

BALL HIGH SCHOOL
2022-2023
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



Welcome!

Dear Student Athletes and Parents,

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff, I am very pleased that you have expressed an interest in participating in the interscholastic athletic program at Ball High School. We believe that students who are involved in extracurricular activities have a more meaningful educational experience. We are honored to be able to work with our community in building strong young men and women.

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with this booklet and understand the school's guidelines, policies, and expectations for our student-athletes. To begin however, I would like you to read through the philosophy of our athletic department.

Philosophy of Athletics at Ball High School:

At Ball High School, we consider athletics an integral part of the educational experience. Athletics provides opportunities that will help students develop physically, mentally, and emotionally. We view the competition of athletics as a healthy educational and physiological activity because it teaches each student to excel, to discover his or her physical limits, work cooperatively with team members and develop healthy lifestyles. While winning is a natural goal in the pursuit of excellence, the principles of good sportsmanship and enjoyment of competition take precedence at all times and enhance the educational value of contests.

Our sports teams will always strive to win, but never at the expense of character, healthy attitudes and habits, and good judgment. We emphasize effort, improvement, and respect. At the freshman and junior varsity levels, winning is a goal but is less important than participation and skill development. We believe that the sports experience should not only be rewarding but fun.

Ball High School further recognizes the unique roles and responsibilities of its coaches and parents in sports activities. Coaches and parent's primary roles should be to teach the lifetime values of our sports philosophy and to always lead by example. Their impact is immensely important in promoting a positive school climate because they offer opportunities for adults to interact with our students in meaningful ways not available in the classroom.

Thank you for your support,

Galveston Ball High School Athletics

Governing Bodies:

Ball High School and feeder middle schools are members of the University Interscholastic League (UIL), whose purpose is to organize, regulate and promote interscholastic athletics for secondary schools in Texas. As an UIL school, BHS abides by the minimum standards set forth by this organization. Please note that these are minimal standards and member schools may enforce stricter standards, which Ball High School does in many instances.

Athletic Team Information

Standards for Participation:

In order to participate in organized athletics, all student-athletes must have a current physical on file with the athletic trainers' office, and satisfy all academic requirements for eligibility.

- An up-to-date physical examination must be on file with the athletic trainer prior to the start of participation. If the physical examination expires in season, the student-athlete will need to provide an updated physical to the athletic trainer in order to resume participation. All physicals are valid for 12 months from the date of the physical. All physicals must be signed by a physician, physician's assistant, advanced practice nurse, or a doctor of chiropractic.
- Drug and Alcohol Policy is clearly defined and it is expected that all student-athletes and parents review this policy (page 10).
- Satisfaction of all eligibility requirements of the University Interscholastic Athletic Association (UIL) and Galveston Independent School District.

Program Goals:

Though the unique nature of each sport dictates its specific objectives, all teams will attempt to

- Emphasize the development of basic skills, appropriate attitudes, values and team concepts.
- Allow as many students as possible to participate and share the experience and benefits derived from team membership.
- Compete competitively with district and non-district opponents.

Participation at the Varsity level is generally limited to the most highly skilled players and those with the ability to interact constructively with other players for team success. The coaching staff will determine the level of play for each student-athlete based on what would be most beneficial to the development and progress of each player and team. It should be understood that playing time could be limited.

Athletic Offerings:

Fall Sports

The fall season begins in August and ends in late October/November.

- Football
- Boys/Girls Team Tennis
- Boys/Girls Cross Country
- Girls Volleyball
- Fall Golf

Winter Sports

The winter season begins in late October and ends in late February/early March.

- Boys/Girls Basketball
- Boys/Girls Swimming, Diving
- Boys/Girls Soccer
- Boys/Girls Powerlifting

Spring Sports

The spring season begins late February/early March and ends in late May.

