

GENESEO  
CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Interscholastic Athletics



“Home of the Blue Devils”

HANDBOOK FOR  
STUDENT ATHLETES & PARENTS  
BOE Approved August 20, 2018

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ATHLETIC DIRECTOR’S LETTER .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>BOARD OF EDUCATION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ATHLETIC OFFICE .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>GENESEO CENTRAL’S ALMA MATER .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>GOAL/OBJECTIVES .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>SECTION V SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>PHILOSOPHY BY SPORT LEVEL .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>ATHLETIC PLACEMENT PROCESS .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>JUNIOR VARSITY ATHLETE PROMOTION.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>TEAM SELECTION (TRY-OUTS).....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>TITLE IX.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>DRUG, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO USE/ABUSE .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF DRUG, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO USE/ABUSE .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>SCHOOL/COMMUNITY CITIZENSHIP .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>ABSENCES/TARDIES .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>TEAM/ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT EXPECTATIONS.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>PRE-SEASON TEAM MEETINGS.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>STEP-WISE CONCUSSION RETURN TO PARTICIPATION (RTP) PROTOCOL REVIEW.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>MEDICAL CLEARANCE.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>AWARDS/BANQUETS.....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>ORDERING TEAM MERCHANDISE .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>TRANSPORTATION PROCEDURES .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>EXTRA-CURRICULAR CONFLICTS.....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>CHAIN OF COMMUNICATION.....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>SPORTS AND LEVELS .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>GENESEO SPORTS BOOSTERS .....</b>	<b>30</b>

## ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parents and Student-Athletes,

Welcome to the Geneseo Central Blue Devils Interscholastic Athletic Program. This handbook has been prepared to be used as a reference by our student-athletes and their parents/guardians in an effort to define responsibilities as they pertain to the rules and regulations, as well as the policies and procedures for participation in our interscholastic athletics program.

I am very pleased that you have shown an interest in our athletic program! At GCS, it is our belief that participation in athletics is a privilege and honor. Athletics provide many opportunities to learn and enhance life-long skills that may not be available in the academic classroom. It is our goal to provide "first-class" experiences that promote team and individual growth in a safe and healthy manner.

When students choose to participate in the athletic program, they make a commitment to themselves, the team, and the school. With this commitment come responsibilities and obligations. This handbook will acquaint you with some of the specific policies and procedures that are necessary for a well-organized and successful athletic program.

The Geneseo Interscholastic Athletic Program is governed by the regulations of the New York State Commissioner of Education's basic code for extra class interschool athletic programs. In addition, Geneseo is a member of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), Section V, and competes in the Livingston County Athletic Association (LCAA).

Please feel free to contact me (243-3450 x1007) if you have any questions or concerns regarding the Geneseo Central Blue Devils Athletic Program. I look forward to working with you to ensure that you take full advantage of the tremendous opportunities that athletics can provide! GO DEVILS!

Yours in Athletics,

Craig O. Veley

## **ADMINISTRATION**

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## **ATHLETIC OFFICE**

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<http://www.geneseocsd.org/athletics.cfm>

## GENESEO CENTRAL'S ALMA MATER

*LOVE AND HONOR GENESEO  
OUR HIGH SCHOOL OLD AND GRAND*

*PROUDLY, WE SHALL EVER HAIL THEE  
OVER ALL THE LAND*

*ALMA MATER NOW WE PRAISE THEE  
SING JOYFULLY THIS LAY*

*LOVE AND HONOR GENESEO  
FOREVER AND A DAY*



*School Mascot – Blue Devils  
School Colors – Royal Blue & White*

## PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS

The Geneseo Central School District believes the following:

- All students should have the opportunity to participate in some form of interscholastic athletic competition.
- Interscholastic athletic competition is vital to the educational development of our students.
- Athletic competition provides opportunities for students to grow physically, intellectually, and socially. The actual athletic competition is believed to be the culmination of many aspects of athletic instruction.
- The teaching of basic fundamentals, rules and conditioning, as well as the fostering of a healthy attitude toward competition, are the primary and essential goals in athletic instruction.

It is the Board of Education's policy to provide athletic competition in a variety of sports, regardless of gender, with quality and competent coaching in all instances. The Board of Education also recognizes the importance of spectators at athletic competitions and the role they play in the student's development of playing before an audience.

It is recognized that a well-organized and well-conducted athletic program is a potent factor in the morale of a high school student body and an important phase of good school relations. The District believes that students should develop a positive attitude toward both winning and losing. To this end, the District recognizes that the various athletic levels have differing goals.

## **GOAL/OBJECTIVES**

### **Our Goal**

The experience of participation in athletic contests and activities should reflect the total educational goals of our district.

### **Our Specific Objectives**

1. To develop an understanding and appreciation of the place which interscholastic sports and activities occupy in the American culture.
2. To educate the student body in the appreciation of sports and activities and the importance of displaying good sportsmanship at all times.
3. To serve as a focal point for the morale, spirit and loyalty of students by providing a common meeting ground and shared enthusiasm.
4. To allow for the development of physical growth, mental alertness and emotional stability for all those who participate in athletics.
5. To provide the opportunity for a student to learn to handle winning and losing and to make decisions that affect themselves and members of their team.
6. To learn to develop through hard work and dedication a feeling of self-confidence and self-esteem.

### **N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A., INC. Code of Ethics**

IT IS THE DUTY OF ALL CONCERNED WITH HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS:

1. To emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
2. To eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
3. To stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
4. To show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
5. To establish a respectful relationship between visitors and hosts.
6. To respect the integrity and judgment of sports officials.
7. To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
8. To encourage leadership, the use of initiative, and the exhibition of good judgment by players on the team.
9. To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well-being of the individual players.
10. To remember that an athletic contest is only a game, not a matter of life and death for player, coach, school, fan, community, state or nation.

## **SECTION V SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY**

The Section V Athletic Association is committed to promoting the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play at all Section V activities. Section V will oppose instances and activities which run counter to the best values of athletic competition in order to ensure the well-being of all individual players. Section V will expect acceptable standards of good citizenship and propriety with proper regard for the rights of others.

Section V is further committed to the belief that schools participating in Section V activities should be held responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches, faculty members and spectators. Conduct which is detrimental to the educational value of athletic activities may be deemed just cause for the school's reprimand, probation, suspension from a particular sport or suspension from sectional activities.

### **Spectator's Code of Behavior/Ethics**

*It is the responsibility of the spectator to:*

1. Keep cheering positively. There should be no profanity or degrading language or gestures.
2. Avoid actions which offend visiting teams or individual players.
3. Show appreciation of good play by both teams.
4. Learn the rules of the game in order to be a better-informed spectator.
5. Treat all visiting teams in a manner in which you would expect to be treated.
6. Accept the judgment of coaches and officials.
7. Encourage other spectators to participate in the spirit of good sportsmanship.
8. Avoid the use, abuse and resulting negative influence of drugs, including alcohol and tobacco.

### **Student-Athlete's Code of Behavior/Ethics**

*It is the responsibility of the student to:*

1. Demonstrate self-control and respect for others at all times including officials, spectators and other athletes.
2. Remember that participation in athletics is a privilege that is not to be abused by unsportsmanlike conduct.
3. Deal with opponents with respect. Shake hands after the competition and congratulate them on their performance.
4. Respect the integrity and judgment of the officials.
5. Understand that improper behavior while in uniform reflects poorly upon the student-athlete, family, school and community.
6. Understand and abide by the rules and regulations of the game.
7. Accept victory with grace and defeat with dignity.
8. Understand that the use, abuse and resulting negative influence of drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, is detrimental to the game and its participants.

## **Coach's Code of Behavior/Ethics**

*It is the responsibility of the coach to:*

1. Promote good sportsmanship by setting a positive example while coaching athletes.
2. Respect the integrity and judgment of the sports officials.
3. Approach competition as a healthy and constructive exercise, not a life-and-death struggle that requires victory at any price.
4. Recognize that the participants in individual or team sports are young men and women who are capable of making mistakes due to their human frailties and limitations.
5. Refrain from the use of crude or abusive language with players, opponents, officials and spectators.
6. Instruct the players in the elements of good sportsmanship and remove players from competition who demonstrate unsportsmanlike behavior.
7. Avoid behavior that will incite players, opponents or spectators.
8. Avoid and eliminate negative comments to radio, TV and newspaper reporters.
9. Avoid the use, misuse and negative impact of drugs, including alcohol and tobacco.

## **PHILOSOPHY BY SPORT LEVEL**

### **Grade 7/8 (Modified)**

This program of competitive sports focuses on the fundamentals of the game along with team play, rules, training and basic skills. At this introductory level, a large emphasis is placed on academics, team play, sportsmanship, a chemical-free lifestyle, and socio-emotional growth along with commitment and dedication. A smaller emphasis is placed on winning, and maximum participation is desired. Playing time will be directly linked to practice time; however, a specified amount of playing time is never guaranteed.

### **JUNIOR VARSITY (JV)**

The Junior Varsity level of competition places an increased emphasis upon team play, physical conditioning and refinement of basic skills. Winning at the Junior Varsity level is considered important, and participants should be taught how to cope with game situations and how to win and lose graciously. An attempt will be made to play all participants. It should be recognized that not all members of the team will receive equal playing time.

### **VARSITY**

The Varsity level of athletic competition is the culmination of the high school athletic program. Team play, sportsmanship, individual physical ability, motivation and mental attitude are very important aspects of competition at the Varsity level. The team definitely plays to win the contest, but Varsity contestants should accept the fact that important lessons are to be learned from losing. There continues to be very strong emphasis on academics, sportsmanship, chemical-free life-style and community service. It is recognized that not all participants may play in every contest. All members of the team that complete the season in good standing will receive an equal award.

## ATHLETIC PLACEMENT PROCESS

The Athletic Placement Process (APP) is a program for evaluating students who want to participate in sports at higher or lower levels, as approved by the Board of Regents as a part of the school eligibility rules in 1980, and is aligned with Learning Standards 1 and 2. These standards state that students will have the necessary knowledge and skills to establish and maintain physical fitness, participate in physical activity, maintain personal health, and acquire both the knowledge and ability to create and maintain a safe and healthy environment.

The APP was revised to assess a student's physical and emotional maturation, physical fitness, and sport skill so that a student may be placed at a level of competition that should result in increased opportunity, a fairer competitive environment, minimized risk, and greater personal satisfaction.

The APP is to be used only when an individual athlete's athletic skills warrant moving to the commencement or intermediate sport competition level, and therefore, ideally, it should be initiated by the district's athletic director and physical education staff who recognize the student's skill.

1. Physical education teachers, coaches, students, or parents/guardians may ask the athletic director to evaluate a student using APP. Students will not be processed through the evaluation procedures without a request from the athletic director and parent/guardian written permission. It is not the intent to evaluate all modified students, and evaluation should be considered only for those students with the appropriate physical and emotional readiness, and whose athletic abilities are outside of those of their age-related peers.
2. The director of physical education/athletics has the responsibility of ensuring that the APP is followed by all parties involved; that the medical director is included at appropriate times; and that the final determinations are sent to the parents, competing school districts, and section executives. Working in this capacity, the director of physical education/athletics is required to implement the following steps:
  - a. *Step 1 District Policy:* Confirm that the school district has approved a resolution to allow students to participate in the APP.
  - b. *Step 2 Parent/Guardian Permission:* All students who are to be evaluated must first obtain written parent/guardian permission before any evaluation may begin.
  - c. *Step 3 Administrative Approval:* The athletic director should confirm that the student is suitable for consideration, which includes the likelihood that the student would play in at least 50% of the games. Additionally, because of increased time demands of the participation at the high school level, the student's academic performance should be at or above grade

level. Furthermore, administration should assess the student's emotional readiness to socialize with high-school aged students.

