



GENESIS
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Where Learning Is Just The Beginning



2022-2023
ATHLETICS HANDBOOK

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Introduction

Interscholastic Athletics teaches young people many lessons that will help them in their Christian lives. It is the goal of Genesis Christian School that its students exemplify Christ likeness in everything they do. The purpose of the athletic handbook is to provide a way to maintain consistency through our athletic program and to set forth the standards by which we expect our athletes to adhere.

It is required that parents and athletes take the time to read this handbook so that you can properly support and participate in GCS Athletics.

Thank you for your support and cooperation,
Donald Rattey, Athletic Director

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,”

—Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

Mission Statement

Genesis Christian School considers participation in athletics to be an integral part of a student’s overall educational experience. Athletics provides opportunities for spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development.

The Genesis Christian School Athletic Department strives to provide a competitive interscholastic athletic program for our student athletes. We are committed to building a strong tradition of excellence in our athletes on and off the field through the challenges of competition, skill development, and daily physical training. We strive to increase our athletic ability and instill character traits of integrity, determination, self-discipline, accountability, confidence, endurance, leadership, and teamwork. These goals are achieved by stressing Christ, Character, and Commitment throughout our program.

In short, the mission of Genesis Christian School’s Athletic Department is to glorify God through the discipleship of student athletes and the pursuit of excellence in athletics with the Bible as the foundation and Jesus Christ as our focus.

Our Values

We at Genesis Christian School Athletics strive to:

Create a winning environment by displaying a positive attitude and providing daily encouragement to those under our leadership. Our student-athletes will respond better when they know we genuinely love and care for them.

Show good sportsmanship, respecting others always and in every circumstance. This includes behavior toward coaches, teammates, officials, opposing coaches, opposing players, and fans.

Defiance and disrespect are never tolerated in a disciplined program.

Promote honesty, integrity, humility, loyalty, unity, and encouraging total character development in our athletes. These traits are non-negotiable and are essential to building a "TEAM". This will include all coaches promoting and encouraging the success of other programs and emphasizing the need to share multi-sport athletes.

Foster a commitment to excellence. Success in athletics is the result of coaches and players going the extra mile. Teams who pay the price in the off-season win championships. We communicate great expectations, provide great instruction, emphasize great fundamentals, and demand great effort.

Our Coaches

The coach is the "living curriculum" for the student athlete. Coaches at Genesis Christian School are the most significant components of the athletic program. They are both teachers and active participants at the same time. Our coaches have the responsibility to always model Christ like behaviors and attitudes.

To be an effective coach and role model, GCS coaches must be thoroughly knowledgeable in their sport, capable of detailed preparation, able to motivate athletes, adjust during competition, and work effectively under the authority of the athletic director and school administration. Our coaches take seriously the opportunity they must mold young lives for Christ. Through intentional teaching, GCS coaches show our athletes how to embrace challenges, be gracious competitors, win with humility, handle defeat with dignity, advocate for their sport, and be positive Christian role models.

Our Parents

Parents of student athletes have a responsibility to both their child and to the team. Without strong parental support the student athlete will not be able to achieve their greatest potential and the team may suffer. It is important that parents provide positive reinforcement and understand their role as being part of the team. Parents, as well as players, should always support and encourage coaches and teammates.

Parents as spectators are not coaches, therefore, parents must model the value of respecting the authority that interscholastic athletics provides through our coaches. It is also important that parents lead by honoring the Lord when attending athletic events. For GCS to have a successful athletic program, coaches, student athletes, and parents must make a firm commitment to always glorify God through their actions and speech.

Our Athletes

Genesis Christian School athletes should strive to be diligent in preparation, always give 100%, demonstrate personal discipline, be respectful in all situations, maintain self-control, show humility, and aggressively pursue excellence regardless of the score, opponent, time, referee, or situation. The ultimate and final responsibility rests upon the shoulders of the student athlete, for it is the student athlete who is accountable to their parents, coach, and the Lord.

Our Teams

Our teams should, in all things, strive to:

1. Work Hard
2. Play Hard
3. Honor Him

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,” —Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

Our Fans and Spectators

GCS parents and students are aware of the standards set forth by the school, but oftentimes are unaware of what we expect from them as spectators. Therefore, listed below are a few things to keep in mind when you attend a GCS athletic event:

1. Do not criticize. Fans sometimes feel that they can “do it better”, but that is not their job. Support the players and coaches; build them up – don’t tear them down!
2. All comments to officials and opposing teams, regardless of calls or game outcomes, should be positive.
3. Be silent during basketball free throws and during volleyball serves. This is good etiquette.
4. Realize that the word Christian means “Christ-like.” We as a GCS family, regardless of religious beliefs, should always strive to display a testimony of Christ-like behavior, especially toward the schools we compete against.
5. Understand that regardless of the opposing team’s comments or behaviors, we must choose to rise above and demonstrate true sportsmanship toward all in game attendance
6. LONG AFTER THE SCORE IS FORGOTTEN, OUR BEHAVIOR AND REPUTATION IS REMEMBERED!

