

# ATHLETICS

## **Philosophy**

The athletic program at Griffin Christian High School believes that every student-athlete should be given the opportunity to improve. Athletics should challenge students to become better athletes but most importantly better human beings. Through Christ's strength, the athletic program will strive to empower student-athletes to realize their potential.

## **Purpose**

Griffin Christian High School athletics serve to improve the overall qualities (physical, emotional and spiritual) of young men and women through athletic participation and competition so as to produce Godly leaders for the next generation. The coaches and Athletic Director serve the students in pursuing their dreams and goals on and off the field of play. This manual functions as a guide to accomplish this goal.

## **Core Values**

- **Character:** Be who you say you are
- **Excellence:** It is the little things that matter the most
- **Integrity:** Do what you said you were going to do
- **Loyalty:** Stand behind leadership and stand with each other

## **Athletic Programs**

GCHS athletic programs will be offered as follows, based on the level of interest:

### **Middle School**

#### **Fall**

Volleyball (Girls)  
Football (Boys)  
Cross Country (Boys, Girls)  
Softball (Girls)

#### **Winter**

Basketball (Boys & Girls)  
Cheerleading (Girls)

#### **Spring**

Baseball (Boys)  
  
Track (Boys & Girls)

### **High School**

#### **Fall**

JV Girls Volleyball  
Varsity Girls Volleyball  
  
Varsity Boys Football  
Varsity Cheerleading  
Varsity Cross Country  
Shooting Sports

#### **Winter**

Varsity Cheerleading  
JV Girls Basketball  
JV Boys Basketball  
Varsity Girls Basketball  
Varsity Boys Basketball  
Shotgun

#### **Spring**

Varsity Boys Baseball  
Varsity Girls Soccer  
Varsity Boys Soccer  
Varsity Track

## **Eligibility Requirements**

### **Middle School**

In order to participate in extracurricular activities, Middle School student/athletes must have passed five classes the previous semester. In order to continue participation once season begins student/athlete must not be failing in more than one class. Student/athlete grades will be checked every 4.5 weeks. A failing grade in one class will result in a two-week probationary period where participation can continue, but will be checked again at the end of two weeks to determine continued participation. If a student/athlete is failing more than one class the student/athlete will be ineligible for participation in practice and/or games of the current sport until grades resume passing status.

### **High School**

In order to participate in extracurricular activities, High School students must have passed five classes the previous semester. In order to continue participation once season begins student/athlete must not be failing in more than one class. Student/athlete grades will be checked every 4.5 weeks. A failing grade in one class will result in a two-week probationary period where participation can continue, but will be checked again at the end of two weeks to determine continued participation. If a student/athlete is failing more than one class the student/athlete will be ineligible for participation in practice and/or games of the current sport until grades resume passing status. Students who display attitude and/or behavioral problems may be disqualified from participating in sports, even though they may be academically eligible. The administrator reserves the right to suspend or remove from any team any student considered to be out of compliance with the philosophy or guidelines of the school.

### **Age**

A student is eligible to participate in Middle School athletics if the student is currently in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. If there are not enough students to field a team, eligibility may be opened up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at the discretion of the Athletic Director. The only exception to this at this time is C-Team Football.

A student is eligible to participate in High School athletics if the student has not turned 19 prior to May 1<sup>st</sup> and if the student has not completed eight consecutive semesters of participation (excluding 8<sup>th</sup> grade) preceding the year of participation.

### **Discipline**

A student is eligible to participate if the student is not currently under disciplinary action, which includes In School (ISS) or Out of School (OSS) Suspensions.

## **Try Outs**

At times sporting teams at GCHS require that students try out for a team. If a student misses try outs, participation will be determined based on a roster spot being available as well as the coach and athletic department deciding to allow late additions to rosters.

## **Athlete Participation**

Athletic participation is highly encouraged at GCHS. However, being a part of a team is not a right but rather a privilege. Those student-athletes who put forth the necessary effort, demonstrate a positive attitude, and possess the skills necessary to make the roster for any given sport will “make the team.” Anyone who is cut from a team is encouraged to try out again next season or to try another sport. Parents should expect that every student-athlete is treated fairly and given full consideration.

As mentioned, being a part of a team at GCHS is a privilege. Coaches will attempt to help improve every student-athlete who makes the team. Nevertheless, this does not mean that everyone will get equal playing time. The coach will determine who plays and will develop the individual players and the team physically and spiritually in order to develop the GCHS athletic program.

Any display of unsportsmanlike conduct, including profanity and taunting or gesturing toward an opponent, the crowd or an official is not tolerated whether an official infraction is issued or not. Disciplinary action will be taken against any student-athlete who displays unsportsmanlike conduct.

At the Varsity level, unsportsmanlike conduct resulting in ejection from a game will also result in disqualification from participation in the next game and a fine of \$50.00. Payment of this fine is the responsibility of the student-athlete and his/her parent/guardian.

## **Uniforms and Equipment**

Each student-athlete will be issued uniforms and equipment, which will be in good condition. Student-athletes are expected to keep up with and take care of their uniform and/or equipment while it is in their possession. If lost or abused, they will be charged for full replacement. Uniforms may only be worn for games or special events designated by the coach. Uniforms must be returned before a student-athlete receives a uniform for another sport, receives progress reports or report cards, or receives any awards. Further, uniforms must be returned laundered. In the event that the uniform has not been laundered, the student-athlete will be invoiced for cleaning.

## **School Attendance and Assignments**

Student-athletes are not to be tardy or absent to school the day after a game. Assignments that are due are not to be excused. Also, work that is missed because of early dismissal to participate in a game must be completed and returned as requested by the teacher. In order to participate in practice or a game, student-athletes must be present at school at least ½ of the school day.

## **Practice and Attendance**

Student-athletes are to be at all practices and games; however, we understand that some things come up that are unavoidable. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to inform his/her coach PERSONALLY (not sending word through a friend) when an occasion arises that will cause a missed practice or game. The student-athlete should produce something in writing, whether it is from a parent, doctor, etc., documenting the absence. The student-athlete has three days after he or she returns to the team to produce the documentation. If no documentation is produced, the student-athlete will receive disciplinary action for a missed practice per the coach's judgment.

## **Dress Code**

### **Practice**

Practice uniforms will be decided by each coach and the athletic department and will be mandatory to wear to each practice. Athletes not in approved practice attire will NOT be allowed to practice.

### **Away Games/Matches**

Team uniforms, semi-formal dress, or GCHS normal dress code is appropriate for travel (e.g. collared shirt, shirt and tie, khakis, dress pants, etc.)

### **Home Games/Matches**

Athletes may wear their jerseys for their respective sport. No Cheerleading skirts or other sport shorts during school hours. Other rules will be determined by specific coaches.

### **Athletic Banquet**

Athletes are to attend the banquet in school dress code attire. Any student-athlete who does not comply with this may not receive his or her award at the banquet.

## **Awards**

### **Lettering**

Qualifications for Letters

- A. Only varsity athletes in grades 9-12 are eligible to Letter.
- B. Any athlete who quits will not Letter.
- C. Any senior who participated in each of his years at GCHS will letter.
- D. Any athlete who loses eligibility because of discipline or grades will not Letter.
- E. Any athlete who is unable to play due to injury must have met the lettering fractional requirement before the injury and must support the team after the injury in order to Letter.

### **Lettering Requirements by Sport**

- A. Soccer – a player must have played in 1/3 of the season's periods to letter.
- B. Volleyball – a player must have played 1/3 of the season's sets to letter.
- C. Basketball – a player must have played in the same number of quarters as there were games to letter.
- D. Tennis – a player must have played in 1/3 of the number of season matches to letter.
- E. Baseball and Softball – a player must have played in 1/3 of the number of total innings for the season to letter.
- F. Cheerleading – a cheerleader must cheer in at least half of the games to letter.
- G. Football – a player must have played in the same number of quarters as there were games to letter.
- H. Golf – a player must have played in 1/3 of the number of season matches to letter.

### **End of Year Awards**

- A. Trophies –four awards will be given to members of each team. The awards and the recipients will be determined by the head Coach.
- B. Letters – the first time an athlete letters he/she will be given a certificate and pin indicating in which sport he/she lettered.
- C. Pins – if an athlete letters in more than one sport, he/she will get a pin for each sport.
- D. Bars – in subsequent years the athlete will get a bar for each year that he/she letters.
- E. Letter Jackets – Once an athlete letters, a letterman jacket can be ordered through T&G Allsports in Fayetteville, or through Herff Jones. You must present your certificate of letterman signed by the Athletic Director when ordering letterman jacket.
- F. The Crusader Award – this plaque is awarded each year to one

high school athlete and one middle school athlete following the guidelines described below:

1. This award will be given based on Christian Character Only.
2. Coaches will nominate one player from their team for the award.
3. Each teacher/faculty member will vote for one high school athlete and one middle school athlete on a ballot with the nominated athletes.

## **Transportation**

All athletes must travel in designated vehicles **to** away games/matches. If a parent or legal guardian wishes to take **their daughter/son home after the game**, the parent must inform the coach prior to leaving the sporting event. If a parent or guardian is **allowing his daughter/son to ride with someone else**, that parent must let the coach know in writing.

- Sitting on the backs of seats, horseplay or yelling out of windows is not Allowed.
- Boys sit with boys and girls sit with girls.
- No students are permitted to have hands, arms, feet, etc. outside of Windows.
- No one is permitted to throw anything out of the windows.
- Food and drink will be allowed on a bus/van only by permission of the coach. If allowed, the students are responsible for making sure the bus/van is clean.

## **Pick up Policy**

Parents are responsible for picking their student up from all practices and games. Coaches will let parents know in advance at what time the practice will be over. On away game days' students will give the parents an estimated time of arrival and then inform them when the bus is about 20min out. Coaches will stay with the students at the school until a parent arrives. Parents who are continually more than 10 minutes late for the designated pick up time, may result in the athlete not being allowed to travel.

## **Conduct**

On or off campus, conduct for a student-athlete should be representative of the code of ethics at Griffin Christian High School. Any behavior that conflicts with that code of ethics will be dealt with accordingly by the Coach, Athletic Director and Administration of Griffin Christian High School.

## Physical Exam and Medical Release

Any student participating in extracurricular activities is required to provide:

1. Annual Physical (Physician's clearance to participate in activities)
2. Medical Release Form (Parent's permission to participate in activities, insurance information, and permission to get medical attention as needed). The forms for the Physical and the Medical Release Forms are available on Sycamore or upon request. If you have any questions or need additional information, contact the Athletic Director. Both forms must be received by the Athletic Director prior to the first day of practice and are valid for the entire school year.

## Athletic Fees

Every student-athlete is required to pay an Athletic Fee per sport. The Athletic Fee must be paid prior first game or competition. No student will receive uniforms or be allowed to participate in athletic competitions unless the Athletic Fee has been paid.

Coaches will receive a signed document when payment and physicals are complete by the athletic Director stating the student is eligible to receive uniforms. **NO STUDENT IS ALLOWED TO RECEIVE UNIFORMS OR PARTICIPATE IN EVENTS UNTIL COACHES RECEIVE THIS DOCUMENT. The Athletic Fee is non-refundable, after the first game.**

The Athletic Fee for Middle School sports is \$180 per sport and \$255 for football. The Athletic Fee for High School sports is \$230 per sport and \$330 for football. The Athletic Fee for cheerleaders is \$180 per season or \$255 for multiple seasons (i.e. football and basketball). An additional uniform fee may be required for outdoor sports. When a student plays multiple sports in the same season, they pay the athletic fee for the sport that is the highest and will pay  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the fee for the second sport. For example, if a student plays football and runs cross country, they pay the fee for football and  $\frac{1}{2}$  the fee of cross country. There is no discount for multiple seasons except for cheerleading as listed.

## Dual Sport

An athlete may participate in multiply sports to help fill roster spots under the following conditions:

- They must declare a primary sport.
- They must pay athletic fees of the higher sport and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the secondary sport. This includes any uniform fees and must be paid no matter how many events he/she is able to participate in.
- Must have the approval of both coaches as well as the athletic department.
- Will not miss games and/or practices of the primary sport to participate in the secondary sport. (Unless secondary sport is competing in region or state play offs)

# **Alternative Education Student (AES) Athlete Policy**

## **Purpose**

To allow athletes that choose alternative education the opportunity to participate in sports activities here at Griffin Christian in the effort to grow and maintain a competitive sports program.

## **Goal**

To use AES athletes, if needed (not to exceed 50% of rosters), to fill teams that may be low in participation of currently enrolled students. If interest exceeds the number of spots needed by Alternative Education Students (AES) to fill a roster, then a tryout will be held for just the AES students.

## **Participants Expectations**

- All fees, medical release, and physical forms must be turned in to the GCHS athletic office prior to participation.
- AES athletes must submit birth certificates and report cards to the GCHS athletic office prior to participation.
- AES athletes must submit an updated progress report to the GCHS athletic office every 4 weeks.
- AES athletes must provide transportation to and from practice. They must ride to games on the bus with the team. They can be released to a parent after the game as long as the parent notifies the coach.
- AES athletes and Parent will read and sign the GC athletic manual, agreeing to adhere to the rules that govern all Griffin Christian athletes.
- AES athletes will comply with all rules and regulations regarding student behavior as stated in the Griffin Christian student handbook.

## **Fees**

AES athletes will pay the same athletic fee per sport as enrolled GC athletes pay plus \$100.00.all sports and \$200 for football An additional uniform fee will be required for most outdoor sports.

## **Sports**

Griffin Christian offers the following sports to AES students

- Football
- Volleyball
- Softball (Uniform Fee Required)
- Basketball
- Baseball (Uniform Fee Required)
- Soccer (Uniform Fee Required)
- Shooting
- Track/Cross Country (Uniform Fee Required)