



**Grove City
Christian School
Athletic Handbook
2016-2017**

(Revised: July, 2016)

*“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not
grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40:31)*

Table of Contents

<u>Item</u>	<u>Page</u>
Grove City Christian Athletic Department Overview	3
Grove City Christian Athletic Program Information	4
Athletic Department Philosophy	5-6
Parent's Guide to Interscholastic Athletics	7-8
GCCS Student-Athlete Standards/Expectations	9
GCCS Coach Standards/Expectations	9-10
GCCS Parent Standards/Expectations	10-11
Academic Requirements for Participation	12
Alcohol, Drug, Steroid, and Tobacco Policy	13
Athletic Awards	13
Athletic Fees	14
Athletic Participation Forms Online	15
Communication	16
Conflict Resolution	17
Ejection from Athletic Contests	17
Game Day Dress for School	18
Game Changes	18
Game Schedules	18
GCCS Athletic Booster Club	18
High School Transfers	19
Inclement Weather	19
Mandatory Preseason Parent Meeting	19
Non-Interscholastic Participation	19
Open Try-outs/Team Selection	20
Practices	20
School Attendance & Sports Participation	20
Sportsmanship	21
Transportation	21
Two-Sport Participation	21
Uniforms/Equipment	22
Wednesday/Sunday Activities	22

Grove City Christian School

4750 Hoover Road

Grove City, Ohio 43123

(614) 875-3000 phone

(614) 875-8933 fax

Mascot: Eagles

Colors: Royal Blue and Black

Web Site: www.grovecitychristian.org

Athletic Department Staff

Athletic Director: Matt Blandin

Assistant Athletic Director: Bryan Cook

Athletic Department Secretary: Kelly Poling

Grove City Christian School Mission Statement

The mission of GCCS is to partner with Bible-believing families and their churches in providing the spiritual and academic foundation that cultivates, transforms and prepares students to be Christian leaders who impact their world.

The purpose of this handbook is to familiarize the students and parents with the policies of the Grove City Christian Education Committee, the Grove City Christian Athletic Department, and the Ohio High School Athletic Association. This GCCS Athletic Handbook is an addendum to the GCCS Student and Family Handbook. These are made available to each student and parent at the beginning of the school year and outline the student code of conduct standards. Participation in athletics is a privilege not a right, and is dependent on the student's willingness to follow the guidelines and expectations that are applicable to participation in GCCS extra-curricular activities.

The Athletic Department's role is to adopt and enforce the standards and rules governing interscholastic competition in order to ensure that all athletic programs are run consistently and fairly. This is achieved by communicating our message with all the participating student-athletes and their parents, guardians, or custodians. It is our desire to accomplish this objective with this athletic handbook.

Grove City Christian School Athletic Programs

Sports by Season: High School and Middle School

Middle School (Boys and Girls)

Fall

Rifle (Coed)
Cheerleading (G)
Cross Country (Coed)
Football (B)
Volleyball (G)
Soccer (Coed)

Winter

Rifle (Coed)
Basketball (B&G)
Cheerleading (G)

Spring

Baseball (B)
Softball (G)
Track & Field (B&G)

High School (Boys and Girls)

Fall

Rifle (Coed)
Cheerleading (G)
Cross Country (Coed)
Golf (B)
Football (B)
Soccer (B)
Volleyball (G)

Winter

Rifle (Coed)
Basketball (B&G)
Cheerleading (G)
Swimming (B&G)

Spring

Baseball (B)
Softball (G)
Track & Field (B&G)

Membership & Affiliation

Grove City Christian School Athletics are governed by the rules and regulations of the National Federation of State High School Associations (www.nfhs.org), the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) (www.ohsaa.org), the Mid State League (MSL), and by the policies approved by the Grove City Christian Education Committee (www.grovecitychristian.org).

OHSAA Guidelines and Bylaws

The Ohio High School Athletic Association governs interscholastic sports in the state of Ohio for Grades 7th-12th. There are many bylaws and regulations that GCCS is required to follow, as being members of OHSAA. These bylaws and regulations address a variety of topics. If you have any questions or need guidance, you should contact the GCCS Administration to discuss. The OHSAA Office will direct any contact by any other than school administration back to GCCS.