Participation Fees and Forms

1. Participation fees are essential to help fund the cost of interscholastic athletics. This includes but is not limited to transportation to athletic events, game officials, tournament entry fees and supplementary equipment and supplies. **Students will be required to pay a \$50 participation fee for the first sport they participate in (a \$25 discount per sibling for this initial fee will be assessed). A \$25 fee will be required per student for each additional sport.** Additional costs may be added to cover costs of select team spirit wear. Participation fees are not a guarantee of playing time on a team. This fee is not assessed if an athlete does not make the team.

2. For a student to be eligible to try out for a team, they must have a current FHSAA Physical Form (EL2), a completed GCS Participation Form (including insurance information), as well as a FHSAA Consent and Release form (EL3) on file in the Athletic office. Insurance information is required on the forms, or it must be stated that the athlete does not have insurance. Physical forms are valid for a full year.

3. For a student to be allowed to participate on any team, they and their parent/guardian must fill out, sign and turn in all forms in the GCS Athletic Packet to the Athletic Director. Athletic Packets can be found on our athletics website at www.genesiseagles.com.

Special Requirements and Guidelines

1. An elementary or middle school student may be permitted to play on a higher-level team if there are not enough students to field a team, or may join a high school team roster, provided league guidelines allow and FHSAA permits, once their current season in the same sport is complete and they are physically able to contribute to a team. Any student joining a higher-level team upon completion of their season will NOT replace another player already on the higher-level roster.

2. Any student may not join an athletic team after the team has held one week or four practices unless excused by the athletic director.

Game and Practice Attendance Requirements

1. Once you have joined a team, you have committed yourself to that team until the last game is completed. Players must be at every practice or game unless excused for one of the following reasons:

- doctor/dental appointment (should try to work around practices)
- personal sickness
- death in the family
- previously scheduled church commitment
- “special” permission granted by head coach

***ALL ABSENCES MUST BE COMMUNICATED TO THE HEAD COACH.**

2. Genesis Christian School is supportive of many local churches whose members make up our student body. Games are not scheduled on Wednesdays; however, practices may occasionally be scheduled on a Wednesday but will last no more than an hour. Games and practices are not scheduled on Sundays. We try to schedule as few Saturday events as possible. We encourage our families to be actively involved in the local church. However, any athlete who misses a practice or game may have to make up practice activities and/or face the team's policy for reduction in playing time. This is not meant as punishment for an excusable absence, but a reward and incentive to those team members who were present. A team member who must miss a practice or game may return to their former status as soon as they have fulfilled the team's policy for absences.

3. Each coach will announce their discipline procedure for missed practices or games. Multiple unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the team.

4. All athletes must be on time to practices and games. Each coach will announce his discipline procedures for tardiness. Once teams have been selected, no one else will be allowed to come to the coach and ask to try-out. Exceptions would be granted to a new student who enrolled after teams were chosen, provided there is a roster spot available or players filling roster spot after completing the season of an earlier school sport.

5. If practice attire is issued to a team, it should be worn to every practice; otherwise, practice attire must meet dress standards according to the Genesis Christian School Student Handbook. If a student is not dressed properly, they may be given appropriate clothing to wear. If a student is continually out of dress code they may be dismissed from the team. Specific dress code violations include but are not limited to spandex clothing unless worn under a loose fitting garment, shorts that are not of walking style and length (4 inches in inseam length), and sleeveless shirts.

Athlete's Code of Conduct

1. Every athlete is expected to maintain a good Christian testimony. At any time, an athlete not maintaining a Christian testimony on or off the field or in the classroom may be suspended or dismissed from the team.

2. An athlete who receives a detention that forces him to miss practice must serve that detention on the day it is assigned. Coaches will discipline players who are late or miss practice due to detentions. This includes loss of play time in the equivalent of one-half of their subsequent game.

3. The GCS discipline system includes consequences that may limit an athlete's participation. Please refer to the Student-Parent Handbook for details. Additionally, any athlete who is removed from a team will not be eligible for post-season awards.

