

Administration

GISD Mission Statement

The mission of the Gainesville Independent School District is to provide opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for immediate and future success for all students, PK-12, through a cooperative effort of school, home and community.

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GISD Athletic Administration

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Parent Letter

Athletes and Parents,

The athletic department is excited to have your student athlete as a part of the program. We want to help your child grow as an athlete but more importantly as a leader, role model and overall a better person. As coaches we are here to help with development in athletics and academics that will lead to success. The coaching staff is excited to see you grow as leaders, and winners through athletics. The information contained herein has been provided for you to read and study carefully, as it is your responsibility to know the expectations and regulations of the athletic program. However, the coach in each sport may give additional expectations, under these guidelines.

GISD Athletic programs have an open door policy. Any questions that you may have should be brought to the head coach of that sport first. If there are continued questions concerning the same issue, please follow the appropriate administrative chain of command. As an athletic department we want every student athlete to be valued and successful.

In addition, the following link will help all parents understand the guidelines of all UIL Athletic State Laws and Policies. The student code of conduct will also be enforced as a part of the athletic handbook. https://www.uiltexas.org/athletics

The following sections will be the local athletic policies in athletics.

Neil Searcy Athletic Director



Policy and Procedures

<u>Chain of Command</u>: The Gainesville Athletic Department requires a chain of command that is followed at all times. Out of respect for all parties involved the proper chain of command goes as follows.

Head Coach – Girls or Boys Athletic Coordinator – Athletic Director

<u>Specialization</u>: Is highly discouraged—all athletes are encouraged to participate in all sports in which they have an interest. Athletes will not be restricted to any one sport by a coach. Athletes will not be encouraged by any coach to specialize. If there are any concerns with an athlete that is participating in two sports during the same time frame, the athletic administration team will make the final decision as to what competition should be attended; or additional exceptions are needed. The athletic department will respect an athlete's decision to choose the sport they want to participate in.

<u>Dual Participation</u>: Athletes will be encouraged to not miss any GISD athletic practice/competition for an outside non-GISD academic/athletic event. Appropriate communication between players and coaches is expected if a student athlete is going to miss any GISD athletic event.

<u>Changing Sports/Quitting</u>: From the time a team plays the first contest of the season, student athletes are expected to complete the entirety of the season.

1. If the athletic administrators agree that changing sports is the best move for the program and all parties involved a meeting with coaches, parents and the student before moving forward.

<u>Academic Eligibility</u> "No Pass/No Play": If an athlete fails any six weeks, they are still required to attend practices daily. Athletes that have failed a class will not be allowed to travel with school transportation but will be expected to be at all practices even while ineligible. We will provide extra academic support to ensure that all athletes are academically successful.

<u>Bus Transportation</u>: All student athletes will travel to competitions with the team. Estimated departure and arrival times will be communicated using SportsYou app and team pages on the athletic website. All athletes will be expected to be on time for departure. Parents are not allowed to bring athletes to the game unless pre-approved. Athletes may not be eligible to compete if they don't ride the bus to competitions.

- 1. If another school competition academic/athletic is scheduled on the same day parents will have an opportunity to transport athletes.
- 2. Last minute requests must be approved by the head coach.
- 3. Last minute sign out requests must be made by the legal guardian through email to the head coach.
- 4. All athletes must be signed out by the legal guardian at an event unless pre-approval for another method of travel has been approved.
- 5. Student athletes may ride home with legal guardian if all guidelines have been followed.

<u>Letter Jackets</u>: Are ordered twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. The head coach will have the final decision on who gets a letter jacket. All student managers/athletic trainers must complete one school year of helping to be eligible for a jacket.

Sports Honors: Post-season sports honors are voted on by opposing coaches, media and other outside entities. The three types and explanations of honors are as follows:

- 1. Individual player awards are voted on by the players on the team and/or coaches.
- 2. All-District is an award that is nominated by the head coach and voted on by all opposing head coaches. Head coaches are not allowed to vote for their athletes.
- 3. All-County/Region/Area/All-State are nominated and voted on by the media.
- 4. Academic All-State is an award for seniors only. UIL requires a GPA of 92 and above to be eligible but not guaranteed

<u>Religious Holidays</u>: Athletes will be excused from participating in extracurricular activities for the purpose of observing religious holidays. Parents must send an email requesting an excused absence from competitions to the head coach.

