

GONZALES I.S.D.



ATHLETIC POLICY HANDBOOK

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GONZALES INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

I. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Gonzales Athletic Program. As the Athletic Director at Gonzales ISD, I am excited about the opportunity to be associated with our community, its coaches and staff as well as our fine student athletes. Gonzales ISD athletic programs have had a strong tradition over the years. We are very proud of the accomplishments of our teams and athletes and look forward to the opportunity to continue to build and grow on its foundation that has been set. The entire staff takes great pride in its role as part of the education provided by Gonzales ISD.

This handbook is designed so that parents and athletes understand the policies of the athletic program. The policies, procedures, and regulations in this handbook are in compliance with the school board policies, and administrative procedures.

This book supersedes all prior publications governing Gonzales athletic teams and shall be used by all principals, coaches, and players in grades 7-12.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Sandra Gorden
Sue Gottwald
Ross Hendershot, III
Glenn Menking
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II. PHILOSOPHY

The combination of sports and academics can be a tremendous experience in a young person's life. A broad and sound sports program for all students can provide invaluable experiences for the participants. A sound, wholesome sports program will contribute to and offer involvement to all students-as participants, support groups, or as spectators. It will also serve the community by providing entertainment and establishing a common ground of interest which will draw citizens together in support of the various sports activities. It is important to see athletics as part of the total educational program. It should both compliment and contribute to the overall educational process. For many students it is the most effective climate for learning the invaluable lessons of personal integrity, determination, self-confidence, proper mental attitude, individual and group responsibility and the desire to achieve high goals which should be the basic objectives of any sound educational system.

III. PARTICIPATION

It is the goal of the athletic department to create a total athletic program that reaches as many students as possible in Gonzales ISD. This program includes our extensive year-round athletic period that prepares our students in a universal off-season program. The year round academic preparation, team building exercises, and structured discipline program will improve our student-athletes opportunities for success. However, no student is obligated to take part in athletics, nor is participation in athletics required. **Athletics is a privilege, not a right.** Because it is a privilege, it requires a higher standard of conduct above and beyond what is stated in the school code of conduct, and dress code policies. The Athletic Director and coaching staff shall have the full authority, in accordance with Gonzales ISD policy and due process procedures to prohibit any student from playing on any team, or from taking part in any public contest for the following reasons:

- Serious academic deficiencies
- Conduct which brings dishonor or embarrassment to Gonzales ISD or the team with which they are associated.
- Actions or behaviors that demonstrate lack of respect for the authority of the coaching staff or the administration of Gonzales ISD.
- Any violation of University Interscholastic League rules or policies which require students to be prohibited from participation.

IV. AVAILABLE SPORTS

The following sports are available for athletics grades 7-12.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Basketball | Boys and Girls – 7, 8, 9, JV, Varsity |
| Baseball | Boys – JV, Varsity |
| Cross Country | Boys and Girls – 7, 8, JV, Varsity |
| Football | 7, 8, 9, JV, Varsity |
| Golf | High School Boys and Girls (Junior High when applicable) |
| Powerlifting | Boys and Girls - JV, Varsity |
| Softball | Girls – JV, Varsity |
| Soccer | Boys and Girls - JV, Varsity |
| Track & Field | Boys – 7, 8, JV, Varsity Girls – 7, 8, JV, Varsity |
| Tennis | Boys and Girls – JV, Varsity (Junior High when applicable) |
| Volleyball | Girls – 7, 8, 9, JV, Varsity |

V. ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS

Extra-curricular athletics must always be viewed as a supportive activity to the primary mission of any educational institution. The primary mission of any educational institution must be academic and personal development of its students. In public education, the integrity of the academic mission can never be compromised. The role of athletics involves providing opportunities of extended character development through structured athletic competition. This philosophy is supported by a study conducted by the University of Washington. This study projected the likelihood of a high school varsity athlete receiving an athletic scholarship to higher education and later moving into professional sports.

- A. 59% of all high school varsity football and basketball players have the belief that they will receive college scholarships upon graduation.
- B. 98 out of 100 varsity high school athletes involved in all sports will never participate in the college ranks.
- C. 1 out of 15,000 college student-athletes will ever have the opportunity to become a professional athlete in any sport.

The message from these results is clear. The academic mission is of greatest importance to all students regardless of the God given athletic talents and playing field accomplishments. Additionally, of all “Top 10” ranked academic students at the high school level, 98% of both boys and girls were involved in **2 or more extra-curricular activities**.