- Baseball
- Softball
- Boys/Girls Track & Field
- Boys/Girls UIL Tennis
- Spring Golf

Levels of Play:

FRESHMAN:

At the entry level for high school athletics, athletes and their parents should expect the following concepts to be emphasized:

- Developing fundamental skills
- Providing equal practice opportunities for all participants
- Having the coach's evaluation of an athlete's attitude, skills, and team role determine game time, working toward equitable playing time for all participants
- Learning the rules of the game
- Developing an orientation toward and appreciation for team effort in each athlete
- Demonstrating sportsmanship and fair play
- Developing the ambition to achieve at the next level of competition
- Prioritizing skill and character development over winning

JUNIOR VARSITY:

This is a transitional level for high school athletics, and athletes and parents should expect the following concepts to be emphasized:

- Reinforcing and refining fundamental skills.
- Having the coach's evaluation of an athlete's attitude, skills, and team role determine game time
- Demonstrating sportsmanship and fair play
- Developing more sophisticated athletic strategies
- Specifically defining an individual athlete's role within the team concept
- Refining and reinforcing the concepts of commitment and team play.
- Focusing on physical conditioning and development
- Developing the ambition to achieve at the next level of competition
- Prioritizing skill and character development over winning

VARSIITY

At the highest level of athletic competition in high school athletics, athletes and parents should expect the following concepts to be emphasized

- Developing a high level of proficiency in the physical skills of the sport
- Having the coach's evaluation of an athlete's attitude, skills, and team role determine playing time
- Developing sophisticated strategy, situation analysis, and other mental aspects of the sport
- Specifically defining an individual athlete's role within the team concept
- Fostering maximum commitment to the athletic team
- Understanding and valuing the physical conditioning components of one's sport
- Understanding the importance of individual sacrifice for the good of the team
- Winning within the rules of sportsmanship and fair play

There are many decisions made on a regular basis by members of our coaching staff that may include which athletes should start a contest, which athlete should play at what position, and the amount of playing time an athlete will be given. Only members of our coaching staff make these very difficult coaching decisions after weighing a considerable number of factors. Generally, the most competitive, skilled team members will play the major portion of contests; however, teams cannot be successful without committed substitutes. These athletes must work as hard as they can to help make their respective teams as competitive as possible and be ready at all times to step forward to compete. They must also demonstrate the perseverance and commitment to strive to advance to a starting role.

Team Tryouts / Selection:

During the tryout period, each coach will provide an explanation of his/her expectations. It is the duty of the student to demonstrate to the coach that they can fulfill these expectations. If a student is not selected for a team, he/she may contact the coach personally for an explanation. Students who are not selected are encouraged to explore other GISD athletic opportunities in other sport programs as well as additional Extra-curricular activities.

The coaching staff of each sport has the sole responsibility for selecting members of the team, determining the level of play, and apportioning the amount of playing time for each student athlete.

Commitment:

Each member of an athletic team MUST:

- Commit to being present at all team activities, including try-outs, practices, meetings and contest with other schools.
- Dedicate himself/herself to becoming an excellent team member and school citizen.
- Strive to continually improve as an athlete.
- Demonstrate pride in team performance and in himself/herself as members of a team.

Game/Practice Sessions:

Practices are held daily for approximately 1 to 2 hours, or as appropriate to the activity and weather. Some practices and games may be held on weekends. Any team member who must be late or miss practice, games, or meetings must confer with his/her coach. Practice and game schedules, particularly in the case of winter and spring sports, include school vacation weeks. Students and families should take this into consideration when deciding to try-out for our teams.

Absence Policy:

Unexcused absences from practices may jeopardize retaining a position on the team, an opportunity to earn a varsity letter, and/or playing time at the coaches' discretion.

Excused absences from practices may impact position on the team and playing time, not as a punitive measure, but for the safety of that individual, fairness to the rest of the team, and strategic reasons.

Quitting or Being Dismissed from a Team

1. If a student-athlete quits or is removed from a team after the team is formed, the student-athlete is not eligible for any awards from that sport and may not practice for the next sport until the original sport team has completed its last UIL contest. The only exception is an agreement between the Head Coaches of the two sports involved and the Athletic Director to allow the student-athlete to switch sports.
2. Student-athletes who are dismissed from one sport for disciplinary reasons will not be eligible to participate or compete in another sport until the regular season of the sport in which the student-athlete was dismissed has concluded, with AD approval.

Ball High School Criteria for Athletic Honors and Awards:

To be considered for a team award presented by the coach, a student must:

- Display upright conduct and a spirit of fair play at all times.
- Exhibit respect for school personnel, coaches, game officials, and opponents.
- Not violate the UIL/GISD Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Return all equipment at the completion of the season
- Meet criteria established by the coach.
- Finish the season as a member in good standing on his/her team, which includes being academically eligible.

