



## **George West ISD Athletic Department Vision Statement**

The vision of the athletic department is to provide students with a safe, healthy, and competitive environment that promotes and supports overall success in personal achievement, academics, and athletics. The athletic program will encourage and empower student-athletes to become men and women of character who will go out into the world and have a positive impact on society.

## **George West ISD Athletic Department Mission Statement**

The athletic department will provide students with a culture that promotes the development of championship level habits daily. We will strive to consistently evaluate and intensify our daily tasks to elevate the student's level of mastery in the following areas: personal life, spiritually, academics, athletics.

## **George West ISD Athletic Program Objectives**

- Involve as many students as possible in a positive athletic environment.
- Instill in all student-athletes an exemplary work ethic and the qualities of accountability and sportsmanship.
- Play everyone on all sub-varsity levels if eligible and in good standing.
- Develop and maintain a complete and comprehensive off-season program.
- Have all programs represented by Effort, Attitude, and Toughness.
- Establish successful programs so that all participants enjoy a positive learning experience.
- Demonstrate that each of our athletic teams are well coached, highly disciplined, and very well organized.
- Establish a district wide bond of loyalty and pride that reflects the principles, integrity, and attitude of George West ISD.
- Ensure that the George West ISD Athletic Department objectives support the total mission of George West ISD.



## **Introduction**

This handbook is designed to help provide a successful experience for student athletes and the efficient operation of the George West Independent School District Athletic Program. The athletic handbook is designed to co-exist with the GWISD Student Handbooks and the GWISD Student Code of Conduct. Student athletes in grades 7-12 are accountable and responsible to the rules and requirements contained within this handbook.

It should be noted that different sports might have additional rules and regulations that go beyond what is listed in this athletic handbook. These rules may be in addition to this athletic handbook, but they shall not alter the rules of this handbook.

## **Philosophy**

The athletic program at George West ISD is an integral part of the total educational program. Athletics are a vital part of the physical, mental, social, moral and character growth of our students. Athletics are not designed to transcend the academic program but to supplement it. Athletic programs can provide valuable lessons for practical situations. Student-athletes experience daily victories discovering within themselves the ability to overcome adversity, to develop leadership skills, to develop winning attitudes, to be hard workers, and to be a part of a team that requires sacrifice and service to others. Many intangibles are taught in athletics that become lifelong lessons for the student athlete.

## **General Rules**

1. Athletes are expected to maintain a favorable attitude and proper conduct. If the attitude and conduct of an athlete becomes a detriment to the program, the athlete may be dismissed from the program.
2. Student-athletes are expected to have higher standards than students not in athletics, as they are leaders of our school and community.
3. Jewelry may not be worn at any time during practice, weight room sessions, athletics period or games.
4. An athlete who is disciplined by the school's administration for a disciplinary problem may be subject to further disciplinary action by the coach of his/her sport (up to the discretion of the Head Coach/Athletic Director). Anyone assigned DAEP will not be allowed to participate in practice or games until his/her DAEP time has been completed.
5. Hair will be kept neat and clean. All male athletes will maintain groomed facial hair. If hair, facial hair, hair color or style becomes a distraction to the team, the head coach and/or athletic director will require changes be made to correct the issue. Non-compliance with this directive will result in conditioning and/or removal from the program.
6. All social media sites operated by athletes are under scrutiny of the coaching staff and athletic director. Any unsportsmanlike, unethical, immoral, or other conduct unbecoming of an athlete will be handled by the head coach and/or athletic director and may include conditioning, suspension or up to removal from the program.
7. Failure to comply with the above will result in reminders at the coaches' discretion for the first offenses. Continual violations will be handled by the Athletic Director and will be removed from the program. Hazing, initiation, or any "rites of passage" will not be tolerated in any way, shape, or form. Any athlete involved in such actions may be removed from athletic program participation by the Athletic Department.



## **Dress Code / Personal Appearance**

Athletes are expected to dress neatly and be well groomed in school and at any activity representing the school. They should recognize that appearance, expression, and actions always influence people's opinions of athletes, the team, and the school. Athletes who habitually violate George West ISD Dress Code grooming standards may be subject to disciplinary action including suspension if the violations are not corrected.

