

Dear GBA Athlete,

Congratulations on making one of our Gateway Baptist Academy athletic teams! I commend you for your hard work, commitment, and Christian sportsmanship. As a member of our athletic program, you are taking on the challenge of giving, going, and growing for Christ, both on and off the court. You are an “Ambassador” for Christ and this ministry. While we desire excellence in athletics and victory on the field, it is never at the expense of a poor testimony. As a student athlete you have great influence and area school leader. Use this privilege to honor Christ and sharpen your fellow students.

I want to challenge you to always represent Christ, your family, our Pastor, church, and school well. The Bible tells us, “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches” (Proverbs 22:1a). So strive for excellence spiritually, scholastically, socially, and physically. I encourage you to honor our Lord and this ministry for the cause of Christ and the advancement of His glorious Gospel!

Mr. Juan Zarate

Principal/Athletic Director

Introduction

This handbook is designed to let student athletes at Gateway Baptist Academy know the philosophy of our sports program and the standards set forth for participating in that program. This handbook does not apply to every student at Gateway Baptist Academy, but to those who choose to lead and participate in the athletics program.

Striving for Excellence

We are laboring to build a tradition of excellence at Gateway Baptist Academy. We are attempting to provide the best facilities, equipment, and officials available for our program. We are striving to be the best in character, as well as in performance. As a part of the GBA sports program, you are to strive for excellence in all that you do.

Philosophy

Our philosophy of athletics is not the same as the philosophy of most schools. Our main goal is not to win games, but rather to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and to prepare young men and women for the ministry. We believe in hard work, teamwork, cooperation, and submission to authority. Learning these principles now will help you throughout your life.

Athletes represent their Lord, their parents, their church, and their school. They will be very visible on our campus and at sporting events. As a result, there are certain requirements placed on them that do not apply to the overall student population. However, they are still requirements to participate in the athletic program at Gateway Baptist Academy. If you have questions about any of these requirements, please ask the Administrator. We will be happy to explain the reasoning behind it. **Participation in athletics is strictly voluntary. However, adherence to these requirements by athletes is not.** If you

cannot live by these requirements, do not fight against them. Simply determine that you will not participate.

The bottom line is that you should enjoy your time in the athletic program. Do not make these requirements more restrictive than they are. Rather look at them as guideposts in your Christian development. Every standard is based on God's Word and will help develop your leadership qualities and mold true Christian character.

All student athletes are considered school leaders and complete a Student Leadership Service Report each week. These reports are reviewed by coaches and administration each week. Students consistently not meeting school leadership requirements will forfeit their opportunity to participate in the GBA athletics program.

General Requirements

1. Students must attend all scheduled church services (including Sunday school) unless providentially hindered. Students who miss a church service will be ineligible to play for one week. Students are to inform their head coaches when missing a service.
2. During church services, athletes are required to sit either with their parents, with an adult approved by their parents, or in the front sections of the auditorium.
3. Athletes are required to be active soul winners. Organized times of visitation occur on Tuesday evenings at 6:45 p.m. If you are unable to make it to these organized times of visitation, please pick up a map and go on your own time. Failure to meet this requirement can result in game suspension/s.
4. Athletes are to demonstrate a positive school attitude at all times. Disrespect to teachers, coaches, or any other school staff will not be tolerated.
5. Players are required to ride with the team to all away games. Players may return from away games with their parents or with an adult approved by their parents. This approval must be written and given to the Athletic Director at least one day before the activity.
6. Athletes will handle all grievances in the proper way through proper channels.
7. Athletes must be on time for all departures.
8. Athletes must maintain an overall 2.0 GPA. They may not have an "F" in any subject. Athletes who fail to meet these requirements will be ineligible to play the remainder of that grading period. They may be reconsidered at the start of the next grading period provided they meet the academic requirements. Any student with an "Incomplete" (I) on a progress report or a report card will have seven (7) calendar days to complete the work.
9. Guys who receive an "F" as the yearly average in any subject will not be allowed to try out for soccer the following year. Ladies who receive an "F" as the yearly average in any subject will not be allowed to try out for volleyball the following year.

