

# Gentry Academy High School Athletic Handbook

*Member of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL)*

2025–2026 School Year

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## 1. INTRODUCTION & ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

Gentry Academy views athletics as an extension of the classroom—a place where life skills such as teamwork, resilience, and leadership are developed. Our mission is to support student-athletes in achieving their full potential academically, athletically, and personally.

### **Core Values:**

- Respect
- Integrity
- Discipline
- Sportsmanship
- Leadership

Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right. All student-athletes are expected to represent Gentry Academy and the community with pride.

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## 2. MSHSL & SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for athletic participation, student-athletes must meet the standards set by both the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) and Gentry Academy.

### **Requirements Include:**

- A current physical examination on file (updated every 3 years)
- Completion of MSHSL eligibility and concussion education forms
- No outstanding academic or disciplinary holds
- Consistent attendance at school and practices
- Enrollment in a minimum number of academic courses

Students must also comply with any sport-specific eligibility rules.

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### 3. TEAM RULES & EXPECTATIONS

Each Gentry Academy athletic program may establish specific rules that promote accountability and team unity. These must be approved by the Athletic Director.

#### **Team Expectations May Include:**

- Punctual attendance at all practices, games, and meetings
- Adherence to dress codes for travel and competitions
- Respect for facilities and equipment
- Curfews before games and tournaments
- Restrictions on cell phone or social media use during team events
- Participation in team-building or community service events

Coaches will distribute written team rules at the start of each season.

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### 4. ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

#### **As a Gentry Academy athlete, I will:**

- **Exhibit Good Sportsmanship:** I will respect opponents, teammates, coaches, fans, and officials at all times.
- **Uphold Integrity:** I will be honest and responsible in both academic and athletic responsibilities.
- **Avoid Hazing and Bullying:** I understand that hazing, bullying, and harassment are strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.
- **Follow All School and MSHSL Policies:** I agree to comply with all conduct and eligibility standards.

- **Maintain a Substance-Free Lifestyle:** I will not use tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or vape products at any time during the season.
- **Use Social Media Responsibly:** I will not post content that is offensive, harassing, or detrimental to the reputation of the team or school.
- **Demonstrate Commitment:** I will put forth my best effort in practice and games, attend regularly, and communicate proactively with coaches.

Violations may result in temporary or permanent removal from a team.

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## 5. PARENT/GUARDIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

Parents/guardians are essential partners in the success of our student-athletes. Their behavior at games and communication with staff should model respect and maturity.

### Expectations for Parents/Guardians:

- **Support Your Student Positively:** Encourage effort, improvement, and accountability.
- **Respect Coaches' Authority:** Avoid coaching from the sidelines or confronting staff at events.
- **Use the 24-Hour Rule:** Wait at least 24 hours after a contest to discuss any concerns with a coach.
- **Promote Sportsmanship:** Model respectful behavior toward officials, fans, athletes, and opponents.
- **Follow the Chain of Communication:** First contact the coach; then, if needed, the Athletic Director or Principal.
- **Attend Team Meetings:** Be present for pre-season meetings and stay informed of team activities and expectations.

Violations may result in restricted attendance at games or further disciplinary action.

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## 6. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY

Student-athletes are expected to prioritize academics. Gentry Academy conducts weekly eligibility checks.

**Eligibility Rules:**

- Students must be passing all classes.
- If failing one or more classes, they will be placed on academic probation and the student will no longer be allowed to participate in games until the grade is back to passing.
- Continued ineligibility after 2 weeks may lead to suspension from further team events and practices.
- Athletes who demonstrate effort and attend tutoring may remain in practice during probation.

All grade appeals must be made through the schools counseling office.

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## 7. ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

- A student must be in school by **11:00 AM** on a game or practice day to participate, unless previously excused and discussed with the head athletic director.
- Excused absences include: doctor visits, family emergencies, or religious observances.
- Unexcused absences from practice or games may lead to:
  - Suspension from games
  - Reduction in playing time (Coaches discretion)
  - Removal from the team (for repeated offenses)

Timely communication with the coach and athletic department is essential.

# 7A. ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FEES

Athletic participation fees help support the operational costs of Gentry Academy athletic programs. These costs may include equipment, officials, transportation, facility use, and other program expenses necessary to operate each athletic season.

Please note that **player participation fees are non-refundable after the first week of practice**. If an athlete becomes injured or decides to no longer participate in the program after the first week of practice, **a refund will unfortunately not be issued**.

Participation fees are **set in advance based on anticipated participation numbers** and are built into the overall program budget for each athletic season. Because budgets are established using these projected participation numbers, refunds cannot be accommodated once the first week of practice has passed.

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## 8. CHEMICAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE POLICY

Gentry Academy strictly adheres to the MSHSL Bylaws 205 & 206 regarding chemical use.

### Substances Prohibited:

- Tobacco (including vaping)
- Alcohol
- Marijuana or controlled substances

### MSHSL Penalties:

- **1st Violation:** 2-week/2-contest suspension minimum
- **2nd Violation:** 3-week/6-contest suspension minimum
- **3rd Violation:** 1 calendar year suspension

A student found guilty of substance use may also face team-level consequences, counseling requirements, or permanent removal.

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## 9. 🚌 TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Student-athletes must ride school-provided transportation to and from athletic events.

### **Exceptions Require:**

- A written request from a parent/guardian submitted at least 24 hours in advance.
- Approval by the coach and Athletic Director.

Under no circumstances may students drive themselves or ride with another student without prior approval.

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## 10. 🏆 LETTERING & AWARDS GUIDELINES

Varsity letters and awards are based on:

- Participation in the required percentage of games/meets
- Consistent attendance and effort in practices
- Positive team contribution and behavior
- Return of all equipment in good condition
- Coach's discretion

End-of-season banquets recognize outstanding achievements in performance, leadership, and sportsmanship.

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## 11. 📱 SOCIAL MEDIA & DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

All athletes are expected to uphold positive digital behavior.

### **Unacceptable Online Behavior:**

- Cyberbullying, threats, or harassment

- Inappropriate language or images
- Posts that demean teammates, opponents, or officials
- Posting or sharing of content involving alcohol, drugs, or violence

**Consequences:**

- Meeting with coach and/or administration
  - Suspension or dismissal from team
  - Mandatory digital citizenship counseling
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## 12. **CONFLICT RESOLUTION & COMMUNICATION**

Disagreements or concerns are to be resolved constructively through proper channels.

**Communication Steps:**

1. The athlete speaks privately with the coach.
2. If unresolved, a parent/guardian may request a meeting with the coaching staff.
3. If still unresolved, contact the Athletic Director.
4. Final appeal may be made to the school administration.

Anonymous complaints will not be addressed. Emotional maturity is expected from all parties.

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## 13. **ATHLETIC TRAINING & RETURN TO PLAY**

- All injuries must be reported to the coach and school's certified athletic trainer.
- For concussions or significant injuries, clearance from a licensed healthcare provider is required.

- A gradual “return to play” protocol will be followed for concussions in compliance with MSHSL guidelines.
  - Athletes may not return to participation without medical clearance when required. The Athletic Director must receive a copy of the student's medical clearance.
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## 14. HANDBOOK AGREEMENT & ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Before participating, all student-athletes and their parent(s)/guardian(s) must read the handbook and submit a signed **Athletic Handbook Acknowledgement Form**. This indicates agreement to follow all rules and guidelines stated herein.

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### **Gentry Academy Athletic Department Contact:**

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