<u>In-Season/Off-Season</u>: All athletes will either be in a season of competition or off- season of their upcoming sport.



Discipline Management *Disclosure - GISD athletics will follow all school policy and school regulations as set forth by the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Trustees.

It is the goal of the GISD athletic department to develop quality young men and women. We feel that a discipline policy serves as a guideline for how we expect our student-athletes to act. We also believe that our policy will help produce a better prepared person to enter society as an adult. We are convinced that the following policy is one that will be fair and effective in maintaining a high level of discipline within our athletic program. Responsibility of the Student Athlete: The student/athlete must realize that they not only represent themselves, but their teammates, school, and coaches as well. With this in mind, the student-athlete assumes much more responsibility than the average student. Responsibility of the Coaching Staff: It is imperative that each coach takes responsibility for enforcing the discipline policy. Repeated misconduct may result in the student-athlete being suspended and/or removed from athletics totally.

Expectations of GISD Student Athletes:

- Do Right
- Be on Time.
- Be Respectful and Courteous.
- Be Great Ambassadors for GISD.
- Assume Academic Responsibility.
- Have Exemplary Classroom Behavior and be an example.
- Be Coachable and Accountable.
- Display Integrity at all times.

5 Finger Characteristics of a Leopard -

- 1. Integrity <u>Pinky</u> promise that we will be people that do that the right thing even when it isn't easy.
- 2. Passion/Commitment <u>Ring Finger</u> Be committed to your team/coaches and play with passion all the time.
- 3. Mental and Physical Toughness <u>Middle Finger</u> Be able to overcome adversity and show toughness.
- 4. Selfless not Selfish <u>Index Finger</u> Point at your teammates not yourself. Play for your team and not yourself.
- 5. Perfect Effort <u>Thumb</u> Point at yourself No one is perfect, control what can be controlled, and effort perfect effort can be controlled.

What will NOT be Tolerated within the GISD Athletic Program:

- Stealing
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Bullying and Cyberbullying
- Fighting
- Consistent Misbehavior in the classroom



Attendance Policy/Make-up

IN A TEAM SPORT---If a student/athlete misses ONE practice during the week (for ANY reason), the minimum punishment is to be held out of the 1st quarter of the game. If that student/athlete misses TWO (or more) practices during that same week, they are to be suspended ONE game (the game immediately following). These guidelines are on a week-to-week basis. If a student/athlete has excessive absences throughout the season, additional punishment can result, up to removal from the team. Please note that time served for absences is not tied to a coach's decision for playing time.

IN AN INDIVIDUAL SPORT—If a student athlete misses ONE practice during the week (for ANY reason), that player will be assigned "make-up" work. These make-ups must be completed to be eligible to compete in their next match. If that student/athlete misses TWO (or more) practices during that same week, they are to be suspended for their next competition. If a student/athlete has excessive absences throughout the season, additional punishment can result, up to removal from the team. Please note that time served for absences is not tied to a coach's decision for playing time.

- *There are no excused or unexcused absences. An absence for ANY reason carries the same punishment.
- **Excessive absences are subject to review an athlete's place on the team at any time
- ***Absences can also carry additional "Opportunity for improvements" (OFI), as deemed necessary by the Head Coach of that sport.



Athletic Training Policy & Procedure

Gainesville ISD Sports Medicine Policy and Procedure

As trained and licensed healthcare providers the Athletic Trainers at GISD put the student athletes' health and safety as our first priority.

Athletic Trainers' Role:

- Act under the standing orders from team physician
- Provide care based on the Texas Athletic Trainers Practice Act
- Follow the NATA code of ethics
- Provide the best care possible to injured/ill athletes o Get athletes back on the field/court as quickly and safely as possible
- Determine if an injury or illness needs to be referred o Make parent contact when referral is necessary o Make parent contact when deemed necessary
- Follow and implement the GISD Weather Policies, Pregnancy Policy, and EAP
- Keep the coaches, athletes, and parents informed of injury/illness progression
- All home (on-site) practices and games (HS) will have an athletic trainer available o Middle
 School will have home football game coverage
 - o The Athletic Trainer(s) will be on campus during all home practices and games
 - To the best of their ability the Athletic Trainer(s) will be physically present (or able to respond within 5 min)
 - Games have priority over practice. Varsity sports have priority
 - Athletic Trainer(s) will provide water to outside sports **Student**