Honors such as ALL-DISTRICT selection are awarded to BHS students from time to time by other organizations outside of the school. It must be understood that while coaches may nominate students for some of these awards, they have no control over the final selection.

VARSITY LETTER: Receiving a varsity letter for programs is an honor reserved for those student athletes who have demonstrated excellence in performance and the commitment and sacrifice appropriate for membership on a varsity team. Students who are on the varsity team for fifty percent of the season and complete the season shall receive a varsity letter, as long as they have excellent attendance and work ethic. The standard for receiving a varsity letter for programs that only have one team will be determined by the coach.

SUB-VARSITY CERTIFICATE: Athletes who do not receive a varsity letter, but have excellent attendance and work ethic will be awarded a Sub-Varsity Certificate to acknowledge their contribution.

MANAGER LETTER: As an integral, non-playing member of a team, managers may also be recognized for the valuable role they play. In order to be considered, managers must:

- Adhere to all general rules and regulations of athletes.
- Fulfill all the duties as outlined by the coach.
- Adhere to all rules and regulations that bind student athletes.
- Manage a varsity level team.

ALL-DISTRICT CERTIFICATES: One individual certificate per year will be presented to athletes achieving all-district or all-county status in the district or county.

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAQUES: A picture plaque listing the team's accomplishments will be presented to teams winning the UIL State Championship in their sport.

Conflict Resolution:

Athletic involvement can be highly emotional and issues about playing time, team selection, honors and awards can arise. It is very important that these issues be addressed as soon as possible, and as directly as possible, so that they can be resolved promptly. The following model will be used when a problem arises.

1. Contacting the coach

As a general rule, the issue should be presented as soon as possible to the coach by the *individual* student-athlete. If personal contact is not practical, a student-athlete may ask his/her team captain to talk with the coach. If these recommended routes are not *successful*, the coach should be contacted by the student-athlete's parent(s) at an appropriate time. Times to be avoided are:

- Either prior to or immediately after a competition
- During a practice session
- During a time when other students may be present or when it may be readily apparent to others that a discussion is taking place
- At a time when it is apparent that there would not be sufficient time to provide for a complete discussion

Usually the best solution is to ask the coach either over the phone, via email or in person if an appointment could be made to discuss the issue. A parent or student-athlete could also contact the coach via the Athletic Office. *It is strongly recommended that the student-athlete join their parent(s) at this meeting to ensure that all sides of the issue can be thoroughly discussed.*

2. Contacting the Athletic Director

If a satisfactory resolution is not reached through direct contact with the coach, the student-athlete and/or parent(s) should contact the Athletic Director, Assistant Athletic Director, or Middle School Coordinator assigned according to the distribution of leadership (attached). As a courtesy, the coach should be informed that this contact is being made. If this discussion does not result in a satisfactory conclusion, then a meeting will be scheduled involving all concerning parties in an attempt to reach a satisfactory resolution. **It is very important for all student-athletes and their parent(s) to know that any comments, concerns, or issues brought to the athletic director will be addressed with the coach.** Issues concerning coaching personnel may or may not be communicated to others.

3. Contacting Administration

If there is not a satisfactory resolution, the student-athlete and/or parent(s) should contact the School Principal. As a courtesy, the Athletic Director should be informed that this contact is being made. While there is no guarantee that all parties will agree with all resolutions or findings, a thorough, respectful airing, of different perceptions and experiences can lead to more productive relationships and clearer understandings in the future.

Ball High School Vacation Policy Governing Athletes:

When athletes miss practice during vacation weeks, coaches will determine the consequences on:

- Principles of fairness to players who attended all scheduled practices
- The importance of conditioning
- Professional discretion

Sportsmanship Policy:

GISD expects all parties present at a contest to display the highest possible level of sportsmanship. Players, coaches, and spectators should treat opponents, game officials and visiting spectators with respect at all times. GISD and each campus reserves the right to warn, censure, place on probation or suspend (for up to one calendar year) any player, team, coach, or school official determined to be acting in a manner contrary to the standards of good sportsmanship. Spectators who do not adhere to standards of good sportsmanship may be asked to leave the contest and/or be prohibited from future contests. If you are not sure what details good sportsmanship, please follow this simple rule: Cheer for your own team, and do not belittle teams, players, coaches, fans, or officials.

