



Student / Parent Athletic Handbook

2018-2019

I. Philosophy of Athletics

The goal of GCS Athletics is to encourage students to grow spiritually and develop athletically as they learn life lessons through GCS sports.

Middle School Athletics

1. To facilitate personal growth of relationship in Christ through the avenue of athletics.
2. To develop the character of middle school athletes through team sports.
3. Tryouts will be announced to students and parents at least two weeks in advance.
4. The coach and assistant coach, if applicable, in consultation with the Middle School Athletic Director, will choose teams that require tryouts. Team selection will be based on an athlete's skill, aptitude, and coach-ability.
5. Team focus will be on presenting Christ through each event, teaching concepts of team play, and the fundamentals of each sport.
6. Although coaches will try to allow game participation for all athletes, equal playing time for middle school participants is not guaranteed.
7. Athletes in eighth-grade may be permitted to participate on high school teams with the recommendation of the coach and approval by the Athletic Director and Principal. In rare cases, an athlete in seventh-grade may be moved to high school level play.

High School Athletics

1. To facilitate personal growth of relationship in Christ through the avenue of athletics.
2. To develop the character of high school athletes through team sports.
3. Tryouts will be announced to students and parents at least two weeks in advance.
4. Teams that require tryouts will be chosen by the coach and assistant coach, if applicable, in consultation with the High School Athletic Director. Team selection will be based on an athlete's skill, aptitude, and coach-ability.
5. Team focus will be on presenting Christ through each event, advanced concepts of team play, and the fundamentals of each sport.
6. Coaches will determine playing time for individual athletes, with equal playing time (or any playing time at all) not guaranteed.

II. Athletic Eligibility, Qualifications, and Guidelines

Academic Qualifications

In order to be eligible to tryout and participate in co-curricular athletic activities, a student should have an overall GPA of 2.0 or better and passing all core subjects (Math, Science, English, History, Bible, and Foreign Language). The end-of-year GPA will determine the following fall and winter sports eligibility. The first semester's GPA of the current school year will determine eligibility for spring sports.

*The school does not hold openings on teams for athletes who are academically ineligible at tryouts. **Students who are academically ineligible during tryouts will be considered ineligible for the duration of the season for that sport.***

Student athletes whose previous year's GPA falls below 2.0 will be re-evaluated for winter sports eligibility based on their report card for first marking period (minimum of 2.0 GPA and not failing a core subject).

Once the student has made the team, if he falls below the GPA requirement or is failing a core subject at the end of a marking period, he will have three weeks in which to bring his GPA to a 2.0 or better and to bring a failing grade up to a passing level. During these three weeks the student will be expected to be at all practices and games but will not be allowed to participate in the games. Any student not able to meet this standard will be ineligible to practice or play for the duration of that particular sport season.

Enrollment Qualifications

A student must be enrolled at Gaston Christian School in order to try out for a team. Exceptions may be made by the respective Middle School or High School Athletic Director for a new student whose enrollment is in process but not completed by the tryout date.

Attendance Qualifications

A regular pattern of school absenteeism may negate eligibility to try out for and participate in GCS athletic activities as determined by the respective Middle or High School Principal and Athletic Director.

Conduct Qualifications

As stated in the discipline policy of GCS, a student placed on disciplinary probation may not try out, play, or practice co-curricular sports for the semester or the term of their probation, whichever is longer.

Assignment of a 3rd ASD and/or a DRS (Discipline Referral Slip) during a semester will result in the student's removal from the team.

Students who demonstrate unsportsmanlike conduct before, during, or after a game may be dismissed from the team and/or may be subject to other disciplinary action.

Unsportsmanlike conduct at athletic events by a parent or student may result in being denied the privilege of attendance at athletic functions.

Students on suspension are prohibited from attending or participating in after-hours school activities until the suspension has been served. If the activity is primary of a spiritual nature, the principal may grant permission.

Physicals

All athletes who are trying out for a sport must have a current physical on file in the Athletic Director's office. A current physical is valid for one calendar year from the date of the physician (MD/DO/PA/NP) on the sports physical form. Failure to have a current physical on file will cause the student to be denied the opportunity to try out for the sport. If a student's physical expires during the sport's season, a new physical must be obtained prior to continued participation after the expiration of the physical or the student forfeits his/her eligibility to participate.

Attendance at Events

When a student commits to a team, he/she is expected to attend all awards programs and all practices and games of that team. Absences can make a student ineligible to participate in the given sport. Students serving an after-school detention that falls on a game day will be required to serve that detention and miss the game if necessary.

Team Commitment

Participating in two team sports in the same season can be very demanding for some athletes. If an athlete chooses to play on two teams (GCS/Club), the athlete, parents, and GCS coach should meet to discuss the commitment that is expected for the GCS team.

Attendance at School

A student must be in school by the **beginning of third period** of that school day to participate in any athletic or extracurricular activity or event; students must have attended at least 6 of the 8 class periods in order to participate in athletic or extracurricular events and must be present for 7th and 8th periods in order to participate in athletic events. Students who have early dismissal documentation on file in the high school office may leave after 7th period. Students absent from the entire school day are ineligible to participate in athletic events or other student activities on that day unless administration approved the absence in advance.

Dress Code Guidelines

- Athletes are required to be in school dress code at all times.
- On games days, athletes are permitted to wear their team jersey or other approved team apparel.
- Chapel dress is required on chapel days.
- Sweat pants or wind suit pants are not allowed at any time during the school day.
- Athletic Director must approve of all team apparel before it can be purchased and worn to school or any school-sponsored activity.
- Orders for team apparel/equipment (outside the scope of what GCS provides) must be pre-paid by the athlete before order is placed.

Team Discipline Guideline

At no time will a team have a disciplinary practice or work out following a game.

III. Administrative Organization

Gaston Christian School believes that following the chain of command is imperative for a successful program. Conflict resolution should follow the principle of Matthew 18:15 of going to the person directly first. If no resolution is achieved, the conflict should be taken to the next level by both parties. GCS is organized as follows:

- A. Board of Trustees
- B. Head of School
- C. Principal
- D. Athletic Director
- E. Head Coach
- F. Assistant Coach

IV. Affiliation

- A. NCISAA – Gaston Christian is a member of the North Carolina Independent School Athletic Association which oversees interscholastic athletics between private schools in North Carolina. Gaston Christian abides by the by-laws, rules, and regulations set by the NCISAA.
- B. MAC – Gaston Christian is a member of the Metrolina Athletic Conference, which is comprised of private schools in the Charlotte area. Members abide by conference schedules, by-laws, rules, and regulations. Current conference schools are Concord First Assembly Academy, Gaston Christian School, Gaston Day School, Hickory Grove Christian School, Metrolina Christian Academy, Northside Christian School, Southlake Christian Academy, and Westminster Catawba Christian School.

V. Interscholastic Athletics

A. Fall Sports

- 1. Cross Country
Co-Ed Varsity (7 – 12)
Co-Ed Middle School (6-8)
- 2. Golf
Girls Varsity (7-12)
- 3. Soccer
Boys Varsity (9 – 12)
Boys Middle School (6 – 8)
- 4. Tennis
Girls Varsity (9 – 12)
Girls Middle School (6-8)
- 5. Volleyball
Girls Varsity (9 – 12)
Girls Junior Varsity (8-10)
Girls Middle School (6 – 8)

B. Winter Sports

- 1. Basketball
Girls Varsity (9 – 12)
Boys Varsity (9 – 12)
Boys Junior Varsity (9 – 10)
Girls Middle School (6 – 8)
Boys Middle School (6 – 8)
- 2. Cheerleading
Varsity (9 – 12)
Middle School (6 – 8)
- 3. Swimming
Co-Ed Varsity (7-12)
Co-Ed Middle School (6-8)

C. Spring Sports

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. Baseball | Boys Varsity (9 – 12)
Boys Middle School (6 – 8) |
| 2. Golf | Boys Varsity (7 – 12) |
| 3. Soccer | Girls Varsity (9 – 12)
Girls Middle School (6 – 8) |
| 4. Softball | Girls Varsity (9 – 12)
Girls Middle School (6 – 8) |
| 5. Tennis | Boys Varsity (9 – 12)
Boys Middle School (6-8) |
| 6. Track / Field | Co-Ed Varsity (7-12)
Co-Ed Middle School (6-8) |

VI. Guidelines for Practices

Guidelines for Practices

Varsity teams may practice on Wednesdays; practices must end **by 5:30p.m.** Scheduling of Saturday practices is at the discretion of the coach.

Middle School teams will not have Wednesday practices; Saturday practices are at the discretion of the coach.

In no case will any practice or game be scheduled on a Sunday.

VII. Protocol for Purchasing/Expenses

1. Athletic Purchasing

- Gaston Christian School operates a purchase order system, overseen by the Business Manager.
- Advanced written authorization is required in order to purchase materials or supplies for the athletic program. See HS Athletic Director for purchase order requests.
- Important note: Receipts submitted without a pre-approved purchase order signed by the Athletic Director will not be reimbursed by the school.
- Orders for team apparel/equipment (outside the scope of what GCS provides) must be pre-paid by the athlete before the order is placed.

2. Athletic Fundraisers/Solicitations

- All requests for fundraisers (such as those for sports, clubs, etc.) should be submitted in writing to the Head of School's Office for approval (via the Athletic Director) well in advance of the fundraiser. Fundraisers are not to be conducted for any purpose without the prior approval and will be evaluated with other school fundraising opportunities in process.
- This policy also applies to the solicitation of gifts (monetary or "in-kind"); these may not be conducted without the prior approval of the Head of School.

3. Expenses Accrued for Tournament Play

a. Pre-season and regular season tournaments

- GCS will pay hotel, gas expense, and a \$25.00 per day food allotment for coaches (limited to coaches officially secured (and/or approved) by the Athletic Director).
- Athletes will cover personal expenses for hotel and food.

b. State Tournaments

- GCS will pay hotel, gas, and a \$25.00 per day food allotment for coaches (limited to coaches officially secured by the Athletic Director).
- GCS will pay hotel for athletes; athletes cover food expenses.
- GCS will reimburse up to \$15.00 per athlete and coach for a “celebratory/victory” meal following a state tournament championship; event must be pre-approved by Athletic Director and High School Principal.

b. State championship rings

- In the event that a team wins a state championship, GCS will contribute toward the cost of a championship ring for each player and coach.
- The Athletic Director and the head coach will coordinate selection and ordering of the rings.

b. Expenses Accrued for Coaches’ Clinics

- GCS will pay the registration fee for one clinic per coach per year.

VII. Physical/Sexual Abuse Prevention Policy

GCS Employment Screening Policy

In order to provide as safe and secure an environment as possible for Gaston Christian School and to minimize vulnerability of the school’s employees and volunteers to unwarranted accusation, the following procedures have been adopted and will be strictly enforced.

Employee and Volunteer Screening Procedures

1. Prior to consideration for a position, candidates will complete and return a GCS application. GCS uses applications for the following categories of employment or for volunteers: teacher, staff, substitute teacher, coaches, and volunteer.
2. The application will be carefully reviewed by an administrator to make certain that the candidate is appropriate for the position.
3. If the person appears to be appropriate for employment at GCS, then at least two references will be checked to confirm the information provided on the application.
4. Any information indicating that a candidate poses a threat to others or has any prior history of physical or sexual abuse directed against another person will result in the immediate removal of the candidate from consideration for the position.
5. A criminal background check will be performed through a state law enforcement agency to confirm no prior abuse or criminal record with the candidate.

Notice of Injury, Abuse, or Molestation

1. Employees or volunteers who become aware of any injury, abuse, or molestation connected with any school activity will immediately inform an administrator of such injury, abuse or molestation.

2. Any administrator who becomes aware of any injury, abuse, or molestation connected with any school activity will immediately inform the Head of School of such injury, abuse, or molestation and will complete a GCS Injury Form or a GCS Abuse Form.
3. When the Head of School becomes aware of possible abuse or molestation of a student or employee, the Head of School will ensure that the student's parent or guardian is immediately informed that possible abuse or molestation has occurred or will direct the employee in a proper course of action. The Head of School will also confer with GCS legal counsel promptly to provide a written opinion as to whether the school should report the abuse or molestation to law enforcement authorities. The written opinion should be obtained within 24 hours of when the Head of School first becomes aware of the abuse or molestation, and the attorney's advice should be followed. If the attorney recommends that an incident be reported, the advice should be acted upon immediately.
4. Upon notice of abuse or molestation, the school's insurance carrier, (general or professional liability insurance) must be promptly notified, as well as the GCS Board of Trustees.

Violation of Policy or Procedures

1. Employees or volunteers must promptly notify an administrator of any activity undertaken on their own behalf or by others that violates this policy or procedures.
2. Any administrator who becomes aware of a violation of the policy or procedures will take all necessary steps to ensure future compliance with the policy and procedures by employees or volunteers and will remove the employee or volunteer from their position if such removal is warranted or if the employee or volunteer poses a potential threat to others.

Internal Investigation

1. Any allegation of abuse or molestation will be taken seriously and will be investigated by GCS administration.
2. Any employee of the school who is the subject of an investigation will be removed from their position, with pay, pending completion of the investigation (unless the employee has admitted to the abuse or molestation), in which case they will be terminated in accordance with GCS policy.
3. Any volunteer who is the subject of any investigation will be removed from their position pending completion of the investigation.

Dealing with Law Enforcement / Media

1. All school employees and volunteers will cooperate fully with any law enforcement or governmental agency that may be investigating allegations of injury, abuse, or molestation in connection with activities of the school.
2. The Head of School or an appointed administrator will be the designated spokesperson following notice of any abuse or molestation in connection with activities of the school. He/she will be the only person to convey information concerning the situation and (to avoid compromising any ongoing investigation) will convey only such information as is necessary under the circumstances.

Student Safety

Gaston Christian School, being concerned about the safety of our students, sets forth these additional statements on preventing sexual abuse:

- Sexual abuse is any contact or interaction (visual, verbal or psychological) between a child/adolescent and an adult when the child/adolescent is being used for the sexual stimulation of the perpetrator or any other person. Sexual abuse may also be committed by a person under the age of eighteen when that person is either significantly older than the victim or when the perpetrator is in a position of power or control over the victimized child/adolescent.
- Because of God's command to be holy and to live godly lives, any sexually abusive behavior, verbal or nonverbal, even in humor, is inappropriate. The sensitivity of our culture to issues of sexual harassment and abuse makes our obedience especially relevant. Such behavior, if observed in the confines of our school, will cause immediate corrective action.

- The “two adult” rule regarding supervision of activities of children shall be followed. This rule requires that adults are never alone with a single student without an adult partner or never alone with a student in an area that is not easily observable by others in the school.
- The “two adult” rule will be adhered to when transporting children to and from school activities. When children must be picked up by one adult, there should be more than one child in the vehicle (i.e. pick them up in groups), and then only with parental consent.
- Supervision of students should always take place in areas that are easily subject to random checks by others, including parents and school administration.
- GCS employees or volunteers are never to spank, hit, grab, shake, or otherwise physically discipline a student. Disciplinary problems should be reported to an administrator.
- Elementary children should be supervised on trips to hallway bathrooms, but the teacher should remain outside of the bathroom. If it is necessary to accompany a child into the bathroom, the stall door should be left ajar.
- Each classroom door will have a window and in no case will the window be covered making observation into the room impossible.
- Older students should be restricted from using restrooms of significantly younger students during the school day.
- Any observations of situations concerning a child who may have been physically, sexually, or emotionally abused or neglected or who may have been the victim of inappropriate behavior must be reported to your administrator or to the Head of School.



STUDENT ATHLETE/PARENT COVENANT

I, _____, as a member of the Gaston Christian School Athletic Program, agree to abide by the following:

- A. I agree to abide by the rules and regulations established by the North Carolina Independent School Athletic Association, Metrolina Athletic Conference, Gaston Christian School, Athletic Director, and coaching staff at all practices and events. I am aware that if I fail to abide by any rules or fail to live up to my responsibility as a student athlete of Gaston Christian School, I am liable to be dropped from the team immediately, sent home from whatever event in which I am involved, and may not be considered for future participation.
- B. I will present the proper appearance, both in and out of uniform, when I represent Gaston Christian School. When in uniform, I will wear the Gaston Christian name with pride and perform to honor Christ in all my actions. I understand that it is my responsibility to have my uniform at all contests, clean and neat, and present a good appearance to my opponent.
- C. I will conduct myself at all times on and off the field with respect and dignity. I will treat my opponent and officials with the same respect and dignity that I demand of myself. I will not use obscene language, engage in any physical confrontations, or participate in any drugs including alcohol and tobacco while participating as a member of the Gaston Christian School Athletic Program.
- D. I agree to attend all practices, scrimmages, games, tournaments, and award ceremonies scheduled by Gaston Christian School. In the event that I cannot attend the contest, I will notify my coach as early as possible and secure an excused absence from the activity. I understand that unexcused absences from games or practices may result in disciplinary action and even dismissal from the team.
- E. I understand there are risks of injury associated with playing sports and agree to void harmless Gaston Christian School along with its agents, employees, directors, officers, and assigns from and against each and every liability, loss, cost, damage, and expense, including attorney's fees, which may be incurred as a result of any GCS athletic game, activity, practice, contest, or event that takes place at any location approved by GCS.
- F. I understand that my student athlete will not be allowed to drive him / her self after an injury.

Player's Signature: _____

Date: _____

I, _____, as parent(s) of _____ agree to abide by the following:

- A. I will resolve concerns with the appropriate coach before taking any other action.
- B. I will expect and instruct my student athlete to respect the coach and his/her authority. I will support the decisions that the coaches make.
- C. I will treat officials with respect and understand that their decisions will be questioned only by the coaches.
- D. When possible, I will help assume team responsibilities (transportation, gate, concessions, etc...).

Parent's Signature: _____

Coach's Signature: _____

Athletic Director's Initials: _____



Gaston Christian School
1625 Lowell Bethesda Road
Gastonia, NC 28056

Photo Release

Gaston Christian School, a private Christian school located in Gastonia, NC, uses a variety of media to promote both our school and community awareness of our school. Media used may include brochures, annual reports, newsletters, internet website, etc.

Your signature below provides consent for GCS to use pictures or digital images of you or your family on GCS media.

GCS commits to you that these images will not be sold or used for any purpose other than GCS purposes.

Employee Name (Please Print)

Date

Employee Signature



Gaston Christian School
 1625 Lowell Bethesda Road
 Gastonia, NC 28056

Waiver of Release
For Transporting GCS Students

GCS Parents,

During the course of each school year, there are times when parents provide transportation to and from extracurricular activities. The purpose of this form is not to assign liability in the event of an accident but to communicate your approval for your son or daughter to ride with or provide transportation for another GCS parent.

I understand the implications of students riding with other parents/students to GCS events, and give permission for my child to ride with or provide transportation for students listed below.

Parent or Legal Guardian (Print)

Date

Parent or Legal Guardian (Signature)

Student Name (Print)

My son or daughter is permitted to ride with the following team parents or student drivers: (List all parents or students who may drive.)

Event(s) for which you are allowing permission (i.e., Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Cheerleading, Softball, Golf, Baseball, etc.)

OFFICE USE:

- Please copy completed forms to appropriate coach or advisor, and keep one copy on file.