

Gregory-Portland ISD

Athletic Handbook



Home of the “Fighting” Wildcats

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Introduction

This handbook is designed to provide for a successful experience for student athletes and the efficient operation of the Gregory-Portland Independent School District Athletic Program. The GPISD school board has approved the policies, procedures, and regulations in this handbook. The athletic handbook is designed to co-exist with the GPISD Student Handbooks and the GPISD Student Code of Conduct. Student athletes in grades 7-12 are accountable and responsible to the rules and requirements contained within this handbook.

It should be noted that different sports might have additional rules and regulations that go beyond what is listed in this athletic handbook. These rules may be in addition to this athletic handbook, but they shall not alter the rules of this handbook.

Philosophy

The athletic program at GPISD is an integral part of the total educational program. Athletics are a vital part of the physical, mental, social, moral and character growth of our students. Athletics are not designed to transcend the academic program but to supplement it. Athletic programs can provide valuable lessons for practical situations. Student-athletes experience daily victories discovering within themselves the ability to overcome adversity, to develop leadership skills, to develop winning attitudes, to be hard workers, and to be a part of a team that requires sacrifice and service to others. Many intangibles are taught in athletics that become lifelong lessons for the student athlete. Hopefully, the student athletes will acquire the techniques and skills from our athletic program to help them become better husbands/wives, fathers/mothers, and productive members of our community.

Responsibilities

Participation in athletics is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the sport, to the student body, to the community, and to oneself. Athletes have a unique role to play. Their peers, teachers, and the community are constantly monitoring them. Being under this scrutiny, athletes must have strength of character and be aware of the role they have chosen. They must be certain they present to their peers, teachers, and the community respect, sincerity, and honesty expected of a GPISD Athlete.

Specific Responsibilities Expected of GPISD Athletes:

1. An athlete is required to be enrolled in an athletic class if they are representing Gregory-Portland High School or Gregory-Portland Middle School in a UIL sanctioned sport.
2. Maintain a satisfactory citizenship and behavior record in the classroom and on campus by treating teachers, administrators, and fellow students with respect.
3. Maintain passing grades in all classes.
4. Exercise self-control and display positive actions during competition and other school activities.
5. Have respect for the decisions of the officials during competition.
6. Refrain from juvenile behavior in and around the school buildings.
7. Be a law-abiding citizen both at school and away from school.
8. Display sportsmanship and class when representing Gregory-Portland ISD.
9. Be committed to attend practices, contests, and meetings of any sport that they choose to participate in.
10. Abide by training rules established in this handbook and by their coach.
11. Complete required UIL and school paperwork prior to participation (Yearly Physical Exam and Rank One paperwork)

Attendance

It is the obligation and responsibility of team members to attend scheduled practices, contests, and meetings regularly and on time. If an unavoidable conflict arises with a practice or contest, one of the coaches should be notified before the workout or game. Failure to make contact prior to the practice, contest, or meeting may result in absence being considered unexcused.

Excused Absences:

Excused absences will be made up. The make up for an excused absence is not punishment but is administered so that the athlete can make up missed work and conditioning. Examples of excused absences are illness, a death in the family, school sponsored activities, or emergency situations. **Athletes should understand that when they have to miss, it is imperative that a coach be notified prior to the absence.**

Athletes should understand that habitual absences, even though they may be excused, become detrimental to their ability to perform and to their knowledge of team concepts. Habitual absences will result in disciplinary actions, including loss of playing time and/or possible suspension or dismissal from the team.

Injured Athletes:

Injured athletes who cannot actively participate in the workout must still follow all the attendance policies. Being injured is not an excuse to miss practice. The injured athlete will be expected to dress out and participate mentally. This is also a time in which they may see the **Athletic Trainer** for treatment. (Some injuries may not allow the athlete to dress out or attend practice. If there is a question, the head coach will make the decision on the athlete dressing out or attending the workout). **If a *Wildcat* athlete is injured, it is their responsibility to attend morning treatments. TREATMENT TIMES ARE SET UP BY THE TRAINER.**

Ineligible Athletes:

Ineligible athletes shall attend and participate in workouts unless excused by the head coach.

ISS:

An athlete placed in ISS is not allowed to participate in a game or contest during his/her placement, but he/she is allowed to practice after school. Failure to report to after school workout will result in an unexcused absence for the athlete unless prior notification is given by the athlete that he/she is missing for a justifiable reason. It is the athlete's responsibility to find out if their team is working out after school and find out the time of the workout.

Tardy:

All athletes must be on time for all scheduled functions.

Academics

Athletes must realize that they are students first and athletes second. Athletes must plan their schedule so that they can give sufficient time and energy to their studies to ensure acceptable grades. Athletes must be passing all subjects at the six weeks grading period in order to be eligible to play. Athletes failing a course will be ineligible for competition for three weeks. They may regain eligibility after three weeks if they are passing all subjects at that time. If not, they remain ineligible for another three weeks.

Athletes are encouraged to maintain all their grades throughout the school year. Tutorials are available for students that are struggling with their grades. Athletes are encouraged to take advantage of the tutorials and/or other resources that are available to help them with their grades. Failure to take care of his/her grades will result in the athlete being placed on academic probation or removed from athletic competition or the athletic program.

Dress Code/Personal Appearance

Athletes are expected to dress neatly, be well groomed in school and follow the school dress code at any activity representing the school. They should recognize that appearance, expression, and actions always influence people's opinions of athletes, the team, and the school. Athletes who habitually violate dress and grooming standards will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension if the violations are not corrected.

In addition to following the school dress code and UIL policy, GPISD athletes will comply with the following:

1. Earrings will not be worn by male athletes while participating in athletics.
2. All hair will be natural color.
3. Excessively long hair for males: male athletes should not allow their hair to grow past the t-shirt collar in back, the bottom of the ear on the sides, and the bottom of the eyebrows in the front. If a male athlete's hair becomes too long, they will be asked to have it cut before being permitted to compete.
4. Male athletes will not be permitted to wear ponytails or man buns.
5. Any hair or dress that calls undue attention to a student-athlete or that undermines the positive image of the GPISD Athletic Program will not be permitted.
6. Athletes shall follow additional requests of the coach for game day or team travel.

*Questions or concerns about the Dress Code should be addressed with the Athletic Director.

Conduct

Athletes are expected to follow school policy. Athletes will face disciplinary action, including possible suspension or expulsion, for demonstrating behavior that is detrimental to the team.

Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to:

1. Inappropriate language
2. Unwilling or lazy attitude, poor work ethic
3. Disrespect to the teach, administrative, or coaching staff
4. Disrespect to a game official
5. Display of temper
6. Not responsive to a coach's request
7. Argumentative attitude
8. Habitual disregard for rules
9. Negative effect on team morale

10. Unsportsmanlike behavior

3 Rules: WILDCAT CREED

1. DO THE RIGHT THING
2. DO YOUR BEST ALWAYS
3. TREAT OTHERS THE WAY YOU WANT TO BE TREATED

Dismissal from a Sport

Athletes who engage in serious or persistent misconduct may be dismissed from a sport at the discretion of the head coach or athletic director.

Quitting a Sport

Commitment to being a Wildcat team member is one of the most valuable lessons learned in athletics. Concerns and frustrations can often be worked out with proper communication between the athlete and the coach. When a student is unable to resolve a concern or frustration and wishes to quit a sport, the following rules and guidelines apply.

1. Any athlete wishing to quit a sport should notify the head coach.
2. The athlete will not be allowed to unless parents are aware of the decision.
3. If an athlete quits a sport after six weeks, he/she will not be allowed to start another sport until the first sport is completed.
4. An athlete quitting a sport and not wishing to participate in another sport will be removed from the athletic program and athletic class period. The schedule change will be made as soon as it is possible. In some cases, this change may not be possible until the end of the semester.

DAEP Placement

If an athlete is placed in DAEP, he/she is put on probation and suspended from participating in the athletic program during their time in DAEP. He/she is not allowed to participate in contests or practices during the time that they are in DAEP. They are not allowed to be a part of the team in any manner (pep rallies, presence on sideline or bench, pre or post game meals, etc) during their time in DAEP. **Re-Entry to athletics will be determined by the athletic director and head coach of respective sport.**

Letter Awards

The criteria for lettering in a sport are at the discretion of the head coach of that sport. These criteria should be shared with the members of their team at the beginning of each season.