Athlete's Role:

- Will follow UIL Guidelines for Physicals
- Register and sign forms on Rank One
- Do not hide injuries from Coaches or Athletic Trainers
- Come in for designated treatment times o Sign-in when entering Athletic Training Room for treatment o Keep coming for treatment until released
- Follow treatment plan given by the Athletic Trainer(s)
- If seen by a Doctor, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Chiropractor, etc bring a note. Parent notes are not considered a valid reason to miss a workout/practice/game.

- If an athlete goes to the Doctor, the Athletic Trainer(s) will not treat the athlete without a note from said Doctor.
- A Doctor note is required to miss a workout/practice/game unless already determined by the Athletic Trainer(s)

Coach's Role:

- Report any suspected injuries to the Athletic Trainers
- Do not question the Athletic Trainers' decisions
- Read injury reports and follow recommendations
- Keep Athletic Trainers updated on any practice/game schedules o Give the Athletic Trainer(s) at least 24 hours or as soon as possible notice to any game/practice changes
 - If not given 24hr notice there is no guarantee an Athletic Trainer will be present
- In the event of an emergency while the Athletic Trainer(s) is not present, the Head Coach should implement the Emergency Action Plan, then notify the Athletic Trainer(s)

Gainesville ISD Athletics Pregnancy Policy

The following policy has been adopted for the protection of the student athletes in Gainesville ISD. Notification

- Should a student athlete suspect that she may be pregnant, we recommend she have a pregnancy test immediately. If she finds that she is pregnant, she is required to notify her Coach and Athletic Trainer promptly.
- From that point on she will not participate in any athletic activity until released by her physician.

This policy is to protect the health of the student athlete and the unborn child from complications due to exertion caused by athletic activities.

Gainesville ISD Athletics Emergency Plan

Emergency Number: 911 Gainesville ISD Police: 940-736-8685 Gainesville City Police: 940-668-7777

Emergency Personnel:

A licensed athletic trainer will be present or on call to every home practice and game. All athletic trainers and coaches will be certified in CPR/AED and concussion training as required by the UIL. The athletic trainer will have a cell phone at every practice and game. There is a land line telephone in the coaches' office in the field house and in the coaches' office behind the gyms.

Automated External Defibrillators (AED):

- 1. The athletic trainer will carry one on the sidelines at all football games
- 2. If there is not a practice or game in progress one will be in the athletic training room
- 3. There is one located on the West wall of the weight room in the field house.
- 4. There is one next to the concession stand outside the gyms, as well as one across the hall

from the office next to the library **DUTIES IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY**

Athletic Trainer:

- If at all possible, call 911
- Immediate care of the athlete
- Delegation of appropriate duties to others (may have to delegate call of 911)

Coaches:

- Maintain control of team and stop/move practice or game
- Contact game administrator and notify of situation
- Remain available to assist with any needs of the athletic trainer
- Make sure all gates and access points are open for medical personnel

Game Administrator

- Contact GISD Police (If not already present)
- If present notify them of situation
- Help control crowd

Emergency Script (basketball/football/track/baseball/softball/indoor)

(Gainesville ISD Athletics Lightning Policy		
	the gym/field entrance from (specify easiest way to location (east side or west side entrance to campus).		
	emergency at the (specify location). The emergency is— You can access		
	Hello, my name is and I am a at Gainesville High School. We have an		

Lightning is the most consistent and significant weather hazard that may affect interscholastic athletes. Within the United States, the National Severe Storms Laboratory Estimates more than 100 fatalities and 400-500 injuries requiring medical treatment occur from lightning strikes every year. While the likelihood of being struck by lightning is extremely low, the odds are significantly greater when a storm is in the area and the proper safety procedures are not followed.

Prevention and education of our coaches are the keys to lightning safety. Education begins with information on lightning. The references associated with these guidelines are an appropriate resource. Prevention should begin long before any athletic event or practice is held. The following steps are recommended by the NCAA and NSSL to mitigate the lighting hazard.

