

# Greater Lowell Technical High School



## 2019~2020

# ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



**Welcome to Gryphon Country**

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Approved by the  
Greater Lowell Technical School Committee  
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## **PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS AT GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL**

Greater Lowell strives to provide each enrolled student an opportunity to participate in an extracurricular athletic activity that will foster physical skills, a sense of self-worth, and the principles of fair play.

Within the Greater Lowell Tech athletic program, student athletes learn the values associated with discipline, teamwork, sacrifice, commitment, accountability, citizenship, sportsmanship, confidence, leadership, organizational skills, and many other characteristics that will serve them well throughout their lifetimes. If interscholastic athletics are to be justified as school activities, then values such as these must be the priorities of every program.

Building self-esteem and self-confidence is an ongoing process, used in both games and practices. Through this process our coaches challenge and develop players, both technically and emotionally, in a positive manner, using both praise and constructive criticism. Coaches are encouraged to make praise personal and criticism impersonal. Additionally, as members of the Greater Lowell Tech athletic program, students and coaches are expected to demonstrate proper respect for each other, other teams and coaches, officials, spectators, and equipment/facilities.

On the Junior Varsity and Freshman levels, the purpose of the athletic program is to develop the individual athlete to his/her fullest potential. Participation and the development of individual proficiency in a sport will be valued above the pursuit of winning games. The number of program participants must allow the coach to ensure reasonable participation for the student athletes who comprise any particular team.

Coaches on the Varsity level will make a strong effort to play all team members; however, the emphasis at the Varsity level will shift toward fielding competitive teams with the goal of achieving the highest level of success possible. This emphasis may result in uneven playing time among the athletes, with some students not playing in every game. It is at the discretion of our coaches to make the often-difficult decisions on who starts, who plays, and for how long.

### **NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION**

The Greater Lowell Technical High School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identification, criminal record, disability, and retaliation in admission, treatment or access to its programs and activities. In addition, Greater Lowell Technical High School does not discriminate in employment in its programs or activities and is committed to providing an environment free from sexual harassment.

## **GOVERNING BODIES**

### **The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA)**

Greater Lowell Technical High School is a member in good standing of the MIAA. With this membership, the Principal and Athletic Department agree to abide by all rules and regulations of the MIAA.

One of the primary functions of the MIAA is to sponsor and conduct post-season tournaments at the varsity level, leading to the determination of district and state champions. When Greater Lowell Tech varsity teams qualify for and enter such tournaments, they are subject to the specific rules and regulations that govern each tournament.

Information about the MIAA and the rules our student-athletes must abide by, including but not limited to those cited in this handbook, can be found at [www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net).

### **Commonwealth Athletic Conference**

Greater Lowell Tech is proud to be a member of the Commonwealth Athletic Conference. The CAC is governed by its constitution and the MIAA.

### **Greater Lowell Technical School Committee**

Additional policies, regulations, and rules are set by the Greater Lowell Technical School Committee and the Principal. Under MIAA guidelines, local communities are allowed to set additional policies, rules and/or regulations as long as they are more restrictive than those stipulated by the MIAA.

## **ATHLETIC OFFERINGS**

### **Fall Sports**

Cheerleading  
(*Varsity*)

Football  
(*Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman*)

Boys Cross Country  
(*Varsity, Junior Varsity*)

Boys Soccer  
(*Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman*)

Girls Cross Country  
(*Varsity, Junior Varsity*)

Girls Soccer  
(*Varsity, Junior Varsity*)

Girls Volleyball  
(*Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman*)

Golf (co-ed)  
(*Varsity*)

### **Winter Sports**

Cheerleading  
(*Varsity*)

Ice Hockey  
(*co-op with Nashoba Tech*)

Swimming (co-ed)  
(*Varsity*)

Boys Indoor Track  
(*Varsity*)

Wrestling  
(*Varsity, Junior Varsity*)

Boys Basketball  
(*Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman*)

Girls Basketball  
(*Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman*)

Girls Indoor Track  
(*Varsity*)

### **Spring Sports**

Baseball  
(*Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman*)

Softball  
(*Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman*)

Boys Lacrosse  
(*Varsity, Junior Varsity*)

Boys Outdoor Track  
(*Varsity, Junior Varsity*)

Boys Tennis  
(*Varsity*)

Boys Volleyball  
(*Varsity, Junior Varsity*)

Girls Lacrosse  
(*Varsity, Junior Varsity*)

Girls Outdoor Track  
(*Varsity, Junior Varsity*)

Girls Tennis  
(*Varsity*)

## **MEDICAL FORMS/PARENTAL PERMISSION FORMS**

All students who plan to participate in athletics must have written proof of current physical examination signed by a physician. In order for an examination to be considered current, it must be dated within 13 months of any athletic involvement. It is strongly recommended that an annual examination be scheduled between June and August for each school year. Such an exam would cover a student for the entire school year. Free physicals are provided by the school doctor at the start of each sport season (September, November, March).