GENERAL POLICIES

The following information applies to all students who participate in extra-curricular activities while enrolled in Gonzales ISD.

It is felt that these students represent Gonzales in the community and state in multiple settings and the student should adhere to a level of behavior and conformity indicative of this role. These students serve as role models and hence have an obligation to handle themselves in a manner that befits responsibility.

All extra-curricular students are subject to this policy.

The coaching staff has responsibility for enforcing policy. The policy applies to these students at any school sponsored activity, event, practice, competition, camp, or conference that prepares them for such. However, it is expected that all student-athletes will behave appropriately at all times, school sponsored or otherwise. This policy will be in effect during the school year.

EXPECTATIONS OF ATHLETES

A. Competition

1. Learns that both winning and losing are part of the game and learns to accept both. **Be modest in victory, be gracious in defeat.**
2. Does not use illegal tactics in an attempt to defeat the opponent or to beat the rules of the game.
3. Have complete control of himself/herself at all times. Horseplay, displays of temper, use of profanity, and disrespect for coaches and officials will result in loss of respect for athletes and in disciplinary action from the coach.
4. Will respect the decision of all officials. The breaks of the game may go against you, but the officiating is not to blame. Officials are human beings who are doing their best to see that a contest is being run smoothly and honestly and also being conducted in accordance with the established rules.

B. Classroom

1. Academics will always take precedence over athletics. The two should work hand in hand with each other for the overall success of the students. The student-athlete must give time and energy to ensure good acceptable grades that meet the UIL requirements for participation.
2. Must maintain a satisfactory citizenship and behavior record by giving Respect and complete attention to classroom activities and acceptable behavior.

C. Campus

1. Maintain proper dress appearance, good grooming and personal cleanliness. You are a leader and you have only one chance to make a good first impression. We want you to be the best person you can be, physically, socially, mentally, and spiritually, because you are the future leaders of our community.
2. Refrain from fighting, scuffling, horseplay and juvenile behavior in and around the school building, and athletic facilities.

3. If suspended from school, the student will not be permitted to work out with, travel with, or participate with the team. Eligibility for subsequent contests will be left to the discretion of the head coach, and the administration. Suspensions include: **DAEP assignments, as well as suspensions assigned by administrative personnel and or the Head Coach of that sport.**

4. In School Suspension – Any student-athlete assigned to ISS will be allowed to practice, but not allowed to participate in any extra-curricular activities while assigned to ISS. If the assignment extends beyond the weekend, students will not be allowed to participate on that weekend. If students are scheduled to attend a school sponsored trip, those students will not be able to attend. If a student is assigned to ISS on the day of the extra-curricular activity he/she will not be allowed to participate in that activity if departure before school is required unless individual transportation to and from is provided.

D. Athletic Period/Before and After School Practices

1. Do not cut classes or be tardy. Do not miss an athletic period unless it is absolutely unavoidable. If an athlete must be absent, call and talk to a coach before athletics. If an athlete misses an athletic period or practice he/she will be required to make up all work missed. Three (3) unexcused absences could result in the removal from the team for that season. Regular attendance for practice and games is very important in order for the team to improve. Everyone is expected to come to practice and stay until all work is done. Violations of this policy, without prior excuse from the Head Coach, will result in a cardiovascular program set for by that Head Coach.

2. The athlete does not have an expectation of privacy in any locker and lockers are subject to search. The athlete is expected to maintain a neat and clean locker space. Locker checks will be done on a daily basis, poor locker space will result in extra conditioning. Be proud of your dressing area and keep it neat. **The district is not responsible for personal items kept in lockers. Every student athlete will be provided a lock and are required to lock up all personal items before and after every practice. (including cell phones, ipods, cash, etc...)** **The use of Cell Phones inside the Locker Room is strictly prohibited.**

3. Take a shower for hygiene purpose. Horseplay will not be tolerated in the weight room, dressing room, or locker room. Any destruction of property will be handled not only with discipline action, but possible financial restoration as well.

4. The athlete should be fully dressed before he/she leaves the dressing room. School issued clothes will not be worn home. Each student in the athletic period will be provided the cloth items necessary for every workout. Possession of this school issued gear will be considered theft and will be handled as such. Students will be expected to wear their own clothes home unless specific permission is granted by the Head Coach of that sport.