Three important BHS Rules pertaining to student-athletes should be noted:

1. A player ejected from a game shall, at a minimum miss the next game and must appeal to AD.
2. A player ejected from a second game during the same season must have a parent meeting with their head coach and the AD before being eligible to participate again.
3. A player ejected from a third game during the same season will be ineligible to participate for the remainder of the season. (All incidents should be reported in a written report to AD)

School Athletic Equipment Policy:

Students are responsible for and expected to maintain proper care of all equipment issued to them. Students are responsible for payment of any lost, stolen or damaged items. Each item not returned will be assessed at a rate comparable to the current replacement cost. All equipment is to be returned at the completion of the season. Final grades can be withheld for those who do not return or pay for lost/damaged equipment. Student-athletes are not to wear uniforms, either practice or game, at any time other than those allowed by specified team regulations.

Transportation Policy:

When GISD provides transportation to and from athletic events, student-athletes are required to ride that transportation. The members of the athletic staff feel it is in the best interest of team unity that everyone travel together and share the game experience. As the “guardian” during these trips, the athletic staff must be able to account for the whereabouts of all student-athletes and insure their safety. It is expected that our student-athletes will conduct themselves appropriately while on bus transportation. Any misconduct will result in a penalty including and up to dismissal if warranted. Student-athletes will be responsible for any damages to bus property and subsequent costs to repair or replace.

In the event that there are extenuating personal circumstances or JV/Varsity games are scheduled back to back and a parent wishes to take responsibility for the transportation of his/her son or daughter, it is required, barring unforeseen circumstances, that the parent/guardian provide written notice to the coach requesting the exception 24 hours in advance. A parent/guardian must also present himself/herself to a member of the coaching staff informing the coach that his/her child is leaving with him/her. Student-athletes may then ride with their parent/guardian. Student-athletes may not ride with other student-athletes or anyone else other than their parent/guardian.

UIL Interscholastic Athletic Association Rules:

Eligibility Rules:

UIL student eligibility requirements for participation in high school athletics are very detailed. UIL regulations have been condensed here in an attempt to highlight the most important rules and regulations. As with all UIL rules, there is a waiver process. The school principal must initiate a waiver of UIL rules and only one credit course can be waived per year. If the information below does not answer specific questions, or there is a concern that a waiver might be necessary, please contact the Athletic Office. A complete copy of the UIL Rules can be found on www.uiltexas.org. **As a rule, you must contact the AD before contacting UIL.**

Enrollment/Academic Achievement:

To be eligible for the fall grading period, students are required to have passed and received full credits for the previous academic year, the equivalent of four traditional yearlong major courses. Academic eligibility of all students shall be considered as official and determined only on the published date when the grading period ends for that ranking period to be issued to the parents of all students within a particular class.

Time Allowed for Participation after First Entering Grade Nine:

A student shall be eligible during only four consecutive academic years after first entering grade 9.

Age:

A high school student must be less than 19 years of age prior to September 1st of the current school year.

Transfer Students:

A student who transfers from any school to an UIL member high school is **ineligible** to participate in any interscholastic contest at any level for a period of one year in all sports in which that student participated at the varsity level or its equivalent during the one-year period immediately preceding the transfer. "Varsity participation" is defined as any appearance, as a competitor, in a varsity inter-scholastic contest other than a scrimmage. Students must be approved by the District Executive Committee for varsity participation.

GISD Drug and Alcohol Policy:

Athletes are held to a higher standard of conduct than that of students who are not involved in Athletics. Each coach, along with the principal and athletic director, shall have the authority to establish specific guidelines for membership and leadership eligibility. If participants meet the eligibility requirements and are selected to represent Galveston ISD, they agree to comply with the behavior guidelines set forth in the Galveston Independent School District Student Code of Conduct, the Galveston ISD Extracurricular Activities Discipline Guidelines, the Galveston ISD Extracurricular Standards of Behavior for Athletics and the GISD Substance Abuse policy for Athletes. The Extracurricular Standards of Behavior for Athletics and the GISD Substance Abuse policy for Athletes shall govern not only conduct at school and school-sponsored activities, but also conduct at any time outside of the school day. The GISD Extracurricular Activities Discipline Guidelines governs student behavior in extracurricular activities other than athletics. If any participant violates either the GISD Code

of Conduct, Extracurricular Standards of Behavior for Athletics, Extracurricular Activities Discipline Guidelines or GISD Substance Abuse policy for Athletics, he/she may lose the privilege of participation.