### **Requirements:**

- Follow the dress code guidelines in the student handbook. Exception: Athletic uniforms and equipment are acceptable during workouts/competition.
- Athletes shall follow additional requests of the coach for game day or team travel.
- During weight room activity, practice and competition, athletes shall follow the guidelines set forth by the UIL and not wear head decorations, headwear, jewelry, wrist bands and chains.
- In some cases the officials may stop the contest to ask an athlete to take off earrings, chains, watches, and other jewelry.

## **Student-Athlete Conduct**

Athletes may face disciplinary action, including conditioning, loss of playing time, and or suspension from the team for demonstrating behavior that is detrimental to the team. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to:

- Inappropriate language
- Inappropriate social media interaction
- Unwilling or lazy attitude, poor work ethic
- Disrespect to the coaching staff
- Disrespect to a game official
- Display of temper and not having self-control
- Not responsive to a coach's request
- Argumentative attitude
- Habitual disregard for rules
- Negative effect on team morale
- Unsportsmanlike behavior

## **Lettering**

Athletes can earn a letter in their respective sport by playing in at least half of the varsity competitions throughout the season. Athletes can also earn a letter by scoring a point at the district level or advancing to a post season competition in an individual sport. Managers may earn a letter after the completion of 2 season within the same sport.

## **Responsibilities**

Participation in athletics is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, sport, student body, community, family, and to oneself. Athletes have a unique role to play. Their peers, teachers, and the community are constantly monitoring them. Being under this scrutiny, athletes must have strength of character and be aware of the role they have assumed. Student-athletes are expected to show respect, be honest, and have integrity to their peer, teachers, coach, family, and community.

### **Specific Responsibilities Expected of George West ISD Athletes:**

- Maintain a satisfactory citizenship and behavior record in the classroom and on campus by treating teachers, administrators, and fellow students with respect.
- Maintain passing grades in all classes.
- Exercise self-control and display positive actions during competition and other school activities
- Have respect for the decisions of the officials during competition.
- Refrain from inappropriate behavior in and around the school buildings.
- Be a law-abiding citizen both at school and away from school.
- Display sportsmanship and class when representing George West ISD.
- Be committed to attend practices, contests, and meetings of any sport that they choose to participate in.
- Abide by training rules established in this handbook and by their coach.
- Complete required UIL and school paperwork prior to participation.

## **Attendance**

It is the obligation and responsibility of team members to attend scheduled practices, contests, and meetings regularly and on time. If an unavoidable conflict arises with a practice or contest, one of the coaches should be notified before the workout or game. Failure to make contact prior to the practice, contest, or meeting may result in absence being considered unexcused.



## **Excused Absences**

Excused absences will be made up. The make up for an excused absence is not punishment but is administered so that the athlete can make up missed work and conditioning. Examples of excused absences are illness, a death in the family, school sponsored activities, or emergency situations. Athletes should understand that when they must miss, it is imperative that a coach be notified 24 hours prior to the absence. Athletes should understand that habitual absences, even though they may be excused, become detrimental to their ability to perform and to their knowledge of team concepts. Habitual absences will result in disciplinary actions, including loss of playing time and/or possible suspension or dismissal from the team.

## **Unexcused Absences**

Athletes and parents should understand that failure to notify the coach prior to an absence will result in the absence being considered unexcused. Some extenuating situations will be considered an excused absence without prior notification. If there is a question as to whether it is excused or not, the head coach and/or athletic director will make the decision. Unexcused absences will be made up and disciplinary action will be taken. Disciplinary action for unexcused absences will be as follows:

- 1st unexcused absence – make up work plus suspension from half of the next contest.
- 2nd unexcused absence – make up work plus suspension from the next contest.
- Unexcused absences will accumulate on a per sport/per season basis.

**\*\*3 unexcused absences from the athletic period may result in removal from the athletic program\*\***

## **Injured Athletes**

Injured athletes who cannot actively participate in the workout will follow all attendance policies. Being injured is not a reason to miss practice. The injured athlete will be expected to dress out and participate mentally. Different duties may be assigned to that athlete. The head coach and training staff will make a plan for the athlete's training room times, practice activities, and return to play protocol. An athlete may be required to report earlier for treatment. Treatment will not excuse an athlete from practice or weights, as treatment can be done before or after practice or weights. Please communicate with the training staff before going to the doctor. They may be able to help you schedule an appointment faster, or with the correct doctor, which would help you as a family to save from extra doctor visits or spending money. Please bring documentation from the doctor to our training staff in order to be released for practice or competition. The doctor may have cleared the student-athlete to return to play, but without proper documentation from the doctor, our training staff is not allowed to release our student-athletes to practice or competition. Our trainers must see it in writing.

