

Gulf Coast High School

Information for Parents of Athletes

The purpose of this document is to inform the parents of athletes about policies and issues in the GCHS Athletic Department. It is not intended to replace effective communication between athletic department personnel and parents but to enhance that communication. Questions about any items in this document can be addressed to a member of a coaching staff or the Athletic Director.

A. Gulf Coast High School Athletic Department Philosophy

1. Students attend Gulf Coast High School with the goal of earning a high school diploma. Academic achievement is always the primary focus in everything we do.
2. Athletic achievement requires sincere commitment from all athletes, parents, coaches and administrators.
3. The school athletic department and administration believe strongly in being accessible to parents and supportive of the coaching staff.
4. For our programs to be truly successful, it is necessary that everyone understand the focus and direction of the program.
5. Effective communication between all parties must occur regularly for our programs to run efficiently.
6. All decisions made and actions taken by administrators, coaches, athletes and parents must be for the benefit of the program.
7. Success is measured by the improvement of our teams, the interaction between our players and coaches, the development of maturity and character in our student-athletes, and the level of dedication by all parties.

B. What parents should expect from coaches:

1. Schedules of practice and contest times, locations and travel arrangements. Updates should be made whenever a change occurs.
2. Information regarding expectations of athletes including school & team rules, fees, special equipment needed, requirements for postseason awards, etc.
3. To be informed when an athlete is injured during participation in a practice or contest and medical treatment by a doctor may be necessary.
4. Information on how to contact them if the need arises.
5. Communication when disciplinary action results in an athlete being denied participation in a contest.
6. Updates on school-related discipline or academic issues

C. What coaches should expect from parents:

1. Support in decision-making involving playing time, team strategy and disciplinary action
2. Information regarding specific health concerns
3. Notification of schedule conflicts well in advance
4. A commitment to assure that athletes are able to attend all scheduled practices and contests
5. Assistance in the care and return of school athletic equipment
6. A commitment to assure that athletes are getting enough rest and nutrition at home
7. Provide guidance for students to make good decisions involving time-management

D. What should be done if specific concerns arise?

1. Encourage your child to talk to the coach about the situation.
2. Make an appointment with the coach for a meeting.
3. If the situation is not resolved, make an appointment with the Athletic Director for a meeting.

4. Never attempt to confront a coach before, during, or following a contest or practice. These can be busy and emotional times for both the parent and the coach and this period does not promote objective analysis of the situation.

E. How can you get involved in the GCHS Athletic program?

1. Attend contests in which your child's team participates whenever possible and attend other school events to show support for your child's classmates and other programs.
2. Join the Gulf Coast High School All-Sports Booster Club. There is a yearly membership fee that is used to purchase athletic equipment and awards for our sports teams. A number of volunteer opportunities are available for you to participate at booster fundraising events throughout the year. Meetings are held in the GCHS Activities Office on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM and all parents are welcome to attend.

F. Contact Information

1. School Phone number: 239-377-1419
2. E-mail: All coaches that work at GCHS are easily accessible by e-mail. There is a standard format for all e-mail addresses: 1st six letters of the last name (or less if they have a short last name), 1st two letters of the first name @collier.k12.fl.us

Examples: James Cook would be cookja@collier.k12.fl.us
Greg Campbell would be campbegr@collier.k12.fl.us

G. Code of Conduct for Athletes

RULE 27. ACTIVITY/ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT:

The Collier County School Board invites all students (hereinafter referred to as participants) who possess the ability, attitude, cooperative spirit, and desire to favorably represent our secondary schools to become candidates and participate in our interscholastic or extracurricular activities programs. For the purpose of this Code, interscholastic or extracurricular activities (hereinafter to include school based meetings, practices, performances, games, contests, etc.) applies to all Florida High School Activities Association, other state sponsored activities and all other Collier County Public Schools High School sponsored organizations, officers, participants and/or members on the following conditions.

Participation in these activities is a privilege and not a right. There is a relationship between a participant's behavior on and off school property and the exercise of the participant's privilege to participate in these activities. Participants are representatives of their school and of their fellow students. They have higher visibility and greater recognition, assume leadership roles and become examples for their peers. This creates a duty and responsibility on the part of a participant to conduct himself or herself, on and off school property, in a proper manner. There is a relationship between these activities and a participant's health, physical and mental ability, social competence and discipline. Appropriate behavior by a participant can contribute significantly to the overall character of participants and non-participants.

