

Great Valley Middle School

SOFTBALL TEAM

Handbook



Great Valley Middle School

Softball Handbook

In this manual you will find all the information and rules that will govern our softball team.

**Great Achievement only follows great Effort
... our team can make that happen at Great Valley!**

**** If you have team spirit, enthusiasm for the game, a desire to practice and a determination to win - you, your parents, and your school will be proud, because you have given your best. ****

Great Valley Middle School

The Softball Season is upon us.

We expect to continue our formation of the successful softball program at Great Valley. In order to do so, we must abide by our established standards:

1. I am a student first and an athlete second. I am subject to the rules of eligibility and I will do everything in my power to remain academically eligible.
2. My family obligations have precedence over athletics. However, athletics require commitment to practice and the team, and missing practice and competitions can delay or hinder individual and team progress. I will make decisions about missing training or competitions with those things in mind.
3. I will maintain a positive attitude towards practice and competition.
4. I will strive to do my best in practice and in competition.
5. I will be respectful to coaches, officials, and my fellow competitors. I will celebrate success with class, and take set-backs in stride. I will demonstrate Patriot Pride as a member of the Patriot Softball Team.
6. I will foster team unity by wearing the team apparel to competitions, wearing the full team uniform and staying with the team for the duration of the competition. I will travel with the team to competition. I will attend all team meetings. I will be positive and supportive of my team members at all times.

If you have read this letter carefully and you believe that this letter carries a message to you, all of the members of the team can look forward to a successful year together.

Sincerely, Yours in sports,

8th Grade Coach
Owen Brown

7th Grade Coach
Mike Meluskey

Email: obrown@gvsd.org

Email: mmeluskey@gvsd.org

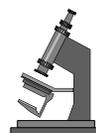
Great Valley Softball Team web site:

Go to Great Valley Middle School

- ❖ Teacher Pages
 - Owen Brown GVMS

Look here for our softball calendar with times, forms, and parent information.

Physicals



Physical examination forms must be completed by the student-athletes physician. The Great Valley School District Participation Sports Physical Evaluation form must be completed by the **last Friday of February**.

The Great Valley School District Health Record and Questionnaire Parent/Guardian Consent form must be completed by the **last Friday of February**.

Great Valley School District Activity Fee

Secondary students who participate on Athletic Teams, Marching Band, Color Guard, Drama Guild, and the Middle School Musical Production will be required to pay \$95 per activity.

- Fees will be collected by each coach, activity sponsor, or athletic trainer
- Fees may be paid by check (no credit card payments or cash)
- Students may not compete or practice until the fee for the activity is paid
- Fees are non-refundable except in cases that involve roster limitations and try-out situations
 - If a student does not make a roster, checks will be returned
 - Refunds will not be issued when students quit, transfer schools, sustain injury, or are dismissed from a team/activity
- The payment of an activity fee does not guarantee a student-athlete will compete in every competition. Student athletes must adhere to all of the expectations of coaches and the coaches have the final say as to which athletes participate in events / competitions.

As the Great Valley community navigates through these difficult economic times, we will strive to maintain our programs and support our students' development. The funds generated through these fees will contribute greatly to our efforts. If you have specific questions regarding activity fees, please contact Dr. Edward Souders, Middle School Principal at 610.644.6400 or esouders@gvsd.org. Thank you.

General Guidelines:

1. All sessions are mandatory. If you are not able to attend a practice it is your responsibility to notify the coach. Unexcused absences may result in suspension from a competition(s).
2. All equipment issued to you by the school is to be returned at the end of your season. Any equipment that you are responsible for which is lost or stolen will be charged to you.
3. Be cooperative and participate in drills to the best of your ability.
4. If at any time, during a practice or a competition you become ill or injured, inform one of the coaches at once.
5. Keep regular hours. At least 9 - 11 hours of sleep a night.
6. Grades must be kept up or you cannot play softball.
7. In order for athletes to maximize their homework and meal time parents should arrive at 4:45 to pick up their child after practice.
8. Athletes who are not picked on time after practice may not be allowed to participate.

