

GHS ATHLETIC POLICY

Mission Statement, Code of Conduct, Athletic Clearance, Sportsmanship & Behavior

MISSION STATEMENT:

The athletic program of Gilroy High School is a dynamic, integral part of the educational experience. It provides meaningful learning opportunities not otherwise offered in the school classroom curriculum. It assists in developing habits, attitudes, and ideals necessary for ethical competition and cooperation in our society. It also provides our students with life-long lessons for personal growth such as sportsmanship, teamwork, ethical behavior, perseverance, commitment, loyalty, self discipline, pride, cooperation, responsibility, and leadership skills.

Interscholastic athletics is enjoyable with the purpose of benefiting students, not the institutions. Winning at all costs is not a part of anyone's philosophy. A wide variety of wholesome activities are available and tailored to the physical, mental, and emotional maturity level of the participants. The best possible staff and facilities available are a concern to those in charge of programs servicing our youth. Students are encouraged to explore a particular sport of his/her interest regardless of ability level.

Athletics assists in the development of fellowship and goodwill, and encourages the qualities of good citizenship. It plays an important role in developing a healthy self-image as well as a healthy body. Athletics also contribute to school/community spirit and pride.

Sportsmanship is the top priority of interscholastic athletics at Gilroy High School. Commitment to fair play, integrity, and a genuine empathy for others is to be taught and practiced as we strive to make a difference.

Competition and cooperation are prized in our culture, and both are fostered by a well conducted athletic program under competent leadership.

Interscholastic athletics is a voluntary program. Thus, competition is a privilege and not a right. Along with that privilege is the responsibility to conform to standards established for the Gilroy High School athletic teams. This privilege may be revoked when the athlete fails or refuses to comply with the rules.

The ultimate goal of the Gilroy High School athletics program is to foster the value of participation without overemphasizing the importance of winning and to improve positive citizenship traits among the program's participants. The program constantly strives to develop well-rounded individuals capable of taking their place in society.

CODE OF CONDUCT - ATHLETE/PARENT GUARDIAN:

Interscholastic athletic competition should demonstrate high standards of ethics, sportsmanship and promote the development of good character and other important life skills. The highest potential of sports is achieved when participants are committed to pursuing victory with honor according to six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good

citizenship (the "Six Pillars of Character"). This Code applies to all student-athletes involved in interscholastic sports in California. I understand that, in order to participate in high school athletics, I must act in accord with the following:

TRUSTWORTHINESS:

Integrity:

Live up to high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor; do what's right even when it's unpopular or personally costly.

Honesty:

Live and compete honorably; don't lie, cheat, steal or engage in any other dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct.

Reliability:

Fulfill commitments; do what I say I will do; be on time to practices and games.

Loyalty:

Be loyal to my school and team; put the team above personal glory.

RESPECT:

Class:

Live and play with class; be a good sport; be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity give fallen opponents help, compliment extraordinary performance, show sincere respect in pre- and post-game rituals.

Respectful Game Play:

Don't engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks of a sexual or racial nature, trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.

Respect Officials:

Treat contest officials with respect; don't complain about or argue with official calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Importance of Education:

Be a student first and commit to getting the best education I can. Be honest with myself about the likelihood of getting an athletic scholarship or playing on a professional level and remember that many universities will not recruit student-

athletes that do not have a serious commitment to their education, the ability to succeed academically or the character to represent their institution honorably.

Role-Modeling:

Remember, participation in sports is a privilege, not a right and that I am expected to represent my school, coach and teammates with honor, on and off the field. Consistently exhibit good character and conduct yourself as a positive role model. Suspension or termination of the participation privilege is within the sole discretion of the school administration.

Self-Control:

Exercise self-control; don't fight or show excessive displays of anger or frustration; have the strength to overcome the temptation to retaliate.

Healthy Lifestyle:

Safeguard your health; don't use any illegal or unhealthy substances including alcohol, tobacco and drugs or engage in any unhealthy techniques to gain, lose or maintain weight.