In order to maintain a high level of performance in interscholastic or extracurricular activities, all candidates are required to subscribe to and abide by the rules set forth in this Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct. However, coaches, music directors and club/class sponsors have the discretionary authority to deviate from the Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct only to establish additional standards and rules for their respective activities that are more rigorous and restrictive than those already outlined, if they are consistent with the philosophy of this Code. Such additional standards and rules must be reviewed and approved for their appropriateness by the activities coordinator and the principal before being applied to a participant for an unusual or special circumstance.

It is important that the participant understand that these rules are to be adhered to for as long as the participant is involved in an interscholastic or extracurricular activity throughout the participant's high school career. However, only a wrongful act occurring during the school calendar year, during a summer school session in which the participant is enrolled, or during an interval occurring outside of these time periods if the participant is participating in an interscholastic or extracurricular activity (i.e., pre-season fall sports or band practice), will be the subject of suspension or imposition of restrictions or penalties (except for the additional requirements as stated in Section V (B) regarding felony offense). It is important that the participant and parent understand that participation in these activities is a privilege, not a right, and in no way a requirement for graduation. Participants who believe they will not be able to adhere to the guidelines contained in this Code should make the decision not to participate in the interscholastic or extracurricular activity programs. It is with this understanding that we require our participants to exemplify outstanding character. Participants pledge their support to the high standards of this Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct and agree to abide by the provisions

of this Code, when they participate in one or more of the interscholastic or extracurricular activities covered by this Code.

In the event a participant fails to comply with these high standards, it shall be interpreted by the coach, music director, or sponsor as an indication that the participant does not have sufficient desire to participate in the chosen interscholastic or extracurricular activity program. Failure to comply with the Code may result in temporary or permanent suspension from interscholastic or extracurricular activities, as set forth below.

Copies of the Collier County Public School's Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct will be discussed and distributed to all participating students at their respective schools at the beginning of each activity period or school year, or at the time a student may initially transfer into a Collier County Public School. Parents will be invited to attend an activities meeting to receive information and discuss the Code.

I. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Participants in interscholastic or extracurricular activities must attend a full school day to be eligible to compete and/or perform in activities on that day and report to school on time the next day to participate in the next event or activity. Exceptions to this requirement must be cleared IN ADVANCE by the activities coordinator after conferring with the principal.

II. STATEMENT REGARDING 2.0 CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE REQUIREMENT AND CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP AND PERFORMANCE FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- A. There is no appeal for students who do not meet the 2.0 cumulative G.P.A. academic requirements for the previous semester as stipulated by the FHSAA and the Collier County Public Schools in required courses for graduation.
- B. It should be further understood that the coaches, music directors, and club/class sponsors will be the sole judges of membership and performance of candidates; and if, or to what extent, they are to participate.

III. TOBACCO

A participant who uses and/or possesses any tobacco product shall be in violation of the Code of Conduct. If a violation of the Code for possession or use of tobacco occurs, then the following consequences will result:

- A. **FIRST OFFENSE**- A participant who commits a first offense will be ineligible for the next seven (7) calendar days from the time of administrative action. The first offense does not carry with it a suspension from practice(s). If no activities in which the student would participate are scheduled during this time, the participant shall be ineligible for the first seven (7) calendar days of the next regularly scheduled activity in which the participant would otherwise have participated.
- B. **SECOND OFFENSE**- A participant who commits a second offense shall be ineligible for the next twenty-one (21) calendar days from the time of administrative action. Additionally, a second offense carries with it suspension from all practice(s) for the same period. If no activities in which the participant would participate are scheduled during this time, the participant shall be ineligible for the first twenty-one (21) calendar days of the next regularly scheduled activity in which the participant would otherwise have participated.
- C. **THIRD OFFENSE**- A participant who commits a third offense shall become ineligible from any interscholastic or extracurricular activity participation for one calendar year.

