

Garland Christian Academy

Athletic Manual

2021-2022



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Garland Christian Academy

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School Mission Statement

Garland Christian Academy is dedicated to assisting parents in providing an excellent college preparatory academic and extracurricular program within a biblical worldview in order to develop a Christ-like, intellectually-equipped, community-focused, and well-rounded student.

Philosophy of Athletics

The purpose of Christian athletics at Garland Christian Academy is to develop godliness of character and action in the lives of our student-athletes, while at the same time competing at a high level in the various athletic programs that are offered. First and foremost, the desire of the school is to develop programs that honor and glorify God, in addition to developing student's athletic ability, personal discipline, self-confidence, and teamwork.

Affiliations

Garland Christian Academy is a member of Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) on the high school level and The Independent Athletic Association (IAA) on the middle school level.

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship at Garland Christian Academy is expected and is not requested. Always allow the coaches to coach, players to play, and officials to officiate. GCA will not allow any behavior that does not embody the mission and heart of GCA and the athletic department. Always cheer for the Swordsmen and Lady Swords and not against the opponents.

Responsibility of the Athletic Director

The Athletic Director (AD) at Garland Christian is the central leader of the athletic department. The AD is responsible for creating and maintaining the vision for the athletic department, while overseeing the day-to-day operations of the athletic department. The AD is responsible for managing the athletic budget, supervising coaches, hiring coaches, and communicating news regarding the athletic department to the school community.

Responsibility of the Coach

Coaches are central to the success of the athletic program at Garland Christian Academy. The coach is responsible for running practices, communicating with students and parents regarding their specific sports, motivating students, developing a student's athletic talents, and carrying out the overall vision of the athletic department. A coach's demeanor should always reflect the values of Garland Christian Academy and the Christ-like attitude that is expected of all employees. All coaches must understand that coaching is a privilege and must remain in good standing with the AD and Administration. All coaches must remain compliant with all TAPPS rules and regulations. All coaches are retained on a year-to-year basis and their positions are held at the discretion of the Athletic Director. The following are some important reminders for coaches:

- Schedules are to be submitted to the Athletic Director no later than three weeks before the first game.
- Player's physical forms must be on file in the school office.
- Coaches must submit a team roster to the Athletic Director no later than two weeks before the first game.
- Coaches are responsible for securing facilities after practice and games if they are the last one to leave.
- Varsity coaches are expected to report all scores to TAPPS within 48 hours.
- All practices and games must be submitted and approved in the scheduler before announcing the schedule to players and parents.

Responsibility of the Students

Attendance:

All participants are expected to attend all scheduled practices and games. If an athlete must miss a practice or game, then they must have approval from their specific coach. If absences become a habitual problem then an athlete may be dismissed from the team.

Conduct:

Students who participate in athletics are held to a higher standard given that they are representing the school, Christ, and their families. The actions and attitudes of the students should always reflect the values of Garland Christian Academy and more importantly Christ.

Expenses:

All who participate in a sport are required to pay a sports fee; this helps with the cost of officials, equipment, and traveling. Students will not be allowed to participate in games until their sports fee has been paid.

Equipment and Uniforms:

- All uniforms are the property of Garland Christian Academy and any damaged or lost items will be replaced at the expense of the students. (Transcripts will be withheld until jerseys are returned or replaced)
- Players are expected to provide all other items such as shoes and socks, unless team shoes are ordered.
- Students will be required to wear a practice uniform during practice if it is required by the coach. These are also provided by the school and must be returned at the end of the season.
- Students must always wear appropriate clothing to practice. Shorts need to be no higher than mid-thigh and shirts must always be worn during practice.

Eligibility:

- All students participating in a sport must pass an annual physical exam by their doctor. The form must then be turned into the school office. This is only required once per calendar year.

- All athletes must be a full-time student of GCA and be enrolled in at least four academic courses.
- All athletes must pass a team tryout if applicable for the sport they desire to participate in.
- Students must remain academically eligible, meaning, if a student receives a grade below 70 in a grading period he/she is ineligible for a period of three weeks until his/her grades are reviewed. (See Student Manual for more information)
- Students must be at school for at least four class periods on the day of a game to participate in the game.
- Students must not turn 19 years old before September 1st of their senior year in order to be eligible for athletics.
- Neither GCA nor TAPPS allows home school students to participate in athletics.
- If a student quits a sport after a period of one week into practice, that student is ineligible for the next available sport. (For example: quitting football makes you ineligible for basketball season).

Responsibility of Parents

The primary responsibility of a parent of a student-athlete at GCA is to encourage and cheer for your student and encourage the team. The following are expectations of parents at GCA:

- As a parent, I understand that not all students will play during each game and playing time may not be equal.
- As a parent, I understand that every student will have a role on the team and it is up to the coach's discretion as to what that role is.
 - As a parent, I understand that it is not my responsibility to coach my student from the stands and I will not be permitted to approach the sidelines or bench during an athletic contest.
- As a parent, I will always be supportive of the school, coaches, and team and will resolve conflict in a Christ-like manner. If an issue should arise and a meeting is requested, parents must meet with the coach first before meeting with the Athletic Director.
- As a parent, I will not approach a coach after a game to resolve a conflict. A meeting should be scheduled at a later date.
- As a parent, I agree to abide by the conflict resolution policy found in this manual.
- **NEW!!! As a parent, I agree to volunteer the REQUIRED 2 games/per family to help the booster club. (gate, concessions, etc.) Please sign up for your preferred spot ASAP!**

CPR/First Aid Training

All coaches at GCA are certified in first aid and CPR. This certification is valid for a two year period and is renewed by a course offered by a licensed trainer.

Uniforms

All uniforms (with the exception of cheer) are property of GCA. Students are not permitted to take game uniforms home after a game and they must be returned to the coach for cleaning. If a student or parent damages or loses a uniform, they will be required to replace the uniform. Students who have not replaced a damaged uniform will be ineligible for future athletics until that uniform is replaced.

Supervision of Students

- No student is permitted to be unsupervised by a coach in the gym, weight room, or field at any time.
- Coaches are required to remain with their athletes until they leave campus.
- Students whose transportation has not arrived by the time practice is complete must remain with their coach or go to after school care.

Transportation

GCA will provide transportation to all away games. All student-athletes will be required to travel to all away games on the school provided transportation; however, students may return from the game with their parents. Students returning from a game with anyone who is not their parent must have written approval from their parents. In addition, only coaches, players, and managers are permitted to ride on the bus to games; no parents will be allowed to ride with the team to away games.

Conflict Resolution Policy

All conflict that arises must be handled in a Christ-like manner. The Athletic Department will not hold discussions over playing time or position regarding high school athletics. Below is the process that should be followed when dealing with conflict.

- Hold a personal meeting between the parent and head coach.
- If the issue is not settled by the first meeting, hold a meeting with the Athletic Director. (The

AD has the discretion to not meet with a parent if there has not been a meeting held with the coach first).

- Finally, if the issue continues, hold a meeting with the AD and Administrator.
- Parents must wait 24 hours after a game to address an issue with a coach. Please do not approach a coach after a game to discuss an issue.
- If the coach and/or AD do not settle the issue the parents may request a meeting with the Administrator.

COVID-19 Protocols

In response to the current pandemic that we find ourselves, GCA has created safety protocols that will be required for practices, games, and travel. These protocols include affirmation of all fans, spectators, participants, or anyone else on the facility that they are not symptomatic and have not been exposed to COVID. These protocols will be sent out prior to athletic events starting. Please help us stay safe and on the courts/fields by following these protocols.

Final Thoughts

Since research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided makes both your child's and your experience with the GCA athletic program less stressful and more enjoyable.

WE CAN ONLY BE SUCCESSFUL IF WE CHALLENGE EACH OTHER TO BE THE BEST,
AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER IN THE JOURNEY.

Signature of Acknowledgement

I have read the Garland Christian Academy Athletic Manual and agree to abide by the provisions contained therein.

Student/Parent _____ DATE _____