## **Insurance**

George West ISD provides supplemental insurance coverage for interscholastic activities for the school year. Please contact the athletic office for information about supplemental insurance coverage.

## **ISS**

An athlete placed in ISS is not allowed to participate in a game or contest during his/her placement, but he/she is allowed to practice after school. Failure to report to after school workout will result in an unexcused absence for the athlete unless prior notification is given by the athlete that he/she is missing for a justifiable reason. It is the athlete's responsibility to find out if their team is working out after school and find out the time of the workout.

## **Tardy**

It is also very important for a team member to be on time and to remain at a practice for its duration. Any team member who arrives late to practice or who leaves early is disruptive to the team's improvement and game plan. Athletes that are tardy or that leave practice early will be expected to do make up work for the time they missed. Persistent tardiness will result in disciplinary action including possible suspension or dismissal.

## **Entry to Athletics**

Any student in grades 10 – 12 will not be accepted into the athletic department at the beginning of any fall semester unless a that student-athlete has undergone spring & summer workouts. Acceptance will be permitted for the spring semester and an entire semester of off-season will be required before participation in a sport will be allowed.

## **Academics**

Athletes must realize that they are students first, and athletes second. Athletes must plan their schedule so that they give sufficient time and energy to their studies to ensure acceptable grades. Athletes must be passing all subjects at the six weeks grading period to be eligible to play. Athletes failing a course will be ineligible for competition for three weeks. They may regain eligibility after three weeks if they are passing all subjects at that time. If not, they remain ineligible for another three weeks.



Athletes that habitually earn failing grades on grade reports and/or progress reports become a detriment to the athletic program. They are showing neglect in their responsibility and obligation to their team and the athletic program. They are also neglecting their main purpose for attending school.

Athletes are encouraged to maintain all their grades throughout the school year, not just during the competitive season. Tutorials are available for students that are struggling with their grades. Athletes are encouraged to take advantage of the tutorials and/or other resources that are available to help them with their grades. **Consecutive failing grading periods (in season or out of season) may result in dismissal from the team.**

## **Ineligible Athletes**

Ineligible athletes shall attend and participate in workouts, unless excused by the head coach. By attending and participating in workouts, the athlete may represent the team again at the end of the ineligible period.

**Consecutive failing grading periods (in season or out of season) may result in dismissal from the team.**

## **Team Travel**

The school will provide transportation for away contests. Athletes should be on time for the departure. They should be appropriately dressed by the direction of the head coach. Passengers should keep the noise to a minimum and remain seated at all times. Do not leave valuables and expensive items on the bus. Athletes should pick up their trash and help clean the bus when arriving back at the school.

Team members at all levels will travel to and from away contests with the team. All student-athletes will travel with the team, except in an emergency or special circumstance situation. In emergency or special situations, parent/guardians must contact the coach a minimum of 24 hours in advance and provide in writing the reason for the student-athlete to be approved to ride home with the parent/guardian.

- Under normal circumstances, students may be released only to their own parent/guardian. The parent/guardian should present himself/herself to the coach after the contest to confirm that the athlete will be going with the parent/guardian. In some cases, the coach may request a parent signature before the student is released.
- Under special circumstances, students may be released to an approved "Emergency Contact" that has been provided to the school district in the student registration packet. This request must be made 24 hours in advance and must be provided in writing by the parent/guardian.

## **Equipment**

Team uniforms, warm-ups, and equipment belonging to George West ISD should be treated with care. Athletes are responsible for keeping their school issued equipment clean and secure. (Coaches may laundry game uniforms in some cases). The use and wear of the school equipment outside of athletic sponsored activities is prohibited (ex: AAU Teams, Select Teams). If an athlete loses equipment due to neglect and/or carelessness, he/she will be charged the replacement cost of that equipment. At the end of the season, the athlete is responsible for turning in equipment in the best possible condition or paying replacement costs.

## **Locker Room**

The locker room is not a play area. Horse play will not be allowed. Athletes are expected to help keep locker rooms as neat and sanitary as possible. It is the responsibility of the athletes to throw away trash, pick up equipment, and keep the locker room clean. All equipment should be hung or placed in the lockers. No equipment should be left on the floor. Specific locker and locker room guidelines will vary from season to season.

