

GUIDELINES FOR GCS SPORTS

PHILOSOPHY: Grace Christian School's philosophy, as it pertains to athletics, is to glorify God through proper speech, thoughts and actions in the spirit of good sportsmanship as our players, coaches and staff use their skills and talents to the best of their ability, not forsaking the blessings of the Lord. "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." (1 Cor 10:31). The Apostle Paul encourages the believer to run the Christian race the way athletes run a foot race- to win the race. Paul does not condemn the concept of winning but actually uses it as a model for the Christian life. "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever." (1 Cor 9:24-25). That being stated, there are certain guidelines that must be adhered to in order to achieve a successful season:

Students are encouraged to participate in team sports as part of their extra-curricular activities in achieving a well-rounded lifestyle. Joining a team is a commitment and a privilege and not a right. Games and practices are not optional.

STUDENTS:

- Students will be held accountable for maintaining a standard of proper Christian conduct on and off the court/course/field. Any student may be removed from the team for misconduct at the discretion of the administration.
- Students earning an "F" in any class, or less than a 2.0 GPA, on a quarterly report card will become ineligible to play a sport. Ineligible students may practice and attend meetings. Students need to pass all courses in the previous quarter and have at least a 2.0 GPA to play in games.
- Students failing classes during respective sports seasons will be required to attend homework help sessions after school prior to arriving at practice sessions. **Grades will be checked weekly or sooner at the option of the Athletic director.**
- Students who do not have their uniform/equipment on game day will not be permitted to travel with the team or sit the bench.
- Students who earn an ISS or OSS will not be permitted to participate in practice or games for the week they serve the ISS or OSS.
- Students must attend at least a half day (3½ hours) of school on game day or they will not travel with the team, suit up or sit the bench for that game.
- Students are encouraged to fully attend and fully participate in practice sessions. Attendance, academics, attitude, ability and effort are key considerations of coaches for court time during games.
- Students must bring money for their own meal for away games. Coaches will seek cost efficient dining options along the travel route.
- Students will contact their parents/guardians approximately 20-30 minutes prior to arriving back at GCS from away games. Please be prompt with student pick up. Repeated occurrences of coaches having to remain with students after games (home or away), or practice sessions for extended periods of time risk having their student(s) not participate in future games. If there is a transportation concern, please advise the coaches who will try to assist with reasonable accommodations, if possible.
- Students leaving with a designated parent/guardian from **ALL** games and practices **MUST** **have their parent/s** address their coach directly that they are leaving with their designated parent/guardian and the coach **MUST** be certain the student is leaving with a designated parent/guardian. **SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT!**

PARENTS:

- Parents/Guests are not permitted on the court/course/field during sanctioned sports events.
- Parents/Guests attending sanctioned sports events must be modestly dressed.
- Parents/Guests attending sanctioned sports events must conduct themselves appropriately.
- Parents are responsible for submitting accurate and timely participation waivers, proof of medical insurance and required FHSAA medical forms on behalf of their student/player.
- Parents/guardians with concerns regarding their students/players are welcome to express their concerns with the coaches at the beginning or end of practice sessions. Unless there is an EMERGENCY, before/after/during game time is not the appropriate time to address the coaches with concerns. **Any unresolved concerns should be addressed following the chain of command: first the coach, then athletic director then principal then the school committee.**
- Coaches must remain with students for 15 minutes after practice dismissal. Any students remaining will be sent to after care **and parents will be charged after-care fees.** If practice ends early the coach will remain with the student until the normal practice dismissal time to after care.