EXTRACURRICULAR STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR FOR ATHLETICS

OFFENSES AND PENALTIES

MINOR OFFENSES

1. Any conduct that constitutes a Class C misdemeanor or is punishable as a Class C misdemeanor as defined by the Texas Penal Code. Conduct involving drug/alcohol/tobacco possession or abuse is defined in greater detail in the following pages in the GISD Drug and Alcohol Abuse policy for Athletics.
2. Any conduct that violates the behavioral standards set by individual campus organizations/sports or persistent misbehavior that violates the organization or districts previously communicated standards of conduct.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AS TO MINOR OFFENSES

1. First Offense - The participant may be disciplined at the discretion of the coach. Parents will be notified of the offense and informed of present or future consequences for such behavior. The grade level assistant principal and athletic director will be notified of the offense and the action taken by the coach. Coaches shall record the contact with parents, principal, athletic director and student-athlete, as well as the action taken.
2. Second Offense – The participant may be suspended from the activity for a period of time no longer than the end of the school term. Parents will be notified of the offense and informed of present or future consequences for such behavior. The grade level assistant principal and athletic director will be notified of the offense and the action taken by the coach. Coaches shall record the contact with parents, principal, athletic director and student-athlete, as well as the action taken.
3. Sponsors and coaches of other activities shall be notified of violations as appropriate
4. If an athlete's behavior is inappropriate while on a school trip, that athlete's parents will be notified and requested to pick up their son/daughter immediately.

SERIOUS OFFENSES

1. Any act that constitutes a felony or is punishable as a felony or any act that is defined and is punishable as a Class A or B misdemeanor as defined by the Texas Penal Code.
2. Unlawful possession, distribution, selling, giving or delivering to another person controlled substances or dangerous drugs. This is covered in the following pages of the Galveston ISD Drug and Alcohol Abuse Policy for Athletics.

3. Aggressive, disruptive action or group demonstration that substantially disrupts or materially interferes with school activities.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AS TO SERIOUS OFFENSES

1. All allegations that a student has committed a serious offense of the Extracurricular Standards of Behavior for Athletics shall be immediately referred to the Athletic Director and Principal. An investigation shall begin immediately by the principal and athletic director. Parents will immediately be notified as to the allegations facing their child. After an initial investigation, that student-athlete may be temporarily suspended from the activity or activities until the investigation is complete.
2. The principal and athletic director leading the investigation shall insure that the student is afforded procedural due process during the investigation to include:
 - A. Reasonable notice to student and parent of the allegations against the student athlete
 - B. Right to an adult representative or legal counsel
 - C. Opportunity to testify and to present evidence and witnesses in his/her defense
 - D. Opportunity to examine the evidence presented to the coach principal or athletic director and to question the witnesses
3. The school officials involved in the investigation may consider any testimony or written statement they consider reliable.
4. After a complete investigation and hearings, the student may be suspended from Athletics for a period of time as long as one semester. The length of suspension shall include the days in which the student was suspended during the investigation when applicable.
5. Records will be kept on file in the Athletic Director's office and the Principal's office. The student will be notified when his/her suspension is complete and a conference detailing the expectations of programs the athlete wishes to participate in will be discussed between coaches, the athlete and his parents. All involved must feel confident that the athlete will not be a risk for further infractions of a serious or minor nature.

Galveston Independent School District

SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY FOR ATHLETICS

The Galveston Independent School District recognizes that a serious substance abuse problem is present in our society and that school activities are not immune to this problem.

The District recognizes that athletes are involved in strenuous activities and that the use of drugs or alcohol increases the risk of injury to the athlete. In addition, the use of drugs or alcohol lessens the physical, mental, and emotional commitment an athlete can make to the athletic program and compromises the quality of the program. Therefore, to promote a healthy environment and to discourage substance abuse and because participation is a privilege and not a right, this policy has been adopted and approved by the District's Board of Trustees.

Violations and Consequences

Violations of the Substance Abuse Policy include the following

1. The use, gift, sale, delivery, possession, or being under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, other controlled substances, dangerous drugs, or abuseable glue, paint, or volatile chemicals.
2. The commission of the elements of an offense of a Class C misdemeanor involving alcohol, cocaine, LSD, other controlled substances, dangerous drugs, or abusable glue, paint, or volatile chemicals.
3. Involvement with alcohol, cocaine, LSD, other controlled substances, dangerous drugs, or abusable glue, paint, or volatile chemicals if the Athletic Director determines that such involvement is detrimental to the student or the Athletic Program and is of a nature that it should be punished as a Type II Violation.
4. Behavior determined by the Athletic Director or designee which is deemed unsuitable for or unworthy of an athlete.

The following consequences are present for Violations:

1st Offense:

A two-week suspension from all athletic competition for a total of 10 instructional days from the date of the suspension. Scheduled athletic events (games or practices) that fall on a weekend or school holiday will constitute an instructional day. If the period of suspension includes two pre-season tournaments, the student will become eligible prior to the date of the second tournament. Days missed due to injury will not be counted as days served for the suspension. A medical release by a physician or trainer will be required before the suspension period begins.

At the discretion of the Athletic Director, following the 1st offense, the athlete may continue to work out with the team. The suspended athlete may not participate in games or sit with the team prior to, during, or

after any game during a suspension. Following the 1st offense, the athlete will be required to complete 25 miles and 250 bleachers within that two-week period under the close supervision of the coach. A doctor's excuse is required to modify the required 25 miles and 250 bleachers. The modification will require 200 miles on a stationary bike.

2nd Offense:

Dismissal from the team and Athletic Program for a total of 30 instructional days from the date of suspension and completion of conditioning work listed in 1st offense.

3rd Offense:

Dismissal from the team and Athletic Program for one calendar year from the date of suspension.

Galveston Independent School District

TOBACCO USE

Athletes are expected to refrain from tobacco use at all times. Senate Bill 21 has raised the legal age to 21 for anyone to purchase tobacco products, including a ban on e-cigarettes to those under 21. Athletes should neither possess nor purchase any tobacco substance including cigarettes, cigars, snuff, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, etc. Any athlete who violates this policy will be responsible for the completion of the following:

1st Offense: 25 stadium bleachers or 50 gym bleachers - completed under the supervision of a coach.

2nd Offense: 25 stadium bleachers or 50 gym bleachers, along with 5 miles - completed under the supervision of a coach.

3rd Offense: 25 stadium bleachers or 50 gym bleachers and 5 miles - completed under the supervision of a coach, along with a one-week suspension.

Tobacco use/possession is prohibited on all campuses and school grounds. Use/possession at school related activities is prohibited.

Definitions

"Use" means that a student has smoked, ingested, injected, imbibed, inhaled, drank, or otherwise taken internally a prohibited substance.

"Under the Influence" means that a student's faculties are impaired. Under the influence does not require that the student need not be intoxicated under any legal standard.

"Possession" means that a student is in a vehicle with, holds, sells, gives, or is present at a social gathering in which alcohol or drugs are present, readily available and/or being used.

STUDENT RIGHTS

The Head Coach must document such dismissal which shall include the authority on which the dismissal was based. This documentation must be submitted to the District Athletic Department and Student Records for filing.

A dismissal from athletic participation on legislative grounds shall be considered a per se dismissal and therefore non-grievable even if a student-athlete later meets the legislative requirement for which she/he was dismissed. Reinstatement under these circumstances shall be at the discretion of the Head Coach.

The decision of the Head Coach shall be final.

I. Dismissal from athletic participation on subjective grounds

In the event a student-athlete is dismissed from a team or individual sport due to subjective criteria (e.g. missing practice, rules infractions, conduct unbecoming a sportsman) that student-athlete shall be given written notice stating the specific reason(s) for dismissal. The student-athlete shall have the right to appeal the decision by giving notice to the Athletic Director within 5 days of the date of such notice. Once notice is received, the student-athlete may continue to attend and participate in practice(s) during the appeal process but may not participate in game day activities until a final decision is made unless such attendance and participation is not tolerable as determined by the site Athletic Director and Principal.