Be mindful of your cell phone use in the locker room. Because it is a changing and showering area, you must be aware of your surroundings and other student-athletes and his/her privacy. Do not take selfies in the locker room. This is not good practice because it is a changing and showering area. It is best to keep cell phone use to outside of the locker room.

Lock your locker. Valuable items that cannot be secured in your locker should not be brought into the locker room or should be turned in to a coach. Do not leave valuables out in the open. Lock your locker. Stolen items will be the responsibility of the athlete. (Some athletes may not have access to lock boxes to secure valuables. They should make arrangements with their coach to secure valuables.) Lock your locker.



## **Alcohol/Illegal Drugs**

George West ISD student-athletes will be subject to rules and stipulations in the George West ISD Student Handbooks and the George West ISD Student Code of Conduct in reference to alcohol and illegal drugs. It is a violation for George West ISD athletes to use or possess alcohol or illegal drugs. Reported violations of this nature will be investigated by the athletic director and/or coaching staff and reported to school administration. Verified violations will result in disciplinary action (up to dismissal) for the student-athlete.

An athlete should remove himself/herself from any situation where alcohol or drugs are being used in an illegal manner. Do not put yourself or your team in a situation where your character or integrity is questioned.

## **ALCOHOL, DRUGS, TOBACCO, CLASS A MISDEMEANORS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY OR SCHOOL RELATED ACTIVITIES ONLY**

### **ANY FELONY ACTIVITIES COMMITTED ON OR OFF SCHOOL PROPERTY OR AT SCHOOL RELATED ACTIVITIES**

#### **Level 1 Offenses – possession or use of tobacco/smokeless tobacco/vaping**

- 1st offense – conditioning and/or suspension per head coach discretion
- 2nd offense – conditioning per head coach discretion and 1 week suspension from all extracurricular activities
- 3rd offense – conditioning per head coach discretion and 3 week suspension from all extracurricular activities
- 4th offense – removal from sport for twelve weeks or remainder of school year. Athletic re-entry protocol to be followed.

**Level 2 Offenses – sale, use, possession, delivery, or being under the influence of marijuana, controlled substance, dangerous drug or alcohol; committing a serious act or offense as defined in GWISD student code of conduct, while under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, controlled substance or dangerous drug; conduct that constitutes an offense relating to a usable glue, aerosol paint, or volatile chemicals; illegally possessing or using drug paraphernalia; robbery or theft. Level 2 offenses may be subject to DAEP. DAEP placement is covered in this handbook as well.**

- 1st offense – 3 week suspension from all extracurricular contests (practice permitted); 30 hours community service-must be signed off by head coach, athletic director and community service supervisor. Additional suspension per head coach discretion.
  - Robbery or theft, per head coach discretion, may be removal from sport.
- 2nd offense – 12 week suspension or remainder of school year from all extracurricular contests (practice permitted); 100 hours community service-must be signed off by head coach, athletic director and community service supervisor. Additional suspension per head coach discretion.
- 3rd offense – removal from all extracurricular activities for 1 calendar year.

**Level 3 Offenses – committing a serious act punishable as a Class A misdemeanor or felony at any time during the calendar year (reinstate only by appeal process)**

- 1st offense – removal from extracurricular activities for a minimum of 18 weeks to 1 year.

## **Steroids**

Studies indicate that the use of steroids by high school students is on the rise. Although the drugs are dangerous and illegal to use without a prescription, reports indicate that they are readily available to be used by high school students. TEA and the UIL request that school districts raise the awareness of the ill effects of steroids. George West ISD and the athletic department agree that it is imperative that our athletes and their parents are aware of the dangers of steroid use. In this handbook is a fact sheet about steroids that was created by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

### **Steroid Facts**

- Steroids affect the heart. Steroid abuse has been associated with cardiovascular disease, including heart attack and stroke. These heart problems can even happen to athletes under the age of 30.
- Steroids affect appearance. In both sexes, steroids can cause male-pattern baldness, cysts, acne, and oily hair and skin.
- Steroids affect mood. Steroids can make a person angry and hostile for no reason. There are recorded cases of murder attributed to intense anger from steroid use.





