
ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY AND STUDENT-ATHLETE POLICIES

We believe that the principles and lessons learned in the classroom and at home can be put into practice through athletics. Because of the competition found in athletics, a student is surrounded with pressure. The athlete is then tested and the true character is revealed. Thus the character of a student/athlete has the chance to grow through the athletic competition.

Gatewood takes pride in its athletic teams and programs, which encourage student participation, support, and total physical effort on the fields of play. While we delight in a winning team, Gatewood does not place that as the cornerstone of our program. Gatewood students are students first, then athletes who know the joy of participation, tough competition, and winning.

Role of Coaches

Coaches are one of the significant components of our athletic program as we strive for excellence. They have the responsibility of molding the attitudes, behaviors, and desires of our student athletes. In order to be considered an effective coach and role model, our coaches must be thoroughly knowledgeable in their sports, capable of detailed preparation, able to motivate athletes, to make adjustments during competition, and to provide positive situations for our student-athletes.

Programs

We believe that each individual program at Gatewood should work to develop a well-rounded student-athlete. The head varsity coach shall be responsible for providing a consistent structure and ensuring that similar philosophies are implemented at all levels of the program. The programs shall develop pride among the participants and support among the student body. Parents should be supportive in the process of developing the student/athlete by supporting off season conditioning, camps and summer workouts. All activities within an athletic program should exemplify Gatewood's commitment to excellence and also reflect the school's and athletic department's policies, procedures, and philosophies.

Gatewood Athletes

The Gatewood Athletes should work to prepare themselves to participate in the sport of choice through effort, discipline, a respect for others, and a pursuit of excellence. Through displaying these characteristics good things usually happen: teams are successful, players motivated, fans supportive and enthusiastic, parents are proud, and prospective athletes want to participate.

Eligibility

In order to compete in interscholastic athletics and literary events, a student must pass a minimum of five subjects the first nine weeks, the first semester, the third nine weeks, and the end of the year.

Parent Concerns

All parent concerns should be addressed first to the coach and finally to the Athletic Director. If the Athletic Director feels the matter is unsolved or of significance, he will seek the guidance of the Head of School.

Purchases

1. All athletic purchases will be ordered only by the Athletic Director. No one is to order any athletic equipment, materials, or supplies except the A.D.
2. Purchases made from independent funds other than the athletic budget will be approved by the A.D. and the Head of School with the appropriate purchase orders.
3. Any non-approved purchases will become the sole financial responsibility of the person making the purchase.
4. Any purchases being paid for by students must first be approved by the A.D. All money is to be collected from the students before they receive the item being purchased.

Equipment

At the conclusion of each sports season, the involved coaches are responsible for collecting and inventorying of all issued equipment. This needs to be done within one week of the seasons end. The inventory is to be filed with the Athletic Director, and should include any missing equipment and the names of the athletes to whom it was issued. All coaches are required to file a copy of the inventory with the A.D. for each sport for which they are responsible.

Travel

All travel to and from games will be with the team on the team bus or van with the following exceptions:

1. Traveling with parents back from a game with prior approval of a coach.
2. Return travel with parents of a friend with accompanying approval in writing from the parents.
3. Special situations which have prior approval from the coach, A. D., and the Head of School.

Assistant Coaches

1. Any assistant coach, whether a school staff member or a volunteer, must be approved through the Head of School and A.D. and the head coach as a matter of routine.
2. Assistant coaches will subscribe to the same code of conduct as expected from the head coach.
3. If parents have volunteered or have been asked to help a coach, the duties of the parent must be clear and must not conflict with the coaching philosophy of the coach. Children and friends of volunteers will not be allowed to be in the dugout, sit on the sidelines, or be a part of the sideline activity unless cleared by the A.D. or Head of School.
4. All volunteer coaches must fill out an application to be able to assist in any sport. The head coach, A.D. and the Head of School will evaluate each applicant.

Cheerleading

Cheerleading is an important part of the athletic program at Gatewood. Cheerleaders are to serve as a positive example of leadership and school spirit in promoting athletic competitions throughout the year. Cheerleaders are to abide by all rules for athletes.

Physical Examinations

Athletes must have a physical examination form on file, which is signed by a physician stating that the athlete has been examined and has been physically approved for participation.

Code Of Discipline

1. For athletic participation, a student must be present the entire day, unless a doctor's excuse is provided and the student is present for four periods. Only the A.D. or Head of School may make exception to this rule.
2. A student may not miss a game for any reason other than sickness or death in the family. Any other reason must be approved by the coach, A.D. and Head of School. The penalty for missing a game without approval will result in the student-athlete sitting out the next event in that sport.
3. Each coach establishes a set of rules for his team to follow. The coach is responsible for reviewing rules at the beginning of the season and having a copy of the rules on file with the A.D.
4. If an athlete sees a physician for an injury or illness he or she must have the physician fill out a form provided by the school. The Physician's Plan of Care form may be obtained from the athletic trainer, A.D. or head coach. The student must return the form completed by the physician and he or she will be allowed to participate based on the physician's instructions on the form.
5. The drug, alcohol, and tobacco policy are stated in the student handbook.
6. A student may not participate in an athletic competition while under school suspension (in-school or out of school).
7. For team travel athletic teams must wear khaki pants and a white collared shirt with the school logo on the left chest or dress as directed by the coach.