



# Athletic Guidelines

The Goals and Guidelines of Gateway Baptist Academy's Athletic Program

Dear GBA Athlete,

Congratulations on joining 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 the administration each week. Students consistently not meeting school leadership requirements will forfeit their opportunity to participate in the GBA athletics program.

### Section 1- General Requirements

1. Athletes are to demonstrate a **positive school attitude at all times**. Disrespect to teachers, coaches, or any other school staff will not be tolerated.
2. Athletes will handle all grievances in the proper way through proper channels.
3. Students are not allowed to join the team midseason (after practices have begun) unless hindered by health reasons. If an exception is to be granted, the Athletic Director will make the final decision on these matters. **Players removed from athletics by their parents are ineligible for the remainder of the athletic season.**
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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. There is also a parent-form that must be signed. **No athlete is allowed to practice without these forms.**

### Section 2- Church 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 (within the first three rows)** 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 must be ready at any time to be recognized during church services. **Chapel attire is to be worn all day on Sunday.**

### Section 3- School Requirements

1. 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 (but may still practice) for the next 10 school days.** After the 10-day period, they may participate in the games provided they meet the academic requirements. Any student with an “Incomplete” (I) on their grade book or a report card will have seven (7) calendar days to complete the work. Otherwise, a zero will be given for any work not made up.
2. Young men who receive an “F” as the yearly average in any subject will not be allowed to try out for soccer the following year. Young ladies who receive an “F” as the yearly average in any subject will not be allowed to try out for volleyball the following year.
3. **Athletes are required to be at school the day of a game.** Athletes must be in school to attend practice.
4. **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.
5. 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.
6. 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; 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.**
7. **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.
8. 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.

### Section 4- Game Day Requirements

1. 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 (or emailed) and given to the Athletic Director at least one day before the activity.**
2. Athletes must be on time for all departures.
3. Athletes are not to converse or make gestures with spectators or game officials during a game.
4. Departure and return times will be posted and announced in homeroom no later than the day before all away games. A notification will be communicated to the parents via email, twitter, or text.
5. **For home games, athletes are not authorized to stay after school unless supervised by an adult.**
6. 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.
7. 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.**
8. 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.**
9. **Young men and ladies will not sit together on the bus or any team transportation.**
10. The team bus is for team members, support personnel, coaches, and coaches’ family members only.

### Section 5- Overnight Trip Requirements

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:

1. There will be no television viewing or watching of videos or cable programming without adult supervision.
2. There will be no swimming or use of the exercise room unless supervised by an adult. There will be no mixed swimming at all.
3. 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.
4. Young men and ladies 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.
5. Young men and ladies will not be alone at any time.

Failure to follow these guidelines on overnight trips may result in the following consequences:

1. Dismissal from the team
2. School suspension
3. Depending on the offense, expulsion from Gateway Baptist Academy.

### Section 6- Dress Code Requirements

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

1. Young men 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. Young men must also wear a shirt and a tie or their complete uniform to all home games (soccer players can finish gearing up at the field but must travel modestly as stated in the following guidelines).
2. Young ladies must abide by the school dress code when traveling to and from athletic events. Young ladies may wear culottes, capris, or their uniforms if changing facilities are not available before and after the game.
3. **All athletes must follow the school dress code when attending games wherein they are not the participants. No sweats, shorts, sandals, etc.** Remember that you are a student-athlete and that you must have a higher standard than most.
4. **Athletes must dress modestly after games.** Modestly always applies whether you are an athlete or not. You may refer to the GBA Handbook to stay in compliance with our school dress code.
5. Young ladies 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.
6. Sunglasses are not permitted while indoors.
7. Game jerseys will be tucked in at all times (for both young men and ladies).
8. 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.**
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 indoors.

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

## Athlete's 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 and the school handbook of Gateway Baptist Academy.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print)

Athlete's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Parents' Requirements Pledge

I certify that my child and I have read and fully understand the Gateway Baptist Academy athletic requirements and will support them. I understand that I am free to withdraw my child from athletics at any time I do not agree with these requirements. I understand that if I do not follow these guidelines, the privileges of the athletic program no longer apply to my child.

By signing this, I am giving my commitment to GBA's athletic program. This means that I will adhere to the practice and game schedule, participate in the fundraisers and banquets, as well as communicate with the coaches and athletic director any concerns or suggestions I may have for the program.

By signing below, I commit to abiding by and honoring the athletic guidelines and the school handbook of Gateway Baptist Academy.

Father & Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Both Parents' Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Gateway Baptist Academy Sport Registration and Medical Release

Player's name (last, first) \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Mo./Day/Yr.

Sport \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Gender Male Female

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Player Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Can You Receive Texts? Yes No

Player's Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Carrier \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have your parent's permission to receive texts? Yes No

#### Consent to Play:

I/we the parents of the above named student for a position on Gateway Baptist Academy (GBA) sports team, hereby give my/our approval to participate in any and all GBA activities including transportation to and from activities. I/we know that participation in GBA athletics may result in serious injuries and protective equipment does not prevent all injuries to players, and do hereby waive, release, absolve, indemnify and agree to hold harmless the organizers, sponsors, supervisors, participants, board members, coaches, and persons transporting my/our child to and from activities for any claim arising out of injury to my/our child whether the result of negligence or for any other cause, except to the extent and in the amount covered by accident or liability insurance.

#### Consent for Medical Treatment:

In case of emergency, if the family physician cannot be reached I hereby authorize \_\_\_\_\_  
 (player) \_\_\_\_\_ (date of birth) to be treated by another qualified, licensed physician who is available.

Doctor's name \_\_\_\_\_ Doctor's phone \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital preference \_\_\_\_\_ Medical Insurance Plan \_\_\_\_\_

Policy number \_\_\_\_\_ Identification number \_\_\_\_\_

#### Emergency information:

Father's name \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's name \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Father's cell phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Email \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Email \_\_\_\_\_

Receive Texts Y or N Carrier \_\_\_\_\_ Receive Texts Y or N Carrier \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date signed \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Mo/Day/Yr

**THIS IS A LEGAL DOCUMENT**