

Gregory-Portland ISD

Athletic Code of Conduct and Handbook

7th thru 12th Grade



“Home of the Fighting Wildcats and Ladycats”

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Wildcat Athletics

Forward

The Gregory-Portland ISD Athletic Handbook is dedicated to the athletes of Gregory-Portland Independent School District. It is designed to be the guide to give you the basic information concerning our Athletic Department.

Tradition

“Wildcat Pride Never Dies”

The Gregory-Portland Athletic Program has long been one of the most competitive programs in the state of Texas. It is our desire and goal to continue to strive to take our program to greater heights each and every year. It is our goal to consistently compete at the highest level in the state in every sport. This can only be accomplished through the dedication and hard work of the young women and men that make up our Athletic Program. Through our efforts, we can continue to build upon the great tradition that has been established over time for Gregory-Portland High School.

“The winning tradition of the Wildcats will not be entrusted to the timid nor the weak.”

“Do your best, don’t sweat the rest, and the winning will take care of itself.”

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Gregory-Portland ISD Athletic Handbook

Introduction

This handbook is designed to provide for a successful experience for student athletes and the efficient operation of the Gregory-Portland Independent School District Athletic Program. The athletic handbook is designed to co-exist with the GPISD Student Handbooks and the GPISD Student Code of Conduct. Student athletes in grades 7-12 are accountable and responsible to the rules and requirements contained within this handbook.

It should be noted that different sports might have additional rules and regulations that go beyond what is listed in this athletic handbook. These rules may be in addition to this athletic handbook, but they shall not alter the rules of this handbook.

Philosophy

The athletic program at GPISD is an integral part of the total educational program. Athletics are a vital part of the physical, mental, social, moral and character growth of our students. Athletics are not designed to transcend the academic program but to supplement it. Athletic programs can provide valuable lessons for practical situations. Student-athletes experience daily victories discovering within themselves the ability to overcome adversity, to develop leadership skills, to develop winning attitudes, to be hard workers, and to be a part of a team that requires sacrifice and service to others. Many intangibles are taught in athletics that become lifelong lessons for the student athlete. Hopefully, the student athletes will acquire the techniques and skills from our athletic program to help them become better husbands/wives, fathers/mothers, and productive members of our community.

Responsibilities

Participation in athletics is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the sport, to the student body, to the community, and to oneself. Athletes have a unique role to play. Their peers, teachers, and the community are constantly monitoring them. Being under this scrutiny, athletes must have strength of character and be aware of the role they have chosen. They must be certain they present to their peers, teachers, and the community respect, sincerity, and honesty expected of a GPISD Athlete.

Specific Responsibilities Expected of GPISD Athletes:

1. An athlete is required to be enrolled in an athletic class if they are representing Gregory-Portland High School or Gregory-Portland Middle School in a UIL sanctioned sport.
2. Maintain a satisfactory citizenship and behavior record in the classroom and on campus by treating teachers, administrators, and fellow students with respect.
3. Maintain passing grades in all classes.
4. Exercise self-control and display positive actions during competition and other school activities.
5. Have respect for the decisions of the officials during competition.
6. Maintain upstanding conduct at all times while at school or at school related activities, including sporting events.
7. Be a law-abiding citizen both at school and away from school.
8. Display sportsmanship and class when representing Gregory-Portland ISD.
9. Be committed to attend practices, contests, and meetings of any sport that they choose to participate in.
10. Abide by training rules established in this handbook and by their coach.
11. Complete required UIL and school paperwork prior to participation (Yearly Physical Exam and Rank One paperwork)

Attendance

It is the obligation and responsibility of team members to attend scheduled practices, contests, and meetings regularly and on time. If an unavoidable conflict arises with a practice or contest, one of the coaches should be notified before the workout or game. Failure to make contact prior to the practice, contest, or meeting may result in absence being considered unexcused.

Excused Absences:

Excused absences will be made up. The make up for an excused absence is not punishment but is administered so that the athlete can make up missed work and conditioning. Examples of excused absences are illness/injury, a death in the family, school sponsored activities, or emergency situations. **Athletes should understand that when they have to miss, it is imperative that a coach be notified prior to the absence.** The high school number is (361) 777-4251.

Athletes should understand that habitual absences, even though they may be excused, become detrimental to their ability to perform and to their knowledge of team concepts. Habitual

absences will result in disciplinary actions, including loss of playing time and/or possible suspension or dismissal from the team.

Unexcused Absences:

Absent extenuating circumstances, failure to notify the coach prior to an absence will usually result in the absence being considered unexcused. If there is a question as to whether an absence is excused or not, the head coach and/or athletic director will make the decision. Unexcused absences will be made up and disciplinary action will be taken. Disciplinary action for unexcused absences will be as follows:

1st unexcused absence – make up work plus additional disciplinary exercise.

2nd unexcused absence – make up work plus suspension from the next contest.

3rd unexcused absence – dismissal from the sport.

Unexcused absences will accumulate on a per sport/per season basis.

Injured Athletes:

Where physically able, injured athletes are expected attend practices and competitions. The injured athlete will be expected to dress out and participate mentally. This is also a time in which they may see the **Athletic Trainer** for treatment. If an athlete's injury does not allow for the athlete to attend practice/competitions and/or dress out, the head coach may excuse the athlete from dressing or attending practice/competition. **If a *Wildcat* athlete is injured, it is their responsibility to attend morning treatments (beginning at 7:00 A.M. at the High School and at 7:30 A.M. at the Middle School) If the athlete fails to show up for their treatment they may be required to participate in the daily workout.**

Ineligible Athletes:

Ineligible athletes shall attend and participate in practice workouts unless excused by the head coach. Athletes who do not participate in practice workouts will not be permitted to participate in competition after regaining eligibility.

ISS:

An athlete placed in ISS is not allowed to participate in a game or contest during his/her placement, but he/she is still expected to practice after school. Failure to report to after school workout will result in an unexcused absence for the athlete unless prior notification is given by the athlete that he/she is missing for a justifiable reason. It is the athlete's responsibility to find out if their team is working out after school and find out the time of the workout.

Tardy:

It is also very important for a team member to be on time and to remain at a practice for its duration. Any team member who arrives late to practice or who leaves early is disruptive to the team's improvement and game plan. Athletes that are tardy or that leave practice early will be expected to do make up work for the time they missed. Habitual tardiness will result in disciplinary action including possible suspension or dismissal.

Academics

Athletes must realize that they are students first and athletes second. Athletes must plan their schedule so that they can give sufficient time and energy to their studies to ensure acceptable grades. Athletes must be passing all subjects at the six week grading period and subsequent nine week grading period in order to be eligible to play. Athletes failing a course will be ineligible for competition for three weeks. They may regain eligibility after three weeks if they are passing all subjects at that time. If not, they remain ineligible for another three weeks.

Athletes are encouraged to maintain all their grades throughout the school year. Tutorials are available for students that are struggling with their grades. Athletes are encouraged to take advantage of the tutorials and/or other resources that are available to help them with their grades. Failure to take care of grades will result in an athlete being placed on academic probation or removed from athletic competition or the athletic program.

Any athlete who fails two nine weeks grading periods during a semester will be placed on academic probation for the next semester. Their grades will be closely monitored, and they will be expected to show improvement in their grades during the probationary period. **Any athlete on academic probation that fails two nine weeks during the semester of their probation, will be removed from the athletic competition for the next semester.** At the end of the suspension period, the athlete may regain participation privileges by requesting to complete the Athletic Re-Entry Program.

Dress Code/Personal Appearance

Athletes are expected to dress neatly, be well groomed in school and follow the school dress code at any activity representing the school. They should recognize that appearance, expression, and actions always influence people's opinions of athletes, the team, and the school. Athletes who habitually violate dress and grooming standards will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension if the violations are not corrected.

The following are PROHIBITED:

1. Any jewelry while practicing or competing. This includes earrings (males) and other visible piercings. All tattoos must be covered.
2. Facial hair
3. Streaks or lines cut in the hair (i.e. letters, numbers, Mohawks, etc.)
4. Excessively long hair (males): male athletes should not allow their hair to grow past the middle of a regular collar in back, the middle of the ear on the sides, and the bottom of the eyebrows in the front. If a male athlete's hair becomes too long, they will be asked to have it cut before being permitted to compete.
5. Any hair or dress that calls undue attention to a student-athlete or that undermines the positive image of the GPISD Athletic Program
6. Athletes shall follow additional requests of the coach for game day or team travel.

Questions or concerns about the Dress Code should be addressed with the Athletic Director.

Conduct

Athletes will face disciplinary action, including possible suspension or expulsion, for demonstrating behavior that is detrimental to the team. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to:

1. Inappropriate language
2. Unwilling or lazy attitude, poor work ethic
3. Disrespect to the teaching, administrative, or coaching staff
4. Disrespect to a game official
5. Display of temper
6. Not responsive to a coach's request
7. Argumentative attitude
8. Habitual disregard for rules
9. Negative effect on team morale
10. Unsportsmanlike behavior

Mandatory Drug Testing Program

The purpose of the Gregory-Portland ISD mandatory drug testing program is to ensure the health and safety of our students and to serve as a deterrent to the use of drugs by student athletes. The *Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Chemical Abuse Policy* will be enforced with all students participating in extracurricular activities:

The policy will be in effect according to the GPISD Calendar beginning the first day of school including weekends, vacations, and holidays. The policy will conclude at the end of the day on the last day of school.

Exceptions:

1. If the student(s) is preparing for a school-related competition as a continuation of the school year, the policy is in effect until the conclusion of such activity.

Example: If the activity extends beyond the last day of school, the policy is in effect for participants until that activity has concluded.

2. If the official start date for the activity is before the beginning of the school year, the policy goes into effect beginning the day the activity officially starts.

Example: If the activity officially starts before the first school day, the policy will be in effect for the student(s) beginning the activity start date.

3. Certain activities have organized practice prior to the start of the activity. This policy is in effect beginning the day practice begins for that activity, club, or organization.

The Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Chemical Abuse Policy applies to all extracurricular and co-curricular participants **at all times during the school year (or extended school year, as discussed above), regardless of whether:**

- the offense occurs on or off school property or at a school-related event;
- the student is directly involved with the extracurricular activity at the times the prohibited abuse occurs;
- the extracurricular activity is in-season; and
- the offense occurs on or off campus.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

GPISD students who participate in extracurricular activities are prohibited from:

- Possessing, smoking, selling, or using tobacco products or devices (includes vapor and electronic devices)
- Possessing or using drug paraphernalia
- Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to glue, aerosol paint, or volatile, mood-altering chemicals
- Possessing, selling, giving, or delivering to another person look-alike drugs or items represented to be drugs or contraband of any kind
- Possessing, selling, giving or delivering to another person, using, or being under the influence of marijuana, alcohol, a controlled substance, dangerous drug, or an over-the-counter drug as a result of its abuse

- Attending any non-public or non-professional event at which underage drinking is occurring, unless a parent or guardian is present (students will be allowed a slight concession to determine that a violation is occurring and to remove themselves)
- Riding in a vehicle containing alcohol unless a parent or guardian is present and aware of the presence of the alcohol (students will be allowed a slight concession to determine that a violation is occurring and to remove themselves)

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

1. If the activity is in progress, the penalty will begin the day it is determined/decided the policy was violated. The student will be suspended from the activity pending the decision of the investigation of the alleged violation, including the time during an appeal.
2. If the violation occurs when the activity is not in progress, the penalty begins the 1st day the activity begins, which may include the next school year.
3. For the purpose of this policy, "Calendar Year" is measured forward from the date the student is notified of the infraction. A calendar year may exceed beyond the current school year.
4. Any 2nd offense for "in the presence of" that follows a serious offense will result in consequences for a serious offense.

A violation of any of the above-mentioned rules by a student participating in extracurricular activities will be subject to the following disciplinary action:

- ***In Presence of*** but not involved with any prohibited items

1st Offense for in presence of:

Fifteen (15) hours of community service; must be approved by the coach/sponsor or campus administrator prior to performing community service and completed prior to participating in any extracurricular activity. The student is **not** allowed to travel with the team, club, or organization until this requirement is fulfilled.

2nd Offense for in presence of:

- ❖ Complete twenty-five (25) hours of community service; must be approved by the coach/sponsor or campus administrator prior to performing community service and completed prior to participating in any extracurricular activity. The student is **not** allowed to travel with the team, club, or organization until this requirement is fulfilled.
- ❖ Attend a district-approved *Chemical Abuse Program*. Students may choose to:

- Attend a private chemical abuse program at his/her own expense. Verification of *completion* of the program must be provided to a campus administrator before participating in any activity; or
- Attend a district provided chemical abuse program. Students are allowed to perform, play, and participate once enrollment and attendance in the Chemical Abuse Program is verified. District provided programs may include a nominal fee for materials.

If the student chooses not to complete the requirements of the 1st or 2nd offense, he/she will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activity.

3rd Offense for in presence of:

Removal from all extracurricular activities, related classes, and practices for one calendar year beginning on the day that it was determined the offense occurred.

- **Involvement/Serious Offense:** Selling, delivering, giving, possessing, using, transmitting, or being under the influence of any chemicals listed under *Prohibited Conduct* (excluding tobacco)

1st Offense for Involvement:

- ❖ Complete thirty (30) hours of community service; must be approved by the coach/sponsor or campus administrator prior to performing community service and completed prior to participating in any extracurricular activity. The student is ***not*** allowed to travel with the team, club, or organization until this requirement is fulfilled.
- ❖ Attend a district-approved *Chemical Abuse Program*. Students may choose to:
 - Attend a private chemical abuse program at his/her own expense. Verification of *completion* of the program must be provided to a campus administrator before participating in any activity; or
 - Attend a district provided chemical abuse program. Students are allowed to perform, play, and participate once enrollment and attendance in the Chemical Abuse Program is verified. District provided programs may include a nominal fee for materials.

If the student chooses not to complete the requirements of the offense, he/she will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activity.

2nd Offense for involvement:

Removal from all extracurricular activities, related classes, and practices for one calendar year beginning on the day that it was determined the offense occurred.

Dismissal from a Sport

Athletes who engage in serious or persistence misconduct may be dismissed from a sport at the discretion of the head coach. The following guidelines will be in effect for any athlete that is dismissed from a sport or from athletics.

1. An athlete dismissed from a sport will be dismissed from the athletic program if the violation is deemed to justify such action.
2. An athlete dismissed from a sport will not be allowed to start another sport until the first sport is completed.
3. An athlete dismissed from a sport may regain participation privileges in that sport the following season by requesting to complete the Athletic Re-Entry Program.
4. An athlete dismissed from a sport a second time (same sport or different sport) will not be allowed to use the Athletic Re-Entry Program to regain participation privilege in athletics.

Quitting a Sport

Commitment to being a Wildcat team member is one of the most valuable lessons learned in athletics. Concerns and frustrations can often be worked out with proper communication between the athlete and the coach. When a student is unable to resolve a concern or frustration and wishes to quit a sport, the following rules and guidelines apply:

1. Any athlete wishing to quit a sport should notify the head coach.
2. The athlete will not be allowed to quit until a meeting is set up with the parents and the head coach of the sport to discuss their child's desire to quit.
3. If an athlete quits a sport after two weeks, he/she will not be allowed to start another sport until the first sport is completed.
4. If an athlete begins participation in two concurrent sports, he/she will have two weeks to determine if it is in his/her best interest to drop one sport and concentrate on the other sport. After two weeks, if the athlete decides to quit one of the sports, it will be at the coach's discretion if he/she will be allowed to continue with the other sport. This will be considered as one quitting infraction.
5. If an athlete quits a sport, he/she may regain participation privileges in that sport the following season by requesting to complete the Athletic Re-Entry Program.

6. An athlete quitting a sport and not wishing to participate in another sport will be removed from the athletic program and athletic class period. The schedule change will be made as soon as it is possible. In some cases, this change may not be possible until the end of the semester.
7. An athlete who quits a second time (same sport or different sport) will not be allowed to use the Re-Entry Program to regain participation privileges in athletics.
8. Quitting violations for middle school athletes will be cumulative for their middle school career. Quitting violations for high school athletes will be cumulative for their high school career.

Athletic Re-entry Program

If an athlete has quit a sport and then decides that he/she would like to participate in that sport the next season, these steps need to be taken.

1. The student needs to meet with the head coach of the sport in which he/she would like to participate. During this meeting, the coach will go over the expectations and guidelines for their particular sport. The student must agree with the expectations and guidelines set forth by the head coach of that sport.
2. The student needs to get a course change form from the counseling office. **This form needs to be filled out, signed by the parents, and returned to the head coach of the sport.**
3. The head coach will deliver the course change form to the counselor.

Athletes who engage in serious misconduct may not be permitted to utilize the re-entry program for the following season.

DAEP Placement

If an athlete is placed in DAEP, he/she is put on probation and suspended from participating in the athletic program during their time in DAEP. He/she is not allowed to participate in contests or practices during the time that they are in DAEP. They are not allowed to be a part of the team in any manner (pep rallies, presence on sideline or bench, pre or post game meals, etc) during their time in DAEP.

1. If an athlete is put into DAEP after being put on probation at any time, he/she will be not be allowed to participate in the athletic program for the remainder of their middle school or high school career. Violations for middle school athletes will be cumulative for

their middle school career. Violations for high school athletes will be cumulative for their high school career.

Letter Awards

The criteria for lettering in a sport are at the discretion of the head coach of that sport. These criteria should be shared with the members of their team at the beginning of each season.

Letter jackets are ordered twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. The head coach of each sport will submit a list of the athletes that lettered in their sport and are eligible for a letter jacket to the Athletic Director. The date that the letter jacket representative will be on campus will be made available to the school through daily announcements. **It is the student's responsibility to get with the letter jacket representative while he/she is on campus.**

Team Travel

When a team has to travel from Gregory-Portland to compete in an athletic event, the time on the school bus is considered a team function, just as a contest or a practice. Therefore, all of the members of the team should travel to and from the contest together in a school vehicle. In the event that a circumstance arises where an athlete needs to arrive or leave a contest separate from the team, arrangements need to be made with the coach responsible for his/her team before the team leaves for the contest. The coach should have a note from the parent or guardian **before** the team leaves for the trip. Parent's notes after the contest will not be allowed. This allows the coach to know exactly how many students he/she will be responsible for on the school bus or van when they leave and return from the out-of-town contest.

Equipment and Uniforms

With the exception of certain sports which require athletes to purchase their own supplies, the equipment, supplies, and uniforms for each team are the sole property of Gregory-Portland ISD. Once equipment or uniforms are issued to an athlete, it becomes the athlete's responsibility to make sure that the equipment or uniform is returned to the coach at the appropriate time. If it is not returned to the coach, it is the athlete's financial responsibility and obligation to replace the equipment or uniform at the replacement cost of the missing item. Students may be required to pay for excessive damage to GPISD equipment and uniforms.

Locker Rooms

The locker room is a restricted area solely for the use of the members of an athletic team and the coaches responsible for that team. No one else is permitted inside of the locker room.

For the safety of all athletes, the locker room must be kept clean and sanitized at all times. The only items that should be kept in the locker are items issued to you for the use in your sports. Students may not keep unsanitary or unnecessary items in lockers in the locker room.

Club/Select Teams

The participation in Club sports and/or Select teams is at the discretion of the athlete and his/her parents. This is an avenue in which athletes can further their skills and enhance their playing ability as well as increase their exposure to college coaches.

Club sports and select team participation should never interfere or replace athletic competition at the school level. An athlete may not miss practice, games, or meets in a school athletic event to participate in a club sport or select team. Absences from school athletic events for these reasons will result in disciplinary action by the coach and the possible dismissal from the team.

Insurance

Every student involved in athletics is covered by a supplemental insurance policy purchased by the district. If you have a primary insurance carrier, the supplemental plan will cover the majority of the expenses that your primary insurance carrier does not cover. If you do not have a primary insurance carrier, the supplemental insurance will act as your primary insurance but there are limits to what it will pay. Our supplemental insurance carrier is Monarch Management Corporation. If you have questions about this coverage, you can contact Jeff Maynard at (210) 524-7129.

Communications/Parent Conferences

In order for our Athletic Department to be successful and run efficiently, there needs to be an open line of communication between the coaches, parents, and athletes. If a situation arises where the parent feels that a conference needs to be set up with the coach of their child, the following guidelines should to be followed:

1. Parent conferences need to take place during the conference period of the coach with an administrator or head coach available to facilitate the conference. **Under no circumstances will a coach have a conference with you immediately following a contest.**
2. If your child is not satisfied with his/her playing time, he/she should use the following procedure:

- a. Set up a conference with the coach that is directly responsible for his/her team or position.
- b. If that meeting does not successfully resolve the concern, set up a conference with his/her parents and the head coach of the team that you are participating on.
- c. If that meeting does not successfully resolve the concern, set up a meeting with parents and the Athletic Director.
- d. If that meeting does not successfully resolve the concern, set up a meeting with the appropriate administrator at the campus where the child is attending school.
- e. If that meeting does not successfully resolve the concern, set up a meeting with the Superintendent.

Following these guidelines will help in the resolution of conflicts in an efficient and productive manner.

Sportsmanship – Athletes/Parents/Spectators

All spectators are encouraged to remember that school athletics are a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. GPISD expects and encourages its sports spectators to:

- Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people, just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
- Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during, and after the game on or near the site of the event (i.e. tailgating).
- Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
- Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.

Parents and spectators should be aware that the school may remove them from the premises and can prohibit them from attending future contests due to undesirable behaviors. Game officials may ask that school administrators have unruly fans removed from a contest facility. The school is responsible for the behavior of its sports spectators and will enforce its own

standards of conduct as well as the University Interscholastic League's standards of conduct at all sporting events.

Appendix

Acknowledgement of Receipt Form

This acknowledges receipt of the Gregory-Portland Independent School District Athletic Handbook. The handbook should be kept for reference throughout the year for both parents and student. In accepting this Athletic Handbook, I accept the privileges and responsibilities as a participant in the Gregory-Portland ISD Athletic Program, and promise to uphold the rules and guidelines set forth in this document.

Print Name of Student: _____

Signature of Student: _____

Signature of Parent: _____

Date: _____

Web Form

The Gregory-Portland ISD Athletic Program is now online. Students with a web consent on file may have their name and/or photograph featured on the GPISD website. Images and text will be used to announce honors, to promote the Athletic Program for public relations and for recruiting. You will be able to visit our site by going through the school website (www.g-pisd.org). Please fill out the form below indicating your responses.

The Gregory-Portland Athletic Program may use _____ picture on the Athletic website.
(print student name here)

The Gregory-Portland Athletic Program may use _____ name on the Athletic website.
(print student name here)

Please do not use _____ picture on the Athletic website.
(print student name here)

Please do not use _____ name on the Athletic website.
(print student name here)