

GEORGETOWN ISD

Athletic Handbook

2018 – 2019



LEAD | GROW | SERVE

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I. Georgetown ISD Vision and Philosophy

Mission

Inspiring and empowering every learner to lead, serve and grow.

Vision

Home of the most inspired students, served by the most empowered leaders.

Athletic Mission Statement

The goal and vision of the GISD athletic staff is to provide the student-athletes with the opportunity to understand and exhibit: teamwork, dedication, commitment, as well as, the lifelong value of hard work ethic. Secondly, the unselfish “team first” attitude will be expressed and reinforced. Thirdly, student-athletes will be encouraged to participate in multiple sports. Athletic staff will encourage and facilitate making this opportunity available to those who wish to participate in multiple sports.

II. Introduction

The athletic program is an integral part of the total school experience for both boys and girls. It offers a variety of sports and activities to all students who have potential skill and the desire to participate.

The policies, procedures, and regulations in this handbook are in compliance with school board policies and administrative procedures. They are designed to provide for successful experiences for students and the efficient operation of the athletic program.

Georgetown ISD athletes must look and act with pride and dignity at ALL times. The purpose of this handbook is to establish regulations and procedures to deal with violations that occur **ON OR OFF SCHOOL GROUNDS THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE CALENDAR YEAR.**

The handbook is designed to encourage athletes to make choices that ensure their health and safety, and provide appropriate consequences for students who violate the rules.

This handbook supersedes all prior publications governing Georgetown athletic teams and shall be used by all principals, coaches, and players in grades 7-12. Athletes entering Ninth Grade will begin with a clear record. Violations from Middle School will not carry-over.

All extra-curricular participants will be subject to the GISD drug testing policy as stated in Board Policy – FNF (Local). This policy is separate and in addition to this handbook.

You, the student athlete, are accountable and responsible for all polices contained within this handbook and for any additional policies that your respective coaches might add.

III. Available Sports

The following sports are available for High School athletes grades nine through 12:

Football	Boys 9A/9B, Junior Varsity A/B and Varsity
Basketball	Boys and Girls 9A/9B, Junior Varsity and Varsity
Baseball	Boys 9th, Junior Varsity and Varsity
Track & Field	Boys and Girls Junior Varsity and Varsity
Tennis	Boys and Girls Junior Varsity, Varsity and Team Tennis
Soccer	Boys and Girls Junior Varsity and Varsity
Softball	Girls Junior Varsity and Varsity
Swimming	Boys and Girls Varsity
Volleyball	Girls 9A/9B, Junior Varsity, and Varsity
Golf	Boys and Girls A and B teams
Cross Country	Boys and Girls Junior Varsity and Varsity
Wrestling	Boys and Girls Junior Varsity and Varsity
Powerlifting	Boys and Girls Junior Varsity and Varsity

IV. Participation

It is the goal of this athletic program to offer the opportunity of participation to every student who has the ability and desire to do so. However, no student is obligated to take part in athletics, nor is participation in athletics required. **It is also to be stressed that participation in Georgetown ISD's athletic program is a PRIVILEGE, not a right.** Since it is a privilege, the coaching staff, in accordance with the Georgetown ISD policy and due process procedures, has the authority to suspend or revoke the privilege when the rules and standards of this athletic program are not followed.

Practice Requirements:

Any GISD student who wants to participate in a GISD athletic program and wishes to be part of a GISD team, is expected to attend all regularly scheduled practices and be enrolled in the athletic period - if there is a period (s) designated for that sport. (If a team has a "tryout" process, then the participant must be designated as "making the team").

Absences for illness, academic needs, family emergencies, or other school related functions are acceptable based on the coach's/campus athletic guidelines.

Tryouts:

There may be times when it will be necessary to have tryouts for teams and cuts may be made. Tryout decisions are final and made by the head coach and his/her staff.

Club Participation:

An athlete in-season for any GISD sport shall not participate in club competition at the same time without the GISD Head Coach's approval. Football Spring Training is considered in-season by the UIL and GISD.

