



Garden City Athletics

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Garden City Athletic Guidelines

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Congratulations on being a part of the Garden City Athletic Program! GC Athletics is one of the premier programs in the state of Texas due to its **Tradition** and **Pride**. Being a Bearkat is a privilege, not a right, and is one that carries with it many responsibilities. It is important that all students taking part in the program understand the following Athletic Policies and conform to the rules therein and that the coaches of the sport or activity shall have every right to remove those privileges. The following policies are in effect for all students participating in GC Athletics. Above all, we will uphold our Core Covenants of **DISCIPLINED, SELFLESS, DILIGENCE, and INTEGRITY**.

CONDUCT

Conduct yourself as a lady or gentleman. Athletes are expected to represent themselves, their family, their school, and their community in a positive manner. "Yes sir/No sir, Yes ma'am/No ma'am" are the responses expected of you. The continued use of vulgar or profane words will not be tolerated. Whenever a coach (or teacher) is speaking to you, give them your undivided attention and always establish eye contact. Athletes are also expected to behave properly in the classroom and should not do anything to disrupt or deter the learning of themselves and their fellow classmates. All class rules are expected to be followed. When any athlete brings embarrassment upon the team or the athletic program, he/she will be subject to disciplinary action. **Failure to comply: Disciplinary action will be determined according to the circumstances of each individual case. This will be determined by the Athletic Director and Head Coach of that sport. This action may consist of extra work, probation, suspension, or dismissal.**

CLASSROOM PERFORMANCE

Athletes are expected to maintain a passing grade in all classes and to give their very best effort in the classroom. The primary objective of all students is to gain an education. The UIL No Pass, No Play rule requires all athletes to maintain a 70 or above in all classes each 6 weeks in order to participate. **Failure to comply: Students will be unable to participate in games until passing in all classes (to be checked after three weeks).** Tutorials may also be mandated by the Athletic Director and Head Coach of that sport.

ATTENDANCE

Be there and be on time! Excused and Unexcused absences will be dealt with differently. If you must be absent, call/text one of the coaches of your sport before athletic period. If you are ill or injured, we do not expect you to work out; however, if you are at school, we expect you to suit up and accompany your group unless given special permission to do so. **Failure to comply: Tardiness will result in bearcrawl/towel push punishment. Unexcused absences will result in additional work decided by the Head Coach of that sport. A consistent pattern of unexcused absences could possibly, and inevitably, result in suspension from that sport and/or dismissal from the athletic program (see "Quitting/Suspension/Dismissal" section).**

DRESS AND APPEARANCE

Students will follow the dress code that is in the handbook. In addition, students may be required to follow other rules that may be stricter than those stated in the handbook.

- For males, pierced jewelry will not be tolerated in athletic facilities or functions, even if you are just a spectator. You will be asked to remove them by a member of the coaching staff.
- Females may wear pierced jewelry on the ears only, but not during competition.
- Other jewelry may be worn, but is not advised as to avoid injury and damage.
- For males, there will be no long hair or facial hair.
- During sporting events, shirts need to stay tucked in at all times (unless by uniform design), and all teammates will wear their uniform in the same manner.
- Practice clothing is issued to every athlete in GC Athletics and must be worn to every practice.
- It is against UIL rules to wear school issued clothing to school on a non-game day. The only exception will be HS Girls during 8th period.
- Wear appropriate GCISD policy attire. No revealing or inappropriately worn clothing will be tolerated.
- **Failure to comply: Will result in disciplinary action. Repeated failure could result in suspension and/or dismissal from Athletics.**

CARE OF EQUIPMENT

All athletes are to take care of their equipment and facilities. Clean up the locker room area each day. Submit all workout clothes to the coaches for washing. Keep your lockers according to the guidelines given to you by your coaches. Flush all toilets and turn off showers/sinks completely when done. Dispose of all food and drinks properly.

TRAVEL GUIDELINES (DAY EVENT)

Athletes will be expected to travel to and from athletic events in transportation provided by the school. Certain situations require an athlete to meet their team at the site of the activity. The following are permitted:

- An athlete traveling from another school function, and transported by a school employee.
- An athlete traveling from a 4-H function, and transported by the parent/guardian.

Other reasons will be accepted/not accepted on a case-by-case basis by the Athletic Director.

Parents or guardians may accept responsibility for transporting the student home after an event, and by following this procedure:

- Must talk to the coach face to face.
- Accept responsibility in writing or by text (to the coach).

In order for an athlete to return with someone other than the parent/guardian:

- Have the approval of the Athletic Director and the Head Coach of that sport.
- Arrangements must be made at least two days prior.

TRAVEL GUIDELINES (MULTIPLE DAY EVENT)

Travel for multiple day sporting events will be decided on a case-by-case basis involving the Head Coach of the sport and the Athletic Director. Factors that will be considered, but not limited to:

- Distance from Garden City HS to the site of the event.
- Starting time of the event, and leave time from Garden City HS the day of.
- Expected arrival back to Garden City HS after each day.
- Other factors that will give our teams the best chance to compete according to the Head Coach and Athletic Director.

CONFLICTS

Any athlete will not be refused the right to participate in one sport, any combination of sports, or all sports if he/she has the ability and desire to do so.

In any event that is in conflict with another, the event that ranks as the highest competition will be the event in which the student competes. An example would be a district competition on the same day as a non-district competition. If travel allows the student to compete in both, that is fine. However, if that is not the case, then the student will compete at the district contest only.

QUITTING/DISMISSAL

Quitting during the season is strongly discouraged. There will be cut-off dates. If an athlete quits before these dates, there will be no punishment. This gives an athlete plenty of time to make up his/her mind about the sport. (These dates may change if season before is extended due to playoffs.)

For Football and Cross Country: Labor Day

For Basketball: First day of Christmas Vacation

For Track, Tennis, and Golf: First Day of Spring Break

Failure to comply: If an athlete quits, or gets dismissed, after these dates, they will serve a suspension of one athletic year before they can participate in any sport. They may begin athletics when that sport

is again in season. Each case may be handled differently because of extenuating circumstances (the decision will be made by Athletic Director and District Administration).

ILLEGAL DRUGS

If an athlete is ticketed, caught by a school official (fails drug test or caught in possession), and/or depicted in a photo as using illegal drugs, they will be subject to punishment. **Failure to comply: First offense will result in suspension from extracurricular activities for 45 school days (includes practices) along with a Bear Crawl punishment. For every offense after, the punishment will double. After the 5th offense, the student will be suspended from extracurricular activities for the remainder of the student's enrollment in the District.**

VAPING/NICOTINE

If an athlete is caught by a school official (fails nicotine test or caught in possession) and/or depicted in a photo as using e-cigarettes or vaping, they will be subject to punishment. **Failure to comply: First offense will result in suspension from extracurricular activities for 45 school days (includes practices) along with a Bear Crawl punishment. For every offense after, the punishment will double. After the 5th offense, the student will be suspended from extracurricular activities for the remainder of the student's enrollment in the District.**

STEALING/THEFT

Stealing is taking property that does not belong to one. All athletes are expected to respect other people's property (including school issued apparel). **Failure to comply: First offense will be suspension of one week and 800 yards of bearcrawls. For every offense after, the consequences will double.**

CRIMINAL CONDUCT

Students who engage in criminal activity will be disciplined by school administration and within the athletic department. **Failure to comply: Any athlete who is indicted for a felony will be suspended until his/her name is cleared. Other offenses will result in bearcrawling punishment and suspension to be determined by seriousness of offense. Decisions will be made by the Athletic Director and School Administration.**

Acknowledgement and Receipt

I _____, student-athlete of GCISD
(Student-Athlete)

and my parent/guardian _____
(Parent/Guardian)

have read and understand the GCISD Athletic Policy.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student-Athlete Signature: _____ Date: _____