- Steroids increase risk of infection. Sharing needles or using dirty needles to inject steroids creates a risk for diseases such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis.
- Steroids are illegal to possess without a prescription. Doctors prescribe steroids for specific medical conditions. They are only safe for use when a doctor monitors the patient.
- The majority of teens are not using steroids. Among teenage males, who are most likely to use steroids, only 1.8 percent of 8th graders, 2.3 percent of 10th graders, and 3.2 percent of 12th graders reported steroid use in the past year.

## **Signs of Steroid Use**

For Males—Baldness, development of breasts, impotence

For Females—Growth of facial hair, deepened voice, breast reduction

For Both—Jaundice, swelling of feet or ankles, aching joints, bad breath, mood swings, nervousness, trembling

## **DAEP Placement**

Any athlete placed in DAEP will not be allowed to participate in any athletic activities during their DAEP placement. Upon completion of the DAEP placement, the athlete may request Re-Entry if they wish to participate in athletics. These will be considered on a case by case basis. The more severe the reason for DAEP placement, and the more days spent in DAEP, the less the chance of any return to George West ISD Athletics.

## **Dismissal from a Sport**

On some occasions, an athlete will need to be dismissed from a sport due to unacceptable behavior or violations of the athletic handbook. The following guidelines will be in effect for any athlete that is dismissed from a sport.

- An athlete dismissed from a sport may be dismissed from the entire athletic program if the violation is deemed severe (example drugs/alcohol) by the Head Coach and/or Athletic Director to justify such action.
- An athlete dismissed from a sport will not be allowed to start another sport until the first sport is completed. If dismissed from one sport, the second sport head coach has his/her discretion to let you in to the second sport.
- There are different policies and re-entry rules and guidelines for academic dismissals and behavior or team violation dismissals. See academic re-entry and athletic re-entry.

Violations that result in athletes being dismissed from junior high athletics maybe cumulative for their junior high career.

Violations that result in athletes being dismissed from high school athletics maybe cumulative for their high school career. Per head coach's discretion, junior high dismissals may be considered for reinstatement for high school athletics.

## **Quitting a Sport**

Quitting is an intolerable habit to acquire. Athletes that quit are also “giving up” on themselves and those that depend on them. Commitment to being a Longhorn / Lady Horn Team Member is one of the most valuable lessons learned in athletics. Concerns and frustrations can often be worked out with proper communication between the athlete and coach.

- Any athlete wishing to quit a sport should notify the head coach of their intent. The athlete will be encouraged to wait 24 hours before making his/her decision final.
- If an athlete quits a sport after two weeks, he/she will not be allowed to start another sport until the first sport is completed. If an athlete begins participation in two concurrent sports, he/she will have two weeks to determine if it is in his/her best interest to drop one sport and concentrate on the other sport. After two weeks, if the athlete decides to quit one of the sports, he/she will not be allowed to continue with the other sport without the consent of both coaches. This will be considered as one quitting infraction.
- If an athlete quits a sport, he/she may regain participation privileges in that sport by following the Athletic Re-Entry process.
- An athlete quitting a sport and not wishing to participate in another sport will be removed from the athletic program and athletic class period. The schedule change will be made as soon as it is possible. In some cases, this change may not be possible until the end of the semester. If that is the case, the athlete will be required to attend the athletic period for attendance until the counselors are able to make the class change. This change may be the following semester.
- An athlete who quits a second time (same sport or different sport) will not be allowed to use the Re-Entry Program to regain participation privileges in athletics. If an athlete quits the sport before the first two weeks of practice are complete, it will not be considered an infraction.

Quitting during junior high athletics may be cumulative for their junior high career at the discretion of the sport head coach and junior high athletic coordinator. Quitting during high school athletics may be cumulative for their high school career at the discretion of the sport head coach and district



## **Communication / Parent Conferences**

Both parenting and coaching are difficult vocations. By establishing lines of communication and understanding each position, we are better able to accept the actions of others and provide greater benefits to children. One purpose of this handbook is to provide a line of communication between the athletic department and parents. Hopefully, the handbook will help parents understand what is expected of their child. At the same time, the athletic department hopes to receive support from the parents in enforcing the rules and regulations of the handbook.

Despite the communication, it is important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way the athlete wishes or the parent wishes. At these times, a conference or discussion with the coach may be needed. Please understand that there are appropriate issues to discuss and there are issues not appropriate to discuss.