Competitions

- Have all equipment ready.
- Softball players are expected to behave in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. No critical comments will be directed at opponents, coaches, or officials.
- Softball players will take directions from the coaches - not from people (parents, siblings, etc.) who are spectators.
- Coaches have the final decision on who will or will not play during a game. There is no guarantee that every player will play in every game.

Attendance Guidelines



All softball players are expected to follow the schedule for the entire season. Softball season officially begins on the **1st Day of PIAA Practice** which is usually the **beginning of March** and ends **on the last scheduled game**. You are making a commitment to the Softball Team during this time. If this obligation is not met, you will forfeit your athletic awards for the present softball season.

All athletes are expected to attend all scheduled practices and competitions. If you cannot attend a practice or competition, the following guidelines must be adhered to:

1. If you are absent from school or become ill during school and are sent home, please email coach and let him know you are not feeling well and are not able to play softball that day.
2. If any other emergency arises and you must leave school, please try to email coach. If you are not able to email please leave a message with a secretary in the Main Office so they are able to contact the athletic department and notify the coaches.
3. If you will be late or absent for any other reason, the coach must be notified the day before this occurs. **Messages sent through a third party are not acceptable.** This is your responsibility.
4. Doctor and dentist appointments - please schedule so that there are minimum conflicts with practices and competitions. Notify me in advance of appointments if no other time is available.
5. Make-up class work for your teachers should be scheduled during study halls whenever possible. See me if there are extenuating circumstances beyond our control.
6. Any conflicts with school related trips or responsibilities should be discussed with me in advance of pending conflict. I am a student-athlete supporter and will be a good listener.

Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the following:

1. The **first unexcused absence** will result in **one** competition suspension.
2. The **second unexcused absence** will result in a **two** competition suspension.
3. The **third unexcused absence** will result in a **suspension from the team** for the remainder of the season.
4. If you are **Late to practice** because of a **school detention or a teacher detention** three times, this will be considered **one unexcused absence**. Likewise, arriving late to practice without a written note from detention or teacher, will constitute an unexcused late.

These guidelines are meant to communicate our softball programs' need for team unity and player responsibility.

Team Travel



- Softball players must be on time for all departures.
- Obscenities or less than classy behavior will not be tolerated.
- No food is allowed on the bus.
- No litter will be left on the bus.

The Great Valley Softball Team will travel to and from away games as a team on the transportation provided by the Great Valley School District. If parents wish their child to leave an event with them, please email Coach Brown at least 24 hours prior to the event. Softball players should not be leaving the competition until all teammates have finished playing and the competition is concluded. In order for athletes to maximize their homework and meal time, parents should arrive at GVMS prior to the bus returning to GVMS.

Injuries

The sport of softball is highly competitive and as in all athletics there is a risk for injury. In the case of an injury which the coaching staff is not able to treat, please contact our Great Valley Trainers at the Great Valley High School. We are very fortunate to have the finest trainers in the area treating our student athletes. In most cases, our trainers are able to help an athlete recover from injury and return to competition quickly. Please contact Mr. Keith Johnson at 610-633-1478 for any advice concerning injuries.

Player Code of Conduct

As an athlete you also have responsibilities outside of school as well as in. If you choose to be a member of our team this needs to be understood. Your behavior at any time has a direct impact on your high school team and teammates. The following Code of Conduct must be adhered to or you may be suspended from the team or be removed permanently. I will try to be as specific as possible and I am sure this will grow as time keeps moving on.

1. **Detentions for any reason during the season.** If detentions continue to be a problem, suspension from competition and or dismissal from the team may occur.
2. **In school suspension is not acceptable for an athlete. You must show self discipline at all times.** If you are assigned In-School for any reason you will be suspended from the next competition.
3. **Any profanity or other forms of disrespect towards the coaching staff** will result in suspension from competition or dismissal from the team.

If you are willing to abide by these guidelines and regulations, we welcome you as a candidate for the team. In order to have a successful season, it will mean that everyone will have to cooperate with the coaches, teammates, and abide by the rules of our school. If you want to be a champion and have a championship team, these rules and regulations will not be a problem.