E. Team Travel

1. All Varsity Sport Athletes will travel and return with the team. All Sub-Varsity Athletes will travel and return with team unless previous arrangements have been made to do otherwise. You must clear this with the Athletic Director / Head Coach of the sport before leaving the contest, written permission must be given prior to an athlete riding with parent, relative, or legal guardian. Under no circumstances will you be released to ride with anyone other than you parents,

relative, or legal guardian. This written permission form must be on file with the head coach the day before the transportation arrangements are made.

2. Dress neatly and properly on all trips. We will dress as a unit. Coaches will advise you regarding proper attire.
3. Conduct himself/herself properly on the bus or in any school vehicle. All printed rules for bus riders that govern Gonzales ISD will be followed. We will follow a seating chart on every bus trip that is maintained by the head coach of the sport and our transportation department.
4. Head phones, DVD players, Ipods, any other electronic devices will be allowed on the bus, as long as they are kept down and not a distraction to the driver of the bus. **This policy is also up to Head Coach of the sport if he/she chooses differently we will follow that policy for that sport season.**
5. Be informed of departure and return times for each trip by a notice posted or by the Head Coach. Be on time, if you are going to be late, you must call and inform the coach. Parents need to provide transportation for their children after games and practice. It is not the responsibility of the coaches to provide transportation, in fact, it is against UIL rules. Emergency situations can be taken into account. Every effort will be made by the coaching staff to notify proper personnel as to unexpected changes in times.
6. Parents, family members, or friends will not be allowed on the bus for any trip. Any exception to this rule will be decided by the principal and athletic director.
7. Dress for all home contests according to the school and team dress policies.

Violations to General Policies

Individual coach and the Athletic Director will decide discipline. Situations will arise that require a coach to make decisions based upon what is best for the team, and not necessarily the individual. All disciplinary actions will be consistent and fair based upon the information available to the coach at the time of the infraction.

VI. ELIGIBILITY AND REGULATIONS

Eligibility:

A student in grades 7-12 may participate in extra-curricular activities on or off campus at the beginning of the school year only if the student has earned the cumulative number of credits in state approved courses indicated.

1. At the beginning of the 7th grade year, the student must have been promoted from the 6th to 7th grade.
2. At the beginning of the 8th grade year, the student must have been promoted from the 7th to 8th grade.
3. At the beginning of the 9th grade year, the student must have been promoted from the 8th to 9th grade.
4. At the beginning of the 10th grade year, the student must have gained at least 5 state credits towards graduation.
5. At the beginning of the 11th grade year, the student must have gained at least 10 state credits towards graduation or have passed five state credits during the past 12 months.

6. At the beginning of the 12th grade year, the student must have at least fifteen state credits toward graduation or have passed five state credits during the past 12 months.

VII. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Suspension:

The athletic director will have the authority to suspend or place on probation from the athletic program any student-athlete for major or minor infractions of the rules. Any punishment issued by the athletic department may be in conjunction with or in addition to punishment issued under the **Gonzales ISD Student Code of Conduct**. Any student suspended from athletics must be given:

1. **The reason for the suspension.**
2. **The time and provisions for the suspension**
3. **Procedures for reentering the program.**
4. **Information on class schedule change options.**
5. **Notification of parent/guardian for discussion of student suspension**
6. **The opportunity to file an Appeal.**

Appeal:

The student and/or parent shall have the right to appeal any decision to suspend a student, expel a student, or place a student on probation from the athletic program in accordance with the District policy FNG (Local). A copy of the grievance and appeal process are available by request or can be found on the District's website.

VIII. MAJOR INFRACTIONS

The following rules apply to all Gonzales ISD athletes during non-school or school related activities during the school year.

Drugs, alcohol and smoking will not be tolerated. The Gonzales ISD extra-curricular drug, alcohol, and tobacco policy will be strictly enforced. A copy of the policy will be provided. Please read it carefully.

The Athletic Director and Head Coach has the responsibility for enforcing the policy. The policy will be in effect year round. This policy will begin when a student enters school, either as a freshman or later as a transfer student. The discipline record will be a part of the student's athletic record until graduation or until a one year suspension has been served, whichever comes first. A student may receive their first offense as a freshman, second offense as a sophomore, and so on.

If an athlete is found to have engaged in the elements of the following offenses, they will be disciplined as follows:

Drugs

First Offense

Procedures:

1. Notification of parent/guardian to set up a conference for discussion of the student infraction.

2. The conference will include parent/legal guardian, athletic director, head coach and student.

Sanctions:

1. Suspension from all extra-curricular activities for a period of six weeks.
2. Extra Conditioning
3. To qualify for reinstatement, the student must complete all running and conference with the school counselor.
4. Approval of the athletic director, coach, must be given prior to reinstatement.

Second Offense

Procedures:

1. Same as first offense.

Sanctions:

1. Removal from athletic program for one calendar year.
2. To qualify for reinstatement, the student must complete a drug education program, at the student's own expense. Letter stating the program has been completed must be given, and will be placed in the student's file.
3. Approval of athletic director, coach must be given prior to reinstatement.

Alcohol and Tobacco

First Offense

Procedure:

1. Notification of parent/guardian to discuss student infraction.

Sanctions:

1. Extra Conditioning
2. Suspension from activity of one to three days.

Second Offense

Procedure:

1. Same as first offense.

Sanctions:

1. Extra conditioning
2. Suspension from activity from one to three weeks.

Third Offense

Procedure:

1. Same as first offense.

Sanctions:

1. Suspension form athletic program for one calendar year.
2. Counseling.

A. Stealing

Sanctions:

1. **First Offense** – An athlete caught stealing at school or at a school related event will result in possible removal from athletics, and disciplinary action by the Head Coach.

B. Felony Offenses

Sanctions:

1. Any conduct that results in a felony indictment or petition will result in suspension from participating in athletic contest(s). This is not a presumption of guilt; rather it affords the accused athlete the time and opportunity to clear his or her name. The athlete will be on the team as a suspended member. Any student convicted of a felony will be removed from athletics for a one year period pending a review by the athletic director.

Ejection from a game

First Offense

Sanctions:

1. May face suspension from the next game(s) and other disciplinary action by Head Coach.

Second Offense

Sanctions:

1. May be removed from athletic program or other disciplinary action by the Head Coach.

IX. DROPPING A SPORT

Quitting any sport during the season is frowned upon by the athletic department, although there will be some time when some athletes find it necessary to quit playing a sport before, during, or after the season. Whatever the reason, an athlete must follow the steps listed below:

1. The athlete should think the whole situation through before reaching a final decision.
2. The athlete should talk to the coach to see if a solution can be reached without having to quit. A conference between the parents, athlete and coach, or any combination of thereof, may be required and is highly recommended before an athlete will be permitted to quit.
3. If an athlete quits, and wishes to return to the team, the athlete must make up conditioning of every day missed. An athlete who quits and stays out two weeks or more will not be allowed to return to that sport for that season.
4. If an athlete decides to quit, he/she must check out of the sport just as he/she would check out of any academic class.
5. All equipment must be turned in clean. Also, an athlete must pay for any equipment not returned, or damaged.

6. If the athlete decides to quit one sport and join another, they will not be able to start that sport until the season of the sport they quit is over. Any exception to this rule will be determined by the Athletic Director. Examples of exceptions are injury or illness, or any other hardship cases. While the player waits, he/she will remain in the athletic period.
7. No athlete will be permitted to quit more than once during a school year. Any attempt to do so will result in the athlete being dismissed from the athletic program and removed from the athletic period.
8. Quitting players give up all rights to any honors, which they have earned but not yet received.

X. **PLAYING MULTIPLE SPORTS**

The general idea of extra-curricular activities is to help mold young people through a variety of experiences. With this in mind, all student athletes are encouraged to participate in as many sports as they can while in the Gonzales Athletic Program. The coaching staff believes in working together in order to accommodate students who wish to participate in multiple sports here at Gonzales ISD. The Athletic Period is for Multi-Sport athletes, and is set up in accordance, for safety precautions and general supervision concerns. Any student-athlete can participate in an after school sport without being in Athletics, playing time and participation level could be affected and is to the discretion of the Head Coach. Generally speaking, coaches and players can handle any possible conflicts through solid communication between the coaches of the various sports, the athlete and their parents. However, it is obviously impossible for someone to be in two places at the same time so the following guidelines should be used when unavoidable conflict arises.

1. **School sponsored sports should take precedence over any outside entity.** (select, AAU, etc.)
2. **Varsity Sports should take precedence over Sub Varsity Sports.** (Example: A Varsity Boys Track Team member who is also on the JV Baseball Team should miss a JV Baseball Tournament if it conflicts with a Varsity Track Meet)
3. **District Games/Matches take precedence over Non District Games/Matches** (Example: A Varsity Golfer who is also a Varsity Softball player should miss a non-district softball game to play in the District Golf Tournament.)
4. **If everything is equal, the coaches of the individual sports will work with you to formulate a plan which is fair to everyone involved.** (when all other factors are equal, we will always try to do what is best for the athlete and the school)

THE POLICY OF THE GONZALES ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT IS TO STRONGLY DISCOURAGE SPECIALIZATION IN OUR ATHLETIC PROGRAM AND TO ENCOURAGE OUR ATHLETES TO PARTICIPATE IN AS MANY SPORTS AS THEIR TIME AND STAMINA WILL ALLOW.

XI. AWARDS AND LETTERING

The highest award you can receive as an athlete is your high school diploma, following right behind that is your school letter. Athletes may receive from the school only one major award (jacket) during their high school career. In order to letter, you must be on a varsity team and satisfy the requirements stated below. After receiving the one major award, letter certificates or similar awards (called minor awards by UIL) shall be given by the respective coach each time an athlete letters in any sport. Sub-varsity athletes may receive recognition from their coach as a result of having shown good citizenship and character, attitude and attendance, in addition to having adhered to the policies contained within this handbook.

Sub Varsity Awards:

Some athletes will receive awards based on outstanding performance.

Varsity Awards:

Awards for the varsity team will consist of letter jackets. These awards will be furnished by the school to each athlete who meets the qualifications for lettering.

Guidelines to be followed:

1. UIL rules will be followed in regard to cost of jacket.
2. No participant will receive more than one letter jacket.
3. Athletes will receive a jacket in the sport in which they letter first.
4. The jacket will have no markings or patches on it except the letter, and one insert. All other patches will be the responsibility of the athlete.
5. Letter jackets will be the same for all sports.

Qualifications to Letter:

Each coach will keep records of student participation in each sport. Such records will be used as a basis for determining whether a student qualifies for a letter. A head coach with the approval of the athletic program may use other criteria.

Below are the criteria to letter in each sport offered at Gonzales High School:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Football | must play in 8 quarters to letter. |
| Basketball | must play in 12 quarters to letter. |
| Volleyball | must play in 6 matches to letter. |
| Softball | must play in 14 innings to letter. |
| Baseball | must play in 14 innings to letter. |
| Track | must run in 4 Varsity meets to letter. |
| Cross Country | must run in 4 Varsity meets to letter. |
| Tennis | must compete in 4 Varsity meets to letter. |
| Golf | must compete in 4 Varsity tournaments to letter. |
| Managers | must work at least two sports a year to letter. |
| Trainers | must work at least two sports a year to letter. |

Exceptions to lettering qualifications:

A participant may receive a letter at the Athletic Director's discretion if the participant is considered to have been of exceptional value to the team. Exceptions may include playing on a team for four years and never lettering, a letterman who is injured or ill, and is unable to complete the season, or a specialist of some type.

Note: Any student who has qualified for a letter but has been dismissed from the squad for disciplinary reasons will not receive an award.

XII. ATHLETIC PASSES

It shall be the policy of the Gonzales ISD Athletic Program to issue player passes to those athletes participating in each sport, which requires admission charge. The following stipulations shall apply to the passes:

1. Only the player whose name appears on the pass may use it. Free admission is allowed only when the pass is presented. Failure to furnish the pass means the athlete must pay the standard admission charge.
2. Identification may be required.
3. Use of the pass may be revoked if an unauthorized person uses the pass or the holder of the pass displays unsportsmanlike conduct at any contest.
4. Use of the pass may be revoked for those who are ineligible due to poor academic performance.
5. Passes will be issued to admit athletes to Gonzales ISD athletic events only.
6. If any player drops, or is dismissed from a sport, the coach of the athlete must take up the player pass as part of issued equipment.

XIII. SCHOLARSHIPS

Individual athletes based on their athletic achievement and academic successes sometimes may earn scholarships. The student athlete must undertake a number of steps to insure that he/she is eligible when the time arises that a scholarship may be possible. He/She must not put off this responsibility or failure to qualify may result.

Qualifications for Scholarship:

Athletic Achievement

The athlete must meet the criteria of the University or College pertaining to the individual sport involved. Each University or College has its own criteria for selecting athletes based on individual ability. As an athlete, you may fit one of the University's criteria, but not another, and sometimes you may not fit any. Striving to be the best high school athlete, and student is your best insurance that some university or college might deem you fit for their program. If you do fit their criteria, they will contact you or the head coach of your sport.

Academic Success

The athlete must meet certain criteria established by the NCAA or NAIA before he/she can even be considered for scholarship. A student athlete must begin the process of qualifying academically as well as athletically for any post high school participation as early in high school as possible. Academics must be an integrated part of the athletic process beginning as a freshman, and must continue to be a priority throughout their high school career. If the core curriculum grade point average is not met, eligibility will not be possible no matter how outstanding the athlete is in his athletic endeavor. You must start early.

College Requirements before Visitation Is Possible

The athlete must meet the ACT or SAT requirements before a college can actively recruit an athlete. It is imperative that the potential athlete take the ACT or SAT at the earliest possible time to ensure that he/she meets these requirements. Your counselor will be of help to you as to when you can take the ACT or SAT; these dates will also be posted in the field house. They also may be of help with tutorial programs, etc. that will enhance your chances of a good score. Remember that a good base education cannot be replaced by last minute preparation for the test. Taking the test numerous times will also enhance your chances of improving your score. You must apply yourself academically as well as athletically to reap the rewards of your diligence.

Questions asked by college recruiters

When a college recruiter shows interest in a particular athlete, there are questions that are asked of the coaches and counselors. The first thing that they want to know is if the athlete will qualify academically. If you do not qualify, this will probably be the end of their interest in you. The next thing they will ask about is the work habits exhibited in the classroom as well as your commitment to athletics. They are usually looking for the individual that has put forth the necessary effort in both areas to succeed.

Another question that is usually asked is about the character of the individual. They will inquire as to any discipline problems that have arisen during the high school career.

They will also inquire about specific leadership qualities that the athlete might possess. If the sport is a team sport, the recruiter will want to know if the athlete is a “team player”. They are looking for someone who can enhance their program and will be a fit for their program.

They will also want to know of any special talents that they might not be aware of, such as football players being an outstanding track person also. **Multiple sport performers sometimes have an advantage, and it is also stressed here at Gonzales ISD.**

*** What to expect from the coach**

Your coach will be honest in their appraisal of the qualifications of the student athlete. They will respond to all questions as positively as possible. Coaches must be honest in their evaluation of players to recruiters to help build a bond with a specific university or college. They will provide statistics and other pertinent information pertaining to the athlete’s career. When possible, video will be made available to recruiters. They will also send video to various schools that have shown some interest. We as coaches will do

everything possible to help our student athletes' advance to the next level, but the commitment must come from the athlete as well.

By acknowledging receipt of this Athletic Handbook, the student and parent consent for the coaching staff to share educational records with the colleges who inquire about the student's performance.

*** What to expect from the student athlete**

The student athlete can determine whether he/she meets all requirements for attending the school that they are interested in. The athlete should write the schools they are interested in to let them know of the interest. A letter of recommendation by the coach should accompany the letter. Video can also be sent at this time.

Visit with school counselor to determine if the student's areas of interest are available at the specific schools, for the student's academic needs. Also, NCAA Clearinghouse must be completed for the student athlete to have an opportunity to advance to the college level. These forms are available in the counselor's office.

If questions do arise, feel free to ask coaches or counselors for help with anything you may need, or help with interpretations.

Be sure that all applications are submitted before deadlines.

XIV. MEDICAL INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR ATHLETES

The Gonzales ISD provides athletic insurance. It is the intention and purpose of this policy to provide secondary or "excess" coverage in the event of an athletic injury. Primary coverage is the responsibility of the athlete's family. In the event no primary insurance exists, the insurance provided by Gonzales ISD becomes primary. This coverage is only available while the student is participating in an athletic practice, event or travel.

In the event of an athletic injury, the student should immediately report the injury to his/her supervising coach for proper procedure and documentation. The coach/trainer will make notation of time and date of injury for the injury claim. If medical attention is necessary; it is the responsibility of the parents or legal guardian of the student to obtain a claim form from the district. The athletic director or head trainer will have the form available in their office once the supervising coach has notified them. At that time, the proper procedure for filing a claim will be reviewed with the parent or legal guardian.

*Please note that the insurance policy explicitly states that medical care must be sought within 60 days of the initial injury for consideration for payment.

XV. INJURIES OR ILLNESS

As athletes you must distinguish between pain and injury. Athletic participation will lead to occasional pain and discomfort due to the nature of your chosen sport. An athlete who is injured and cannot practice, will be under the direction of the athletic trainer who will advise coaches of the status of the individual.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ATHLETE TO MAKE THE TRAINER OR COACHES AWARE OF ANY INJURY OR ILLNESS THAT WILL LIMIT YOUR ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE. IF AT ANY TIME DURING A PRACTICE OR GAME, YOU FEEL THAT YOU ARE INJURED, OVER-HEATED, OR ILL NOTIFY THE TRAINER, OR COACH IMMEDIATELY. NOBODY CAN PERCEIVE YOUR PAIN OR ILLNESS.

If the injury occurred during athletic participation the trainer must be notified, **AT THE TIME OF INJURY**, or no later than forty-eight hours after. Notification can be made by calling the trainer or athletic director at school. Failure to notify trainer or athletic director may result in denial of district insurance coverage, and more importantly greater risk of injury. Out of town participation or holidays does not exempt an athlete of this time limit.

When ill or injured, the athlete's name will be placed on the Injury Report that is given to the coaches. It is expected that the athlete will participate to their fullest ability under the advisement of the trainer, regardless of the injury or condition, and will seek full clearance prior to attempting more activities. Make sure you call the head coach of your sport, if you are unable to attend due to illness or injury. If you call, there will be makeup work to be done. If you do not call, you will be considered to be skipping practice and disciplinary action could be taken. Attendance to practice and games is very important in order for the team to improve.

XVI. ATHLETIC TRAINING ROOM RULES

1. Report to trainer daily, and follow their directions fully.
2. Cleats, spikes, pads and other equipment are not permitted in the training room.
3. After practice, shower and dry off before coming into the training room.
4. Do not dress, undress or change clothes in the training room.
5. All athletes must be clothed in gym shorts and T-shirts for treatment.
6. If you are not seeking treatment, you will not be allowed in the training room.
7. Nothing should be taken from the training room without permission from the Athletic trainer.
8. Horseplay and foul language will not be tolerated.
9. Drinks, food, and gum are not permitted in the training room.
10. Return all wraps, braces, and pads. They will be checked out just like equipment and the student-athlete will be fiscally responsible for them.
11. Attend treatments at the time the trainer designates.
12. Maintain proper respect for trainer and student trainers.

Failure to follow the training room rules may result in disciplinary action.

XVII. AFTER SCHOOL STUDY HALL/TUTORIALS

Any Student-Athlete (Junior High or High School) who is failing or borderline failing during the weekly grade check will be required to attend a study hall/tutorial, until the student's grades have been brought up to passing. This study hall/tutorial is not in-season specific, any student-athlete in the athletic period will be made to follow this policy.

Failure to attend will result in extra-conditioning, and could result in the removal from athletics. Academics are a priority for our student-athletes and we as coaches will provide the opportunity for success in the classroom as well as in athletes. Student Athletes must take responsibility for their actions and they should take steps to enhance their chances for academic success.

XVIII. RESOURCES

The coaching staff feels that we are extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to work with all of the student athletes in the Gonzales athletic program. As the Athletic Director, I along with the other coaches, have an open door policy in regards to you questions and concerns. Please respect the game day and competition schedules and allow a meeting to be set up at appropriate times for all involved. To be perfectly clear, no coach will discuss playing time or any other student-athlete, but we are here to give your child the best opportunity for success while always placing the needs of the team first. I personally feel an open line of communication is the key to our success. I look forward to working with all of your children and building a strong relationship with you all. You may contact me directly at 830-672-7535. We look forward to having your child as a student athlete in the Gonzales Independent School District.

**GONZALES INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ATHLETIC POLICY
SIGNATURE PAGE**

Athletes and Parents: Make sure you read and understand the Athletic Policy Handbook. Retain the handbook for your reference. Please sign, date and return the signature page to the proper coach. No athlete will be allowed to participate without the signature page on file.

I have read and understand the Athletic Policy Handbook

Student Name (printed)

Grade

Date

Student Signature

Parent or Legal Guardian Name (printed)

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature