that day.
Coaches and club sponsors have the option to create more stringent academic expectations with approval of the administration.

ATTENDANCE

In order for a student to be eligible to compete in an interscholastic contest or participate in a regularly scheduled practice, the student must be in attendance by 11:30AM. Exceptions can be made by administration for approved absences. Any student that has missed part of the school day must be returned and signed in by a parent to participate in practice or an athletic contest.

Any student that is marked as Absent (Excused or Unexcused) for the day will be ineligible for participation in any interscholastic contest on that calendar day. Exceptions can be made by administration for approved absences.

ILLICIT SUBSTANCES

Any middle school student that is caught in possession or using any illicit substance (PED, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vaping) will be removed from the team immediately. If less than 25% of the season remains, the athletic suspension will carry over into the next sport season. Any second offense will result in a 365-day suspension from participation. All violations in season will include these actions in addition to following the middle school student handbook. Any violations out of season will be subject to the student handbook and each case will be reviewed by the assistant principal to see if participation in an athletic season will be affected.

CRIMINAL VIOLATION

Any participant directly involved with a violation of any criminal law or ordinance that would bring discredit or dishonor on the individual, the team, or the school will not be tolerated. All violations will be reviewed by the assistant principal with consultation of the coach/sponsor. Penalty can range from reprimand to removal from school athletics.

MEDICAL

Prior to their first practice, athletes must have an IHSA/IESA Pre-participation physical examination by a physician in order to participate. Evidence of a Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form, should be on file in the office prior to the student’s first practice. An IHSA/IESA Pre-participation physical examination form allows for one year of participation in school athletics.

A First Aid Kit has been made available for all sports. It must be brought to every practice and competition. Throughout the sporting season if the kit supplies have been used, please contact
the health office or administration in the middle school to replenish any supplies. The first aid kid must be returned at the end of your season so it can be refilled for the next sporting season.

EQUIPMENT

All uniforms furnished by the school, returned in poor condition at the end of the season, will be subject to financial penalty for replacement. Uniforms provided by the school are to be worn for games only unless authorization is given by the coach.

All athletes are responsible for the proper care and security of equipment issued to them. Equipment furnished by the school is to be worn only for contests and practices. All equipment returned, in poor condition at the end of the season, will be subject to financial penalty for replacement.

SCHOOL CONTACT

General questions and concerns dealing with athletics should be directed to the middle school office (815)784-5222. Specific questions and concerns that are sport related should first be addressed by the student-athlete and the coach. As a second step, the student-athlete may set up a time to meet with the assistant principal and the coach. Lastly, the student-athlete may set up a time to meet with the principal or district athletic director.

PRACTICE

Athletic teams will conduct regular weekday practice starting at 2:55 PM (immediately after school). The completion time of practice will be determined by the coach of that sport. Holiday practice must be cleared through the athletic office. Upon completion of afternoon classes, athletes are to take all needed items (both academic and clothing items) to their athletic lockers in order to avoid re-entering academic hall areas after practice.

MISSING PRACTICE OR CONTEST

An athlete should always consult his/her coach BEFORE missing a practice or contest. In the event of an absence, athletes must:

1. Contact the coach prior to the start of practice.
2. Be willing to assume the consequences related to missing practice.

In order for a student to be eligible to compete in an interscholastic contest or participate in a regularly scheduled practice, the student must be in attendance for at least half of the school day. Exceptions can be made for approved absences.

Any student that procures an Unexcused Absence to any class throughout the school day will be ineligible for participation in any interscholastic contest on that calendar day.
SUPERVISION/TRANSPORTATION

Genoa-Kingston Middle School has supervision plans in place for all athletic teams. These plans are designed to prevent misconduct of students along with providing a safe environment before, during, and after the extracurricular event. Coaches will not leave students unattended to wait for a ride home. Due to the varied amount of time of an athletic competition, pick up time after events can be hard to determine. Coaches will provide an estimated pick up time and allow students to contact parents when it will be later or earlier than estimated.

ATHLETIC TRAVEL

All athletes must travel to and from athletic contests in transportation provided by Genoa-Kingston Middle School.

1. Athletes will remain with their team and under the supervision of the coach when attending “away” contests.
2. Athletes who miss the bus will not be allowed to participate in the contest unless approved by a school administrator
3. All regular school expectations for bus conduct will be followed.
4. Dress appropriately for travel.