Parental Permission forms/registrations, which contain important emergency and insurance information, must also be completed prior to a student participating for an athletic team. All registrations can be completed online via the school web page, under the "Athletics" heading. The link for this page is as follows: [www.gltech.org](http://www.gltech.org).

Student-Athletes will not be allowed to participate without completing this registration process. If special/unique circumstances exist that do not allow you to access the online registration information, please contact the athletic office.

## **TRYOUT/ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST**

1. In order for a student-athlete to be eligible for tryouts, every student's parent/guardian must complete an online registration form. These forms require general information such as the students name, address, parent/guardian name and contact information, as well as medical history. In addition, the following policies, agreements, and consents must be completed; Massachusetts Hazing Law, MIAA Student Eligibility Age Guidelines, MIAA Bona Fide Team Member Guidelines, MIAA Chemical Health Rule, completion of an online concussion course, and the parent/guardian consent agreement. The link to registrations can be found at [gltech.org](http://gltech.org) on the "Athletics" tab.
2. Ensure you have a valid physical on record, dated within 13 months of the first day of tryouts. Please contact the athletic trainer or school nurse/s if you have questions in regards to your students' physical.
3. Student must meet all academic and personal eligibility standards established by Greater Lowell Tech (see student handbook) and the MIAA (handbook can be found at [miaa.net](http://miaa.net)).

## **TEAM TRYOUTS/SELECTION**

Participation in athletics is a privilege; students try out voluntarily and on some of our teams, risk being cut. During the tryout period, the coach will provide an explanation of his/her expectations. It is the student's responsibility to demonstrate to the coach that he/she can meet these expectations. Students cut from a team are encouraged to try

out for another team, if there is space on that team, and the final cuts, if any, have not been made. Students who are cut from a team will be informed as to the reasons for the cut. After tryouts begin, no student-athlete may voluntarily leave one team and try out for another without the consent of the Athletic Director.

Fall Season - Tryout date varies pending the start of school, Labor Day, and which sport you choose.

Winter Season - Tryouts begin the Monday immediately following the Thanksgiving break.

Spring Season - Tryouts begin the third Monday in March.

### **Playing Time**

Perhaps the most emotional part of a student athlete's involvement in high school athletics centers around playing time. The student athlete becomes involved in interscholastic athletics for the first time and finds that practices and expectations are much more intense and demanding. Factors such as attendance, attitude, commitment, and athletic skill enter into the decision.

At the sub-varsity level, playing time for all team members unless injured, ill, or not attending practice, should be expected. However, this playing time may not be even amongst all team members. At the freshman level the emphasis is primarily instructional, with some emphasis on competitive outcomes. At the junior varsity level, the emphasis is instructional/competitive and at the varsity level the emphasis is very competitive/instructional.

### **Commitment to the Team**

When trying out for a team and after being selected to be a member of a team, Greater Lowell Tech students are expected to attend all practices and games of that team. Practices will average two hours in duration. Weekend practice sessions vary by sport and should be expected. Teams frequently practice and compete during the school vacation periods. **Interscholastic athletics demands much more commitment than a club or recreational activity. Students and parents should be aware of the time commitment prior to trying out for the team.**

### **Team Rules and Regulations**

At the start of each season a coach, with the approval of the Athletic Director, may issue a set of team rules and regulations to his/her team. It is suggested that these be in written form and passed out to the student-athletes and their parents in a timely fashion.

### **Varsity Teams**

At the varsity level, we look for our teams to compete against opponents at the highest possible level. This is the highest level of interscholastic competition, and players,



coaches, parents, and staff members want Greater Lowell Tech's varsity teams to be successful on the field of play. In order to accomplish this, there are many instances when the major burden of the contests will be carried by the most competitive, skilled team members. However, teams cannot and will not be successful without the committed substitute players. These players have to be ready at all times to step forward and shoulder the burden when called upon. It is these athletes whose hard work in practice every day prepares the team for the upcoming contests.