V. Athletic Periods

Athletes at Georgetown ISD high schools will be afforded the opportunity to refine their athletic skills in athletic classes offered during the school day. It is an expectation of the GISD athletic department that every effort be made to enroll in an athletic period if you choose to participate in athletics. The exceptions to this may result from schedule conflicts and class size problems. Athletes in a team sport should be in the athletic period. Single sport participants will be placed in athletic classes in their respective sports. Multiple sport participants will also be placed in their first in-season athletic class, or with the consent of the athletes, their parents, and coach, be given the opportunity to choose the athletic class that will best fit their needs.

Exceptions to enrollment in the sport's athletic period, must be made with approval from the coach and campus athletic coordinator.

Athletes will not be allowed to quit the sport in progress to enroll in an off-season class unless both head coaches and the campus administration authorize the schedule change. Athletes in an athletic period will receive a grade based upon the head coach's criteria for that class.

Responsibilities of an Athlete

All athletes have the responsibility to give their best, play to win, follow training guidelines, and exhibit good conduct and fair play at all times so as to be a credit to their school. Athletes, as well as coaches, are always on display. We are judged by the company we keep. Our actions in everyday life, both private and public, are a direct reflection on this athletic program and our school.

- A. During competition, an athlete:
 - 1. Learns that both winning and losing are part of the game and learns to accept both. Be modest in victory; be gracious in defeat.
 - 2. Has complete control of himself/herself at all times. Horseplay, display of temper, use of profanity, and disrespect for coaches or officials will result in loss of respect for the athlete and in disciplinary action from the coach.
- B. In the classroom, an athlete:
 - 1. Must realize that he/she is a student first, an athlete second. The student-athlete must give time and energy to classroom studies to ensure good and acceptable grades that meet the UIL requirements for participation.
 - 2. Must maintain a satisfactory citizenship and behavior record by giving respectful attention to classroom activities and by treating teachers, administrators and fellow students with respect.
 - 3. Tardiness, horseplay, and unnecessary talking are unacceptable behavior habits that, if uncorrected by the student-athlete, may result in suspension from the athletic program.
- C. On Campus, an athlete:
 - 1. Must maintain proper dress and appearance, good grooming, and personal cleanliness. You are a leader and you have only one chance to make a good impression.
 - a. All dress, hair, makeup and clothing shall be neat, and well-groomed. It shall not be excessive, exceptional, or designed to draw attention to the individual.
 - 2. Will refrain from fighting, scuffling, horseplay and juvenile behavior in and around the school building.
 - 3. An athlete suspended from their home campus will not be permitted to work out, travel or participate with the team. Eligibility for subsequent contests will be left to the discretion of the coach and/or administration.
- D. During the athletic period and practices before and after school, an athlete will:
 - 1. Notify the coach if he/she needs to miss a game or practice session that is scheduled. Absences from athletic period practices should be handled according to school guidelines and team rules. Missed practices will also be required to be made up. Any absence should be made up before an athlete participates in the first quarter of a contest.
 - 2. Be on the field, court, weight room or other designated area dressed and ready to practice when the tardy bell rings or when designated by the coach. Tardiness to our class period is as inexcusable as it is to any other class.
 - 3. Maintain neat and clean locker space. Be proud of your dressing area and keep it neat.

4. Lock all personal belongings in your locker. The school is not responsible for misplaced, lost, stolen or damaged personal property or textbooks.
5. Take a shower for hygiene purposes and for aiding the body in its temperature adjustment after workout. Rough housing, towel popping, or throwing objects is not allowed in the shower or dressing room.

