

Grace Christian Academy

Athletics Manual



Updated June 2017

ATHLETICS MISSION

Grace Christian Academy athletes participate in sports programs in order to exalt God. We faithfully reflect our Creator by competing with excellence and joy while nurturing a Christ-like character in our hearts. Our athletes, coaches, and their families will grow in humility, courage, determination, and love of Jesus Christ.

ATHLETICS PHILOSOPHY

GCA athletics programs give students, coaches, and families the opportunity to let our “lights so shine before men.” We will display an exemplary Christian testimony when playing other schools. We want our teams to play in a God-honoring manner with determination and good sportsmanship. When playing a non-Christian school, we will conduct ourselves in a manner that the other team may be receptive to the Gospel. As we travel, we will take advantage of the witnessing opportunities that are available. GCA participants to be bold witnesses for Christ, in word and deed. We keep I Corinthians 9:22-27 in our minds and hearts.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Each coach, assistant coach, manager, volunteer, and player will adhere to the GCA Athletics Code of Conduct (attached).
- Display good sportsmanship always. At the end of games, shake hands with each member of the other team and the referees. Be courteous to visiting teams and spectators.
- Learn to handle winning and losing. Don't get too confident when you win or too discouraged when you lose.
- Remember that any talents you have are from God. Remember that if you have developed certain skills, God has given you the strength to do it. Be sure to give God the glory.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

A student athlete must maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA or higher to be eligible to try out for any team. Classes such as teacher's aide, office assistant, etc. do not count toward a student's GPA.

- A student who receives two or more F's on a report card will be ineligible regardless of their GPA.
- A student that loses eligibility will be unable to participate in athletics for the entire next semester.
- The spring report card will determine eligibility for fall sports.
- A student may try out for a team while academically ineligible, but a student may not attend regular practices when ineligible. For example, a student may not participate in spring football practices when ineligible. However, a student may try out for a fall sport during spring tryouts even though he is academically ineligible.
- Students must be in school for a minimum of one half day to participate in practices or games that day, unless prior arrangements have been made with administration. This must be an excused tardy. The athletic director and administration will evaluate hardship cases.

PHYSICALS

A student may not participate in any camps, practices, or games until all physical paperwork has been turned in to their head coach. Physicals are considered current for a period of 12 months.

- All participants that have health conditions that require medication (asthma, diabetes, allergies, etc.) must have medication with them at all practices and games and in the proper packaging

PRACTICE TIME

- Commit to arriving on time to practice and games. Players and their families are responsible for transportation to and from practice
- When a team is practicing, no one else is allowed on the field/gym court unless authorized by the Athletic Director or coach.
- No team meeting is to be held without the coach of the team and/or athletic director.
- No individual is to coordinate, plan, or supervise any team practices unless authorized by the coach and/or athletic director.
- Participants are to remain in the gym/on the field always unless accompanied by their coach or a chaperone designated by the school.
- Students who are staying on campus before practice must be supervised. No other student may leave campus or practice with another student under any circumstances.

GAME DAY

- All participants will ride the team bus or school sanctioned transportation to AND from every away game, if available. Boys and girls will sit separately on the bus (boys on one side/girls on the other).
- Players may ride home from an away game with a parent only if there are extenuating circumstances and if parent signs out the student with the head coach.
- Conversations when players are on the bus, out to eat, in the locker room, and at the visiting team's school should be God-honoring.
- Any participant who walks away from the team practice or team bench during a game without a coach's permission will be dismissed from the team.
- No parents or spectators are allowed on team benches during games, except in case of injury.
- No parents are allowed in locker rooms at pre-game, half-time, or post-game team talks except in case of injury.
- If a participant is injured, he/she may sit on the bench during all home games.
- Team managers must be the same gender as the team they manage. All rules apply to managers.

24 HOUR RULE

If a player or parent would like to discuss any aspect of a practice or game, we respectfully request that the player/parent wait until 24 hours after the situation. Please do not approach the coach right after a game.

EARLY RELEASE

Because of travel, it is sometimes necessary for teams to leave school prior to normal dismissal times. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to make arrangements with teachers to make up any missed work.

DISCIPLINE

Discipline problems will be addressed in the following manner:

- First, addressed by the head coach, athletic director, and participant.
- Second, addressed by all the above and the school administrator and the participant's parents.
- If a player talks back to an official or makes inappropriate comments, he/she will be removed from the game. If this offense is repeated anytime during the season, the player will be removed from the team.
- All student-athletes for GCA must abide by all rules and regulations as set forth in the Grace Christian Academy School Handbook previously distributed to all families of GCA. There will be no exceptions.
- Student-athletes, in representing God and GCA, must adhere to good moral behavior using the Bible as their guide. Student-athletes set an example for younger students and upcoming athletes and should be role models for all other students of Grace Christian Academy.
- The head coach, athletic director, and administrator have the final authority to suspend or dismiss permanently any athlete from a team. Violation of GCA policies or any act or deed that harms the testimony of our school may result in suspension or dismissal from a team.
- If any player's conduct or behavior results in GCA being fined, the player and his/her family will be responsible to pay the fine.

DRESS CODE

Dress code for traveling to away games:

- Boys will wear dress pants (no khakis or jeans) with a tie of your own choosing, PROVIDED it is in good taste.
- Girls will wear Chapel dress.

Dress code for returning from games will be warm-ups, GCA-sanctioned team outfits, and chapel dress or school/game uniforms.

Dress for practices for all students will be T-shirts and reasonable length shorts or long pants (sport appropriate).

Haircuts must meet GCA standards.

UNIFORMS

All uniforms and practice equipment issued to a player are the property of GCA and must be turned in within one week of the conclusion of the season. The athlete must replace lost or damaged uniforms. All uniforms must be turned into the team manager for laundering after each contest. Players should only wear their uniforms in preparation of and participation in GCA games. They are not to be worn to school or any other leisure situations without prior approval. Please see the Uniform Agreement form for more information.

VARSITY SPORTS LETTER CRITERIA

The varsity letter is one of the highest honors the athletic department offers. It stands for achievement. Requirements for an athlete to be eligible to receive a letter are as follows:

1. Athletes must be, at minimum, a freshman participating on a Varsity team.
2. Athletes must start or play in the majority of his/her games and make a significant contribution to his/her team's success.
3. Athletes must remain on the team until the season has ended (excluding injury).
4. Athletes must be devoted to attending practices and games.
5. Athletes must have represented the school in a Christ-like manner.

ATHLETICS BANQUET

The annual athletics banquet will be held at the end of the fall semester for fall sports and end of the spring semester for spring sports. All players, families, and our GCA community will receive invitations with details about this special celebration of our teams.

FEES

Varsity Football: \$300
JV/Middle School Football: \$200
Varsity Cheerleading: \$250
Middle School Cheerleading: \$200
Varsity Volleyball: \$250
Middle School Volleyball: \$200
Cross Country: \$150.00
Varsity Basketball: \$250
Middle School Basketball: \$200
Varsity Baseball: \$250
Middle School Baseball: \$200
Softball: \$250.00
Golf: \$150.00

There will be a \$50 discount for fees for players of multiple sports.

Fees must be paid before the first game. Fees may be paid with small business, corporate, or other sponsorship funds.

CHRISTIAN WINNERS' CREED

I believe that a true winner always does his best, never to the glory of self but always to the glory of God. With the Lord's help, I will strive to be a true winner today.

FINAL COMMENTS

It is our desire that players, coaches, and families become Christ-like through participation in our sports programs. Take advantage of the many opportunities you will have to mature as a Christian, and you will be better prepared to serve God. If you approach athletics mindful of these guidelines, you will find your participation more enjoyable, profitable, and rewarding!

Grace Christian Academy Athletics

Code of Conduct Contract

Grace Christian Academy has established the following Code of Conduct to ensure that all coaches, assistant coaches, managers, volunteers, and players will represent our school in the best possible light. By reading this Code of Conduct and signing below, you acknowledge your commitment to comply with each item and accept responsibility for the consequences of breaking a rule.

- **Each coach, assistant coach, manager, volunteer, and player will**
 - Speak and act respectfully to all other coaches, managers, volunteers, players, officials, and representatives of the league.
 - Follow school and league safety procedures during practices, games, and in transit between athletics events. This includes the use of proper safety equipment for players (i.e. helmets, pads, catcher gear, etc.).
 - Attend all mandatory meetings, practices, and fundraisers for the team. I will notify my coaches/staff at least 24 hours in advance if I cannot attend.
 - Uphold the integrity of league rosters, schedules, tryouts, draft positions or selections, official score books, rankings, financial records, and procedures.
- **Coaches and managers will** refrain from interacting with spectators during the game.
- **Volunteers will** complete a volunteer application and are subject to a background check.
- **Athletes will** maintain grades and eligibility and complete a full season of a sport to receive their Varsity letter.

GCA will not tolerate

- Any attempt or threat physically harm another person
- Profane, obscene, or vulgar language in any manner at any time
- Verbal abuse of an official despite your opinion of the official's decision
- Any demonstration of disagreement with official's decision by throwing gloves, helmets, hats, bats, balls, or any other forceful unsportsmanlike action
- Intoxication (identified by odor or behavior) at any field of play or in the stands
- Gambling on any play or outcome of any game
- Smoking on the field of play or in the stands

The GCA staff will review all infractions of the Code of Conduct. The administration will assess disciplinary action for infractions, up to and including expulsion from the team.

I have read the GCA Code of Conduct and promise to adhere to its rules and regulations.

Athlete Name (Print)

Signature

Date

Parent/Adult Name (Print)

Signature

Date