Success should never be measured in wins and losses, but in the performance of the athletes. If our athletes perform to the best of their abilities, they will always be successful no matter what the final score might be.

### **Team Captains**

It is the coach's decision as to how team captains are selected. They may be elected by the team, appointed by the coach, elected or appointed on a game-by-game basis. It is expected that team captains be leaders of their team and should be ready to assume duties as outlined by their coach. Captains are expected to communicate with the coach and team in the event of any problems that may affect the team or its members. Captains may be asked to meet with the Athletic Director during the school year to discuss the athletic program. Captains of the team may be relieved of their duties for violation of team or school rules.

Team captains should instill good sportsmanship, commitment to their teammates and to their program, and behave in their utmost manner. They are leaders that should lead through example and through hard work and effort. What they do as leaders both on and off the field of play, reflect upon their team, coaches, the athletic department, school administrators, and their community. With that said, **failure to adhere to the chemical health/drug and alcohol policy in any way, shape, or form will automatically disqualify any individual from their captainship, whether currently a captain, or in future standings.**

### **Care of Equipment**

Students have an obligation and responsibility for all equipment issued to them. Each student is responsible for the proper care and retention of the equipment from the date of issue to the date of return. Equipment should be stored in a locked locker at all times when not in use. Experience has shown that most losses are due to lockers left open, unlocked, or equipment left unattended.

If a student loses school equipment or fails to return the same, he/she is responsible to meet the current replacement cost of the equipment. Payment is required prior to the next season of athletic involvement or graduation, whichever comes first. No students will be allowed to try out for another sport until all outstanding equipment has been returned or paid for.

If an athlete leaves a team during the season due to injury, academics, discipline, or quitting, it is his/her responsibility to return all school equipment immediately.

## **Team Apparel**

The athletic department will provide the necessary equipment and uniforms, within budgetary limits, for each team member. Some teams choose to purchase additional team apparel such as hats, T-shirts, jackets, or warm-ups in order to promote team spirit.

## **Athletic Shoes**

At no times should shoes with cleated soles be worn inside the building. Serious injury can occur from slipping on tiled surfaces, as well as possible damage to the facility.

## **Weight Room/Fitness Areas**

The Greater Lowell Tech weight room/fitness areas are available to all students whenever it is supervised by a staff member. There is supervision for most of the year immediately after school until the 3:00 p.m. late buses.

## **Trainer and Training Room**

Greater Lowell Tech provides its student athlete's access to a fully licensed athletic trainer on site to evaluate and treat injuries as they occur. The trainer provides medical coverage for athletic contests and practices. On school days the trainer is available from 2:00 p.m. until his/her duties and responsibilities are completed. On the weekends, the trainer will be on site for home contests or scrimmages. In the event of an injury, the trainer will evaluate and recommend the direction of care. If a visit to a hospital or a physician is necessary, a written medical note by the medical doctor releasing the student athlete from treatment or return to participation is mandatory.

## **Locker Room and Facilities**

Student athletes are expected to respect the locker facilities, showers, and general areas of the sports pavilion. We expect our student athletes to take pride in the facilities by disposing of trash in the proper receptacles and keeping the locker rooms clean and in good condition.

## **Security of Personal Belongings**

All personal belongings should be locked in a locker while the student athlete is trying out, practicing, or competing. All students should have a lock for the athletic lockers and never leave their locker unlocked or open when unattended. In the event a student athlete does not have a lock, he/she should leave his/her valuables with the coach. Students can choose to purchase their own lock.

## **TIME ALLOWED FOR PARTICIPATION**

A student has four consecutive years of participation from the day he/she enters grade nine. This means twelve consecutive athletic seasons of eligibility. A fifth year student

is ineligible to compete in his/her fifth year even if he/she has not played in one of the previous years. Any extenuating circumstances regarding participation should be brought to the attention of the Athletic Director in order to determine eligibility for a fifth year waiver.

## **AGE**

A student must be less than 19 years of age on September 1 of the current school year.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Greater Lowell Tech provides bus transportation to all away contests. For student safety reasons, all team members are expected to travel to these contests using the school provided transportation. Exceptions to this policy must be requested in writing to the Athletic Director and/or coach by a student's parent prior to the contest. Reasonable requests will be honored.

## **DIRECTIONS TO AWAY CONTESTS**

Directions/addresses for all in state opponents can be found on the MIAA web page ([miaa.net](http://miaa.net)).

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Greater Lowell Tech expects all parties present at a contest to display the highest possible level of sportsmanship. Players, coaches and spectators should treat opponents, game officials and visiting spectators with respect. They are guests at our school and are to be treated like guests.

The MIAA reserves the right to "warn, censure, place on probation or suspend up to one (1) calendar year any player, team, coach, games or school official or school determined to be acting in a manner contrary to the standards of good sportsmanship." Greater Lowell Tech in turn, reserves the right to impose the same penalties on spectators displaying poor sportsmanship at any of our contests, both home and away.

## **PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to all children. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

## **Communication You Should Expect from the Coach**

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child, as well as all the players on the squad.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e. practices, special equipment, out-of-season conditioning.
5. Procedure followed should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that may result in the denial of your child's participation.

## **Communication Coaches Expect from Parents**

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any scheduled conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concerns with regards to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

## **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 very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches take their profession seriously. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the 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. On things, such as those that follow, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

## **Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches**

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These meetings are 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.

1. Call the Athletic Department (978-441-4499) to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, speak to the Athletic Director. A return call from the coach will be arranged, or a meeting set up for you.
3. **DO NOT CALL A COACH AT HOME!** (Unless the coach has made his/her home phone available to parents and athletes.) A coach's time with family is severely limited during the season. The family's privacy should be respected.

4. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CONFRONT A COACH BEFORE OR AFTER A CONTEST OR PRACTICE. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings under these circumstances do not promote resolution.

**If the meeting did not provide a satisfactory resolution:**

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director.
2. The Athletic Director will listen carefully to your concerns and mediate resolution between you and the coach.

REMEMBER: Your concerns are important to us. Never hesitate to follow the above procedures to make those concerns known. Together we can work to improve our athletic programs.

## **COACHES**

### **Selection**

A selected Administrative Committee may participate in the selection process at the varsity level. The criteria and qualities include:

1. A genuine concern for the well-being of athletes, parents, colleagues, etc.
2. An excellent knowledge of the game: rules, fundamentals and strategy.
3. A working knowledge of First Aid and CPR.
4. A vital interest in the entire school community, working hard to promote the program but showing respect and appreciation for coaches and athletes of other sports.
5. As an extension of the academic program, a coach will be aware of and participate in the academic progress of his/her athletes on a regular basis. The coach will use positive motivation to stress that academics come first.
6. Someone who builds the program within the framework of the Greater Lowell Tech philosophy and core values.
7. Following athletes after graduation continuing to offer support and encouragement.
8. An organized person, whose practices are well planned making sure everything is accomplished during each session. Game plans, scouting trips, game analysis, and administrative duties are all part of the job.
9. Keeping in mind that we are dealing with young adults, positive reinforcement should be used frequently.
10. Actively works to place their athletes in post-secondary education.
11. Promotes sportsmanship and displays leadership, ethics and character.

### **Evaluation**

Both formal and informal evaluations of each coach are done seasonally. The Director of Athletics' evaluation is based on the school's philosophy.

The Director of Athletics holds preseason meetings with all coaches to discuss the objectives of the upcoming season as part of the pre-evaluation process.

## **ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **School Attendance and Tardiness**

Greater Lowell Tech students are reminded at the beginning of each year of several requirements for good school and team citizenship. They are as follows:

- Come to school every day
- Be on time for school and class
- Do your homework
- Attend all classes
- Seek academic assistance when necessary

The abuse of any of these requirements could result in suspension or dismissal from an athletic team.

Students are expected to attend all scheduled periods during the school day in order to practice or play. Students must be in attendance in accordance with the criteria established within the Greater Lowell Tech Student Handbook in order to be eligible to participate in any athletic event of the day. Under extenuating circumstances, student-athletes may receive permission from the Athletic Director or Principal to participate.

### **Daily Team Attendance**

It is extremely important that a coach be notified if a student is not going to be present at a practice or a game. Practice is where plans for upcoming contests are devised and perfected. The coaches in our program expect their athletes to be present at all team-related activities. Suspension or dismissal from a team may take place as a result of such absences.

Students are excused from team activities for illness, academic, family emergencies, or religious reason. Prior notification is strongly recommended and expected.

### **School/Family Vacations, Extended Absences**

Every team member is expected to be present for all team practices and games. **Because of scheduling parameters, many of our teams practice and/or play during scheduled vacations.** Students who plan to be absent for an extended period of time due to vacation or planned extended absence should discuss this situation with the coach prior to trying out for the team. The coach's discretion will be used in determining the consequences/course of action for such extended absences.

### **Academic Eligibility**

A student, in order to participate in athletics, must be passing his/her technical program of concentration and may not fail (59 or below) two or more academic subjects. Any extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by the Assistant Superintendent-Principal.

NOTE: Incomplete grades count as failing grades when determining student eligibility.

### **MIAA Good Citizen Rule**

#### 63. Good Citizen Rule

63.1 Student-athletes may not represent their school if they are on an in-house or out-of-house disciplinary suspension. A suspended student is ineligible for practice or competition for at least the number of days (or partial days) equal to the number of days of the suspension. Local policies will determine the actual days of ineligibility.

### **MIAA Bona Fide Team Member Rule**

A bona fide team member is a student who is regularly present for, and actively participates in, all team practices and competitions. Bona fide members of a school team are precluded from missing a high school practice or competition in order to practice or participate with a non-school team.

A coach does not have the right to excuse a team member from a practice or a game so he/she may play or practice for another team. The Principal of the school may request a waiver of this rule in special circumstances. Violation of this rule results in the expulsion of the athlete from the team, and the forfeiture of all team contests.

### **MIAA Loyalty to High School Team Rule**

Under the current MIAA guidelines, a student may practice or compete for his/her school team and a club team on the same day. Athletes must stay loyal to their high school team first and foremost (see bona fide team member rule).

## **SCHOOL DISCIPLINE OBLIGATIONS**

Student athletes at Greater Lowell Tech are representing themselves, their family, team, school, and community at all times. Therefore, athletes will be held accountable for their actions on and off the field of play.

A student athlete with a school disciplinary obligation must fulfill the disciplinary obligation before reporting to a practice and/or game. Student-athletes cannot expect, and should not request disciplinary action to be postponed or cancelled for any athletic reason. The athletic department reserves the right to remove a student athlete from a team for excessive disciplinary problems. The student-athlete may be reinstated upon sufficient evidence of improvement.

All coaches are to use their discretion, but should remain within the following guidelines, in handling problems involving their athletes. There should be a cooperative effort between the coach, athletic director, and school administration, if the situation deems it necessary. When disciplinary action must be taken, the priority will be to act in the best interest of the student-athletes involved, while maintaining the integrity of the athletic program's philosophy and objectives. This discipline system will aid the coach in encouraging and enforcing positive athletic attitudes and performance.

### **Offenses Calling for Suspension**

1. Failure to remain academically eligible.
2. Continued use of profanity.
3. Violation of Chemical Health rules.
4. Disrespect or disobedience.
5. Unexcused absence from a practice or a game.
6. Missing a practice or a game to compete in a non-school athletic event.
7. Any action of a serious or flagrant nature.
8. Violation of school rules.
9. Conduct unbecoming an athlete representative of Greater Lowell Tech.

The suspension will be in writing by the coach to the athletic director, the student-athlete, and the parent/guardian. This notice will explain the reason for the suspension and its duration.

The duration of the suspension will be at the discretion of the coach, upon approval of the athletic director.

### **Offenses Calling for Expulsion**

1. The accumulation of repeated suspensions during the school year.
2. Theft.
3. Missing a practice or a game to compete in a non-school athletic event.
4. Malicious destruction of another's property.
5. Any action of a serious or flagrant nature, requiring more than a suspension.
6. Hazing.
7. MIAA mandated expulsion.
8. Conduct unbecoming a student representative of Greater Lowell Tech.

There will be an expulsion report in writing by the coach to the athletic director, the athlete, the parent/guardian, and the principal. This will explain in detail the reason for the expulsion.

No expulsion will occur until the parent/guardian of the athlete(s) has been informed.

Any student-athlete expelled from or leaving the squad for any reason before the completion of the season will not be eligible for any individual or team awards.



## **Right to Appeal Disciplinary Action**

1. The student-athlete has the right to appeal disciplinary action, whether it is suspension or expulsion.
2. The student-athlete should first appeal to the coach, and try to resolve the problem at that level.
3. If the coach and student-athlete cannot resolve the problem, the matter should be presented to the Athletic Director.
4. Should the problem remain unsolved; the matter should be presented to the Principal.
5. If at this level the problem is still not resolved, the Principal will notify the parent/guardian of the athlete.
6. After notification by the Principal, the parent/guardian may request a meeting with the Principal, Athletic Director, and coach.
7. If no solution to the problem has been found which is mutually satisfactory, the problem should be presented to the Superintendent/Director.
8. The decision of the Superintendent/Director regarding the appeal of a disciplinary action is final.
9. The appeal process to resolve player-coach grievance, if possible, should be concluded as quickly as possible following a notification of suspension or expulsion to the athlete. It is important that due process be as expedient as possible.

## **MIAA Health Rule Regarding Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs**

During the season of practice or play, a student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use or consume, possess, buy/sell or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product (including e-cigarettes, VAPE pens & all similar devices); marijuana; steroids; or any controlled substance. This policy includes products such as “NA or near beer,” inhalants (defined as any substance that produces a mind-altering effect when inhaled), and misuse of over-the-counter medications and substances used for the purpose of altering one’s mental state. It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of any legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student athlete’s use by his/her physician. (Note: This rule during the athletic season is in effect seven days a week, twenty-four hours per day.)

### **The Minimum Penalties**

When the Principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student athlete shall lose eligibility for 25% of his/her team’s interscholastic events. It is recommended that the student athlete be allowed to remain at practice for the purpose of rehabilitation. No exception is permitted for a student athlete who becomes a participant in a treatment program.

### **Second and Subsequent Violations**

When the principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that second or subsequent violations have occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for 60% of his/her team’s interscholastic events. If, after the second or subsequent violations, the student of his/her own volition becomes a participant in an approved

chemical dependence program or treatment program, the student athlete may be certified for reinstatement in MIAA activities after a minimum period of six weeks. Such certification must be issued by the director or counselor of a chemical dependency treatment center. Penalties shall be cumulative each academic year, but a penalty period will extend in to the next academic year, e.g. if the penalty period is not completed during the season of violation, the penalty shall carry over to the student athlete's next season of actual participation, which may affect the eligibility status of the student athlete during the next academic year.

## **HAZING**

### **Massachusetts General Laws - Chapter 269**

#### C. 269, S.17, Crime of Hazing: Definition: Penalty

Whoever is principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing, as defined herein, shall be punished by a fine or not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction not more than one year, or both such fine and imprisonment.

The term "hazing" as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such students or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action. Added by St. 1985, c.536; amended by St. 1987, c665.

#### C.269, S.18. Duty to Report Hazing

Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime, shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonable practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars. Added by St. 1985; amended by St. 1987, c.665

#### C.269, S.19. Hazing Statutes to Be Provided: Statement of Compliance and Discipline Policy Required

Each institution of secondary education and each public and private institution of post-secondary education shall issue to every student group, student team or student organization which is part of such institution or is recognized by the institution or

permitted by the institution to use its name or facilities or is known by the institution to exist as an unaffiliated student group, student team or student organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighth; provided, however, that an institution's compliance with this section's requirements that an institution issues copies of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations shall not constitute evidence of the institution's recognition or endorsement of said unaffiliated-student groups, teams or organizations.

Each such group, team or organization shall distribute a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to each of its members, plebes, pledges or applicants for membership. It shall be the duty of each such group, team, or organization, acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually, to the institution an attested acknowledgement stating that such group, team or organization has received a copy of this section and said sections seventeen and eighteen, that each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants has received a copy of sections seventeen and eighteen, and that such group, team or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary education shall, at least annually, before or at the state of enrollment, deliver to each person who enrolls as a full-time student in such institution a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary education shall file, at least annually, a report with the regents of higher education and in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education, certifying that such institution has complied with its responsibility to inform student groups, teams, or organizations and to notify each full-time student enrolled by it of the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen and also certifying that said institution has adopted a disciplinary policy with regard to the organizers and participants of hazing, and that such policy has been set forth with appropriate emphasis in the student handbook or similar means of communicating the institution's policies to its students. The board of regents and, in the case of secondary institution, the board of education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to the attorney general in any such institution, which fails to make such report. Added by St. 1985, c.536; amended by St. 1987, c.665.

## **MIAA TAUNTING POLICY RULE**

Taunting includes any actions or comments by coaches, players, or spectators, which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule, or demean others, whether or not the deeds or words are vulgar or racist. Included is conduct that berates, needles, intimidates, or threatens based on race, gender, ethnic origin, or background, and conduct that attacks religious beliefs, size, economic status, speech, family, special needs, or personal matters.

Examples of taunting include but are not limited to: “trash talk”, defined as verbal communication of a personal nature directed by a competitor to an opponent by ridiculing his/her skills, efforts, sexual orientation, or lack of success, which is likely to provoke an altercation or physical response; and physical intimidation outside the spirit of the game, including “in the face” confrontation by one player to another and standing over/straddling a tackled or fallen player.

In all sports, officials are to consider taunting a flagrant unsportsmanlike foul that disqualifies the offending bench personnel or contestant from that contest/day of competition on the first taunting offense. In addition, the offender shall be subject to existing MIAA sport specific disqualification rules. A review of the MIAA taunting policy and a warning shall be given to both teams by game officials prior to each contest.

At all MIAA contest sites and tournament venues, contest management may give spectators no warning. Anybody who taunts players, coaches, game officials, or other spectators is subject to ejection.

## **COLLEGE/CAREER GUIDANCE**

One of the most important decisions facing high school athletes is what to do with their lives after high school. The members of the Greater Lowell Tech athletic staff are willing and eager to assist student athletes with this very important decision. They may be able to answer questions, contact schools and/or coaches, send video or highlights if available, and write letters of recommendation. They may also be able to guide students to a more knowledgeable resource that can help with decisions. If a student athlete’s goal is to compete athletically at the collegiate level, it is very important to utilize the athletic department as a resource in conjunction with the Guidance Department.

## **FINAL MESSAGE**

The opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics is one that should be valued greatly. Benefits derived from physical activity and sport participation are numerous and far reaching. Such benefits can be influential in positive physical, social, and educational development. Very often these benefits will continue into adulthood, long after ones organized sport experiences are over. As such, it is important that all Greater Lowell Tech student-athletes, their families, our coaches, the athletic director, and our school community as a whole, work together to make the Greater Lowell Tech Athletic experience as impactful as it can be. Using the pages of this handbook as a guide is a great starting point on this athletic journey. Best of luck, and LET’S GO GRYPHONS!

## Appendix A



# Greater Lowell Technical High School Athletic Department Emergency Action Plan

Greater Lowell Technical High School Athletic Department has developed an Emergency Action Plan that must be followed by all staff members of the Athletic Department in the event of a medical emergency. The athletic trainer, coaches, assistant coaches, and team managers, are required to review and be familiar with this document.

An emergency is considered to be any injury/situation requiring the need for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to give further medical attention and/or transport an athlete to the hospital (911 called). It is imperative in these situations that coordination between the athletic trainer, coaches, security, and administrators be effective. This guide is intended to delineate roles and outline the protocol to be followed should an emergency occur.

### Chain of Command

Certified Athletic Trainer  
Athletic Director  
Administrator  
Head Coach  
Assistant Coach  
Team Manager(s)  
Security Personnel

The highest person in the chain of command who is present at the scene of the medical emergency will be the **designated lead**, responsible for:

- **Contacting EMS (911 or 978-649-7504 via cell phone) or designating another person to make the call. The designated caller should provide as much pertinent information to EMS during call, as well as to inform them security staff will direct them to the location of the incident. DO NOT HANG UP UNTIL EMS HANGS UP FIRST.**
- **Contacting School Security Personnel or designating another person to make the call (via radio or by calling 978 441-4995 using a cell phone) to notify them as to the location of the emergency.**

- **Staying with the athlete to monitor his/her condition until EMS arrives.**
- **Contacting, or designating another person to contact, the athlete's parent/guardian in the event that they are not present. Emergency contact/medical information for each team member will be provided to each coach in a sealed envelope at the start of each season and MUST be kept in an accessible location for all team activities whether home or away.**
- **Instructing others how they may be of help.**
- **Designating a person to accompany the student athlete to the determined medical facility (typically Lowell General) if EMS transport is required and the parent/guardian is not present. This must be a Greater Lowell staff person, NOT A TEAMMATE/STUDENT ATHLETE.**

#### **Location of AED's**

AED's are located outside the main gym (next to health office), outside the auxiliary gym, as well as in the pool area. The athletic trainer **MUST CARRY THE PORTABLE AED (as well as a radio) AT ALL TIMES.**

#### **Important Phone Numbers**

**Athletic Trainer- 978-609-3084**

**Security- Info Booth; 978-441-4995**

**Athletic Director- Mark White; 781-640-9852 (cell), 978-441-4499 (office)**

**Tyngsboro EMS (via cell phone); 978-649-7504**