Integrity of the Game:

Protect the integrity of the game; don't gamble. Play the game according to the rules.

FAIRNESS:

Be Fair:

Live up to high standards of fair play; be open-minded; always be willing to listen and learn.

Responsibility:

Take responsibility for your actions; don't blame others recklessly.

CARING:

Concern for Others:

Demonstrate concern for others; never intentionally injure any player or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to myself or others.

Teammates:

Help promote the well-being of teammates by positive counseling and encouragement or by reporting any unhealthy or dangerous conduct to coaches.

CITIZENSHIP:

Play by the Rules:

Maintain a thorough knowledge of and abide by all applicable game and competition rules.

Spirit of Rules:

]Honor the spirit and the letter of rules; avoid temptations to gain competitive advantage through improper gamesmanship techniques that violate the highest traditions of sportsmanship.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY:

Gilroy High School recognizes athletics as integral parts of the overall school culture, contributing greatly to a student's complete educational development. As such, we believe that all students should have an opportunity to participate in athletics and that such participation should encourage positive scholastic and social growth. Both the participant and the sport itself should be a credit to Gilroy High School and the community.

The Gilroy Unified School District realizes that an effective athletic program is a product of the responsible cooperation among its four major contributors: the student, the staff, the site/district administration, and the parents of the student.

The Gilroy High School staff expects the participants to develop a personal code of conduct consistent with the values of sportsmanship, scholarship, integrity, and commitment to oneself and team. The following rules are the basic requirements for participation in athletics at Gilroy High School.

You are considered a representative of Gilroy High School by your participation. As such, you are expected to maintain exemplary behavior and citizenship at all times. As a participant in athletics at Gilroy High School, your conduct is covered by this policy. In this policy, the term coach and advisor are interchangeable.

The Students Involved in Activities Below Shall Be Governed By This Policy:

Student-Athletes

Cheerleaders

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

From the date first enrolled in high school, a student can only compete in athletics for eight consecutive semesters (4 years).

No student whose 19th birthday is attained prior to June 15th shall participate or practice on any athletic team in the following school year.

RESIDENTIAL ELIGIBILITY:

The California Interscholastic Federation requires that students who participate on an athletic team generally must be living with parents or legal guardians who reside within the school's attendance boundaries. All exceptions to this rule require that the CIF Section Commissioner give special permission and that forms and letters of approval be on file before a student can be declared eligible. Questions about these exceptions should be addressed to the athletic director or the administrator in charge of athletics.

Because the penalty for allowing an ineligible athlete to participate is severe (the team must forfeit all the contests in which the athlete participated), any athlete living outside the school's attendance area must notify his/her coach of his/her residence at the beginning of the season so that the coach can make sure that all the appropriate forms and approvals are on file. In addition, **any student who has not attended Gilroy High since the beginning of their Freshman year should notify their coach immediately.**

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY:

To encourage and promote academic excellence, all students participating in sports and activities shall demonstrate satisfactory minimum progress in meeting the requirements of graduation by undertaking the prescribed course of study and meeting the standards of proficiency established by the CIF and the District.

In order to emphasize the importance of academic achievement, the following constitute minimum requirements for student participation in athletics and student activities:

A grade point average of "C" (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) in all classes and **no** grades of "F" "I" or "NM". The student must receive a passing grade in all classes per grading period.

No more than 5 credits per class will be counted.

Students new to GUSD will be held to state eligibility standards, excluding probationary provisions, until the first grading period.

He/she may not receive more than one (1) "Needs Improvement" or "N" in citizenship in a grading period.

Eligibility will be checked each quarter. Should an individual fall below the above requirements, the student will not be eligible for participation in athletics/activities during the next nine-week grading period.

A grading period will constitute an eligibility period. The grade issued at the end of each quarter and semester will be used to determine eligibility.

All transfer students outside the district must also meet eligibility requirements as well as CIF requirements in order to participate.

Students are not declared “eligible” or “ineligible” until the computer printout is issued (approximately one week after each quarter ends).

Summer School grades will be counted in computing a student’s GPA provided summer school classes meet the matching requirements for grade improvement. **Summer School grades may not necessarily improve eligibility.**

Students accumulating 3 or more days of suspension will be **immediately ineligible for the next six weeks. This includes participation and practice.**

The Athletic Director or designee will clear all students involved in athletics after meeting the eligibility requirements.

Students must have all fines and obligations cleared in the Bookroom before being cleared for athletics.

SUMMARY:

The foregoing abbreviated statements of eligibility requirements are offered for general understanding of such regulations. For a more complete understanding of these requirements you can refer to the Athletics page of the School website at www.gilroyhs.gilroyunified.org or the complete CIF bylaws available on the CIF web site at www.cifstate.org If you have specific questions please refer them to the Athletic Director. As stated, the rules apply to all students regardless of athletic ability or age. Circumstances may arise which give the appearance of unfairness, may result in a student not being able to do something they badly want to do, and may cause families to become upset over the requirements as they apply to their family members. Each requirement for athletic eligibility serves an important purpose and has been established based upon prior and current need to insure that our programs meet the educational objectives set for them. Shading the rules, inconsistent enforcement, or less than candid statements of fact, are inimitable to the education of our students and will not be condoned by professional educators and concerned citizens.

Participation in high school athletics is a **privilege**, not a property right, as has been determined consistently in courts of law throughout the United States. That privilege is subject to regulation by the representatives of the various schools and districts of the State of California. Each such representative has been appointed by the school board having jurisdiction over member schools, and acts on behalf of all students in the state.

ATHLETIC CLEARANCE:

No student will be allowed to practice or participate until the following have been completed:

Satisfactorily pass a complete physical examination by an M.D. dated after June 15th of the upcoming school

year. The "Physician Statement" **MUST** be signed by the physician and be **stamped** at the physician's office.

Complete the Emergency/Consent Form

Obtain clearance from the bookroom (signature on the Emergency/Consent Form).

PRINT the Printed signature page from your email, **BOTH** the parent and student athlete need to sign this form.

GUSD is participating in the Mandatory ImPACT testing of all athletes. The ImPACT test addresses the need for an accurate, medically accepted assessment system that is used as part of an overall concussion management protocol and is a part of the GUSD Athlete return to play protocol following a concussion. Each athlete needs to take a baseline test every two years. The testing is free and is done online in a GUSD computer lab under the supervision of Head Athletic Trainer Casey Lester.

Return the following to the Student Activities Office:

Completed/**stamped** physical form

Completed Emergency/Consent Form

Completed signature page from the online signatures

ATTENDANCE:

Regular attendance at practice is mandatory unless excused for medical reasons or by arrangement with the coach of your sport.

Non-attendance at school on the day of a game prohibits you from participating in an athletic contest. (Unless absence is school related. i.e. field trips)

Athletes **must be in school for 2 /3 of the school day**, which they are enrolled unless excused by the administration. Absence from one or more blocks on the day of an event may result in the athlete's non-participation in the sporting event on that day.

If a contest is held on a non-school day, the student must attend a full day of school the school day prior to the contest unless excused by the administration.

Unexcused absences from practice, or failure to maintain good attendance, may be cause for removal from the team.

Note: Coaches may adopt individual rules for practice and contest attendance.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

Participants are expected to:

Abide by the principles outlined in the “Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Student-Athletes.”

Help us make visitors feel welcome with friendly and courteous treatment.

Accept the rules of the contest, decisions of the officials, and directions from personnel on duty with a positive and cooperative spirit.

Be friendly and positive with their behavior, including comments and gestures.

Refrain from rude remarks, insults, profanity or comments that reflect negatively on any person's race, sex, religion, ethnic origin, age, handicap, school community or esteem.

Accept victory and defeat graciously.

Take care of all athletic equipment.

