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## **GLOUCESTER COUNTY VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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1360 TANYARD ROAD • DEPTFORD TOWNSHIP • SEWELL, NEW JERSEY 08080  
856-468-1445 • FAX 856-468-1035

Dr. Daniel Uszaki  
Assistant Principal/Athletic Director

### **Parent–Coach Communication, Conduct, and Athletic Program Guidelines**

Both parenting and coaching are challenging and important roles. By understanding and respecting each position, we can work together to support our student-athletes and create positive, meaningful experiences.

When your child becomes involved in the Gloucester County Institute of Technology athletic program, you have the right to understand the expectations placed upon them. This begins with clear, consistent communication from the coaching staff.

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#### **Communication You Should Expect from Your Child’s Coach**

Parents can expect coaches to communicate the following information:

1. The philosophy of the school district’s athletic program
2. The coach’s philosophy and coaching style
3. Expectations for your child and all members of the team
4. Practice and contest schedules, including locations and times
5. Team requirements such as fees, special equipment, and off-season conditioning
6. Procedures to follow should your child be injured during participation

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#### **Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches**

Participation in athletics often brings some of the most rewarding moments of a student’s life. However, there may also be times when expectations are not met. In those situations, open and respectful communication with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate topics include:

1. The treatment of your child, both mentally and physically
2. Ways to help your child improve and develop as an athlete
3. Concerns regarding your child’s behavior

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#### **Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches**

It can be difficult to accept situations where playing time or outcomes do not meet expectations. Coaches are professionals who make decisions based on what they believe is best for the team as a whole.

The following topics are not appropriate for parent-coach discussions:

1. Amount of playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student-athletes
5. Selection of awards or special recognition



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### **Parent–Coach Conferences**

There may be times when a conference between parents and coaches is necessary. These meetings are encouraged when conducted respectfully and through proper procedures. Open dialogue helps ensure both parties clearly understand one another’s perspectives and work toward resolution.

Please note that in situations where initial dialogue indicates a productive conversation is not likely, including instances involving intimidating behavior, threatening language, or disparaging remarks made verbally or through written communication, direct contact between a parent and coach may be suspended.

In such cases, all further communication must occur through the Director of Athletics or appropriate GCIT administration. Gloucester County Institute of Technology reserves the right to require administrative presence at any meeting, limit communication to written correspondence, or discontinue parent–coach conferences altogether if communication becomes unprofessional, hostile, or disruptive.

GCIT is committed to maintaining a respectful, safe, and professional environment for all student-athletes, coaches, and families. Any attempt to intimidate, harass, or undermine staff, whether in person, electronically, or in writing, will be addressed in accordance with district policy and the NJSIAA Code of Conduct.

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### **Why Athletics?**

Research consistently shows that students involved in extracurricular and co-curricular activities are more likely to experience success in adulthood. Interscholastic athletics help develop responsibility, teamwork, discipline, and leadership, traits that extend far beyond high school.

We trust that this information will help make your family’s experience in the Gloucester County Institute of Technology athletic program rewarding, positive, and less stressful.

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### **NJSIAA Code of Conduct**

In August 2002, P.L. 2002 c.74 was enacted, granting school districts the authority to establish an Athletic Code of Conduct. This legislation was prompted by incidents of inappropriate behavior by players, coaches, and spectators at interscholastic athletic events.

The purpose of this policy is to define acceptable behavior and address actions that negatively impact the athletic environment.



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### Code of Conduct Policy

No person may engage in verbal or physical threats or abuse toward any student, student-athlete, coach, official, parent, or spectator at an athletic contest or practice.

No person may cause public inconvenience, annoyance, or alarm, or recklessly create a risk thereof, by:

1. Engaging in fighting, threatening, violent, or tumultuous behavior
2. Creating a hazardous or physically dangerous condition that serves no legitimate purpose  
(*N.J.S.A. 2C:33-2*)

The Director of Athletics, or designee, reserve(s) the right to remove individuals from school property, including involvement of law enforcement if necessary.

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### Consequences of Violations

#### First Violation May Result In:

- Suspension from the event site (duration determined by the building principal)
- Meeting with the building principal and Director of Athletics
- Written reprimand

#### Repeated Violations May Result In:

- Additional suspension
- Written verification of attendance at an anger management counseling session
- Police or legal action by the school district

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### Procedure for Addressing Concerns with a Coach

If you have a concern you wish to discuss, please follow these steps:

1. Leave a message directly for the coach, if they teach in the building
  2. Email the coach through the district website
  3. If the coach does not work in the building, contact the Athletic Office at 856-468-1445.
  4. Do not confront a coach before or after practices or contests, as emotions are often high and productive resolution is unlikely
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### Chain of Command

Gloucester County Institute of Technology follows the chain of command outlined below. Parents and guardians are expected to respect this structure when addressing concerns related to athletics:

1. Assistant Coach (if applicable)
2. Head Coach
3. Director of Athletics
4. Principal
5. Superintendent

Most concerns can and should be addressed at the coaching level. Following this process allows issues to be resolved efficiently, fairly, and at the most appropriate level.

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### If a Meeting with the Coach Does Not Resolve the Concern

If a concern is not resolved after meeting with the coaching staff, parents may contact the Athletic Office to request a meeting with the Director of Athletics. Additional steps will be determined at that time.

Please note:

- Requests for meetings with the Director of Athletics or other administrators should only occur after documented attempts have been made to resolve the issue with the coaching staff.
- Requests for immediate meetings with upper administration are discouraged unless prior meetings with the coach have already taken place.
- This process is essential to maintaining clear communication and ensuring that concerns are handled at the appropriate level.

### Exception – Student Safety:

If a concern involves the immediate safety or endangerment of a student and/or staff member, parents should contact the Director of Athletics immediately, regardless of where they are in the chain of command.