### **Chain of Command-meeting with coaching staff:**

- Athlete will meet with the coaching staff.
- If questions/issue not resolved, athlete and parent/guardian will meet with the coaching staff.
- If questions/issue not resolved, athlete, parent/guardian and coaching staff will meet with Athletic Director.

There are very few situations where an athlete or a parent/guardian should meet with the athletic director first. Please start at the lowest level, which is the athlete discussing any questions or issues with the coaching staff. We want to have positive, great relationships with our student-athletes. One of our goals is to grow them into strong and confident young men and women. By them taking their questions and concerns to the coaching staff, this allows them to practice a real-world scenario, where they take charge of their own concerns and issues. This is a life skill they will need when they leave the halls of GWISD and enter college and/or the workforce.

Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or after a contest or during a practice. This can be an emotional time for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution. Productive meetings require calm, rational attitudes in a private setting.

Before meeting, please think about what your athlete, or you as a family member would like to accomplish from the meeting. If the coach needs background information before the meeting, please provide him/her the information before the meeting. If the coach needs to research something for you, please provide him/her the appropriate time to do so. You and your athlete's time is valuable and so is the coach's. We want to respect all parties involved.

### **Chain of Command-Guidelines to setting up a meeting with coaching staff and/or athletic director:**

- The student-athlete will approach the coaching staff before or after team meetings, weight room session or practice to set up a good meeting time for both parties.
- After the athlete has met with coaching staff and questions/issues are not resolved, the parent/guardian may call or email the head coach to set up a good meeting time for both parties.
- After the athlete, parent/guardian have met with coaching staff and questions/issue are not resolved, the parent/guardian may call or email GWISD Athletic Office to set up a good meeting time for all parties and the Athletic Director (High School Issue). If it is a middle school issue, the parent/guardian should call or email the middle school coordinator first, then if a resolution is not met, the GWISD Athletic Director should be contacted.
- In the event a resolution is not met, a student or parent may initiate the formal process described in FNG(LOCAL) by timely filing a written complaint form.

### **Appropriate issues to discuss with coaches**

- Treatment of your child
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior
- Grades / Attendance / Tardies / Recruiting / Weight Room Habits
- ACT / SAT

### **Inappropriate issues to discuss with coaches**

- Team strategy
- Playing time
- Play calling
- Other student-athletes





## **Sportsmanship—Athletes / Parents / Spectators**

The George West ISD Administration and Athletic Department feel it is vitally important that sportsmanship is demonstrated at all athletic contests. Athletes must understand the importance of respecting the decisions of game officials. Spectators should exhibit the same respect to game officials. The officials are impartial arbitrators who are trained and who perform to the best of their ability. Mistakes by all those involved in the contests are a part of the game. Spectators verbally abusing officials with insults, threats and profanity can result in the athletic team being punished under the rules of the UIL. Be sure everyone understands the potential seriousness that could result to the school's athletic program if misbehavior of spectators is reported to the UIL. We are all ambassadors of the city of George West, George West ISD, and want to always show pride and class by supporting our student-athletes, coaches

## **George West ISD Expectations of Spectators, Athletes, and Coaches**

Good sportsmanship is a must. Be the example.

- Show respect at all times.
- Profanity will not be tolerated.
- Insults directed to officials, players, coaches, or other fans will not be tolerated.
- No noise makers are allowed at indoor competitions.
- Only cheers that support the teams will be allowed.

*Those unable to exhibit proper sportsmanship will be asked to leave game and may be asked to not attend future games.*

The following is a list of behavior expectations of athletes and spectators. These lists appear in the Sportsmanship Manual developed by the UIL. Become aware of these expectations, as well as the ones above, and put them into action. Together we want to present a positive image of George West to the game officials and to our opponents.

### **Behavior Expectations of the Student-Athlete:**

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing your school and the community.
- Live up to standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, and fellow students. This will assist both them and you in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or friend.
- Who better than you can understand all the hard work and team effort that is required of your sport?
- Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a courteous manner following either victory or defeat.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote you and your sport. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of the officials and everyone at the contest.

### **Athlete Ejection a UIL Competition:**

- Follow UIL Policies.
- Different sports have different penalties for ejection. (Example 1: Football: A player ejection states the player misses the rest of the game, plus the following first ½ of the next game. Example 2: Women's Basketball: A player ejection states the player misses the rest of the game, plus the entire following game).
- Additional suspensions, conditioning, and up to removal from sport per head coach and/or athletic director discretion.

## **BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF SPECTATORS**

- Remember that you are at the contest to support and cheer for your team, and to enjoy the skill and competition, not to intimidate or ridicule the other team or its fans.
- Remember that school athletics are a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people, just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
- A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.
- Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete, and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.



- Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during, and after the game on or near the site of the event.
- Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
- Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.

## **ACADEMIC RE-ENTRY**

A student athlete that has been dismissed from an athletic program, for academic failures, may not be considered for re-entry into the athletic program until he or she passes a six-week grading period. Passing a six-week term does not guarantee re-entry into an athletic program.

A head coach will look at these things when considering re-entry:

- Overall Grades before and after dismissal
- School Attendance/tardies/referrals/discipline before and after dismissal
- Other: Social media, communication, equipment/clothing issues, fees owed, other sport issues
- Coaches Discretion

If a parent removes a student-athlete from a sport for failing grades, refer to ATHLETIC RE-ENTRY.

## **Athletic Re-Entry (May only be used 1 time)**

Athletic re-entry will be determined by these two situations.

Situation 1: A parent removes a student-athlete from the athletic program for failing grades, discipline, academic schedules, or other reasons.

Situation 2: A head coach of the sport removes a student-athlete for failing consecutive 6-week grading periods, discipline, attendance/tardies/communication, or other reasons.

The athletic re-entry may only be used one time.

A student-athlete must finish a sport before going to a second sport. If a student-athlete moves to a second sport before finishing the first sport, the student-athlete may not be considered for athletic re-entry.

The purpose of the athletic re-entry is to allow a student-athlete an opportunity to show his/her commitment for a possible return to the sport from which he/she was removed from. All athletic re-entries to a sport will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

### **Athletic Re-Entry Process:**

- Student-athlete and/or parents/guardians may appeal the head coach removal within 15 calendar days of the student-athlete removal. Student-athlete and/or parents/guardians will submit a written request to meet and discuss the removal with the head coach.
  - The head coach has the ability to reinstate the student-athlete.
    - The head coach may accept the appeal and fully reinstate the student-athlete.
    - The head coach may accept the appeal, with the ability to put the student-athlete on a disciplinary contract
  - The head coach has the ability to deny the appeal
    - Student-athlete and/or parent/guardians can accept the denial of the appeal
    - Student-athlete and/or parent/guardians can appeal head coaches decision to the athletic director
    - Head coach will make decision on the appeal within 10 days of meeting with student-athlete and/or parent/guardian
- The Student-athlete and/or parents/guardians may appeal the athletic re-entry denial, by the head coach, within 15 calendar days of the appeal denial, to the athletic director. Student-athlete and/or parents/guardians meet and discuss the denial of appeal with the athletic director.
  - The Athletic Director will initiate a meeting between student-athlete and/or parents/guardians, head



coach of sport, athletic director, and an GWISD Administrative Designee.

- Student-athlete and/or parent/guardians will have 15 minutes to present their information.
- Head coach will have 15 minutes to present his/her information
- Student-athlete and/or parent/guardians will have 3 minutes to discuss information presented by head coach.
  - Head coach will have 3 minutes to discuss information presented by athlete and/or parent/guardian.
  - Athletic director and GWISD Administrative Designee will listen to information and determine if athletic re-entry is granted or not.
- The Athletic Director will make decision on the appeal within 10 days of meeting with student-athlete and/or parent/guardian, and head coach



## **Student-Athlete Handbook Acknowledgement**

Upon review of the George West ISD Student-Athlete Handbook for the 2023-2024 school year, please complete the information below, sign and return this page to the athletic director.

I have accessed the George West ISD Student-Athlete Handbook for the 2023-2024 school year and will abide by the guidelines and procedures of the George West Independent School District and the George West Athletic Department.

My signature certifies that I have accessed the George West ISD Student-Athlete Athletic Handbook for 2023-2024.

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(Student-Athlete) Print Your Name

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Signature

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Date

## **Parent Acknowledgement**

I have received and read the George West ISD Student-Athlete Handbook. I give my approval for my student-athlete to participate in the athletic program at George West ISD under the guidelines of the George West ISD Student-Athlete Handbook.

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(Parent/Guardian) Print Your Name

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Signature

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Date