Letter jackets are ordered twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. The head coach of each sport will submit a list of the athletes that lettered in their sport and are eligible for a letter jacket to the Athletic Director. The date that the letter jacket representative will be on campus will be made available to the school through daily announcements. **It is the student's responsibility to get with the letter jacket representative while he/she is on campus.**

Team Travel

When a team has to travel from Gregory-Portland to compete in an athletic event, the time on the school bus is considered a team function, just as a contest or a practice. Therefore, all of the members of the team should travel to and from the contest together in a school vehicle. If a circumstance arises where an athlete needs to arrive or leave a contest separate from the team, arrangements need to be made with the coach responsible for his/her team before the team leaves for the contest. The coach should have a note from the parent or guardian **before** the team leaves for the trip. Parent's notes after the contest will not be allowed. This allows the coach to know exactly how many students he/she will be responsible for on the school bus or van when they leave and return from the out-of-town contest.

Equipment and Uniforms

The equipment, supplies, and uniforms for each team are purchased with taxpayer's monies. It is the responsibility of the Athletic Program to be good stewards of the taxpayer's monies. Once equipment or uniforms are issued to an athlete, it becomes the athlete's responsibility to make sure that the equipment or uniform is returned to the coach at the appropriate time. If it is not returned to the coach, it is the athlete's financial responsibility and obligation to replace the equipment or uniform at the replacement cost of the missing item.

Locker Rooms

The locker room is a restricted area solely for the use of the members of an athletic team and the coaches responsible for that team. No one else is permitted inside the locker room.

For the safety of all athletes, the locker room must be kept clean and sanitized at all times. The only items that should be kept in the locker are items issued to you for use in your sports. The locker should be kept clean and free of unnecessary items at all times.

Club/Select Teams

The participation in Club sports and/or Select teams is at the discretion of the athlete and his/her parents. This is an avenue in which athletes can further their skills and enhance their playing ability as well as increase their exposure to college coaches.

Although these are avenues in which an athlete can increase their skill level, club sports and select team participation should never interfere or replace athletic competition at the school level. An athlete should not miss practice, games, or meets in a school athletic event to participate in a club sport or select team. Absences from school athletic events for these reasons will result in disciplinary action by the coach and the possible dismissal from the team.

Insurance – Get with Athletic Trainers

Every student involved in athletics is covered by a supplemental insurance policy purchased by the district. If you have a primary insurance carrier, the supplemental plan will cover the majority of the expenses that your primary insurance carrier does not cover. If you do not have a primary insurance carrier, the supplemental insurance will act as your primary insurance but there are limits to what it will pay.

Communications/Parent Conferences

In order for our Athletic Department to be successful and run efficiently, there needs to be an open line of communication between the coaches, parents, and athletes. If a situation arises where the parent feels that a conference needs to be set up with the coach of their child, the following guidelines should be followed:

- 1.** Parent conferences need to take place during the conference period of the coach with an administrator or head coach available to facilitate the conference. **Under no circumstances will a coach have a conference with you immediately following a contest. All conferences must follow the chain of command.**

Sportsmanship – Athletes/Parents/Spectators

All spectators are encouraged to remember that school athletics are a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. GPISD expects and encourages its sports spectators to:

- Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people, just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
- Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during, and after the game on or near the site of the event (i.e. tailgating).
- Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
- Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.

Parents and spectators should be aware that the school can (and should) remove them from the premises and can prohibit them from attending future contests due to undesirable behaviors. Game officials can ask that school administrators have unruly fans removed from a contest facility. The school is responsible for the behavior of its sports spectators and will enforce its own standards of conduct as well as the University Interscholastic League's standards of conduct at all sporting events.

Appendix

Acknowledgement of Receipt Form

This acknowledges receipt of the Gregory-Portland Independent School District Athletic Handbook. The handbook should be kept for reference throughout the year for both parents and student. In accepting this Athletic Handbook, I accept the privileges and responsibilities as a participant in the Gregory-Portland ISD Athletic Program, and promise to uphold the rules and guidelines set forth in this document.

Print Name of Student: _____

Signature of Student: _____

Signature of Parent: _____

Date: _____

Web Form

The Gregory-Portland ISD Athletic Program is now online. Due to parental concerns, it is prudent to obtain permission before using images or names of students on the Web for school use. Images and text will be used to announce honors, to promote the Athletic Program for public relations and for recruiting. You will be able to visit our site by going through the school website (www.g-pisd.org). Please fill out the form below indicating your responses.

The Gregory-Portland Athletic Program may use _____ picture on the Athletic website.
(print student name here)

The Gregory-Portland Athletic Program may use _____ name on the Athletic website.
(print student name here)

Please do not use _____ picture on the Athletic website.
(print student name here)

Please do not use _____ name on the Athletic website.
(print student name here)