E. During team travel, an athlete will:

1. Travel to and from all away contests with the team. If, for some reason, you need to ride home with your parents, you must clear this with the coach before leaving for the contest (at least 24 hours in advance), and you must give a written release from one of your parents to the coach. Under no circumstances will you be released to ride with anyone other than your parents, or a person designated by your family.
2. Dress neatly and properly on all trips. Coaches will advise you regarding the proper attire. Conduct himself/herself properly on the school bus or in any school vehicle. He/she will follow the printed rules for bus ridership that govern all Georgetown ISD bus riders.
3. Receive permission from the coach before bringing any radios, electronic games, etc., aboard the bus.
4. Be informed of departure and return times. It is your responsibility to be on time for all departures and to inform your parents of the pick-up time after a contest. Every effort will be made by the coaching staff to notify proper personnel as to unexpected changes in arrival time.
5. Only coaches, players, trainers, and/or school administrators are allowed to ride the team bus.

Overnight Travel:

There may be times when teams will be allowed overnight trips. In these instances the athlete must:

- Abide by the curfew set by the head coach.
- Not be in different gender rooms at any time.
- Travel to and from the event with the team.
- Be aware that coaches may ask to check the athlete's bags before leaving for the trip.
- Athletes must adhere to the expectations for students in the GISD Student Code of Conduct.
- No alcohol, tobacco, or other drug use (including no electronic cigarettes or inhalants)

VI. Eligibility and Regulations

In order to be eligible to participate in an extracurricular activity event for a nine week period following the initial six weeks period of a school year, a student must not have a recorded grade average lower than a 70 on a scale of 0-100 in any course for that preceding nine weeks period. A student whose recorded nine weeks grade average in any course is lower than 70 at the end of a nine week period shall be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity during the succeeding three week period. If the student is passing all classes at the three week mark, the student may regain eligibility.

VII. Athlete/Parent/Coach Communication Process

Before the start of each sport, the head coach will conduct a mandatory parent meeting regarding rules, regulations, and additional team rules will be distributed at that time. If at any time, an athlete or parent has an issue/concern with a coach or program, the below process should be followed:

- A. Athlete meets with the coach to discuss the problem.
- B. Parents and/or athlete meet with the coach.
- C. Parents and/or athlete meet with the campus Athletic Coordinator.
- D. Parents schedule a meeting with the district Athletic Director.

Coaches should never be approached to discuss a problem or complaint immediately following a game.

VIII. Disciplinary Procedures

In order for an athlete to be considered in violation, one or more of the following must occur:

- A. Athlete admits to the violation.
- B. Parent of the athlete admits to the violation.
- C. A GISD staff member witnesses the athlete in violation.
- D. A local agency report or violation is filed.
- E. A local agency of the law makes a verbal report of a violation.
- F. Evidence such as a photograph or video is presented from a credible source.

Athletes who transfer to another school in GISD must serve any consequences issued at the previous school before being allowed to participate in any sport.

The following rules concerning theft, tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs apply to all Georgetown ISD athletes at all times during the calendar year:

- A. Tobacco**
***NO SMOKING OR USE OF ANY TOBACCO PRODUCTS, THIS INCLUDES E-CIGARETTES.**

The athlete who violates the above stated rules shall be subject to the following:

*Parent Notified by the Head Coach.

1. First Offense: Five days of extra conditioning. *Contract required.
2. Second Offense: Ten days of extra conditioning. *Contract required.
3. Third Offense: One week suspension of contests not to exceed two contests and 10 hours of community service (suspension doubles with each additional violation). *Contract required.

Note:

If the offense occurs during the offseason/summer, the suspension from competition will begin with the first week of competition/activity.

If the offense occurs during the sport season or period of extracurricular activity, the suspension will begin with the next competition or extracurricular activity as determined by the coach, director, or sponsor.

B. Alcohol

***NO DRINKING OR POSSESSION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

The athlete who violates the above stated rules shall be subject to the following:

*Parent Notified by the Head Coach.

1. First Offense: Five days of extra conditioning plus a one week suspension not to exceed two contests and 10 hours of community service. *Contract required.
2. Second Offense: Ten days of extra conditioning plus two week suspension of contests and 20 hours of community service. *Contract required.
3. Third Offense: Suspension from program for the remainder of season and/or semester. Additional offense results in one calendar year suspension of all athletic programs. *Contract required.