4. The use of profanity or other off-color remarks will not be tolerated. This type of language on or off the field will result in a suspension to be determined by the administration and athletic director.
5. Fighting during athletic events will result in a suspension to be determined by the administration and athletic director. More severe discipline action may be enacted depending upon the circumstances.
6. Athletes are to be good representatives of Christ and Genesis Christian School on road trips. Failure to do so may result in suspension or dismissal from the team.
7. Genesis Christian School does not condone and will not tolerate “hazing” or “bullying” of athletes by teammates. Any such actions will result in suspension and/or dismissal from the athletic team.
8. Any permanent removal of a player from the game by an official due to attitude or language will result in a one game suspension. The athletic director and administration may review and make final decisions regarding game suspensions.

Athletic Dress Requirements

1. All athletes must meet the athletic dress code as it is stated in the student handbook for all practices and games.
 - a. Male students **MUST** always have a shirt on and must have knee length shorts. In addition, all shorts worn by male athletes may not be rolled up.
 - b. Female students’ shorts must be loose fitting with a minimum 4-inch inseam (no spandex shorts or pants are permitted unless underneath school appropriated shorts). No sleeveless tops may be worn, and no tops may show a midriff when jumping or bending.
2. When uniforms are not worn to an away game, athletes are to wear attire approved by the athletic director, coach, and administration.
3. Athletes are expected to wear warm-up clothing (T-shirts, warm-up pant, etc.) properly and modestly always. Clothing should not be worn inappropriately to draw attention to the athlete.
4. On game days students may wear their team uniform top or team shirt to class but must wear school appropriate bottoms.
5. As a courtesy to fellow athletes as well as in adherence to athletic guidelines, athletes are not permitted to wear artificial nails or jewelry of any kind during any practices or games.

6. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in a student athlete being dismissed from practice/game. Continuing to disregard any of these guidelines will result in dismissal from the athletic team.

Guidelines for Eligibility and Participation in Practices and Games

1. All those involved in the athletic program must be in school for at least ½ day (4 class periods) to participate in a practice or game scheduled for that day. Exceptions are permitted for previously scheduled doctor or dentist appointments that have been pre-approved by the administrator or athletic director. (Exemption to home schooled students)

2. Students who leave school and/or return without an approved doctor's note will not be permitted to practice or play that day.

3. Per FHSAA guidelines athletes will maintain a 2.0 GPA, which will be checked each semester. Students who become ineligible will remain ineligible for athletic activities in any capacity for the following semester.

4. Per GCS standards failing grades and/or three D's will result in player becoming ineligible. A player with ineligible grades will remain ineligible for practices and games until they can raise their grade to become eligible. If an athlete does not meet the eligibility requirements, he/she will be re-evaluated at the following progress report or report card to determine continued eligibility. If the athlete remains ineligible for two consecutive progress report/report cards he/she will forfeit their position on the team (i.e.: progress report and following report card or report card and following progress report).

5. With the consent of the parents and coaches, an ineligible athlete is to attend all practice sessions and all home games where they are to sit on the bench with the team dressed in normal school attire. However, an ineligible athlete may not travel to an away game with the team.

6. All the above guidelines also apply to managers, statisticians, and scorekeepers.

7. Any violation of the ineligible guidelines may result in dismissal or suspension from the athletic team.

Multi-Sport Athletes

The Genesis Christian School Athletic Department encourages our athletes to participate in as many sports as they like. This may create conflict in practice times. Students are encouraged to go to the coach of each team to discuss how to work out practice times. Coaches are encouraged to work with each other for the athlete to get the most from each sport.

Quitting

1. Character is not built by quitting. Trying times are not times to quit trying.
2. A student may drop off the team any time before the first four practices without penalty. After that period, no student may quit the team without penalty. There should be a strong sense of belonging to the team even when personal injuries would restrict the individual's participation in practices and games. An injured player is expected to be at all practices and games (provided he is physically able).
3. Any athlete who quits a team may forfeit his/her right to play athletics during the next two consecutive sport seasons. (Example: An athlete who quits basketball must sit out all spring sports and any fall sport the following school year.) This decision will be made at the discretion of the Athletic Director.
4. An athlete who leaves the team because of two consecutive ineligibilities may be considered as quitting if student has shown lack of effort to achieve eligibility. This will be determined by the Athletic Director.
5. An athlete who quits will be removed from the team roster and forfeit any post-season rewards such as team pictures, letters, athletic banquet awards, etc.
6. An athlete who withdraws from school will not be eligible for post season awards and recognition.
7. The only exceptions to the above rules will be for death in the family or serious injury. The athletic director and the administrator will decide any exceptions.

Transportation

This policy applies to all off-campus games and tournaments when transportation is provided by the school. It does not apply to activities for which the school does not provide transportation.

1. For all activities for which one vehicle will accommodate all team members, the team will be transported in either a school-owned bus or van. The vehicle must be driven by a school staff person or by an approved adult at least 25 years old. For an adult other than a professional bus driver to be approved as a driver, he must provide the school with a copy of his motor vehicle record for the Florida Division of Motor Vehicles and fill out volunteer driver forms in the school office. If a school vehicle is not available, parents may be asked to use their vehicle to transport players.
2. When the school provides transportation to away games, all team members, managers, statisticians, and scorekeepers must travel to the game on the school bus or van.

3. A team member may ride home from an off-campus game with his/her parent(s) provided that the coach has been notified by written or verbal communication from the parent(s) (not the student) prior to leaving the game.
4. Students may be released to another adult only with verbal or written consent from their parent.
5. When school transportation is unavailable, a team member may be allowed to ride to an away game with another student's parent(s).
6. All media devices brought onto the bus or van must be listened to via headphones. Students will forfeit their media device if chaperone/coach deems that it is being used inappropriately.
7. GCS music guidelines must always be followed while traveling to and from games.
8. Students will be required to be silent on the way to away games. This is for the students to use the time to study, do homework or mentally prepare for their game.
9. When it is necessary to miss class time due to travel to an athletic event, the following regulations will apply:
 - a. All due assignments should be turned in to the teacher prior to leaving.
 - b. All new assignments should be obtained before leaving. Late penalties may be assessed by the teacher for work not completed upon the student's return.

Uniforms and Equipment

1. Any uniform or equipment issued to an athlete is the property of GCS and it is the athlete's responsibility to return in good condition.
2. Lost or damaged equipment will be charged to the athlete.
3. Athletic uniforms are only to be worn for games. Special permission may be granted for certain situations.
4. All uniforms and equipment must be returned to the coach or Athletic Director within one week after the last game of the season. Post season awards may be withheld if an athlete has not returned his/her uniform. Any athletes who do not return uniforms and equipment will have the costs for replacement charged to his/her school bill. An athlete will not be allowed to participate in another sport until all overdue uniforms, equipment, and fees have been turned in.

Awards

1. Only athletes who finish the season on the team roster will be recognized at the athletic ceremony.
2. Middle School and Junior Varsity teams will award up to three individual recognitions for each sport. Varsity teams will award up to four individual recognitions for each sport. The categories and numbers of awards will be determined by the coach and Athletic Director. (NOTE: Any Varsity level team that finishes 1st or 2nd in their Conference or District may give one additional award. Middle School teams that finish first may give one additional award.)
3. A coach may choose from the following types of awards:
 - MVP
 - Offense Award
 - Defense Award
 - Mustang Award
 - Coach's Award
 - Outstanding Player
 - Hustle Award
 - Most Improved Player
 - Leadership Award
4. An Athlete of the Year Award will be presented to a high school male and female athlete who participates and excels in two or more sports during the school year. These two athletes will be selected by the Athletic Director with input from coaches and administration.
5. The highest honor to be given at the athletic ceremony will be the Christian Character Award. This award is given to a high school male and female who demonstrates leadership, a positive attitude, team spirit and sportsmanship both in athletics and around the school while maintaining a high standard of Christlikeness. These two athletes will be selected by the Athletic Director through input from GCS faculty, coaches and administration.

Non-Traditional Students

GCS can only accept students to participate in athletics who are home-schooled. GCS cannot accept students enrolled in full-time Florida Virtual, Charter, or collegiate/dual enrolled students.

If a home-schooled student would like to participate in GCS athletics, they must first set up an appointment with the Athletic Director before attending any practices.

Managers, Statisticians and Scorekeepers

1. All team managers, statisticians and scorekeepers must be approved by the athletic director.
2. All team managers, statisticians and scorekeepers must also adhere to the same dress code as stated in the student handbook including school uniform, or spirit shirt/hoodie with GCS uniform bottoms.
3. Any violation, whether in behavior or dress, may result in being removed from their responsibilities with the team.

Athletic Handbook Agreement

Athletes must return this form to their coach before they will be allowed to participate in their first scrimmage or game of the school year. This is only required once for each school year.

I have read and acknowledge the contents of the GCS Athletic Handbook.

Student Name (print) _____ Date: _____

Student Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent #1 Name (print) _____ Date: _____

Parent #1 Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent #2 Name (print) _____ Date: _____

Parent #2 Signature _____ Date: _____