BUS WAIVER / PARENT RELEASE FORM

A parent may provide transportation home from any “away” contest if they have completed a Genoa-Kingston Transportation Waiver. The form must be filled out by a parent before the team has left for an away contest. The parent or guardian of the student-athlete is the only individual allowed to take them home. A friend of the family is not allowed to take the player home. The parent or guardian that signed the slip of paper is responsible for taking the student-athlete home and must make face-to-face contact with a coach before they leave with the player.

*The waiver is located at the end of the handbook.

CONFLICTS WITH NON-ATHLETIC EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

An individual who attempts to participate in several extracurricular activities will undoubtedly be in a position of conflict of obligations. GKMS recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular activities. However, if there is a conflict between the athletic event and an extra-curricular activity, the school-sponsored event should take priority. Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid conflicts. This would include being cautious about belonging to too many activities with which conflicts may occur. If it becomes obvious that a student cannot fulfill the obligation of a school-sponsored sport, he/she should withdraw from that activity.
REPORTING OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

All injuries that occur while participating in athletics should be reported to the coach. It is then the coach’s responsibility to complete an Accident Report Form that will be given to the middle school office. Athletes treated by a physician as the result of an athletic injury must obtain medical permission before returning to athletic activity. Athlete’s who are physically unable to practice due to an illness lasting longer than a week will be required to provide a statement from a physician that they are again physically fit to participate in athletics.

TEAM SELECTION AND CUTTING

In accordance with our philosophy of athletics and our desire to see as many students as possible participate in the athletic program, coaches are encouraged to keep as many students as they can while maintaining the integrity of their sport. Time, space, facilities, equipment, and other factors can place limitations on squad size. Choosing the members of athletic squads is the sole responsibility of the coaches of the team. Prior to trying out, the coach shall provide the following information to all candidates for the team:

1. Extent of tryout period
2. Criteria used to select the team
3. Practice commitment and game commitment if athletes make the team

POSTPONING CONTESTS

The following factors will be considered with regard to the postponement of athletic events:

1. Cancellation or early release of school
2. Safe travel for the athletes, officials, parents, and fans
3. Playing conditions of the field, court, and/or course, and pending weather conditions
4. Risk of injury to athletes, officials, parents, and fans
5. Risk of damage to equipment

After considering the above factors, the status of the game will then be up to the principal and athletic director. In case of postponement of either home or away events, students will be notified immediately. Families should seek more information from district, athletic department and school social media accounts for the latest updates on cancellations.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION/CERTIFICATES

The head coach will determine the specific criteria for certificates, if any. The head coach may offer a celebratory meeting at the end of the sporting season. All gear must be cleaned and put away and all uniforms must be collected and stored properly in order for an end of year celebration to take place.
POSTING OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

The Genoa-Kingston Middle School handbook will be posted on the middle school website. Hard copies can be made available by the middle school office.

PARENT / COACH EXPECTATIONS

Both roles, coaching and parenting, in a student-athletes life provide certain challenges. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to students. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child’s team.

Communication You Should Expect from Your Child’s Coach
1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the team
3. Location and times of all practices and contests
4. Procedures should your child be injured during practice or a contest

Coaches Expect from Parents
1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Advance notification of any schedule conflicts
3. Positive support for their student athlete and teammates

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches
1. The treatment of your child mentally and physically
2. Ways to help your child improve
3. Concerns about your child’s behavior

It is difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches make judgments based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child’s coach. Other things must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches
1. Team strategy
2. Play calling
3. Other student-athletes

If You Have a Concern to Discuss with a Coach
There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These conferences are encouraged in order to achieve a clear understanding of the other’s position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of the concern.
1. Call the coach to set-up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the middle school office.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach immediately before or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote resolution.
Genoa-Kingston Middle School Parent Release Form

Parents choosing to take their student(s) home with them from an event away from Genoa-Kingston Middle School must complete this form and return it to their student’s coach or sponsor before the event. This allows athletes to ride home with their parent/guardian and not take the bus back to the school.

Date of Event: _____________________

Student(s) Name: ___________________________________________________

Event: ____________________________________________________________

Coach: ____________________________________________________________

I, _______________________________, will be providing transportation, today, for my student from the event mentioned above. The coach listed above is no longer responsible for transporting my student back to Genoa-Kingston Middle School.

Parent Signature: ______________________________________________________

Today’s Date: _____________________