II. Dismissal from athletic participation due to egregious behavior

In the event a student-athlete is dismissed from a team or individual sport due to egregious behavior that violates school policies, the school policy regarding notice and hearing shall be adhered to strictly. The student-athlete may not participate in any practice(s) or game day activities unless it is decided by the appropriate administrator that such attendance is tolerable.

The District Athletic Department shall have all authority and shall be a party in the decision-making process in these situations.

The District Athletic Department will file the Student Records. A copy of the final decision shall be available to the student-athlete and/or parent upon written request to the District Athletic Department.

POLICY REASONING FOR ACTIONS

I. Dismissal from athletic participation on legislative (rules & bylaws) grounds

Per se violations of legislative authority is an issue that student-athletes, just like any citizen, must always contend. As part of the development of life skills off the field of play, athletics teaches that there are consequences for failure to abide by a legislative requirement. Since most legislative requirements are for safety purposes and are not meant to punish, certain due process rights are allowed to be restricted without penalty under the Constitution. In the case of student-athletes, there is no inherent right of athletic participation and therefore any procedural due process or substantive due process is given as part of administrative fairness. In the case of per se violations, fairness is outweighed by legislative intent.

Since athletic participation is a privilege, the student-athlete must retain autonomy for meeting the requirements for participation. This teaches self-discipline and responsibility for his/her eligibility to function in any aspect of life.

Reinstatement discretion is left to the Head Coach because the Head Coach and the coaching staff can readily gauge whether reinstatement would be a disruption to the team dynamics or present game or participant scheduling conflicts. In these instances, only the Coaching staff has the expertise to assess and therefore discretion is left to them.

II. Dismissal from athletic participation on subjective grounds

The risk-management concept is the reason for the process set out above in Student Rights II. The inherent risk in sports for failure to abide by sporting conduct or follow rules allows a Coach and/or administrator to act in an immediate manner regarding dismissal of a student-athlete from a team or individual sport. However, it is clear that in some instances, the intensity and immediacy of a dismissal in certain situations may prove to be unfair to the student-athlete. As such, we have included a mechanism in which the student-athlete is not disrupted from participation and conditioning during an appeal process.

III. Dismissal from athletic participation due to egregious behavior

Because the student-athlete is a “student first”, the governing policy regarding all students shall be applicable in such cases that reflect on the student’s overall conduct. Therefore, in instances of egregious behavior such as fighting, threats or other prohibited student conduct during school hours, practice(s), game(s), or civil engagement, the policy and procedural rules afforded all students shall be followed. Since athletic participation is a privilege, the Athletic Director has the right to deny participation in athletics on grounds other than athletic ability.

GISD Athletic Expectations

Athletes are expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior when attending extra-curricular activities. This includes refraining from making negative comments toward opponents, fans, and officials.

Athletes are expected to attend all classes and will not be granted special privileges during the school day.

Athletes are expected to be responsible for school equipment issued to them and will pay for lost equipment issued to them. Equipment is to be used during practice and game situations only. No private use of school equipment is permitted and shall not leave school property. Athletes will not receive their awards or be allowed to participate in a school sponsored activity until all obligations are met.

Athletes are expected to complete each sport in which they compete in including attending award events, unless they are excused by the coach.

Athletes are expected to attend all practices, games, and events unless excused by the coach/advisor. (*ISS, OCI, and detentions are not considered an excused absence.*)

Athletes are expected to attend school each day. Athletes, who are absent any part of a school day, will not be allowed to participate in a game/match/meet that day or evening. Prearranged absences may be excused (*ISS and OCI will be counted as an absence.*)

Athletes may be removed from school activities for the remainder of the season or school year for violation of this code of conduct and/or disruptive behavior that occurs during or outside the school day or at any of our school sponsored activities.

FINAL MESSAGE TO ALL STUDENT-ATHLETES, SPECTATORS AND PARENTS:

We urge you to support GISD Athletics by:

Attending sporting events.

- Lending positive support to our teams and coaches.
- Encouraging all players without regard to their role on the team.
- Helping other spectators and parents to maintain an appropriate sportsmanlike attitude.
- Showing respect for the authority of the game officials.
- Enjoying the Ball High School athletic experience

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the guidelines in the 2021-2022 Athletic Handbook set forth by the Galveston ISD Athletic Department.