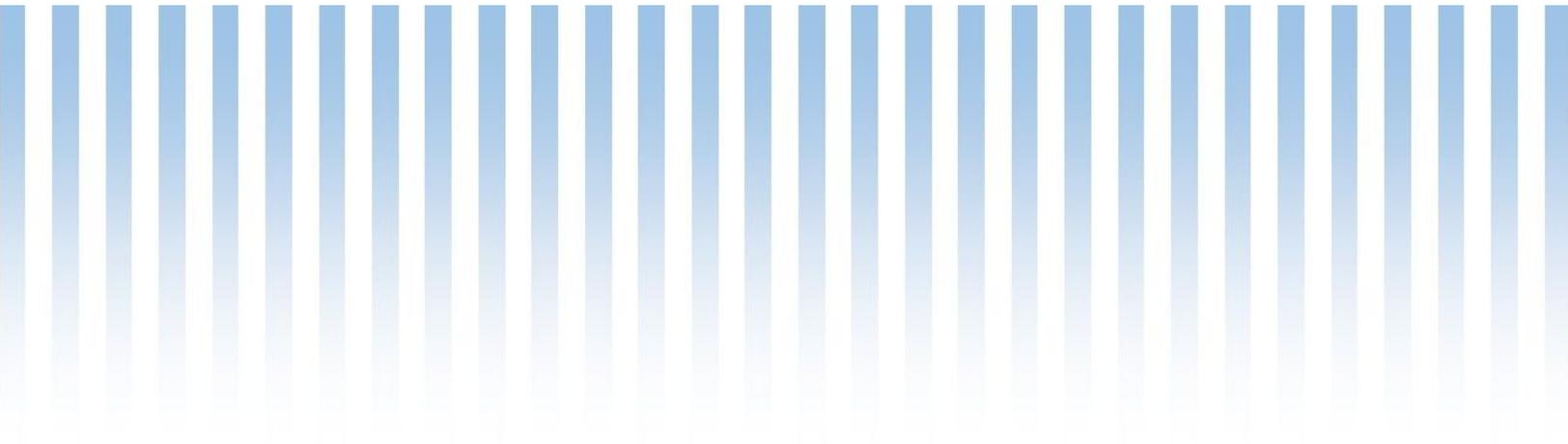


# **Athletic Handbook**

**Genesee Christian School**





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## Introductions

It is the desire of Genesee Christian School to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and will further each student's educational maturity.

Our tradition has been to compete with honor in a Christ-like manner. Such a tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned.

It will not be easy to contribute to such a great athletic tradition. When you wear the colors of your school, we assume that you not only understand our traditions, but are willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them.

## Athletic Philosophy



### Statement of philosophy

The Genesee Christian Athletic Program provides a variety of experiences to aid in the development of Christ-like thinking, attitudes and habits that will prepare students for adult life.

The interscholastic athletic program shall be conducted in accordance with existing policies, rules and regulations. While we take great pride in winning, we do not condone "winning at any cost." We discourage any and all pressures which might tend to neglect good sportsmanship. The athletic program must be conducted in such a way as to justify it as an educational activity.

### Athletic goals and objectives

OUR GOAL - To assist our school in fulfilling its mission.

**Mission: Genesee Christian School strives to develop spiritual, academic and extracurricular excellence, supporting families and local churches by training students in a biblical, Christ-centered environment.**

OUR OBJECTIVES - The student athlete shall learn to:

1. Honor Jesus Christ
2. Reflect Jesus Christ
3. Work hard as unto the Lord
4. Demonstrate sportsmanship
5. Have fun
6. Use teamwork (Love thy neighbor)



## Chain of Command

### Player Relations

In the event of conflicts or difficulties players and parents are expected to follow the proper “chain of command.”

- ◆ Conflict with another member of the team - Go to that person and attempt to resolve the problem. If this attempt fails, then go see the coach. If the problem is still unresolved, go to the Athletic Director. If this fails, see the high school principal. If the problem remains, see the administrator.
- ◆ Conflict with the coach - Go to the coach and attempt to resolve the matter. If this attempt fails, see the Athletic Director. If the problem still exists, go to the high school principal. If the problem is still unresolved, go to the administrator.

Methods of appeal are available and effective. Conflicts get out of hand when people refuse to seek resolutions in a biblical manner. Each member of the team, including parents, should prayerfully pursue conflict resolution with Jesus’ instructions in Matthew 18 in mind. Gossip in the locker room, in the stands, or at home will solve nothing. Late night phone calls or impromptu conferences with the coach at courtside immediately following a contest can have disastrous results for all parties involved. Take some time to think and pray about a possible solution before you act. Follow God’s plan for conflict resolution and the difficulty will have a much better chance of being resolved in a manner that is pleasing to everyone.



## Parent/Coach Relations

Both parenting and coaching are difficult jobs. By understanding each position, we are better able to accept the actions of others in order to provide greater benefit to the student. As parents, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

Communication you should expect from coach:

- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all players.
- Emergency procedures if an injury occurs.
- Team rules and requirements.

Communication coaches expect from athletes:

- Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
- Special concerns in regards to a coach's philosophy and expectations.
- If things do not go as your child expects, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:

- Playing time.
- Team strategy or play calling.
- Other student-athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed.

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach:

1. Call to set up an appointment. If you do not know your coach's phone number, please call the high school (743-3108).
2. If the coach cannot be reached, please call the athletic director.
3. Please do NOT attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice.

If the meeting with coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution:

1. Call and set up an appointment with the athletic director to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.



## Requirements for Participation

### Physical Exam

A yearly physical examination is required. The physical form must be completed by the physician and parent then submitted to the coach or office prior (BEFORE THE FIRST PRACTICE) to participation. The form must be kept on file in the athletic office. Sports physicals completed after April 15<sup>th</sup> are good for the following school year.

### Parent Contract - Signed and Returned

### Sports Fee

Pay to Play - Each sport season, athletes will be assessed a fee to help maintain the cost of the athletic program. They do not guarantee playing time. Current fees per player per sport:

- \$75 - High School
- \$50 - Junior High
- \$35 - Elementary

### Eligibility

The MHSAA requires that in order for students to participate in high school sports, they must be passing 66% of their classes and must have passed 66% of their classes the previous semester.

In addition to MHSAA regulations, GCS also requires students to meet the following criteria:

1. Student athletes must be passing all classes
2. Student athletes must maintain acceptable behavior according to the student code of conduct. Any exceptions must be approved by the administration.

GCS will use the following guidelines to determine and monitor eligibility:

1. Students are eligible to play sports at the beginning of a new school year by meeting the MHSAA minimum requirement for the previous semester.
2. Grades will be checked weekly beginning after the third week of the quarter. **Grades will be checked Monday and ineligibility runs Sunday to Sunday the following week.**
3. Students meeting eligibility requirements at the end of a quarter will be eligible for the first three weeks of the following quarter.
4. Ineligible students may attend practices and games, but attendance will not be required.

### Equipment:

Equipment - Athletes are responsible for the proper care of equipment issued to them or used by them. School furnished uniforms and warm-ups are to be worn only for games. Equipment or uniforms not returned in good condition will be subject to a financial penalty.



## Athletic Codes of Conduct

The administration and coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics. The testimony of our athletes is an important consideration. The testimony of our school is a major consideration.

Any conduct that results in dishonor or loss of testimony to the athlete, the team or the school will not be tolerated. Acts of unacceptable conduct, such as, but not limited to theft, vandalism, disrespect, immorality or violations of law, tarnish the reputation and testimony of everyone associated with the athletic programs and will not be tolerated.

Sportsmanship: Displaying evidence of good sportsmanship at all times regardless of the outcome of the game is a goal that all athletes and coaches should strive for. Therefore, it is imperative that our behavior does not in any way bring reproach upon our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Sportsmanship demands from us some of the following:

- A spirit of respect and genuine concern for our opponents.
- Officials are to be treated with courtesy and respect.
- Self-control, especially in very difficult situations.
- A Christ-like attitude when we enjoy individual or team success. Remember the challenge in Philippians 1:27, "...let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ."
- No trash-talking or taunting - The National Federation disapproves of any form of taunting which is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule or demean others under any circumstances including on the basis of race, religion, gender or national origin. This type of violation can result in an athlete being ejected or disqualified from a game immediately. GCS will respect and enforce this policy. Ephesians 4:29

Attitude:

- Toward your coach: He or she is the authority that has been placed over you. Treating them with anything less than respect for any reason will not be tolerated..
- Toward your teammates: Enthusiastic support of each member of your team is the attitude we endorse in this program.
- Toward opponents

Ejection from a contest: The Michigan High School Athletic Association requires that any athlete or coach ejected from a contest must be suspended for the next scheduled game. This rule also applies to tournament play and will carry over to the following year if the expulsion occurred during the last game of the season.



## Means of discipline

In dealing with violations of good conduct, the athletic department reserves the right to use appropriate means of discipline, including suspension or expulsion from the team. The athletic department will support all means of discipline that occur as a result of violation of policies not found in the Athletic Handbook that are recorded in the Student Handbook.

## Basic Athletic Department Policies

Participation in athletics is not a right, it is a privilege. This is a notion that is lost in a society that glorifies the “star athlete” while ignoring the rest of the team. It is our goal to restore the belief that all members of the team are valuable. It is an honor to be a part of a team, wear the uniform, and represent your school throughout the course of a season. This privilege lasts only for “a season” and ends all too quickly. Enjoy that privilege while you can.

### Attendance:

1. Students must arrive to school by 11:00am in order to practice or play.
2. Students who leave school early may NOT practice or play.
3. School Policy - All attendance policies covered by the Student Handbook will be enforced. Any special circumstances that may occur must be approved in advance Administration.
4. Practice Policy - An athlete should always consult his or her coach before missing practice. The coach is under no obligation to start or play an athlete that missed practice the day before a contest. With the exception of severe weather and practice during holidays, all practices are mandatory.
5. Vacations policy - Vacations during a sport season are discouraged. In the event that an absence due to a vacation is unavoidable, the athlete must:
  - Contact the head coach prior to the vacation.
  - Recognize the consequences related to their status as a starter, 2<sup>nd</sup> string, 3<sup>rd</sup> string, etc.

### Limited Participation:

1. Participation on more than one team - Athletes may participate in only one sport per season. Any exception to this rule must be cleared by the coach and Athletic Director.
2. Dropping or transferring to another sport - On occasion an athlete may find it necessary to drop a sport for a good reason. If this is the case, the following procedure must be followed before you transfer:
  - a. Consult with your head coach, and return all equipment issued to you.
  - b. Report your situation to the Athletic Director.



## Injury/medication

**Injury** - All injuries that occur while participating in athletics should be reported to the coach. If the injury requires medical attention by a doctor or treatment center, it will be necessary to have an injury report form completed. Once athletes are treated by a physician, the athlete must obtain a doctor's permission to return to the activity.

**Medication** - Any athlete that is using medication of any kind, prescription or non-prescription, must have that medication supplied by the parent. This medication along with instructions should be kept in the high school office. No coach or team member should keep or distribute medication without written parental and or physicians' guidelines.

## Dress code

- Practice - Male athletes
  - Practice clothes should be modest and loose fitting.
  - Practice jerseys or practice uniforms must be worn if they are available.
  - Shirts must be worn at all times.
  
- Practice - Female athletes
  - Practice attire should be modest and loose fitting.
  - "Tank-top" practice jerseys are allowed if a "T-shirt" is worn underneath.
  - Sweat pants are acceptable if loose fitting and modest.
  - Ladies are allowed to wear dress pants to a game in which they are spectators.
  
- Game day
  - No athlete should change into his or her game uniform before it is necessary. Some application of common sense is vital concerning this matter.
  - Once a contest is finished you are to change back into school dress code. Exceptions to the rule are as follows:
    - If there are no changing facilities available.
    - If you are going home immediately after the game is over.
    - If you have been issued a uniform warm-up suit. The complete warm-up suit may substitute for school dress code.



## Squad selection

It is our philosophy of athletics and our desire to see as many students as possible participate in the athletic program at Genesee Christian. Coaches are encouraged to keep as many students as possible without unbalancing the integrity of their sport. Time, space, facilities, equipment, personal preference and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport. In the event that cutting becomes a necessity, the following information shall be provided to all candidates for the team:

- The extent of the try-out period.
- The criteria used to select the team.
- The expected practice commitment if they make the team.
- The expected game commitment if they make the team.

## Playing time

Elementary basketball - All team members must play at least one full quarter. Coaches are encouraged to allow players to play a variety of positions.

All junior high teams - All team members must play in each contest. Coaches are encouraged to allow all players to play a variety of positions.

All high school teams - Coaches are not required to play everyone in every contest. However, when the outcome of a contest has been more or less decided, coaches are encouraged to substitute whenever possible.



## Crowd Control

It is the desire of the Athletic Department at Genesee Christian School that our crowd contributes to an atmosphere that makes our guests welcome and our players and coaches feel enthusiastic support. It is absolutely essential that Jesus Christ is glorified by all our actions at an athletic contest. There are three elements that must work together to make this a reality.

- Coaching Staff
  - Coaches influence not only the conduct of the players, but also those who attend athletic contests. Since the coach is influential in setting the tone of conduct, he must visibly show that he values self-control, fair play and sportsmanlike behavior.
  - We will not attempt to humiliate an opponent, e.g., run up the score.
- Student Athlete
  - Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
  - Support and encourage teammates.
  - Treat opponents as a guest or friend. Refrain from making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature.
  - “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”
- Spectators
  - Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
  - Respect and support the decisions of your coaches.
  - Support and encourage both teams.
  - Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups. Treat them as you would treat a guest in your own home.
  - Remember that school athletics are learning experiences for students and that mistakes are made. Praise student-athletes in their efforts.
  - Learn the rules of the game for better understanding.
  - Refrain from making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature.
  - Be a positive role model through your own actions and by censuring those around you at events whose behavior is unbecoming.



## Athletic Awards Policy

### Varsity letter requirements

- Faithful attendance to practice - You are allowed to miss three practices that are excused and still earn a letter. Any circumstances that could be considered an exception must be cleared with the Athletic Director and the head coach.
- Faithful attendance to games - You may not miss any games for an unexcused reason. You are allowed to miss three games that are excused absences.
- Appearances in contests - You must appear in at least half of the quarters, halves, games, meets, innings, etc. Failure to meet the required amount of playing time does not necessarily indicate the loss of a letter. The head coach reserves the right to grant the letter if he so desires.

The letter is given only once.

- Athletes that letter in a given sport more than once will receive a gold service bar and certificate for that sport.
- A pin indicating the type of sport participated in will be given once for each sport in which a letter is earned.



## Transportation

Genesee Christian Schools does not have a fleet of vehicles nor a limitless supply of drivers to transport our athletes. Transportation is often difficult to arrange. Please keep in mind some of the following guidelines:

- If a bus or van is used:
  - Essential personnel has priority to ride. This is players, coaches, scorekeepers, managers, or cheerleaders.
  - Others may ride only with the permission of the Athletic Director. This permission must be secured at least 24 hours in advance.
  - No student that is not essential personnel may leave school early to ride the team bus without specific permission from the Administration.
  - Return times are impossible to predict accurately. An estimated time of leaving and return will be announced and posted ahead of time. Students should call parents when they know what time they will arrive at the school.
  - Coaches are not required to stay beyond a fifteen minute waiting period. After this time has expired, they have the right to take the athletes home with them and have parents pick them up there. Parents please remember to do your best to pick up your athletes on time.
  - All vehicles used by Genesee Christian are borrowed. Keeping them clean and free of damage is imperative. Any abuse of these vehicles by a student or athlete will be dealt with severely.
  
- In the event that you must drive to a contest or get to the game in another vehicle besides the one provided by the school you must obtain permission beforehand. Permission must be granted by the Administration
  
- Other means of transportation may include a parent or coach's vehicle. It is possible for students to use their own vehicles. This must be cleared in advance by Administration.
  
- The Athletic Department is striving to have as much local competition as possible. Generally, if an opponent is less than 30 miles from the school no transportation is provided. It is the responsibility of the parents to get the athletes to and from the game.