Member Schools of MSL-Cardinal Division

Berne Union
Bishop Rosecrans (2016-2017)
Fairfield Christian
Fisher Catholic

Grove City Christian
Harvest Preparatory
Millersport
The Wellington School (2016-2017)
Worthington Christian (football only)

GCCS Athletic Department Philosophy

God created our human bodies and has given us many talents and abilities. Athletics performed in their proper Christian context can be greatly beneficial in developing these talents and abilities through spiritual, physical, and mental means. In today's world, many of the most popular and published athletes are the ones aiming to glorify themselves, rather than God through their actions. At GCCS, we seek to focus on the many truths about Christian athletics that are from God's word and set us apart from the "world's" viewpoint of athletics. It is fundamental that each Christian athlete, coach, parent, and supporter at GCCS be willing to surrender, make changes, grow and mature so that God will be glorified. At times, this change may seem difficult due to past experiences, ingrown patterns, respected examples and simple tradition. In other words, "I coach the way I was coached." While many of these experiences may prove helpful in mentoring today's youth, they should all be brought under the scrutiny of God's Word. The following six focuses discussed here are to be utilized in distinguishing our view of athletics from the world's view and to guide us toward Christ-like behavior, thoughts, and attitudes for GCCS Athletics.

Focus #1: Our main objective and goal is to raise the reputation of Jesus Christ.

In developing a team, we often develop many goals, none of which should be held in greater regard than bringing glory and honor to God. As a Christian school with a discipleship focus, we should be noticeably different in our attitudes and actions. At the same time, due to the Christ-centered focus of our school; many teams will hold us to a higher expectation level. Thus, we should try to avoid causing observers (spectators, opposing teams, etc.) to be turned away from Christianity through our actions. Realistically, we are humans and will sometimes stumble in striving for this goal, but we must seek to constantly encourage our coaches, athletes, and spectators to pursue our evangelistic mission in today's world.

Focus #2: Athletics is a reflection of the whole person and not a separate part.

To our dismay, some in our culture have come to the conclusion that the morality standards in athletics are somehow different from the everyday standards by which we live our lives. This idea is not Biblically based. When the "fruit of the Spirit" is discussed in Galatians 5:22-23, there is no mention made to indicate these traits are part-time. The stress of athletic competition should not be an excuse for athletes, coaches, or spectators to engage in non-Christian behavior. In practical terms, our actions and/or language on the field or court of competition should be the same as that in the pew, home, or classroom.

Focus #3: An individual's value as a person and their performance should not be connected together.

Our self-worth is not to be determined by wins and losses. The Bible tells us not to place our worth in worldly possessions and circumstances. Instead, we should seek our purpose and self-worth in building God's kingdom. All athletes have poor performances. It is still important that they receive confirmation that they are still valued, loved, and accepted. This is God's example of His love for us; while we were still sinners He loved

us and sent His Son to die for us. Therefore, success is based on the people we are developing, on the character and values our athletes are claiming for themselves.

Focus #4: Allow God’s will to grant victory or defeat.

We must not equate victory in athletic competition as proof of God’s blessing or approval. We must be willing to accept all situations from God as a part of His plan. He is more concerned with the process of attaining success than the success itself. It is very clear in Scripture in this world that dedication, hard work, and patience do not always result in victory. Still, this does not relieve or excuse us of our responsibility to perform to the best of our ability for the glory of God. Hoffman summarizes it the best in *The Sanctification of Sport*, by stating: “Recognize that if a sport is to be a sport at all, the objective of winning must not be deemphasized. The spoilsport who does not try to win is worse than a cheat. At the same time, however, we must be careful not to delude ourselves into thinking that God in any way cares about the outcome. Those who feel that God especially cherishes winners or that somehow a win glorifies Him more than a loss, have theologically reduced God to a spectator who sits on the sidelines caught up in the surprises of the contest.” We must prepare and play to win, while allowing God to exercise His will.

Focus #5: People are placed in authority by God and deserve our respect.

All authority comes from God (I Peter 2:13). Humans placed in authority do still make human mistakes, which can impact us negatively. This becomes most visible during the intensity of competition. Our response to this situation is key. People can be held accountable, but this must be done in a way pleasing to God. Which is more important, our rights or God’s reputation? What do our teams learn by blaming referees and umpires, field conditions, or other circumstances we cannot control? When you cannot control the conditions, why not rise above them and see what God wants us to learn.

Focus #6: Athletics is a vital classroom to educate the whole person.

God has provided many opportunities at GCCS for students to learn life lessons. Athletics provides a “classroom” experience to learn these lessons that cannot be obtained in any other environment. The athletic experience is uniquely able to allow a person to experience a wide range of human emotions within a few hours of competition. As Christians, we must realize this great opportunity to apply what God is teaching us to our daily Christian walk. As Christian coaches and parents, we must be willing to seize these opportunities and “teachable moments” to assist our athletes in how to learn from the athletic experience.

Benefits/Outcomes of Interscholastic Athletics at Grove City Christian School

Build Character	Christian Environment	Commitment
Responsibility	Discipleship	Competition
Leadership Skills	Physical and Mental Wellness	Fun
Sportsmanship	Setting and Attaining Goals	Successful
Social Interaction	Team Devotions	Teamwork
Trust	Work Ethic	

Parent's Guide to Interscholastic Athletics

The Athletic Department of GCCS seeks to form a team of coaches, parents, and school personnel that provides the best possible environment for your athlete to succeed and enjoy the total learning experience that athletic participation offers. In order to ensure this environment, some important suggestions and expectations have been highlighted below:

Support, Cooperation, and Communication

- Attend every contest, orientation, or informational meeting offered by the athletic department or coach that is feasible. Your attendance means the world to your athlete.
- Attempt to be objective and avoid the pattern of seeing your athlete as the best player or faultless. All athletes, at some point, need correction, redirection, and occasional discipline.
- Acknowledge the authority of the coach to determine strategy, player selection, and playing time of each player. Do not question the coach's judgment, character, actions, strategy, and overall philosophy in front of your athlete.
- To question is not necessarily to criticize. It all depends on the frame of mind and the approach. It is important to be tactful and positive.
- Confrontation is sometimes necessary and can be healthy, if the timing and method are appropriate. It is better to confront an issue in love than to let it go and build up into unnecessary harsh feelings.
- Assure that your athlete is able to attend all scheduled practices and contests. This will require self-sacrifice, but will greatly benefit your athlete in the long term.
- Let your athlete know that you are supportive of his/her, no matter his/her personal or team performance.
- Appreciate true sportsmanship and avoid belittling of players, coaches, or referees. Be welcoming and hospitable to spectators of opposing teams.
- Build up, rather than put down other team members. Teamwork is all about taking on roles.
- Be sensitive to those around you as you watch a contest. Being a parent of an outstanding athlete versus a parent of a player who plays less often equally holds its share of both joy and pain.
- Be flexible whenever possible. As carefully as planning is done, changes in time and schedules sometimes happen, even at the last minute.
- Communication is essential, if your athlete must miss a practice or contest for family obligations that are unavoidable, let the coach know as soon as possible.
- If you have a valid question or comment, verbalize it to the appropriate person (most often the coach) by choosing an appropriate time and do so in a positive, Christ-like manner.

Winning and Losing

As a parent, you play a key role in helping your athlete understand and learn the values of both winning and losing. We have listed below some possible topics you can discuss with your athlete in both situations:

VALUE OF WINNING...Help your athlete learn the value of winning by:

- Offering congratulations for winning; identifying and discussing the efforts made by all individuals and the team.
- Recognizing the improvement and growth of both individuals and the team as a unit.
- Emphasizing the competitiveness and that success is defined as performing to the best of one's personal ability.

VALUE OF LOSING...Help your athlete learn from losing experiences by:

- Crediting the play of his/her opponent or team.
- Focusing on improvement by individuals and team.
- Discussing what was successful.
- Accepting the loss as something to grow by, setting individual goals for improvement, and moving forward.

GCCS Student-Athlete Standards and Expectations

- I accept responsibility for my behavior on and off the field. I understand that what I do and say affects my teammates, school, and other people either positively or negatively. (Proverbs 22:1)
- I lead courageously and live with integrity by speaking up against injustice and on behalf of others even when it is hard or unpopular. (1 Peter 3:14-17)
- I act with respect toward myself and the people and things around me including my parents, my coaches, my teammates, my teachers, my opponents, and the spectators. (Philippians 2:3 and Matthew 7:12)
- I do not put people in boxes according to their race, gender, neighborhood, abilities, or stereotypes. I judge people by the content of their character. (Romans 12:10)
- I act with empathy. I try to understand what is going on in the hearts and minds of others and what is causing those feelings so that I can be supportive and encouraging. I ask, "How can I help you?" (Ephesians 4:12 and Romans 12:15)
- I serve as a role model at all times by talking politely and acting courteously toward coaches, teammates, opponents, officials, and spectators. I understand that it is a privilege to represent my family, school and community as a student-athlete at Grove City Christian School. (Philippians 2:3-11)
- I give 100% effort to practices, games, and events. I understand that effort demonstrates my commitment to the team and my respect for my coaches and teammates. (Colossians 3:23)
- I display good sportsmanship. I acknowledge and applaud the efforts of others. I encourage my teammates with positive statements. I refrain from boasting to my teammates and 'trash-talking' to members of other teams. I accept defeat graciously by congratulating my opponents on a game well played. (Ephesians 4:29)
- Because I represent my family, school, team, and Jesus Christ, I agree to abide by the policies, rules and guidelines of the school, team, and coaches.