CITIZENSHIP:

Participants are expected to maintain excellent citizenship (behavior). Individual behavior standards should be of the highest quality so as not to adversely reflect on their teams or school, including behavior in classes, rallies, assemblies, athletic events, and in the community.

GENERAL BEHAVIOR:

It is the coach's responsibility to be familiar with the GUSD student behavior manual and enforce all school rules at all times.

It is the coach's responsibility to see that every athlete understands the training rules, violations, and eligibility requirements enforced by the CIF, CCS, PCAL, and GUSD. The rules that follow are considered minimum standards of conduct for all GUSD athletic participants. Each coach shall uphold these standards for training and behavior. It is required that all coaches submit team rules/consequences to the Athletic Director prior to the beginning of the season.

Specific offenses including, but not limited to, the following list of infractions will result in disciplinary action:

Disrupting school activities or otherwise defies the valid authority of school personnel

Commits an obscene act, engaging in profanity, vulgar behavior, threats or harassment

Possession of an object of no reasonable use to a pupil at school

Damage or defacing of school, public or private property

Habitual truancy and/or tardiness from one or more classes or practice

Violation of sportsmanship/citizenship standards

Disrespectful behavior toward coaches, school officials, teachers, campus supervisors, referees, law enforcement officers, other adults in position of authority, or individual members of the team

Constant talking when being instructed, challenging authority or talking about other members of the team in a derogatory manner

Possession or use of alcohol

Possession or use of controlled substances (drugs), including steroids, other than those which are medically prescribed

Possession of drug paraphernalia

Possession of tobacco, including chewing tobacco

Hazing

Gambling

Causes or attempts to cause physical injury to another person (fighting, etc.)

Possession of a dangerous object/weapon or imitation firearm

Attempts or commits theft or receives stolen property

Harassing, threatening or intimidating a witness

Commission of a serious crime

Commits or attempts to commit robbery/extortion

Sale of a controlled substance

Offered, arranged or negotiated to sell any "look alike" controlled substance, or sold any "look alike" substance

Brandishing a weapon

Assault or battery resulting in serious injury or damage

Possessing, selling or furnishing a firearm

Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing a sexual battery

Causes or attempts to cause, or participates in an act of hate violence

Terrorist threats against the school or school personnel

School personnel may use one or more of the following approaches, not necessarily in the order listed, in maintaining team discipline and in support of the athletic rules and regulations:

Reprimand

Conference with the athlete

Conference with the athlete and:

Parent

School personnel

Team members

Community representatives

Law enforcement agents

Or any appropriate combination of the above

Suspension from the:

Next scheduled contest(s) of the athletic activity

Days of eligibility for determining length of suspension from sports and activities are defined as school days excluding weekends and holidays. The day is counted if a game or scheduled team practice is held on a weekend or holiday.

Team for the balance of the season of the athletic activity

Loss of Athletic / Activity privileges for one year

Loss of Athletic / Activity privileges for the remainder of their high school career

An athlete may be suspended or expelled from athletic participation for off-campus conduct which is detrimental to the welfare of the school or athletic activity, or which adversely affects school or team discipline. Lesser forms of discipline may be imposed. School officials and coaches, in cooperation with a representative from a law enforcement agency, when involved, and the athlete's parents shall take measures which appropriately serve the best interests of the district, the school, the team, and the athlete.

It should be noted that the Gilroy High School Discipline Policies would always take precedence over the GHS Athletic Policy

Note: Violations of the Gilroy High School Athletic Policy accumulate throughout a student's high school career beginning with the first sport or activity participation.

While the consequences provided by this policy are meant to deter negative behavior, there is a strong emphasis on remediation activities that will help students learn from their mistakes. The involvement of all appropriate school personnel to assist in this process is stressed. All students participating in extracurricular activities shall abide by the rules at all times including school vacations, weekends, and non-school hours.

MISCELLANEOUS BEHAVIOR:

Athletic Awards:

An athlete must be in good standing, academically eligible and a member of a team for an entire season (unless he/she is a transfer student) if he/she is to be eligible to receive an athletic award or block.

Dress/Grooming Policy:

A student participating as a member of a Gilroy High School athletic team or activity covered by this policy is regarded as a representative of the high school. The student's grooming is, therefore, a concern. Coaches will be responsible for

determining the standards for his/her sport or activity. On the day or night of an activity, each participant shall dress as directed by the coach.

Participation in Concurrent Sports:

A student may participate in two sports concurrently if he/she has the written consent of both coaches. The student must designate a primary sport. If a conflict occurs in scheduled events, the primary sport prevails.

Proper Uniforms:

Athletes must wear uniforms or equipment as specified by the Coach/Athletic Director.

Quitting or Changing Sports:

If a student quits a sport without the coach's permission, that athlete may not go out for another sport until that sport season ends. The end of the season is defined as the last regularly scheduled league game

Transportation:

When the school provides transportation, team members are expected to go and return on the same bus or with the school arranged carpool.

On the return trip, students may be released to parents or legal guardians if they sign a release form at the event.

Students may not be released to anyone else including siblings or other relatives.

In the event of emergency or extenuating circumstances, parents may request that they be allowed to make their own arrangements for transportation for their student to and from the event. This is subject to coach or administrative approval.

Parents who volunteer to participate in carpool transportation must be approved by GUSD. Drivers must provide proof of insurance for the areas covered in the policy and provide a copy of their driver's license. **No more than 8 passengers including the driver shall be transported in any vehicle other than a school bus.**

TRYOUTS:

There will be a tryout period of all athletic activities. The length will be determined by the individual sport.

Each eligible student is allowed one tryout period per athletic activity.

A transfer student from another school will be permitted the same tryout period upon being declared eligible.

Students trying out for athletic activities, which have an authorized Central Coast Section practice starting date prior to the opening of school in the fall are strongly urged to report and tryout for the athletic activity in accordance with the practice starting date. Article 19, Football section of the California Interscholastic Federation Bylaws specify that, "Each individual student on the team must have had at least 10 days of practice before being allowed to compete in a game.

A student cut by a coach due to team limitation factors or a student who chooses to drop an athletic activity within the tryout period may tryout for another sport within the same season provided the coach of the new sport provides written approval to the Athletic Director

A student cut by a coach after the tryout period, and is in good standing may tryout for another sport within the same season provided the coach of the new sport provides written approval to the Athletic Director. In the best interest of students and other athletic activities it is required that cuts be made at the end of the tryout period.

APPEALS:

Students may appeal the application of the rules in the Sports and Activities Policy to an athletic council. An appeal requires that the student and parent(s) or legal guardian(s) submit a written request within five school days of the notification of disciplinary action. The specific rule and consequence they wish to appeal and the grounds for requesting the review needs to be stated. The athletic council will consist of an administrator, the athletic director, and one coach from a different sport to be selected by the administration.

The appeal hearing will be held within five school days of the receipt of the written request for appeal from the student and parent. The athletic council may uphold or modify the consequences for the violation as outlined in the policy. The athletic council does not determine or review the facts of a school discipline incident, but may modify the athletic consequences for the incident based on the intent and spirit of the policy. Appeals of school disciplinary incidents will be addressed in accordance with the District's student discipline policy.

Complaint Procedures:

Individuals alleging discrimination against student(s), parent(s), or community member(s) on the basis of ethnicity, religion, age, gender, color, or physical or mental disability should complete and submit to the Superintendent a District Complaint Form. District Complaint Forms are available in the Superintendent's office.

For all other complaints, parents should adhere to the following procedure:

First Level: Meet with the coach cited in the complaint.

Second Level: Meet with the head coach. Parents should address the coach directly about problems or concerns. In sports with multiple levels (Frosh, JV and Varsity), parents should next contact the varsity-level coach.

Third Level: Meet with the Athletic Director.

Fourth Level: Meet with the Principal or administrative representative.