IV. NARCOTICS, BEVERAGES CONTAINING ALCOHOL AND OTHER ILLEGAL DRUG USE

A. "In Association With"

A participant who is "in association with" alcohol and/or other controlled substances will be in violation of the Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct. "In association with" is defined as, "any participant who is in attendance at any location where alcohol or other controlled substances are being used illegally and who knew or had reasonable belief that such would be used, or who, without foreknowledge of such, chose to remain at the location after the illegal use became known to the participant."

1. **FIRST OFFENSE**- A participant who commits a first offense will be ineligible for the next seven (7) calendar days from the time of administrative action. The first offense does not carry with it a suspension from practice(s). If no activities in which the participant would participate are scheduled during this time, the participant shall be ineligible for the first seven (7) calendar days of the next regularly scheduled activity in which the participant would otherwise have participated.
2. **SECOND OFFENSE**- A participant who commits a second offense shall be ineligible for the next twenty-one (21) calendar days from the time of administrative action. Additionally, a second offense carries with it suspension from all

practice(s) for the same period. If no activities in which the participant would participate are scheduled during this time, the participant shall be ineligible for the first twenty-one (21) calendar days of the next regularly scheduled activity in which the participant would otherwise have participated.

3. **THIRD OFFENSE-** A participant who commits a third offense shall become ineligible from any interscholastic or extracurricular activity participation for one calendar year.

B. Confirmed Possession and/or Consumption of Narcotics, Beverages Containing Alcohol and Other Illegal Drug Use

A participant who is confirmed to have consumed and/or possessed any alcoholic beverage or other illegal drug, shall be in violation of the Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct. If a violation of the Code for consumption and/or possession of alcohol or illegal drug occurs, then the following consequences will follow:

1. **FIRST OFFENSE-** A participant who commits a first offense, under this section, shall be ineligible from the time of administrative action as follows:

- use, consumption and/or possession of alcohol - fourteen (14) calendar days
- illegal use, consumption and/or possession of controlled substance/drugs - twenty-one (21) calendar days.

A first offense also carries with it suspension from all practice(s) for the same period. If no activities in which the participant would participate are scheduled during this time, the participant shall be ineligible for the first fourteen (14) or twenty-one (21) calendar days, respectively, of the next regularly scheduled activity in which the participant would otherwise have participated. A first offense also carries with it a suspension for a minimum of two (2) regular season contests/events or one (1) football game.

2. **SECOND OFFENSE-** A participant who commits a second offense, under this section, shall be ineligible from the time of administrative action as follows:

- use, consumption and/or possession of alcohol - twenty-eight (28) calendar days
- illegal use, consumption and/or possession of controlled substance/drugs - thirty-five (35) calendar days.

A second offense also carries with it suspension from all practice(s) for the same period. If no activities in which the participant would participate are scheduled during this time, the participant shall be ineligible for the first twenty-eight (28) or thirty-five (35) calendar days, respectively, of the next regularly scheduled activity in which the participant would otherwise have participated. A second offense also carries with it a suspension for a minimum of four (4) regular season contests/events or two (2) football games.

In addition to the above suspension, under subsection B, (1) and (2), in order to regain eligibility, the participant must enroll and successfully complete the "Substance Abuse Education Level II" series for substance abusing adolescents, offered at the David Lawrence Center or a similar facility. If this requirement is not met, the participant will be suspended indefinitely until it is met.

Resources for help with drug and alcohol problems:

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Alanon/Alateen/Alcoholics Anonymous | 85 12th Street So. | 262-6535 |
| Charter Glade Hospital | 3550 Colonial Blvd, Ft. Myers | 1-800-242-7837 |
| David Lawrence Mental Health Center | 6075 Golden Gate Pkwy | 455-1031 |
| Narcotics Anonymous | 9001 Tamiami Trail E. | 775-4500 |
| 24-Hour Club | 1509 Pine Ridge Rd. | 597-5681 |

3. **THIRD OFFENSE-** A participant who commits a third offense shall become ineligible for any interscholastic or extracurricular activity participation for one calendar year. However, reinstatement will only be considered after application has been made to the principal of the school and documentation presented to substantiate ongoing substance treatment and monitoring. Additional conditions may also be required for reinstatement.

