



Oglethorpe Charter School Athlete/Parent Athletic Participation Expectations



OCS Athletics Philosophy

School athletics supplement and support the academic mission of OCS and assist students in their growth and development. Athletics promote the importance of teamwork, personal accountability, and commitment to something larger than themselves. School athletics are very competitive, and winning is important, but winning is not the only measure of success. Sportsmanship, respect for others, commitment, self-confidence, humility, and overcoming adversity are more important than the outcome of any athletic event. All athletes are not equal in ability and performance, but every athlete can display personal effort, esprit de corps, dedication, and sportsmanship.

Sportsmanship

An important goal of OCS athletics is to teach and reinforce values relating to sportsmanship, competition, and fair play. It is expected that team personnel, parents, and spectators respect this mission by exhibiting appropriate behavior at all athletic events. Hazing is always prohibited. Hazing involves any act that exposes athletes to mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Hazing constitutes a criminal act. Hazing will lead to immediate dismissal from a team and ineligibility from any other team for the duration of the academic year.

Parent Communication with Coaches

Parents should not attempt to address coaches during or immediately after the conclusion of a game or event including practice. Coaches have many post activity responsibilities. Post game/practice periods can be emotionally charged, and not conducive to productive conversation. If a parent feels a need to communicate concerns to a coach, a good rule of thumb is the 24-hour rule. Parents should wait at least 24 hours before emailing, texting, or scheduling a meeting with a coach. Parents should never cold call/ambush coaches without making an appointment beforehand.

Participation Expectations

It is a privilege to be selected and participate in school athletics. Accordingly, student-athletes must meet the following standards of participation.

- Exhibit public behavior that will reflect positively on the team, school, and community.
- Exhibit responsible, respectful, trustworthy, and generous behavior towards teammates and coaches.
- Exert effort to maintain academic standards.
- Adhere to all team, school, and board of education procedures, policies, and regulations.
- Demonstrate proper conduct at all athletic events.
- Attend all team activities unless ill, or 24-hour prior notification has been given to the coach.
- Respect and comply with decisions made by the coach, athletic department, and administration.
- Maintain and keep in good order all assigned and needed equipment required to participate including uniforms.
- Demonstrate appropriate sportsmanship towards competitors, game officials, and fans.



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Eligibility

All prospective athletes must meet medical, academic, and behavioral eligibility requirements as outlined on the OCS website.

Tryouts

All participants must have a completed physical packet on file with the athletic director before being allowed to participate in tryouts. Middle school athletics is highly competitive. Attending tryouts does not guarantee a position on a team. Selection of a team is made from eligible participants solely at the discretion of the coach/coaching staff.

Position/Playing Time

There is no guarantee of a particular position or playing time. Coaches will evaluate each member of the team to determine position and playing time as competition dictates. All players must understand and accept their given role on the team as determined by the coach/coaching staff.

Quitting/Dismissal

If an athlete voluntarily quits a team or is dismissed from a team, the athlete will not be eligible to compete in another sport without administration or athletic director approval.

Participation on Outside Teams

All athletes are permitted to participate on an outside team with the exception that outside participation does not conflict with the athlete's availability for all school related athletic activities including practices, games, and playoffs. The student athlete will give priority to all school athletic activities or be subject to dismissal from the team.

Electronic Devices/Social Media

Student athletes should be thoughtful when using electronic devices to record any activities associated with OCS athletics. Posting on social media is an extension of a student athlete's self-expression and will be considered as truth. Therefore, posting anything or expressing any derogatory pictures, videos, expressions, etc. will result in disciplinary action against the athlete.

General Discipline Policies and Procedures

The rules, policies, and procedures addressed in this agreement do not cover every possible infraction. Any infractions not listed will be covered by the OCS Student Handbook Discipline Policy and Procedures. Consequences for athletes not adhering to any rule, policy, or procedure will be at the discretion of the principal.

Academic Consequences

If an athlete's grade in any one subject falls below 70, the athlete is expected to attend tutorial until such a time that adequate progress is being made. If an athlete's grade in two or more subjects drops below 70, the athlete may be subject to Academic Suspension from athletic activities until such a time that adequate progress is being met. If an athlete fails to meet SCCPSS



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academic eligibility requirements, the athlete will be removed from athletic participation for the duration of the season.

Behavioral Consequences

As deemed reasonable and logical by the administrative team, Code of Conduct violations may be referred to athletic coaches for team level consequences up to three times. As deemed reasonable and logical by the administrative team, Code of Conduct violations that become chronic will result in a loss of playing time as agreed upon by the administrative team and coaching staff. As deemed reasonable and logical by the administrative team, Level 2 and above violations of the Code of Conduct can result in temporary or permanent suspension from athletic activities.

Student Transportation

It is the responsibility of the athlete's parents/guardians to arrange for pickup from practices and games at the not later than 15 minutes after the completion of the athletic activity. Coaches and staff have obligations outside of school and should not be expected to stay late to supervise athletes who are not picked up in a timely manner. Repeated incidents of late pick-ups may result in a player being removed from the team.

It is considered the responsibility of both the athlete and parent to gain a working understanding of these expectations regardless of whether a hard copy of these expectations were given to either the athlete or parent.

**Derek Perry, M. Ed.
Athletic Director**