C. Drugs

***NO USE OR POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL DRUGS**

The athlete who violates the above stated rules shall be subject to the following:

*Parent Notified by the Head Coach.

1. First Offense: Ten days of extra conditioning and two weeks suspension from contests and 20 hours of community service. *Contract required.
2. Second Offense: Suspension from program for the remainder of season and/or semester. *Contract required.
3. Third Offense: Removal from the athletic program for one calendar year. *Contract required.

D. Hazing

*Parent Notified by the Head Coach.

1. First Offense: Ten days of extra conditioning and two weeks suspension from contests and 20 hours of community service. *Contract required.
2. Second Offense: Suspension from program for the remainder of season and/or semester. *Contract required.
3. Third Offense: Removal from the athletic program for one calendar year. *Contract required.

E. Theft

*Parent Notified by the Head Coach.

1. First Offense: Five days of extra conditioning plus a one week suspension not to exceed two contests and 10 hours of community service. *Contract required.
2. Second Offense: Ten days of extra conditioning plus two week suspension of contests and 20 hours of community service. *Contract required.
3. Third Offense: Suspension from program for the remainder of season and/or semester. Additional offense results in one calendar year suspension of all athletic programs. *Contract required.

F. Felony

1. Anyone charged will be allowed to workout but not compete in any contest until cleared.
2. Anyone convicted will be removed from the program permanently.

G. Suspension

Each coach will have the authority, with the concurrence of the Athletic Coordinator and the Athletic Director, to suspend or place on probation for an extended period of time, any student-athlete for major or minor infractions of rules for that team.

Any student suspended from athletics must be given:

1. The reason(s) for the suspension.
2. The time and provisions of the suspension.
3. The procedures for reentering the program.
4. Information on class schedule change or options.
5. The opportunity to appeal.

H. Appeals

1. The student and/or parent shall have the right to appeal any decision to suspend a student or expel a student from the athletic program. A written request for appeal must be submitted to the Campus Coordinator within **3 days** of the suspension.
2. To appeal the Campus Coordinator decision, a written request must be submitted to the Athletic Director within **3 days** of the Campus Coordinator meeting.
3. The decision by the Athletic Director cannot be appealed.

IX. Quitting or Dropping a Sport

There will be times when some athletes find it necessary to quit playing a sport before, during, or after the season. Whatever the reason, an athlete must follow the steps listed below:

- A. The athlete should think the whole situation through before reaching a final decision.
- B. The athlete should talk to the coach to see if a solution can be reached without having to quit. A conference between the parents, athlete, and coach, or any combination thereof, may be required, and is highly recommended before an athlete will be permitted to quit.
- C. If an athlete decides to quit, he/she must check out of the sport just as he/she would check out of any academic class.
- D. All equipment must be turned in clean. The athlete must pay for any equipment not returned to the coach of the sport he/she is leaving in order to join the other sport. If the coach does not give permission, the athlete must wait until the first sport has completed its season before joining the new sport. While the athlete waits, he/she will be placed in a regular physical education class.

X. Awards and Lettering

The school letter is among the highest awards the school bestows; the highest, of course, is the diploma. In order to letter, you must be on a varsity team and satisfy the requirements of the head coach. A participant may letter at the coach's discretion if the participant is considered to have been of exceptional value to the team. Exceptions may include playing on a team for four years and never lettering, a letterman who is injured and is unable to complete the season, or a specialist of some type.

NOTE: Any student who has qualified for a letter but has been dismissed from the team for disciplinary reasons will not receive an award.

XI. Social Media

Student-athletes are high-profile representatives of the Georgetown Independent School District, and their behavior is subject to scrutiny by their peers, the campus, community, and the media. The actions of a single student-athlete can reflect positively or negatively not only on the individual student-athlete, but also on his or her team and coaches, the Athletics Department and the entire school campus.

Therefore, student-athletes are expected to represent themselves and GISD with honor, dignity and integrity at all times – including interaction on social networking websites and other online environments. The popularity of social networking websites (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Vine, YouTube, Instagram, Blogspot, etc.) has grown tremendously during the last few years. These websites can serve as valuable communication tools when used appropriately. The use of social media, however, has the potential to cause problems for both the student-athlete and the school environment. Almost anything a student-athlete posts on a social networking site may be viewed by others, and both the media and the general public are more likely to view the profiles of student-athletes than the profiles of other students.

Rules Regarding Social Networking Sites

Participation in GISD Athletics is a privilege and not a right. As a condition of being a student-athlete in GISD, student-athletes must abide by the following rules related to the use of the internet and social networking sites:

- A. Any postings or communications via social networking websites which disrupt either the educational or athletic environments or which advocates the violation of any school or team policy would be unacceptable.

Student-athletes may not post online any pictures, information or other content that might cause embarrassment to themselves, fellow student-athletes, teams, coaches, the Athletics Department or the campus (examples: obscene images or language, nudity, pictures at parties with alcohol, references to drugs, sex, or illegal activities).

- B. Student-athletes may not post any content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual, teammate, coach, faculty member, or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another school; taunting comments aimed at a student-athlete, coach or team at another school). No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, and illegal drug use).
- C. Student-athletes may not post any content online that would constitute a violation of the GISD Student Code of Conduct.
- D. Student-athletes may not post any information that is sensitive or personal in nature or is proprietary to the Athletic Department or the school which is not public information (examples: tentative or future team schedules, student-athlete injuries and eligibility status, travel plans/itineraries or information).
- E. Student-athletes are required to abide by all laws related to the use of the internet (including state and federal privacy laws such as FERPA and HIPPA), and student-athletes are personally liable for any violations of those laws.

Student-athletes in GISD are required to abide by rules set forth in these guidelines. The failure to do so will be considered a violation of the student-athlete code of conduct and/or the GISD student code of conduct. The violation may result in disciplinary action by the athletics department and the campus.

- 1st Offense – Warning and parent meeting with the head coach. Consequences will be determined based on the severity of the infraction and may include suspension or dismissal from the team or athletic activities.
- 2nd Offense – Parent meeting with the head coach and the campus Athletic Coordinator. Consequences will be determined based on the severity of the infraction and may include suspension or dismissal from the team or athletic activities.
- 3rd Offense – Parent meeting with the head coach, campus Athletic Coordinator, and the district Athletic Director. Consequences will be determined based on the severity of the infraction and may include suspension or dismissal from the team or athletic activities.

XII. Medical and Insurance Requirements for Athletes

It is highly recommended that all students participating in athletics have personal health insurance coverage. If a student does not have personal health insurance, a voluntary policy is highly recommended. Voluntary insurance coverage is offered by several companies. Contact the campus Athletic Trainers for recommendations. A limited benefit athletic insurance policy shall be offered to all students who are participating in athletics. The program of insurance will be in accordance with the rules and regulations of the UIL and GISD. Prices and policies are subject to change. The Athletic Director shall arrange the program of insurance on an annual basis (in cooperation with the Superintendent and subject to confirmation by the School Board) with a reputable company.

XIII. Procedures When Ill or Injured

Athletic Trainers are healthcare professionals who collaborate with physicians, coaches, athletes and their families. The services provided by Athletic Trainers comprise of prevention, emergency care, clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions. Athletic Trainers are licensed to provide proper care for athletes, information regarding the athlete's injury and can make recommendations for physician referrals or other healthcare providers as needed.

All athletes that have been injured should report to the training room for evaluation and/or treatments by their campus Athletic Trainer. Evaluation and treatment periods are before school or as designated by each campus Athletic Trainer. Athletic periods will not be used for treatments of injuries or for the evaluation of injuries except under special circumstances. All athletes receiving treatment should continue to report to the Athletic Training Room until fully released by the Athletic Trainer.

If the Athletic Trainer sends the athlete to a physician or the athlete feels they need to see their physician about an injury or illness, the athlete must bring the Athletic Trainer a note from their physician with a diagnosis, recommendation for activity and any other written instructions regarding athletic participation. Forms to be completed by the physician are available in the Athletic Training Room. No athlete will be allowed to participate in any practice/game after a physician's visit until the proper medical documentation has been submitted to the Athletic Trainers.

With the exception of emergency situations, all efforts should be made to communicate with the Athletic Trainer prior to all physician visits.

Following an injury, the athlete should immediately report it to the Athletic Trainer in attendance. Even minor injuries can become serious; therefore, all injuries should be reported to the Athletic Trainer so that the athlete may be checked and evaluated.

If at any time, a parent or guardian would like to discuss an injury or concern with the Athletic Trainer, a meeting may be set up at a time convenient for both parties.

Cooperation with these policies will ensure that each athlete has the same opportunity to compete with the least chance for re-injury.

Whenever you are injured or have an illness of a minor nature, you may be required to dress out (but not participate) and stay with your group during the workout. You learn from each practice session, whether you are actually working out or simply observing.

All athletes must follow the campus Athletic Training Room rules.

XIV. ISS, OSS, GAP Placement

ISS – Students placed in ISS are allowed to practice with their teams after school but not allowed to participate in contests until after they have completed their assignment. Coaches should have student do extra conditioning for each day in ISS.

OSS – Students assigned OSS should not practice or play with the team until they return to school. Students should do extra conditioning for each day missed and not participate in a contest until they have worked out the same number of days missed.

GAP – Students assigned to GAP shall not practice or play with the team until reinstated to their campus. Students returning must complete 30 hours of community service and practice for three weeks before being eligible to participate in contests.

XV. GISD ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT - Player/Parent Contract

I. TOBACCO

First Offense: Five days of extra conditioning. *Contract required.

Second Offense: Ten days of extra conditioning. *Contract required.

Third Offense: One week suspension of contests not to exceed two games and 10 hours of community service (suspension doubles with each additional violation). *Contract required.

II. ALCOHOL

First Offense: Five days of extra conditioning plus a one week suspension not to exceed two games and 10 hours of community service. *Contract required.

Second Offense: Ten days of extra conditioning plus a two week suspension of contests and 20 hours of community service. *Contract required.

Third Offense: Suspension from program for the remainder of season and/or semester. Additional offense results in one calendar year suspension of all athletic programs. *Contract required.

III. DRUGS – Outside drug testing policy

First Offense: Ten days of extra conditioning plus two week suspension from contests and 20 hours of community service. *Contract required.

Second Offense: Suspension from program for the remainder of season and/or semester. *Contract required.

Third Offense: Removal from the athletic program for one calendar year. *Contract required.

IV. HAZING

First Offense: Ten days of extra conditioning plus two week suspension from contests and 20 hours of community service. *Contract required.

Second Offense: Suspension from program for the remainder of season and/or semester. *Contract required.

Third Offense: Removal from the athletic program for one calendar year. *Contract required.

V. THEFT

First Offense: Five days of extra conditioning plus a one week suspension not to exceed two games and 10 hours of community service. *Contract required.

Second Offense: Ten days of extra conditioning plus a two week suspension of contests and 20 hours of community service. *Contract required.

Third Offense: Suspension from program for the remainder of season and/or semester. Additional offense results in one calendar year suspension of all athletic programs. *Contract required.

VI. FELONY

Anyone charged will be allowed to workout but not compete in any contest until cleared.

Anyone convicted will be removed from the program permanently.

VII. ISS – Students placed in ISS are allowed to practice with their teams after school but not allowed to participate in contests until after they have completed their assignment. Coaches should have student do extra conditioning for each day in ISS.

OSS – Students assigned OSS should not practice or play with the team until they return to school. Students should do extra conditioning for each day missed and not participate in a contest until they have worked out the same number of days missed.

GAP – Students assigned to GAP shall not practice or play with the team until reinstated to their campus. Students returning must complete 30 hours of community service and practice for three weeks before being eligible to participate in contests.

I have read and understand the policies of the Georgetown ISD Athletic Code of Contact.

Athlete's Signature

Parent or Guardian's Signature

Date

Date