GCCS Coach Standards and Expectations

- The purpose of my coaching is to: help boys become men and girls become women of empathy and integrity who will lead, be responsible, and change the world for good. (Luke 6:31)
- I am mindful to never shame a player, but to correct in an uplifting way. Affirmation! (Ephesians 4:29)
- I believe in every player. Remember, "In youth is where miracles are made." (Proverbs 22:6)
- I protect our players. I am big enough to build up, not tear down. Kids are getting attacked from many places that we don't often see and of which we are not aware. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- My job is to put players in a position where they can develop to their fullest potential through proper teaching and nurturing. (Proverbs 22:6)

- Each player is part of our family, deserves every chance to succeed and deserves the utmost respect. (Ephesians 4:16)
- Coaches can disagree in meetings but never in front of our players or anyone else outside of our family. (Proverbs 27:17)
- Disagreements are saved for private meetings. (Proverbs 27:17)
- Our players are student-athletes and we are teacher-coaches. We hold ourselves accountable as teachers of young men and women and the lessons they need in order to navigate masculinity, femininity and life as a Christian believer. (Proverbs 22:6)
- If I do not know, I say so and get appropriate information. I will not bluff my players! They know the difference. (Philippians 4:8)
- Parents are our partners. I strive to work with each family in helping their child succeed. "Every boy is a son, every girl a daughter to their mother and father." (Proverbs 22:6)
- I love our players and the other coaches. (Luke 6:31)
- I use no profanity! (James 1:26)
- I know the difference between shaming and coaching. No screaming, shaming, swearing, or sarcasm. (Ephesians 4:29)
- I won't be afraid to apologize! We all make mistakes. When mistakes are made publicly, I will apologize publicly; when mistakes are made personally, I will apologize personally. (James 5:16)
- We are nurturing successful people, not just successful athletes. (Proverbs 22:6)
- I treat all opposing coaches and their teams with honor deserving of true competitors. (Proverbs 22:4)
- I respect all referees, officials, and timekeepers. They are imperfect and trying their best just as we are. (2 Peter 2:13-17)
- Regardless of our wins and losses, we will be successful, if we carry out the above items. (Colossians 3:23-24)
- Because I am a role model who has the power, position and platform to make a positive difference in the lives of my players, I commit to this code of conduct. When failing to live up to our standards I will allow for accountability and take responsibility for my actions.

GCCS Parent's Standards and Expectations

- I understand and endorse the purpose of our program: to help boys become men and girls become women of empathy and integrity who will lead, be responsible, and change the world for good. (Proverbs 22:6)
- I support the coaches by applauding behaviors in my child and her/his teammates that demonstrate characteristics of integrity, empathy, sacrifice, and responsibility. (Deuteronomy 6:7)
- I acknowledge and appreciate every player's growth towards maturity and efforts toward establishing stronger relationships with teammates, coaches, and themselves. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

- I affirm my child and her/his teammates when good character, healthy sportsmanship, and other-centered behaviors are displayed. (I Thessalonians 5:11)
- I will not only affirm athletic performance or a victory. (Timothy 4:8)
- I serve as a role model for our players talking politely and acting courteously towards coaches, officials, other parents, visiting team parents, and spectators at practices, games, and meetings. (2 Peter 2:13-17)
- I model good sportsmanship. Acknowledge and applaud the efforts of team members and opponents. Accept defeat graciously by congratulating the members of the opposing team on a game well played. Support the team regardless of how much or how little my child plays or what the win-loss record is. (I Corinthians 9:25-27)
- I encourage my child and her/his teammates with positive statements, even when they make mistakes. At every practice they are growing physically and emotionally. At every practice they are learning moral and ethical lessons. At every practice they are developing character. (Ephesians 4:29)
- I refrain from boasting about my child's accomplishments. (Proverbs 27:2)
- When problems or questions arise, I have my child present the problem to the coach. This develops self-advocacy. After meeting with their coach, if the issue requires more clarity, I will contact the coach. (Matthew 18)
- Because I am a parent with the power, position, and platform to make a positive difference in the lives of all players, I commit to this code of conduct. When failing to live up to these standards, I will allow for accountability and take responsibility for my actions.

**Parts of GCCS Athletic Standards/Expectations are modified version from "Inside Out Coaching" by Joe Ehrmann.*

Academic Requirements

The Ohio High School Athletic Association has standards that each student-athlete must meet in order to be eligible to compete. All questions concerning the rules and regulations of OHSAA or Grove City Christian School should be reviewed with the Athletic Director or respective High School/Middle School Principal.

Student-athletes are encouraged to be diligent in their academic work, since it will be their responsibility to comply with these OHSAA and GCCS standards. In addition to OHSAA academic standards, GCCS requires the following standards for respective High School and Middle School students:

GCCS High School Standards (Grade 9th-12th)

- In addition to OHSAA academic standards, Grove City Christian School requires all student athletes in Grades 9th-12th, to maintain a **2.0 grade point average and have no failing marks** in the immediately preceding grading period in order to participate in athletics.
- An academic mark of “incomplete” will be considered a failing grade until course work is completed.
- Students enrolled in post-secondary school courses must comply with the above standards.

GCCS Middle School Standards (Grade 7th & 8th)

- In addition to OHSAA academic standards, Grove City Christian School requires all student athletes in Grades 7th & 8th, to maintain a **73% average grade and have no failing marks** in the immediately preceding grading period in order to participate in athletics.
- An academic mark of “incomplete” will be considered a failing grade until course work is completed.

Additional Guidelines for High School and Middle School (Grades 7th-12th)

- Academic marks of student-athletes will be monitored and checked by the GCCS Guidance and Athletic Departments at interims and at the end of each grading period. If students are academically ineligible at interim time, a warning will be issued to the student and parent/legal guardian notifying them that the student is in danger of failing the current grading period. It is essential at that point that the student becomes diligent in their academic work and the parent/legal guardian assist in this focus.
- Student-athletes should consult the Athletic Director, Guidance Counselor, or respective High School/Middle School Principal before changing their course schedule or dropping a course to determine how it will affect their eligibility.
- If a student is ineligible, they will not be permitted to participate in any athletic contests.

Drug, Tobacco & Alcohol Policy

Please reference the GCCS Family Handbook.

Athletic Awards

Students may receive an award or merchandise as a result of their participation in school or non-school competition from any source, provided the value does not exceed \$200 per award, per OHSAA Bylaws.

Certificates of Participation are awarded to all student-athletes on all teams.

Scholar-Athlete Certificates are awarded to all High School student-athletes who possess a GPA of 3.5 or above in the grading period ending during their season of participation. These certificates will be awarded at the end of the season sports awards ceremony.

Varsity: A Varsity Letter may be awarded to student-athletes on high school varsity teams for meeting the following minimum criteria.

- 1) Finishes the season in good standing;
- 2) Loyal to the team, the coach, and the program;
- 3) Commitment to the team, the coach, and the program; through regular attendance at practices and competitions
- 4) Participates in the following percentage of contests:
 - Football 50% of the quarters played in regular season.
 - Volleyball 50% of the games played in regular season.
 - Soccer 50% of the total halves played in regular season.
 - Golf 50% of total matches played in regular season.
 - Basketball 50% of the total quarters played in regular season.
 - Baseball 50% of the total innings played in regular season.
 - Softball 50% of the total innings played in regular season.
 - Cheerleading Cheer for Varsity squad for their season
 - Air Rifle Criteria set forth prior to season.

** Coach and Athletic Director discretion will be utilized for an athlete who would have earned their Varsity Letter for unique situations, such as injuries, extenuating circumstances, etc.*

Athletic Fees

A student who participates in athletics and makes a team will be charged an athletic fee. The athletic fee for Middle School Athletics is \$135 per sport. The athletic fee for High School Athletics is \$160 per sport. The fee for youth sports participation (6th Grade and younger) will be determined on a sport by sport basis. This fee is used to help subsidize the cost of running an interscholastic athletic program, such as coaches, equipment, officiating, busing and other related expenses depending on the sport. The sports participation fee is non-refundable. Paying the athletic fee does not guarantee or imply that all students will play in contests.

Athletic fees are due prior to the first game/contest of the season. If the fee is not received or payment arrangements made with the Athletic Office by this deadline, then the student athlete will need to sit out of practices and games until it is paid. All athletic fees are paid through the Athletic Office via Final Forms (additional fee), cash, check, or credit card.

If a student-athlete makes the team and chooses to quit or becomes ineligible, they will not receive a refund of their athletic fee.

There may be additional fees and costs associated with some sports and coaches will communicate this to families. Student-athletes will be required to pay in advance for any team apparel or equipment that the team wishes to order (i.e.: shoes, sweatshirts, golf shirts, etc.). Grove City Christian School will place the order.

Athletic Participation Forms Online

All Athletic Participation Forms must be completed, updated, and electronically signed online each school year prior to an athlete trying out or participating in practices. To complete the online forms and to update information, both student and parent/legal guardian must go to this link, which is also found under the Athletics section of the GCCS website: <https://grovecity-oh.finalforms.com/>

Athletic Handbook Agreement:

By completing online forms and signing electronically, all students and parent(s)/guardian(s), acknowledge that they understand, agree to abide, and support the polices in both spirit and practice of the Grove City Christian School and GCCS Athletic Department.

OHSAA Forms:

By completing online forms and medical history, all students and parent(s) must complete an OHSAA pre-participation Physical Exam for the student-athlete, OHSAA Authorization Form, and an OHSAA Eligibility and Authorization Statement to the Athletic Department. Participation will be permitted upon completion. The physical examination is good for one calendar year.

Waivers and Medical Insurance/History Information

All students and parent(s)/guardian(s) must complete these forms online prior to participation in a sport.

Insurance:

Grove City Christian School is not responsible for medical expenses in case of a medical emergency. Any liability or cost incurred is the responsibility of the family of the student-athlete. Athletics are considered an extra-curricular activity in which students may participate. In doing so, the student assumes the inherent risk associated with that sport. Students participating in athletics must be covered by a family insurance policy. OHSAA does offer Catastrophic Accident Insurance to those participating in athletics at member schools. GCCS is a member of OHSAA and more information on this policy can be found at: <http://ohsaa.org/members/catinsurance.pdf>

Communication:

Communication is key to any relationship and partnership. Coaches and parents are encouraged to have open communication with each other.

Coaches are expected to communicate:

- Team rules
- Game and practice schedules
- Individual player roles

Appropriate issues to discuss with a coach:

- Ways that your child can improve
- The treatment of your child
- Child's behavior
- A coaches' expectations for your child and the team as a whole
- Team rules and requirements
- Practice schedules (holidays, summer programs, etc.)
- College participation

Inappropriate issues to discuss with a coach:

- Playing time
- Team or game strategy
- Other students

Process of coach discussion:

1. Coach and Student Athlete meeting
2. Coach, Parent and Student Athlete meeting
 - Do not confront a coach before or after a game
 - Meetings should be scheduled – preferably not before or after a practice
 - If possible, meetings should be done in person and not through emails
3. Coach, Parent, Athletic Director and Student Athlete meeting

Commitment of Athletes

Athletic programs require a strong commitment from the student-athletes. Student-athletes are expected to fulfill their commitment to the best of their abilities. All athletes are responsible for communicating information presented to them verbally and in writing to their parent(s) or guardians. All student-athletes are responsible to attend all practices and contests. All concerns resulting in missed practices and games must be communicated to the coach in advance. Student-athletes missing practices and games may result in a loss of playing time or other consequences.

A student-athlete is a member of a team. A teammate is expected to be dependable, responsible, disciplined, motivated, and have desire to excel to the best of their ability. A true teammate does not weigh the value of their athletic experience as good or bad dependent on how many minutes they played, but how their contribution benefited the team. Every role is important to the success of a team. (Colossians 3:23.)

Conflict Resolution

In matters of offenses and conflict, the biblical principles taught in Matthew 5 (if you offend someone) and in Matthew 18 (if someone offends you) are expected to be actively practiced. In addition, situations involving school staff are to be handled in accordance with the organizational chain-of-command, as this facilitates the process of conflict resolution.

Ejection from Athletic Contests

Student-Athletes:

In accordance with the rules and regulations established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association; "Any player ejected or disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the player shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests (one in football) are played at the same level of ejection or disqualification."

"If the ejection or disqualification occurs in the last contest of the season, the student shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the student participates. A student under suspension may not sit on the team bench, enter the locker room, or be affiliated with the team in any way traveling to, during, or traveling after the contest(s)."

"A student who is ejected or disqualified a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport. A student who has been ejected or disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct for the second time in the season during the last contest shall be ineligible for a period of time/number of contests subject to the discretion of the Commissioner. The period of ineligibility shall commence during the next sport in which the student participates." (OHSAA General Sports Regulations 10.1)

Spectators:

A spectator, which includes but is not limited to parents, are a witness to our school and community. More importantly, they are representing their Christian testimony and how we act and react to situations can speak volumes about our relationship with Jesus.

Spectators must address athletes, coaches, officials and other spectators in a positive manner. Spectators may not use profanity or abusive language. Yelling at officials, coaches, and students is unacceptable and can be grounds for dismissal from athletic contests for as long as deemed necessary by GCCS Administration.

Any member of Grove City Christian Administration and/or Game Official(s), reserve the right to dismiss any spectator from an athletic event or extra-curricular activity, without reimbursement, or take any other appropriate action when, in his or her sole discretion, the Spectator Code of Conduct is violated or the spectator is otherwise acting, or has acted, inappropriately.

Game Day Dress for School

The Athletic Director and Head Coach will set the standard of dress for their teams on game days. Uniform pants (khaki or navy) or skirts must be worn for either Home/Away games.

Student-athletes may wear their jerseys or team apparel on game days. At the beginning of the season, each Head Coach will decide upon their game day uniform to be worn to school, and all athletes on the team must participate as a team. The Head Coach will communicate this to players and to school administration in advance of game days. This is a privilege granted to athletes provided they meet all the above requirements and can be removed if team is not meeting guidelines.

The intent for this policy is to raise the standard of our student-athletes dress on game days versus “dressing down”, promote their sport to the overall student body, and an opportunity to display team unity.

Game Schedules/Changes

Game schedules are handed out at the beginning of the season. Every effort is made to follow the original schedules. However, there may be times, due to an opponent’s scheduling conflicts, weather, or unforeseen circumstances, when we may have to reschedule or cancel an event. Students are notified and allowed to make telephone calls from the Athletic Office should this happen. In addition, every effort will be made to notify families via email from coach or Athletic Office. Players are responsible to report to the games at the time given by the coach. Coaches do tell the players what time to arrive – so please be there on time. Please see transportation guidelines in this handbook for policies on travel to and from away games.

Schedules are also available on the school web site under the Athletics section or via this link: <http://www.arbiterlive.com/Teams?entityId=41500>. This schedule website is a great resource for schedules, cancellations, changes, and obtaining directions to away games. You can sign-up to follow teams and receive notifications via Arbiter Live for schedule changes.

GCCS Athletic Booster Club

The GCCS Athletic Booster Club was created with one purpose in mind: supporting the interscholastic athletic program. With these objectives and accomplishments, the Athletic Booster Club strongly relies on the faithful commitment and involvement of the parents of the athletes and others that comprise its membership. Through fundraising efforts, money is raised to help defray the high cost of running an athletic program. We need involvement from everyone. The more people who are involved, the more our athletes benefit, and the better training they will receive. Please do your part to help our athletic program. Contact the Athletic Department if you would like to help in any way.

High School Transfers:

A student is considered a transfer student after the fifth day of their freshman year. OHSAA has certain bylaws governing transfers of athletes in high school. All students transferring to GCCS must meet with the Athletic Director to ensure compliance. These bylaws can be referenced at www.ohsaa.org, but transfer students must be cleared by the GCCS administration prior to participation in athletic contests.

Inclement Weather

When an inclement weather event (fog, snow, etc.) occurs on the day of an athletic contest or practice the following process occurs:

- The GCCS Administration evaluates the safety of still holding athletic contest/practice.
- The determination of events for that specific day will typically occur by mid-day or as deemed necessary.
- The Athletic Director in collaboration with coaches will communicate to students and their families, as soon as decision has been made.

Mandatory Preseason Parent Meeting:

The Athletic Department will coordinate a date where the Athletic Director and coaching staff will have an opportunity to discuss the upcoming athletic season. The coaches will coordinate a parent meeting in conjunction with this meeting. The parent meeting will provide the coaches with an opportunity to inform parents on Athletic Department policy, team rules and regulations, and guidelines for their season.

Attendance is required by OHSAA and highly encouraged as each parent will be responsible for reading the Athletic Handbook and certifying that they understand all rules and regulations established by the Grove City Christian School and Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). Those parents not in attendance will be required to watch the OHSAA video and complete a short questionnaire to fulfill this OHSAA requirement.

Non-Interscholastic Participation:

The athletic participation of a GCCS student in a non-interscholastic program (tryouts, practice, or contest), while a member of a GCCS team in the same sport and season is prohibited. A GCCS student may participate in non-interscholastic programs prior to and after the school season under the conditions set forth in OHSAA.

Open Tryouts/Team Selection

All athletic programs at Grove City Christian School will have open tryouts for students who are interested in participating in athletics. The Athletic Department will determine the dates for open tryouts. Open tryouts may last for two or three days. Students must be enrolled for the upcoming school year in order to try-out for athletics.

Once open tryouts conclude, the coaches will determine the team roster with the Athletic Director. The purpose of tryouts is for team placement. Cuts may occur depending on the number of participating students and considering the safety of the student-athlete.

Practices

Practices are a mandatory aspect of participating on a team. Players are expected to be at practice on time and prepared for the day's workout. If a student attends school, she/he must be at practice unless one of the excused absences listed below applies. If you know that you will miss a practice, please notify your coach or the Athletic Department in advance. The coach has the right to take action (sprints, removal of game time, dismissal from team, etc.) on a player who does not follow the practice and/or game guidelines.

The following are examples of excused absences:

- Attending a funeral
- Doctor's appointment
- Tutoring

Please note:

** In season sports take priority over out-of-season activities. **

** Athletes must be picked up on time after practices and games. **

School Attendance & Sports Participation

Student-athletes must attend ALL periods during the school day in order to participate in an athletic event. In addition the student athlete must attend ALL periods during the school day following the athletic event in order to participate in the next scheduled athletic event. Student-athletes must attend ALL periods on Friday in order to participate in an athletic event on Saturday. Unique circumstances will be reviewed and participation ultimately decided by GCCS Administration. (MSL Bylaw)

Sportsmanship

Students are expected to abide by all requirements of the OHSAA sportsmanship initiative developed by the Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity committee. The following are considered inappropriate:

- Using profane and abusive language;
- Crude and vulgar jokes;
- Destruction of school property;
- Technical fouls and ejections;
- Excessive celebration, taunting, and flaunting;
- Inappropriate comments towards coaches, officials, and fans;
- Fighting.

All issues related to unsportsmanlike behavior from students will be addressed by the Head Coach and Athletic Director.

Transportation

Parent(s) or guardian(s) are responsible for securing transportation of their student to and from athletic contests. The coaches at Grove City Christian cannot arrange transportation of the athletes, besides the Grove City Christian bus or other transportation vehicles owned by the school. The Grove City Christian School bus will provide transportation when possible. When the GCCS bus is provided, students are expected to ride the school provided bus. In rare circumstances, an exception to riding the GCCS bus will be granted, but the request must be submitted in writing to the Athletic Office at least 24 hours in advance of the departure time. After games and practices, it is the responsibility of the athlete to inform her/his parent as to when and where she/he should be picked up after each game – whether home or away. The coaches will let the athletes know the departure and approximate return times for each away event. It is essential that you know in advance when and where your athlete needs to be picked up.

It is also important that athletes are picked up on time after practice. The coaches will let athletes know ahead of time when practice ends. It is the athlete's responsibility to communicate these times to her/his parent so that a ride will be waiting for them at end of practices.

Two-Sport Participation

A student-athlete may participate in more than one sport at Grove City Christian School during the fall, winter, or spring seasons, as long as the coaches can come to an agreement and work out the details of practices and games. The Athletic Director will mediate this process.

The student-athlete who is participating must declare one of the two sports as their first commitment. First commitment requires the athlete to attend all practices, meetings, and games connected with that athletic program. The student-athlete may participate with the second athletic program during the time when there are no obligations to the sport that has priority. In the event that the second sport becomes a conflict with the first sport, participation in the second sport will be subject to termination.

Uniforms/Equipment

Athletic uniforms will be purchased and provided through the Athletic Department. Student athletes will be responsible for purchasing items that are not considered reusable such as shoes, cleats, socks, hats, etc. In issuing uniforms/equipment to student-athletes, it is with the expectation that the student-athlete will care for school property. Misused or unreturned uniforms and equipment will be replaced at the student-athlete's expense. The student-athlete will return all uniforms and equipment to their coach by the date requested.

Head coaches will issue and collect all uniforms and equipment. Athletic uniforms and equipment not returned will yield the following:

- Withholding the student's report card/records until uniform and equipment is returned.
- Withholding the student's report card/records until payment is received for the cost of the unreturned uniform and equipment.
- After reasonable attempts to collect the uniform, the cost to replace the uniform will be assessed to allow time for ordering replacement prior to next season.

Wednesday and Sunday Activities

Grove City Christian School encourages our students to participate in church activities on Wednesday evenings and Sundays. Therefore, all attempts are made for athletic contests to not occur on Wednesdays or Sundays, except in extreme cases resulting from league or OHSAA commitments. Practices may be held on Wednesdays, however, to ensure that student-athletes can attend church activities, all practices will end by 5:30pm.