10. Athletes are required to be at school the day of a game. Athletes must be in school to attend practice.
11. Athletes are not to converse or make gestures with spectators or game officials during a game.
12. Athletes must be ready at any time to be recognized during church services. Chapel attire is to be worn all day on Sunday
13. Students who receive a suspension due to accumulation of CRF's (conduct referral forms) will be considered ineligible for the remainder of the season. Students who are suspended for the remainder of a sports season may attend tryouts for the next athletic season and gain acceptance on the team.
14. Departure and return times will be posted no later than the day before all away games. Students should let their parents know the return time before the bus departs.
15. For home games, athletes are not authorized to stay after school unless supervised by an adult.
16. Players removed from athletics by their parents are ineligible for the remainder of the athletic season.
17. Players who are absent from any scheduled game during the season (unless providentially hindered) will forfeit their letter for that sport for that year. This includes the end-of-year staff and student game.
18. Athletes who are "benched" for violation of team and/or school rules will be allowed to travel with the team to away games with administration approval only. They may not travel to the away games with anyone other than a parent if traveling with the team is denied.
19. Audio cassette players, walkman, iPods, video recorders, CD players, or any other apparatus capable of playing music are not allowed on the team bus (or in privately owned vehicles used to carry the team). Violation of this policy will result in immediate removal from the athletic program.
20. Gameboys, laptop computers, and playing cards are not allowed on the team bus. Cell phones will be permitted, but **must not be misused or overly used**.
21. Guys and girls will not sit together on the bus or any team transportation.
22. Athletes are required to arrive at school no later than 9:00 AM the day after non-Friday regular season away games. This does not imply that the student will not be counted tardy or that the tardy will be excused. Athletes who fail to comply with this rule will not travel to the next away game (regardless of the day of the week). If there are no more away games in the season, athletes will be ineligible for the next home game. If there are no more regular season games, athletes will be ineligible for the post-season tournament. The only exception to this rule is if an athlete is absent due to illness and has a doctor's excuse. Athletes who arrive after the start of school will be counted as tardy.
23. Athletes must complete and return a medical release form and the form in back of this handbook before they will be permitted to play in any game (home or away) or to ride the team bus.

24. The team bus is for team members, support personnel, coaches, and coaches' family members only.

25. Athletes are responsible for all work missed due to travel associated with athletics. It is not the responsibility of the teachers to get that information to our athletes unless our athletes or their parents ask for it.

26. Student athletes are exempt from P.E. class **only on practice/game days**. They will use their P.E. period as study hall. This will allow them time to complete any homework assigned.

Dress Requirements

Note: These requirements are in addition to those already listed in the GBA student handbook.

1. Guys are required to wear a button-down collared shirt with a tie to school on game days and to all away games unless otherwise instructed by the athletic director or administrator. Guys must also wear a shirt and a tie or their complete uniform to all home games.

2. Girls must abide by the school dress code when traveling to and from athletic events. Girls may wear culottes if they are part of the team uniform and changing facilities are not available.

3. Girls may wear make-up in moderation. Only clear nail polish is acceptable at athletic events without the prior approval of the coach or Athletic Director. Permission will be granted for school approved colors under the condition that all ladies participating wear that color. Face or hair glitter is not allowed.

5. Sun glasses are not permitted.

6. Game jerseys will be tucked in at all times (guys and girls).

7. Practice uniforms will be GBA P.E. uniforms or other uniform specified by the Administrator. Upper-grade students that are not issued P.E. uniforms must wear clothing that is consistent with the GBA student handbook. Sleeveless shirts are not to be worn.

8. No fad, punk, or spiked hair styles are permitted.

9. Tennis shoes (no flip-flops or shower clogs) may be worn for return bus trips. These shoes must be well-maintained, laced, tied, and clean.

10. Flip-flop/shower clogs are not permitted at practice, after games, during games, or at any time an athlete is wearing a GBA uniform.

11. No hats are allowed when traveling on the team bus or attending athletic events.

12. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in the loss of privilege of participating in athletics.

13. Overnight trips occur occasionally during the athletic seasons. There are certain additional guidelines that must be followed during these trips. In general they are as follows:

a. There will be no television viewing or watching of videos or cable programming.

- b. There will be no swimming or use of the exercise room.
- c. Athletes are not to be out of their rooms after 7:00 PM unless accompanied by an approved chaperone. Appropriate clothing must be worn outside of the hotel room.
- d. Guys and girls will not stay on the same floor of a hotel during any overnight stay for a game and may not enter the room of the opposite gender.
- e. Guys and girls will not be alone at any time.

Athletic Requirements Pledge

Please complete and return this form to your coach or the athletic director with your medical release form.

I certify that I and my parents have read and fully understand the Gateway Baptist Academy athletic requirements and will support them. I understand that I am free to withdraw from athletics at any time I do not agree with these requirements. I understand that if I do not follow these guidelines, I will be asked to step down from this area of leadership.

By signing below, I commit to abiding by and honoring the student athletic leadership requirements of Gateway Baptist Academy.

Name: _____

(Please Print)

Athlete's Signature _____

Parent's Signature _____

Date _____