V. GENERAL MISCONDUCT

When making a decision about general misconduct, it is important for our professional staff to emphasize to their participants that maintaining the highest standards of behavior at all times is of utmost importance and that "winning at any cost" is not an appropriate goal. The importance of maintaining good physical, moral and ethical behavior as well as a commitment to the core values of sportsmanship and citizenship are the strongest messages we can send to our participants while they participate in our interscholastic or extracurricular activity programs.

- A. The activity coach/club sponsor/music director/activities coordinator or principal shall suspend a participant for other

violations considered to be unbecoming to the high standards of our interscholastic or extracurricular activity programs. These violations may include wrongful acts on and off school property, but are not limited to, commission of an act that would be a misdemeanor (other than a minor traffic violation) or a felony under the laws of the State of Florida, violation of the CCPS Student Code of Conduct, disruptive behavior, violations of particular state or local membership rules (e.g., breaking team curfew, being late for meetings, practices, or contests), general disrespect toward the coach/sponsor/teacher, players or fans and unsportsmanlike conduct to the team or program. The coach/sponsor/music director, etc. will report, as soon as reasonably possible, in writing to the activities coordinator, principal and the parents stating the violation(s) and the reason (s) for the proposed suspension and/or loss of office of the participant. Suspension under this category may be both for practice and/or contests. The length of the suspension should be applied fairly and should be commensurate with the violation(s). The principal may **overrule** a coach's, sponsor's, music director's or activity coordinator's suspension if it is deemed insufficient or inappropriate to the violation(s).

- B. Any participant who is arrested or detained by any federal, state or local law enforcement authorities for a felony offense, or for what, if the participant were an adult would be considered a felony offense, shall be suspended from participation in all activities (including contests and practices) until a final determination of the charge(s) and adjudication. If a participant is adjudicated guilty or delinquent of the felony, or in the event that adjudication of guilt or delinquency is withheld, then the participant is subject to, depending on the charge(s), permanent ineligibility for the school calendar year activity period or the remainder of his/her high school activity period of participation or career.

VI. Penalty Carry-Over/Multiple Violations

If any Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct violation occurs at or near the end of a particular activity period (such as sports season) the participant shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next activity in which the participant participates, even if that activity does not occur until the following school year. The penalty clause also applies school to school in the event a participant should move or transfer within our school district. If a participant is involved in multiple violations involving more than one category, each violation shall be dealt with and the penalties will be cumulative.

VII. DUE PROCESS AND RIGHT OF APPEAL

A. Due Process

1. After the initial report, the participant, parent(s), coach, music director or sponsor, and principal will be notified as soon as possible by the activities coordinator that an alleged violation of the Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct has occurred. A brief and informal preliminary hearing will be held by the activities coordinator or his designee, with the necessary individuals, to gather information prior to official administrative action. At this hearing, the participant will be informed of the charges against him/her, and the names of witnesses and a brief summary of the facts supporting the charge(s) and the participant shall be given the opportunity to refute the charges and present his/her side of the story.
2. If it is determined, during the hearing, that a violation of the Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct has occurred, then action will follow according to the Code and in compliance with the required Administrative Due Process procedures.
3. The parent(s) and participant will be notified in writing of the Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct violation(s) and the decision, conditions, penalty or action that has been imposed.

B. Right of Appeal

1. The parent(s) and participant shall have the right to appeal the decision of the activity coordinator or his designee to the principal of the school. The request for an appeal must be submitted in writing to the principal within five (5) calendar days after the original decision. During the appeal process, the penalty, action, or condition imposed on the participant by the activities coordinator shall remain in effect until the final decision of the principal.
2. If an appeal is pursued in a timely manner, within five (5) calendar days from the receipt of the notice of appeal, the principal will conduct an informal administrative hearing on the alleged violation. The participant will be informed of the charges against him/her and will have the right to defend, to examine evidence and exhibits, the right to be represented by legal counsel at the student's expense, the right to present, confront and cross examine witnesses, the right that the decision be based on a preponderance of the evidence and have the right to a record of the proceedings and tell his/her side of the story.
3. The principal's decisions concerning the informal administrative hearing will be final and the record will be closed. However, the Area Assistant Superintendent may hear an appeal of the principal's decision. The decision on any appeal will be communicated to the parent(s) and participant in writing.

VIII. STUDENTS TRANSITIONING FROM ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS (e.g., New Beginnings or D.R.I.L.L. Academy)

The District School Board of Collier County recognizes the emergence of alternative programs designed to intervene where specific disciplinary or criminal conduct has indicated a need. It is also recognized that the community as a whole has an interest in supporting students who have successfully completed such programs by providing the students with the opportunity to become eligible to participate in an interscholastic or extracurricular activity. A student who has successfully completed requirements and/or graduated from one of our Alternative Programs or other state certified programs, and who is recommended for transition back to a Collier County Public High School, will be given the opportunity to participate in such activities provided the student meets all academic requirements of both the Collier County Public Schools and the Florida High School Activities Association. Students who have successfully completed an alternative program will not be subject to penalties related to criminal activities or Code of Conduct violations committed prior to their enrollment in an alternative program, which conduct formed the basis for the enrollment. However, written conditions shall be set forth and agreed to between the state or local alternative program administrator and the appropriate coach, advisor, sponsor, music director, activity coordinator and principal before the student is granted the privilege of participating. If at any time during the activity period or season a violation of such conditions occurs, the participant is subject to disciplinary action consistent with the Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct.

RULE 28. 2.0 CUMULATIVE G.P.A. REQUIREMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC OR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: SCHOOL BOARD RULE-18/96

Interscholastic or extra-curricular activities are intended to supplement the regular curriculum of the school and to provide enriching opportunities for students. As important as interscholastic or extra-curricular activities are for the growth and development of each student, they must remain supplemental to the student's learning and mastery of the basic skills in the regular curriculum. Because the increased requirements for graduation, college entrance, and eligibility for college scholarships indicate the community's emphasis on increased student performance, the following eligibility requirements shall apply for student participation in all interscholastic or extra-curricular activities supervised by the Florida High School Activities Association (F.H.S.A.A.) and/or other state agencies. The agencies provide supervision for all interscholastic or extra-curricular activities including athletics, Student Council, Honor Society, band, vocal, orchestra, debate, drama and competitive club activities. These interscholastic activities will be subject to the F.H.S.A.A. requirements and locally adopted requirements.

The following eligibility requirements of the F.H.S.A.A. as well as local rules, shall be required for interscholastic or extra-curricular eligibility.

I. Academic Eligibility Requirements

- a. A student entering the ninth grade must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in all courses taken as calculated each semester. A period of seven (7) calendar days beyond the last day of the marking period is provided to determine academic eligibility during the current term.

NOTE: A semester is defined as one half of a school year (approximately 18 school weeks or 90 school days.)

- b. Exceptional students who are pursuing a special high school diploma must maintain a 2.0 in all those courses necessary for the completion of the requirements of the special diploma, as prescribed by the School Board in accordance with Section 232.247.F.S.
- c. All students must maintain satisfactory conduct, and the participation in extracurricular or interscholastic activities of any student who is convicted of or is found to have committed a felony or a delinquent act which would have been a felony if committed by an adult, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld, is contingent upon established and published School Board policy. It is, therefore, up to the local School Board to determine, through School Board policy, if such misconduct disqualifies a student. (See Rule 27, Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct.)

A maximum of one full unit of credit earned in summer school (including any Computer Assisted Instruction Program such as WICAT or PLATO) will be calculated to determine the previous term G.P.A. as well as the cumulative G.P.A. Credit earned during the regular school year in a Computer Assisted Instruction (CAI) Program, will be included in the calculation for the previous term to determine both local eligibility during the current term as well as cumulative grade point average. The CAI program must be completed prior to the conclusion of the previous term to be included in the calculation of academic eligibility during the current term.

A tutorial assistance program may be made available, upon request, at each of our high schools for students who need academic help. The program may be offered weekly and is referred to as the A.A.A. (Academic Assistance for Activities) program. Attendance is voluntary for students who fall below the 2.0 cumulative G.P.A. requirement.

If a school (intentionally or in error) permits a student to participate in an athletic contest or competitive performing activity (in or out of county) while the student maintains less than a 2.0 G.P.A., the school is subject to all F.H.S.A.A. by-laws and rules governing penalties, forfeitures, etc. Appeals will be heard by the appropriate Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Leadership.