- d. *Step 4 Medical Clearance:* The student is assessed by the medical director to determine whether if he/she has reached a stage of physical development that will lessen the likelihood of the student being injured by participating in the level and sport desired.
- e. *Step 5 Sport Skill Evaluation:* The sport coach will rely on past personal observations and may consider input from the student's former coaches to complete the evaluation.
- f. *Step 6 Physical Fitness Testing:* This must be done by a certified physical education teacher who is not a coach of the sport for which the student will be trying out. The President's Physical Fitness Test has been selected as the test for this process, and the student must meet the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile level for their age in 4/5 test components.
- g. *Step 7 Qualification Determination:* The results of the three evaluations will be sent to the director of physical education/athletics. Only students who pass all parts of the APP are permitted to try out.
- h. *Step 8 Try Outs:* The student is allowed to try out for the sport and level requested or the student must return to the modified level of competition.
- i. *Step 9 Records:* The athletic director must maintain all records of students who have successfully completed the APP.
- j. *Step 10 Notifications:* A Notification List of the scores of all athletes who have successfully completed the process and have been approved through the APP after the try-out period has been completed must be set to the athletic director of competitor schools and the athletic governing board.

**\*It is important to note that passing the testing procedure DOES NOT guarantee placement on a higher level team. It allows the athlete to try out for that team.**

[http://www.sectionv.org/inner\\_pages/forms/forms.htm](http://www.sectionv.org/inner_pages/forms/forms.htm)

## **JUNIOR VARSITY ATHLETE PROMOTION**

The Varsity Head Coach and the Athletic Director must concur that it is appropriate to promote a Junior Varsity player before that player is promoted to the Varsity level. If they cannot agree, the High School Principal will be the deciding vote. Student-athletes being considered for promotion must meet appropriate academic, behavioral and attendance standards at Geneseo Central School as confirmed by the Athletic Director. If the Varsity Head Coach and Athletic Director concur that a promotion is appropriate, the Varsity Head Coach will contact the Junior Varsity student-athlete's parents/guardians in order to seek their approval before the promotion is finalized.

## **TEAM SELECTION (TRY-OUTS)**

1. All student-athletes will be given a minimum of three (3) try-out sessions from the start date of the sport.
2. Out-of-season camps and conditioning will enhance abilities but will have no bearing on the athlete making the team during the try-out period.
3. Objective tests and subjective ratings will be used in the selection process.
4. Student-athletes will be personally notified regarding the results of the try-out.
5. Student-athletes who are unable to begin try-outs due to overlapping seasons or major illness or injury may be considered for an individual try-out. These individual try-outs will not negatively impact the current roster for the team.
6. Student-athletes must be at all try-outs. Failure to do so will greatly diminish the student's chances of making the team. Any absence must have prior approval from the coach.

\*\* Special circumstances may be reviewed by the Athletic Director.

## **TITLE IX**

The Board of Education of Geneseo Central School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, or handicapping condition in the educational programs or activities which it operates, and is in full compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Board's policy on non-discrimination includes the following: recruitment and appointment of employees; employee pay and benefits; counseling services for students; access by students to educational programs, course offerings, and student activities.

## **ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS**

### **Bona Fide Student – 4 Subjects including PE**

A contestant must be a bona fide student of the high school represented and must be taking at least four subjects including Physical Education. A foreign exchange student may be considered a bona fide student if all of these eligibility rules are satisfied. A student in an educational program in two schools may represent only the home school. NOTE: A student in a part-time or full-time shared services program, taking the equivalent of four subjects including Physical Education, is considered as registered in the home school. Exceptions for special cases must be approved by League and Section.

A student who satisfies all eligibility standards, enrolled in the equivalent of three subjects as well as meeting the Physical Education requirement, who has not completed requirements for graduation, may be enrolled in one or more college courses for advanced placement. The student must be earning a minimum of three high school credits and Physical Education to be eligible.

### **Age**

A student shall be eligible for interschool competition in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 until his/her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. If the age of nineteen (19) years is reached on or after July 1, the student may continue to participate during that school year in all sports. NOTE: Students may be eligible

regardless of age or grade if they have been approved through the New York State Education Department's Selection/Classification Program. A 15-year-old student below the 9<sup>th</sup> grade level needs only to meet the Selection/Classification maturity standards to be eligible at the high school level.

### **Amateur**

A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the pleasure of the activity and for the physical, mental and social benefits derived from participation. When competing in non-NYSPHSAA sponsored events, an athlete forfeits amateur status in a sport by any of the following:

1. Competing for money or other compensation (allowable travel, meals, and lodging expenses may be accepted).
2. Receiving an award or prize of monetary value which has not been approved by the NYSPHSAA.
3. Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of monetary value (scholarships to institutes of higher learning are specifically exempted).
4. Signing a professional playing contract in that sport.

### **Duration of Competition**

A pupil shall be eligible for senior high school athletic competition in a sport during each of four consecutive seasons of such sport commencing with the pupil's entry into the ninth grade and prior to graduation, except as otherwise specified by the regulations of the Commissioner of Education. A pupil enters competition in a given year when the pupil is a member of the team in the sport involved, and that team has completed at least one contest. The eligibility for competition of a pupil who has not attained the age of 19 years prior to July first may be extended under the following circumstances:

If sufficient evidence is presented by the chief school officer to the section to show that the pupil's failure to enter competition during one or more seasons of a sport was caused by illness, accident, or similar circumstances beyond the control of the student, such pupil's eligibility shall be extended accordingly in that sport.

If the chief school officer demonstrates to the satisfaction of the section that the pupil's failure to enter competition during one or more seasons of a sport is caused by such pupil's enrollment in a national or international student exchange program or foreign study program, that as a result of such enrollment the pupil will be required to attend school for one or more additional semesters in order to graduate, and that the pupil did not enter competition in any sport while enrolled in such program, such pupil's eligibility shall be extended accordingly in such sport.

## **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FOR ATHLETICS**

At Geneseo, it is **CLEARLY** recognized that the student-athlete's primary responsibility is to maintain acceptable academic standards. To this end, eligibility procedures have been established:

1. At the beginning of each sport season, the coach shall advise student participants about the academic expectations required for participation in the interscholastic athletic program.
2. At the beginning of each sport season, all staff members will receive a list of students participating for that season. Student-athletes will have their academic performance evaluated by staff members.
3. At the completion of the grading period, a list of all students failing will be generated and distributed to all coaches and staff.
4. The Athletic Office will notify students affected concerning their eligibility status.

### **Academic Eligibility**

To remain eligible to participate in athletics and benefit from student privileges for each reporting period, students must meet the following requirements:

- Passing all classes
- OR**
- Consistently meeting all work habits for the classes in which they are failing

### **Academic Eligibility Procedures**

- 1) Grades will be checked at the end of each five (5)-week marking period.
- 2) Students who are failing one or more classes will be placed on a probation list. Incompletes count as failures until the work is made up. Students who are failing one or more courses but are consistently meeting all the learning skills and work habits listed on the run-around report in the class(es) they are failing will remain on the probation list and may continue to participate in their athletic activity. Run around sheets are due by 3:00 each Friday (or the last day of the school week) to the Assistant Principal/Athletic Director's office.
- 3) Students who are on the probation list and who can document that they are passing all courses with an updated run-around sheet will be removed from the probation list. Probation runs for one (1) full week, Monday through Sunday.
- 4) If a student is still failing a class and **not** consistently meeting all of the learning skills and work habits in the classes they are failing, or fails to turn in a run-around sheet by Friday (or the last day of the week) at 3:00, then the student will become ineligible to participate in athletics. Ineligibility runs for one (1) full week, Monday through Sunday.
- 5) Ineligible students may not compete in games, meets, etc., but they may practice.
- 6) An ineligible student may prove that he/she is meeting the eligibility requirements by bringing a signed run-around sheet by his/her teachers from **ALL** classes to the Assistant Principal/Athletic Director's office by Friday at 3:00 (or the last day of the school week). Eligibility will be reinstated beginning the following Monday.

- 7) Any student-athlete who feels he or she is working to the best of his or her ability may appeal the ineligibility status in writing to the Assistant Principal/Athletic Director for re-instatement of eligibility.
- 8) Please note: run-around sheets are to be filled out for any students on probation or who are ineligible for **ALL** classes. Eligibility status will be determined only by the comments from the courses the student is failing.

### **Appeal Process**

Any student-athlete who feels he or she is working to the best of his or her ability may appeal the ineligibility status in writing to the Athletic Director for re-instatement of eligibility.

The following criteria will be considered when making a determination of eligibility:

1. Positive recommendations from teachers.
2. Homework assignments completed on a regular basis to the best of the student's ability.
3. Positive participation in classroom/learning activities.
4. The student is working hard to be academically successful by attending extra help sessions, working with teachers, counselors and parents to improve academic performance, and generally demonstrating an overall positive attitude relative to academic performance.

### **DRUG, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO USE/ABUSE**

**Geneseo Central School is a drug-free and tobacco-free campus. It is expected that all students will abstain from the use/abuse of any legal or illegal substances containing drugs, alcohol, or tobacco and illegal and/or controlled substances, counterfeit and designer drugs, or paraphernalia AT ALL TIMES.**

**"Illegal substances" include, but are not limited to, inhalants, marijuana, synthetic cannabinoids, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, drug paraphernalia and any substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs."**

The purpose of these expectations is to help an interscholastic athletic participant become a better person by seeking to model proper behavior and good citizenship at all times. The following rules were recommended by a committee including parents, students, coaches, teachers and administration, and have been approved by the Board of Education. These rules and regulations are designed to instill pride, discipline, and team spirit in the student-athlete to enable him/her to achieve maximum physical and/or mental performance in athletics. Each athlete is required to make a commitment to community, school, team, coach, and him/herself by adhering to the established rules and regulations. This is a condition that must be fulfilled for satisfactory participation in any sport. Enforcement of the rules and adjudication of any violations is the responsibility of each coach and the Athletic Director.

## **TRAINING RULES**

The GCS district recognizes that the use of certain substances such as tobacco (including chewing tobacco and snuff) alcohol, and other drugs (including performance enhancing drugs) presents a significant health problem for many adolescents. These products can have negative effects on behavior, learning, and the total development of each individual, including one's athletic abilities.

GCS expects student-athletes to model healthy, chemical-free lifestyles. Therefore, it is the philosophy of GCS to absolutely FORBID any athlete to use, possess, sell, or otherwise distribute these substances or related paraphernalia.

Athletes should avoid situations that could jeopardize their eligibility, e.g. smoking areas, parties where alcohol, tobacco or other drugs are available, etc.

## **ATTENDANCE AT PARTIES/GATHERINGS/OTHER EVENTS**

Students must leave a party within 15 minutes of arrival when alcohol/drugs are present. In addition, the athlete and/or parent are encouraged to contact the Coach, Athletic Director, or Principal within 24 hours of the party to establish their role in connection with the event. The purpose of this call is to protect students who have made the right choice from future allegations regarding the specific event. This notification must take place prior to any investigation of the incident. A phone message will be accepted.

## **PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS**

Use of any performance-enhancing drug is strictly prohibited. Any use of these drugs may result in immediate dismissal from the team.

## **PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF DRUG, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO USE/ABUSE**

### **INVESTIGATION PHASE**

1. The student may be suspended from all athletic activities while school personnel determine if a violation has occurred.
2. An administrator will set a meeting with the student, parents and coach to review the situation and explain the course of action.
3. If it is determined that no violation has occurred, the student will return to full participation. If a violation has occurred, the course of action will follow district policy.

### **ENFORCEMENT – For Sports Career at GCS (gr. 7-12)**

#### **FIRST OFFENSE**

- The athlete will be suspended from activities with a team for a period of 15 calendar days. The athlete will attend, but not participate, in practices and/or games. If athletes miss a practice, they must receive prior approval from the Athletic Director.
- The athlete will not be allowed to participate in 20% of the season's total scheduled contests. Contests that fall during the initial 15 calendar day suspension will count towards the 20%.

- Suspension will carry over from season to season.
- It is highly recommended that student-athletes participate in drug and alcohol counseling.

#### SECOND OFFENSE

- The athlete will be suspended from activities with a team for a period of 30 days. The athlete will attend but not participate in practices and/or games. If an athlete will miss a practice, they must receive prior approval from the Athletic Director.
- The athlete will not be allowed to participate in 40% of the season's total scheduled contests. Contests that fall during the initial 30 calendar day suspension will count towards the 40%.
- An athlete may initiate and complete a drug/alcohol evaluation from an outside agency. The athlete must sign an information release for the District. Based on the results of the evaluation, an administrator may reduce the percentage of games to 20%.
- Suspension will carry over from season to season.

#### THIRD OFFENSE

- The athlete will be suspended from participating on a team for the remainder of his or her career at GCS.
- The athlete has the option of serving a one-year suspension with the approval of a committee following the appeal process. This committee consists of the Athletic Director, the Coach, two (2) counselors and the Principal.
- The appeal process is as follows:
  1. The student-athlete and parents must request a one-year suspension in writing to the Athletic Director.
  2. A school/community project will be initiated and organized wholly by the suspended student and will be considered by the committee.
  3. If the committee approves the proposed project, the committee will receive monthly progress reports.
  4. The student-athlete must maintain academic eligibility throughout the year of suspension.
  5. The student athlete must meet all other Geneseo Central School standards and expectations.
  6. An athlete may initiate and complete a drug/alcohol evaluation from an outside agency. The athlete must sign an information release for the District.
- The reinstatement process is available only **ONCE** during one's sports career at Geneseo Central School.

#### **SELF-REFERRAL by Student-Athletes**

Student-athletes may take advantage of the self-referral procedure to seek information, guidance, counseling and assessment in regard to student-athlete use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. Voluntary referrals may carry punitive consequences related to the previously mentioned penalty phases.

- Referral must be made only by the athlete or a member of his/her immediate family.
- Referral cannot be used by athletes as a method of avoiding consequences once a Code of Conduct rule is violated and a student has been identified as having violated one of the Code of Conduct rules.
- Referral must be made to a coach, athletic administrator, teacher, administrator, or guidance counselor.

### **Season Suspension**

If several athletes violate the Code of Conduct during the season, an entire season may be forfeited. Any single violation deemed serious enough may also require forfeiture of the season. Example: Hazing.

## **SCHOOL/COMMUNITY CITIZENSHIP**

**Student-athletes are role models in our school. As such, they are expected to conduct themselves appropriately and respectfully in the school and community. Failure to do so may result in suspension or removal from a team.**

### **Examples of Poor Citizenship**

#### **Legal Matters**

Any matters based on illegal conduct in or outside of school may result in athletic suspensions.

#### **Poor School Citizenship**

Athletes may be suspended or removed from a team when the school Code of Conduct has been violated.

#### **Conduct Detrimental to Team/Individual**

Examples: Hazing, drug sale/distribution, fighting, vandalism, theft, violations of the law, etc.

#### **Bullying/Cyber-Bullying**

All forms of bullying and cyber-bullying by school district students are hereby prohibited. Anyone who engages in bullying or cyber-bullying in violation of this policy shall be subject to appropriate discipline.

“Bullying” shall mean unwelcome verbal, written or physical conduct directed at a student by another student that has the effect of

1. Physically, emotionally, or mentally harming a student;
2. Damaging, extorting or taking a student’s personal property;
3. Placing a student in reasonable fear of physical, emotional or mental harm;
4. Placing a student in reasonable fear of damage to or loss of personal property; or
5. Creating an intimidating or hostile environment that substantially interferes with a student’s educational opportunities.

Cyber-bullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening or terrorizing another student or staff member by way of any technological tool, such as sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings (including blogs) which has the effect of

1. Physically, emotionally or mentally harming a student;
2. Placing a student in reasonable fear of physical, emotional or mental harm;
3. Placing a student in reasonable fear of damage to or loss of property; or
4. Creating an intimidating or hostile environment that substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities.

### **Behavior**

Good sportsmanship and citizenship are required of all student-athletes. A student-athlete's conduct is to be guided by the following principles:

- To have respect for the rights and feelings of others
- To behave in a manner that reflects favorably on him/her, his/her family, teammates, school and community.

### **Off the Field**

Student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner which will reflect positively on Geneseo Central School athletic teams and themselves. Inappropriate behavior as defined by the GCS Code of Conduct and any involvement with police including accusations and/or arrests at any time during the school year or out of school will result in a disciplinary review and may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including possible suspension and/or dismissal from the athletic program upon administrative review.

### **On the Field**

In the area of athletic competition, a student-athlete must not use profanity or illegal tactics. He or she learns fast that losing is part of the game and that he/she should be gracious in defeat and modest in victory. It is always courteous to congratulate the opponent on a well-played game after the contest whether in defeat or victory. Game officials will always be treated with respect and a sense of understanding of the critical role that they play.

### **In the Classroom**

A good athlete should also be a good student. Student-athletes must plan their schedules so that they give sufficient time and energy to their studies to ensure acceptable grades. They should plan ahead and be organized. In addition to maintaining good scholarship, a student-athlete should give respectable attention to classroom activities and show respect for other students and faculty at all times. Horseplay and disrespect are not approved habits of behavior.

### **Profanity, Abusive Language and/or Actions**

The conduct of a student-athlete is closely observed in many areas of life. His/her conduct is a reflection of the total educational institution he/she represents. It is important that his/her behavior be above reproach in all the following areas. The use of

profane or abusive language/action is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. Furthermore, if profanity, abusive language or action is directed toward a person (coach, official, etc.) the participant will be removed from the situation for a cooling-off period. This action can result in a period of suspension from the squad determined by the coach and or the Athletic Director.

\*All discipline matters and consequences concerning any of the above circumstances will be handled on an individual basis through the principal, athletic director, and coach.

## **ABSENCES/TARDIES**

Every athlete is expected to participate for a complete sports season and to make all practices and athletic contests. All teams need a full squad for practice. There may be practices and contests on Saturdays, holidays, and over school vacations.

### **Excessive Absences**

Students who are excessively absent from school and/or practices may face dismissal from a team or suspension from games. The Athletic Director and coach will review each case to determine the penalty.

### **Early Departure from School**

Students who leave school early due to illness/injury are not eligible to participate in practices or games on that date.

### **Absences before Games**

Unexcused absence from practice on the day before a game may result in the athlete becoming ineligible for the next day's contest.

### **Tardy to School**

Students will not be eligible to participate in practices or games on days they are tardy to school. Certain circumstances may be approved by the Athletic Director.

### **Suspension from School**

**ISS** – When a student-athlete is suspended in ISS, he/she cannot participate in practice or contests that day.

**OSS** - Student-athletes are not permitted on school property at any time during their suspension.

### **Family Vacations**

When parents and student-athletes choose to take their vacations during the sports season, it must be understood that the time missed can affect personal conditioning and team chemistry. Student-athletes who miss practice or competition for any reason may have their position or playing time adjusted.

### **College Visitations**

Athletes must notify their coach and the athletic director a minimum of one week prior to college visitation.

### **Game Day Absences**

Students must attend school to participate in games or practices on that day.

### **Medical Appointments**

Students attending any appointment during the school day should bring a note from the doctor in order to participate that day. The doctor's note must clear the student-athlete to participate.

### **Outside Sport Participation**

The NYSPHSAA allows participation in outside sports. GCS student-athletes must understand that commitment to the school team comes first, and outside participation should not be detrimental to an individual or to a GCS team. There will be many circumstances where a student-athlete should not participate in any outside activity due to the possible effect on themselves or the team. Student-athletes need to check with their coaches prior to participating in outside activities.

### **Geneseo Attendance Policy**

The following reasons for student absences from school are recognized as valid by the Board of Education:

1. Illness
2. Illness or death in the family
3. Unsafe travel conditions
4. Religious observance
5. Medical appointments
6. Quarantine
7. Required court appearances
8. Approved college visits
9. Approved work programs
10. School-related activities

\* Special circumstances may be reviewed by Athletic Director.

## **TEAM/ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT EXPECTATIONS**

In addition to Code of Conduct expectations, all athletes must follow athletic department and individual team expectations. **By signing the Parent Consent, Physical Examination, and Code of Conduct Form you are agreeing to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in the Interscholastic Athletic Handbook which take effect the first day of the season.** Listed below are some additional athletic department guidelines.

### **Uniform/Equipment/Supplies**

Students are responsible for returning their uniform and equipment at the end of the season. Students are fiscally responsible for all items that are not returned. **Students will not be given any further uniforms/equipment until accounts are paid in full.** This policy includes all future athletic seasons.

### **Quitting/Dismissal/Transferring from a Team**

- a. Communication with parent, athlete, Coach, and Athletic Director will occur prior to an athlete's participating in another sport.
- b. If an athlete elects to leave one sport during a season to start another, the move must first be approved by the Athletic Director and both coaches involved. Practices do not carry over for all sports.

### **After-School Expectations**

Students staying on campus after school must report to the Media Center, teacher classrooms, the fitness center or intramurals. Any student found in an unsupervised area will not be eligible for participation on that day. Multiple infractions of this rule may result in removal from the team.

### **Student-Athlete Pick-Ups**

Student-athletes must be picked up within 15 minutes after the end of a practice or game. Excessive infractions may result in dismissal from the team.

## **PRE-SEASON TEAM MEETINGS**

Prior to the first contest, the coach will hold a meeting for all student-athletes and parents. All student-athletes **must** attend, and parents are strongly encouraged to attend. This meeting will cover the policies of this handbook and the expectations of the coach. Enforcement of these guidelines will be the responsibility of the coach. Any violations and consequences will be reported, in writing, to the Athletic Director.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

The NYSPHSAA regulations state that a student must be a bona fide pupil and be enrolled in Physical Education to participate in athletics. Athletics is an outgrowth of the Physical Education program. Those students demonstrating outstanding skill, attitude, and effort are the ones encouraged to participate in athletics. The wide range of activities in Physical Education gives the student an excellent background in physical fitness, lifetime sports and team sports. Because of the importance of physical education, **all athletes will be required to participate in Physical Education throughout the year.** Athletes who are illegally absent from and/or do not participate in Physical Education classes will not be permitted to participate in games or practices on the day of the infraction.

## CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT

### **GENESEO CENTRAL SCHOOL PARENT/GUARDIAN CONCUSSION POLICY ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM**

In order to help protect the student-athletes of Geneseo Central School, this form is designed to inform all athletes, parents/guardians and coaches about the dangers of concussions.

A concussion is a brain injury and all brain injuries are serious. It may be caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head.

Concussions can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. Even though most concussions are mild, **all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications including prolonged brain damage and death if not recognized and managed properly.** In other words, even a “ding” or a bump on the head can be serious. You can’t see a concussion and most sports concussions occur without loss of consciousness. Signs and symptoms of concussion may show up right after the injury or can take hours or days to fully appear. If your child/player reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms or signs of concussion yourself, seek medical attention right away.

**Symptoms may include one or more of the following:**

1. Headache
2. Nausea/vomiting
3. Balance problems or dizziness
4. Double vision or changes in vision
5. Sensitivity to light or sound/noise
6. Feeling of sluggishness or fogginess
7. Difficulty with concentration, short-term memory, and/or confusion
8. Irritability or agitation
9. Depression or anxiety
10. Sleep disturbance

**Signs observed by teammates, parents and coaches include:**

1. Appears dazed, stunned, or disoriented
2. Forgets plays or demonstrates short-term memory difficulties (e.g. is unsure of the game, score, or opponent)
3. Exhibits difficulties with balance or coordination
4. Answers questions slowly or inaccurately
5. Loses consciousness
6. Demonstrates behavior or personality changes
7. Is unable to recall events prior to or after the hit

**What can happen if my child/player keeps on playing with a concussion or returns too soon?**

Athletes with the signs and symptoms of concussion will be removed from play immediately. Continuing to play with the signs and symptoms of a concussion leaves the young athlete especially vulnerable to greater injury. There is an increased risk of significant damage from a concussion for a period of time after that concussion occurs, particularly if the athlete suffers another concussion before completely recovering from the first one. This can lead to prolonged recovery, or even to severe brain swelling (second impact syndrome) with devastating and even fatal consequences. It is well known that adolescent or teenage athletes will often under-report symptoms of injuries, and concussions are no different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents and students is the key for the student-athlete's safety.

**If you think your child/player has suffered a concussion...**

Any athlete even suspected of suffering a concussion should be removed from the game or practice immediately. No athlete may return to activity after an apparent head injury or concussion, regardless of how mild it seems or how quickly symptoms clear. Close observation of the athlete should continue for several hours. The athlete may not return to play until he or she is evaluated by a medical doctor trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and has received written clearance to begin return-to-play protocol by the School Medical Director.

You should also inform your child's Coach, Athletic Trainer (ATC), and/or Athletic Director if you think that your child/player may have a concussion. When in doubt, the athlete sits out. For current and up-to-date information on concussions you can go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/sports/index.html>

## **STEP-WISE CONCUSSION RETURN TO PARTICIPATION (RTP)**

### **PROTOCOL REVIEW**

GCS concussion policy requires that a Step-Wise return-to-play progression be completed before final release of a concussed student-athlete to play, practice, and/or return to physical education class/athletics. The student-athlete must be asymptomatic prior to the initiation of the RTP progression.

Please confirm that this student-athlete is asymptomatic and provide permission for our staff to initiate the RTP progression. You may be asked to make a final examination to allow the student athlete to proceed to Step 5, thereby giving clearance to return to Physical Education class and athletics.

The following Step-Wise progression is listed below. The athlete must be **symptom free** in order to initiate this RTP protocol and approved by the School Medical Director. A minimum of 24 hours is required between steps.

**If signs and symptoms appear, stop activity, wait until asymptomatic, return to last asymptomatic Step-Wise stage and begin progression anew.**

#### **Step 1:**

10 - 15 minutes of aerobic activity at 30 - 40% of maximum heart rate using stationary bike, seated elliptical, swimming or walking on a treadmill. Exercise in a quiet area such as a rehabilitation or treatment room if possible. No impact or resistance activities. Limit head movement and positional change. Limit concentration activities. If athlete is symptom free during and after workout, 24 hours must pass before starting the next step.

#### **Step 2:**

20 - 25 minutes of aerobic activity at 40 - 60% of maximum heart rate using stationary bike, seated elliptical, swimming or walking on a treadmill. Exercise in an area using various Nautilus-style equipment, such as a weight room or fitness center if possible. Allow some positional changes and head movement. If athlete is symptom free during and after workout, 24 hours must pass before starting the next step.

#### **Step 3:**

25 - 30 minutes of aerobic activity at 60 - 80% of maximum heart rate using stationary bike, seated elliptical, swimming or walking on a treadmill. Exercise in any environment (indoor or outdoor). Initiation of agility drills appropriate at this stage, however with no contact. Modify drills to ease the athlete back into sport specific activity. If athlete is symptom free during and after workout, 24 hours must pass before starting the next step.

#### **Step 4:**

Sport performance activities can be allowed. No contact activity allowed. Exercise with enough intensity to reach 80% or maximum heart rate. If athlete is symptom free during and after workout, 24 hours must pass before starting the next step.

**Note: Clearance needed from nurse, Athletic Director and/or Physician before moving on to Step 5.**

#### **Step 5: Practice Only—NO Athletic Contests allowed until this step is completed!**

Sport performance activities with full exertion. Initiate contact activities as appropriate to sport activity.

## **MEDICAL CLEARANCE**

### **Health Examinations**

Student-Athletes must receive medical clearance from the school health office before they may practice or try out for an athletic team.

The following guidelines outline the process for obtaining this clearance:

1. Physical exams must be done by the school district physician or family doctor and are considered current for 12 continuous months. Student-athletes are required to obtain a completely new physical if the previous physical date expires before or during the upcoming sports season.
2. All student-athletes and their parents must complete the Parent Consent/Physical Examination/Code of Conduct form prior to each sports season. The school nurse will review the information to ensure safe participation.
3. Questions or information regarding medical clearance can be obtained by calling the health office.

### **Returning to an Athletic Team after an Injury or Illness**

Any student-athlete who is seen by a doctor must be released (signed statement) by the doctor who treated the athlete in order to resume participation with his/her team. If a student-athlete goes to the emergency room for care, the student-athlete must obtain a written release before leaving the hospital, because many times the attending physician will not be there the next time he/she visits. This release needs to be filed with the school nurse. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to get the release to the school nurse.

### **INSURANCE INFORMATION**

Any injury that occurs while playing sports at Geneseo Central School needs to be reported to the coach. The coach is then responsible to fill out an accident report, which is then given to the school nurse. Should a parent/guardian decide to take his/her child to a physician for treatment, he/she must bring a signed statement back from that physician to the school nurse. This must state whether or not the child is eligible to continue in that sport, as well as eligible to participate in physical education class. The school nurse acts for the school physician on clearing an athlete for his/her sport. Insurance companies are the primary sources of medical payment. As soon as the accident report is given to the school nurse, an insurance form will be filled out and mailed to the parent/guardian of the athlete. There will be a booklet sent that explains what may be covered by the school insurance company. The parent/guardian should follow the instructions sent with the insurance forms. It is up to the parent or guardian to send that information to the school's insurance company. It is very important to communicate with coaches and the school nurse when an injury occurs. Athletes who do not bring in documentation from a physician will lose practice privileges. Questions or concerns, please contact the school nurse at 243-3450 x 2226.

## **AWARDS/BANQUETS**

Criteria for Receiving Awards/Letters/Pins – Athletes must complete the season in order to receive a letter or pin. Students who violate the Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Use/Abuse policy are not eligible for awards for that season.

## **ORDERING TEAM MERCHANDISE**

### **Team Merchandise**

- All purchases for team apparel must be approved by the Athletic Office. Only items purchased or approved through the Athletic Office will be permitted to be worn during contests.

### **Monies Collected**

- All checks collected must be made payable to GCS.

## **TRANSPORTATION PROCEDURES**

Team time is an integral part of the over-all sports program. Many times for away contests, the only team time available is during the ride to and from the opposing school sites. As a result, student-athletes will be required to ride to and from away contests via Geneseo Central School transportation. In extreme circumstances, a student-athlete will be allowed to ride home with his/her own parent/guardian only. The parent/guardian will be required to give written notification to the Athletic Office. Student-athletes will not be allowed to ride home with anyone other than their own parent/guardian. Coaches are not authorized to allow a student to ride home with anyone else.

Any exception to this transportation procedure must be pre-approved by a District administrator.

A copy of the Sports Transportation Release form can be found on the GCS Website [www.geneseocsd.org](http://www.geneseocsd.org). Click on the Middle/High School page – Forms/Documents – Sports Documents – Sports Transportation Release Form.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR CONFLICTS**

Advisors and coaches should make every effort to coordinate schedules annually, and/or seasonally, to minimize scheduling conflicts. Student-athletes are to make their coach/advisor aware of any conflicts as far in advance as possible. When a conflict occurs between scheduled practices, the student-athlete may choose either activity without loss of membership, academic penalty or status in the other activity. When a conflict occurs between a competition or performance and a scheduled practice, student-athletes are expected to attend the competition or performance without loss of group membership, academic penalty or status in the other activity. When a conflict occurs between a competition and a performance, the student-athlete may choose either activity after consulting with adult advisors and coaches in a timely manner. If a serious difference of

opinion arises, the conflict will be resolved jointly by the student-athlete, the adult supervisors, coaches, and the Athletic Director or MS/HS Principal.

## **CHAIN OF COMMUNICATION**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, both parents and coaches are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to the student-athlete. When a student-athlete becomes involved in a GCS athletic program, parents have a right to understand what expectations are placed on their child. This begins with clear communication from the coach.

### **Communication expected from the coach:**

1. Philosophy of the coach and program.
2. Expectations the coach has for the student-athlete, as well as the entire team.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements (e.g. special equipment, off-season expectations, etc.)
5. Procedure should the student-athlete be injured during participation.
6. Disciplinary action(s) that may result in the denial of the student-athlete's participation.

### **Communication coaches expect from parents:**

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach only after the student-athlete has talked with the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations. As student-athletes become involved in programs at Geneseo High School, he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is also important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way parents and student-athletes wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

### **Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:**

1. The treatment of the student-athlete, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help the student-athlete improve.
3. Concerns about the student-athlete's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept the student-athlete not playing as much as parents may hope. Coaches are professionals and they make decisions based on what they believe to be the best for the team as a whole and all students involved. Based on the list above, there are certain things that can and should be discussed with the coach. Other things must be left to the discretion of the coach.

### **Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:**

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy and/or play calling.
3. Other student-athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have 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 concern.

**Procedure to follow to discuss a concern with a coach:**

1. Student-Athlete will contact the coach in an attempt to resolve the situation.
2. If resolution is not reached, the parent is to contact the coach to set up an appointment with the coach.
3. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Office to assist in arranging a meeting.
4. Please do not attempt to meet with a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

**The Next Step**

**What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?**

1. Call the Athletic office to set up an appointment with the Athletic Director. The parent/guardian, coach and Athletic Director will meet to discuss the problem.
2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.

We hope the information provided here will help make you and your child's experience with the Geneseo Central School Athletic Program less stressful and more enjoyable, as well as rewarding.

**SPORTS AND LEVELS**

**Fall**

Football	V/JV/Mod	Boys Soccer	V/JV/Mod
Girls Soccer	V/JV/Mod	Volleyball	V/JV/Mod
Cross Country	V/Mod		

**Winter**

Boys Basketball	V/JV/Mod	Girls Basketball	V/JV/Mod
Swimming	V/Mod	Hockey	V
Wrestling	V/Mod	Cheerleading	V/JV

**Spring**

Baseball	V/JV/Mod	Softball	V/JV/Mod
Track	V/Mod	Golf	V/JV

## GENESEO SPORTS BOOSTERS

The Geneseo Sports Boosters are instrumental in their support of the Geneseo Blue Devils. This organization believes that Geneseo athletics provide an important element in the complete development of our youth. Sports Boosters believe an active club benefits both participants and spectators.

The Geneseo Sports Boosters have been very involved in the past helping support our GCS athletes and athletic programs. The following is a partial list of projects:

- ◆ Organizing Varsity Athletic banquets at the end of each season
- ◆ Pizza and pop after Sectional Championship game/meets
- ◆ Two \$500 scholarships for senior athletes
- ◆ Purchased League/Sectional title banner located in the gym
- ◆ Scoreboard for baseball/softball field
- ◆ Purchased chairs and light-up table for gymnasium events
- ◆ Provide concession stands during various sports seasons
- ◆ Instrumental in obtaining baseball/softball dugouts
- ◆ Provided manpower to help with cleaning/painting of tunnel

Examples of our fundraising projects include:

- ◆ GCS athletic wear
- ◆ Concession stand sales

To continue to provide support and manpower to enhance our athletic programs and to support the existing programs, *WE NEED YOUR HELP!*

We greatly need more active parents, teachers and interested community members to help keep our organization successful. Our goal is to have a representative from each varsity sports program to attend meetings.

We need volunteers to:

- ◆ Man the concession booth for home football, boys/girls soccer, and volleyball games
- ◆ Work at the Homecoming chicken barbecue
- ◆ Help make championship banners
- ◆ Help with miscellaneous fundraising projects

We invite you to become involved. Monthly meetings are held at GCS the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the cafeteria. If you have any questions or can lend your support in any way, please call one of the current Board Members.

<b>President</b>	Terry O'Brien	447-4298	<b>Vice-Pres.</b>	Jon Bailey	243-0991
				<i>stringergrinding@frontiernet.net</i>	
<b>Secretary</b>	Janice Hamilton	410-2171	<b>Treasurer</b>	Andrea Bailey	243-0991
	<i>Djhamilton4@yahoo.com</i>			<i>bailey3424@gmail.com</i>	