Section 1: Chain of Command

Athletic Trainer / Game Administrator Game Official / Head Coach / Athletic Department Administrator School Administrator

The Licensed Athletic Trainer and the Game Administrator will co-command the implementation of the lightning policy. Both the Licensed Athletic Trainer and Game Administrator can activate safety plan by suspending the event.

The Game Administrator assumes the responsibility as a spokesperson to participating teams, school administrators, game officials, press box, and news media.

Section 2: Designate a Weather Watcher

The Athletic Training Staff will actively obtain weather reports the day of the game and during the event. This information will be shared within the department and the Licensed Athletic Trainer will disseminate the information within the chain of command.

Section 3: Monitor Local Weather Forecasts

All representatives in the "Chain of Command" are required to monitor local weather forecasts. The Athletic Trainers have access to the Perry Weather website and apps. All head coaches and administrators will be signed up to receive text alerts of lightning activity in the area.

Be aware of the National Weather Service issued thunderstorm "watch" and "warning" as well as any signs of a thunderstorm developing nearby.

- A "watch" means conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in the area.
- A "warning" means that severe weather has been reported in an area and for everyone to take the proper precautions.

Gainesville ISD uses Perry Weather to monitor weather conditions perryweather.com

Pocket Perry will be GISD's main lightning monitoring and warning tool.

When lightning is detected within 30 miles of the facilities a text will be sent notifying that lightning is in the "advisory area". If the storm is moving towards the GISD facilities another text will be sent when lightning occurs within 15 miles in the "caution area". If the storm continues to move closer another text will be sent when lightning occurs within 10 miles in the "warning area". At this time, all athletes and coaches will be removed from the playing field and sent to the "safe shelter." The public address announcer will make an announcement for spectators to seek safe shelter. Once no lightning has been detected within 10 miles for 30 minutes an "all clear" text will be sent and play will be allowed to resume. If lightning is detected within 10 miles during the 30 minute waiting period, the clock shall be restarted.

Section IV: Define Safe Shelter and List Safe Location

Any building that has plumbing and/ or electrical wiring that acts to electrically ground the structure. NOTE: avoid using showers during thunderstorms.

In the absence of a building as listed above, an enclosed vehicle with a metal roof would be considered a secondary safe shelter. NOTE: do not touch the sides of the vehicle.

In the event that a game is delayed due to lightning all spectators will be asked to go to the indoor facility or their vehicles, and the athletes will be taken to the locker rooms or the indoor facility.

Section V: Lightning Safety Rules

In the event that Pocket Perry is unavailable the Flash to Bang method may be used. Once lightning is spotted, count the number of seconds until thunder is heard and divide by 5. This number is the

approximate number of miles that the lightning is. Lightning is known to strike as far away as 10 miles from the storm; it does not have to be raining for lightning to strike.

Once lightning is detected within 10 miles of the venue, play will be suspended, an announcement made, and all athletes, coaches and spectators will need to proceed to the safe shelter. A 30 minute timer will start at this time play will not continue until there have not been any lightning strikes within 10 miles for 30 consecutive minutes. Everytime lightning is detected within 10 miles the clock will restart.

Section VI: First Aide

In the event that someone is struck by lightning EMS needs to be activated immediately. The game administrator or Athletic Trainer will make the call. A person that has been struck by lightning does not carry an electrical charge, therefore it is safe to touch the person and provide any CPR or first aide necessary. If possible move the person to a safe location away from any possible lightning strikes and puddles of water (in the event an AED is needed).

Gainesville ISD Athletics Cold Weather Policy

Cold exposure can be uncomfortable, impair performance, and even become life threatening. Conditions created by cold exposure include frostbite and hypothermia. Wind chill can make activity and impair performance when muscle temperature declines. Frostbite is the freezing of superficial tissues, usually of the face, ears, fingers, and toes. Hypothermia is a significant drop in body temperature that occurs with rapid cooling, exhaustion, and energy depletion. The resulting failure of the temperature regulating mechanisms of the body constitutes a medical emergency.

Hypothermia can occur at temperatures above freezing. A wet and windy 30-50 degree exposure can be as serious as sub-freezing exposure. Gainesville ISD has the following cold weather policy in place to protect the athletes, coaches, and spectators.

Cold Exposure:

- Breathing of cold air can trigger asthma attack
- Coughing, chest tightness, burning sensation in throat and nasal passage
- Reduction of strength, power, endurance, and aerobic activity
- Core body temperature reduction, causing reduction of motor output

Cold Recognition:

- Shivering, a means for the body to generate heat
- Excessive shivering contributes to fatigue, loss of motor skills
- Numbness and pain in fingers, toes, ears, and exposed facial tissue
- Drop in core temperature; athlete exhibits sluggishness, slowed speech, disoriented

Notification of Temperature:

- The Athletic Training staff will provide notice to the coaches of if and how long they will be allowed to practice and or play.
- The weather conditions will determine which protocol is to be followed.

Enforcement of Policies:

- Head Coach/Athletic Trainers will monitor time of exposure
- Athletic Trainers will report any violations to the respective coordinator
- The coordinator will meet with the head coach
- Violations of policies will be reported to the Athletic Director

Gainesville High School Athletics Cold Policy: Practice

Wind Chill Factor 33-35 degrees (with precipitation)

- 35 minutes of exposure/ 20 minutes inside (may return outside after 20 minutes)
- Dry clothing (sock, gloves)
- Athletes must be dressed in warm-ups with extremities covered

Wind Chill Factor 32 degrees or below (with precipitation)

- All activities will be inside
- No outside exposure

Wind Chill Factor 31-32 degrees (Dry)

- 45 minutes of exposure/ 15 minutes inside
- Athletes must be in warm ups with extremities covered

Wind Chill Factor 26-30 degrees (Dry)

- 30 minutes of exposure/ 15 minutes inside
- Athletes must be in warm ups with extremities covered

Wind Chill Factor 25 degrees and below (Dry)

- No outside activity
- All practices will be inside

Gainesville Junior High Athletics Cold Weather Policy:

Wind Chill Factor 39-45 degrees (with precipitation)

- 35 minutes exposure/ 20 minutes inside (may return outside after 20 minutes)
- Dry clothing (socks, gloves)
- Athletes must be dressed in warm ups with extremities covered Wind Chill Factor 38 degrees or below (with precipitation)
- All activities will be inside
- No outside exposure

Wind Chill Factor of 35-38 degrees (Dry)

- 45 minutes of exposure/ 15 minutes inside
- Athletes must be in warm ups with extremities covered

Wind Chill Factor of 31-34 degrees (Dry)

- 30 minutes of exposure/ 15 minutes inside
- Athletes must be in warm ups with extremities covered

Wind Chill Factor of 30 degrees and below (Dry)

- No outside activity
- All practices will be inside

Cold Policy Games:

 Games will be postponed or canceled on a case by case basis at the discretion of the Head Athletic Trainer and the Athletic Director. A game will be considered for postponement or

cancellation if the wind chill is 28 degrees or below (dry) and 32 degrees or below (with precipitation).

• It will be up to the Head Coaches and Athletic Directors to come up with a makeup date.

School Day Cancellation: Full Day

• No travel or practice unless approved by the Athletic Director

School Day Early Dismissal: Deteriorating Weather Conditions

- Practice or travel must be approved by the Athletic Director
- If approved practices must be over by 5pm

Gainesville ISD Athletics Hot Weather Policy

Practice and competition in hot and humid conditions poses special challenges for student athletes. Heat stress and resulting heat illness is a primary concern in hot and humid conditions. Although deaths from heat illness are rare, they do happen. Constant surveillance and education are necessary to prevent heat related illness. The following practices should be observed.

General Considerations for Risk Reduction:

- Encourage proper education regarding heat illness (for athletes, coaches, parents, and medical staff). Education about risk factors should focus on hydration needs, acclimatization, work/rest ratio, signs and symptoms of exertional heat illnesses, treatment, dietary supplements, nutritional issues, and fitness status.
- Assure that Athletic Trainers have the authority to alter work/rest ratios, practice schedules, amount of equipment, and withdrawal of individuals from participation based on environment and/or athlete's medical conditions.

General Guidelines:

- Gradual acclimatization of the athlete to hot/humid conditions is a must. It is recommended that
 athletes gradually increase exposure to hot and/or humid environmental conditions. Gainesville
 ISD will follow the UIL guidelines for acclimatization.
- Clothing and protective equipment can increase heat stress. Dark colored clothing absorbs solar radiation, some fabrics can interfere with the evaporation of sweat and other avenues of heat loss. Protective equipment can also interfere in the same ways.
- To identify heat stress conditions on the field of play wet bulb temperatures will be taken 30 minutes prior to practice as well as every 30 minutes during practice.
- Unlimited access to drinking water will be provided throughout practices and games.

Specific Guidelines:

Heat index of less than 100

Water breaks every 30-45 minutes

Heat index of 100-105

- Full pads Water breaks every 30 minutes Break duration 5 minutes
- Shorts/shirts/helmets o Water breaks every 40 min
- Cardiovascular Conditioning o Remove helmets

Heat index of

106-110 Football

- Full pads o Water breaks every 20 minutes (5 min) o Practice will not exceed 1hr 45min
- Shorts/shirts/helmets o Water breaks every 30 minutes o Practice will not exceed 2 hours
- Athletes will be allowed to remove helmets when not in contact drills
- Cardiovascular conditioning: remove helmets and shoulder pads

Cross Country/Track

- Long distance runners must be under direct supervision by coaches at all times
- Water breaks every 30 minutes
- Practice will not exceed 2 hours

Baseball/Softball/Soccer/Tennis

- Water breaks every 30 minutes
- Practice will not exceed 2 hours

Off Season Programs

• 45 minutes of heat exposure with a minimum of 1 water break

Heat Index of 111-115

Football

- Shorts/shoulder pads/helmets only o Water breaks every 20 minutes o Practice will not exceed 2 hours
- Cardiovascular conditioning duration and intensity must decrease o Remove shoulder pads and helmets

Cross Country/Track

- Long distance runners must be directly supervised by coaches at all times
- Water breaks every 20 minutes
- Practice will not exceed 2 hours

Baseball/Softball/Soccer/Tennis

- Water breaks every 20 minutes
- Practice not to exceed 2 hours

Off Season Programs

• 30 minutes of heat exposure with a minimum of 1 water break

Heat Index of 116-117

Football

- Shorts/shirt/helmets only o Water break every 20 minutes o Practice to not exceed 1hr 30 min total
- No cardiovascular conditioning

Cross Country/Track

- Long distance runners must be directly supervised by coaches at all times
- Water breaks every 15 minutes
- Practice will not exceed 1hr 30min

Baseball/Softball/Soccer/Tennis

- Water breaks every 20 minutes
- Practice will not exceed 2 hours

Off season programs

• 30 minutes of heat exposure with minimum of 1 water break

Heat Index of 118+

All Sports

• Nothing outside will be allowed

Practices may be moved inside, altered, or cancelled at any point under the discretion of the Head Athletic Trainer and Athletic Director.

Junior High Athletics

Heat Index of less than 100

Water breaks every 30-45 minutes

Heat Index of 100-106

- Shorts/shoulder pads/helmets o Water breaks every 30 minutes o Practice will not exceed 1hr 45min
- Athletes will be allowed to remove helmets while not in contact drills
- Cardiovascular conditioning: remove shoulder pads and helmet

Heat Index of 106-110

• Shorts/shoulder pads/helmets only ○ Water breaks every 15 minutes ○ Practice not to exceed 1hr 30min ○ No cardiovascular conditioning

Heat Index of 111+

No outside practice

Cross Country/Track

- Follow the time and water break guidelines for football
- Distance runners must be under constant coach supervision when heat index is above 100



A condition for participation in the Gainesville Athletic Program is to sign an acknowledgement that the student-athlete has read and understands the athletic handbook. The student's parents of guardians must also sign an acknowledgement. The acknowledgement states that the signing party understands what is expected of a GISD student athlete. The signing also understands all procedures in accordance with UIL and Local Policy.

Date:	Students Grade:
participation in	e athletic handbook and agree to these expectations as a condition for my voluntary n athletics. I understand that not meeting expectations could result in disciplinary action athletic participation.
Students Name	e Printed:
Students Name	e Signed:
Parent/Guardi	an Name Printed
Parent/Guardi	an Named Signed: