Athlete Handbook

Administration

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page	Topic
1.	Cover Sheet
2.	Table of Contents
3.	Statement of Philosophy
4.	Eligible to represent Gulf High School
4.	Eligibility and Ineligibility
5.	Mandatory Study Hall
5.	Suspension from school
5.	Practices
5.	Commitment
6.	Stealing
6.	Class attendance
6.	Sportsmanship – two strikes your out policy
7.	Unsportsmanlike Fines
7.	Uniforms and other issued equipment
7.	Travel
7.	NCAA requirements for scholarship athletes
8.	Banquets and award ceremonies
8.	Letters and award winners
8.	Drug free environment for students
8.	Use of profanity
9.	Student or athlete involved in an extra-curricular activities being arrested and charged
9.	Students arrested and charged with a misdemeanor
9.	Off -season guidelines
10.	Insurance and accidental injuries
10.	Parent /Athlete/Coach- Communication guide
11.	Parent Expectations
12.	Gulf High School athletic disclaimer
13.	Parent/student athletic code of ethics agreement
14.	Gulf High School athletic rules confirmation letter
	Attached Forms
15.	FHSAA EL2 (pg.1 pre history physical form and actual physical)
16.	FHSAA EL3CH (Heat Stroke)
17.	FHSAA EL3 (Liability form)
18.	FHSAA EL3 (Consent & Release form)
19.	Pasco County, Athletic participation form

20.-22. GA4 (Athletic Recruiting)
23. Insurance claim Form

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

WE BELIEVE: that interscholastic athletics are an integral part of a school's curriculum.

WE BELIEVE: that participation in a wide variety of interscholastic sports programs contributes positively toward the development of a young person's health, physical ability, social competence and discipline.

WE BELIEVE: that the experiences of rigorous interscholastic athletic competition contribute significantly toward the emotional and moral stability of our young people.

WE BELIEVE: in providing a well-balanced and organized program of interscholastic athletics for girls and boys, and in managing and operating this program within the guidelines and policies of the District School Board of Pasco County and the Florida High School Athletic Association.

TO BE ELIGIBLE TO REPRESENT GULF HIGH SCHOOL IN ATHLETIC CONTESTS

Prior to the first practice session, all students must have:

***See attached forms**

1. A current physical examination. **This physical must be dated after May 1. (Pre-participation Physical Evaluation) Must be on EL2 FHSAA form**
2. A signed and **notarized** parent permission form for the current year. **(Athletic Participation Form)**
3. **Consent and Release of Liability Certificate EL3**
4. **Code of Ethics Agreement**
5. The County required participation fee of $60.00 (non refundable) for the first sport, due within 3 days of making a team. A fee of $40.00 is required for each additional sport played (maximum for family $160.00) (individual maximum is $100) ****Subject to change****
6. **Affidavit of Compliance with Policy on Athletic Recruiting (GA4). This form is to be used by any student who has transferred to GHS.**
7. An original birth certificate must be presented to the coach for verification. (This need only be presented to the coach one time while student remains at GHS).
8. A student living out of the Gulf High School attendance zone must also have:
   A) Completed and approved Pasco County Special Attendance Request form on file in the registrar's office.
   B) Completed FHSAA Waiver of the transfer form (Blue Form) is on file in the athletic director's office. **THIS FORM NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED ONLY THE FIRST YEAR.**
9. The parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign forms verifying that they received information concerning GHS policy, procedures and insurance. This form is mandatory in order for an athlete to participate in the GHS athletic program.
10. **Home Education-**all forms must be completed and filed prior to the first day of practice. Please refer to **Article 11.1.3 and 11.1.4 of the FHSAA Bylaws and Policy 14 (C)** in the Administrative Guidelines, Policies and Procedures section in the FHSAA Handbook. The Home Education program must be registered with the county.
11. **Foreign Exchange Student**-all forms must be completed and filed prior to the first day of practice. The amount of paperwork that is required for a foreign exchange student is extensive and will require additional time to complete.

*****FHSAA Paperwork Requirements are subject to change*****

ELIGIBILITY AND INELIGIBILITY

A period of seven (7) calendar days beyond the last day of the system-marking period is provided to determine academic eligibility during the current school year.

1. 9th Graders must be regularly promoted.
2. All athletes after 1st semester of 9th grade must maintain 2.0 for semester eligibility.
3. The Athletic Director or designee will conduct a 9-week grade check. Athletes must have 9 GPA points (1.5) and no more than 2 F's. Any athlete with fewer than 9 quality points or having 3-Fs will become ineligible until the next grade report (progress reports). Any athlete with fewer than 12 quality points must be put on weekly progress reports and be required to attend study hall.
4. Any athlete not meeting FHSAA 2.0 cumulative is also ineligible for practice. The athlete may practice after his/her progress report is above 2.0 with athletic director approval.
5. Any student/athlete obtaining 5 unexcused absences in calendar month will be not be eligible for the following 9 weeks. If student/athlete obtains 10 unexcused absences in a semester they will not be eligible for the remainder of the semester and the next 9-week period. (Subject to change)

MANDATORY STUDY HALL

All student athletes ninth grade athletes and any others will participate in a mandatory study hall two days per week after school on Monday and Thursday from 1:45pm-2:15pm.

STUDY HALL RULES

Purpose: The purpose of mandatory study hall for 9-12th grade athletes/student is to increase student achievement by scheduling a consistent block of time in a controlled environment with academic coaches.
Start Time: Study Hall will begin in the Cafeteria no later than 1:45 pm and will run to 2:15pm. The school day ends at 1:40 pm, you will be allotted five minutes to take care of socialization; being late will not be tolerated, as it will disrupt the learning environment.
Behavior: Any behavior(s) displayed that are not acceptable in accordance to the assigned academic coaches will result in a loss of athletic privilege(s) for the day. The academic coach will notify the coaches and Athletic Director of any behavioral issues resulting in forfeiture of practice. Loss of practice time has been addressed in the Gulf High School Student Athlete Handbook and further has been signed in acknowledgment by a guardian and or parent. Parental calls to the Athletic Department will not circumvent and or reinstate loss of practice time.
Expectations: All students will be visibly working in stations in accordance to assigned work. If a student is working on mathematics, he/she will be sitting in the mathematics station assigned to the mathematics coach. Upon completion he/she will move to the next station in accordance to their next assignment. No talking will be permitted unless it is with an academic coach. The instructional environment will be silent in efforts of maximizing concentration. Failure to comply will result in possible loss of athletic privilege(s).
Skipping Study Hall: Failure to attend study hall will result in loss of athletic privilege(s). Simply put, no study hall will equate to no practice.

SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL

Pasco County School Board policy dictates that any student may not practice or participate in an athletic contest while suspended. This suspension will also apply during any appeal process. Any student athlete assigned to In-School Suspension is ineligible to practice that day and will be suspended for all or part of the next scheduled contest on their second offense**.** Suspensions involving multiple days will be dealt with on an individual basis and may result in additional game suspensions or dismissal.

PRACTICES

The coach will schedule practices. It is imperative that all team members be at practice when scheduled and be on time. If you are unable to attend any of these sessions, it is your responsibility to notify your coach the day that you will not be at practice. If you are not in school, phone the school and ask for your coach or leave a message with the school operator. ***Consequences for missed practices will vary for each sport and will be outlined by the individual coach in his/her team policies.**

COMMITMENT

An athlete must understand that playing a sport is very demanding on his time for practice and games. Many of these practices and competitions occur during holidays, on Saturday, etc. The coach and team expect you to be there. An Athlete missing any contest during holidays for club/travel type teams will be considered unexcused and subject to the coaches policy regarding unexcused absences. Any other absences must be pre-arranged and approved by the Head Coach. Any athlete, who quits a team or is dismissed for disciplinary reasons, will be ineligible for another sport until the current season is over.

STEALING

Stealing by any of our athletes will not be tolerated and will be grounds for immediate dismissal from the team and may affect future athletic participation.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Students can never make up for class instruction missed when absent from classes. Thus, it is imperative that students be in school whenever physically able. The FHSAA has no policy regarding the number of classes a student must attend on any day to practice or participate in an athletic contest. The Head Coach or an Assistant prior to practice will check attendance on eSembler each day. The GHS Athletic Department policy states that you must be in class unless there is a prearranged absence approved by the school administration. If an athlete breaks the policy and it is not discovered until a later date, the athlete will be suspended from the next contest. Coaches may dictate in their policies any additional standards that they feel are necessary. Any emergency situations will be handled on an individual basis by contacting the Athletic Director at (727) 774-3339 or tdewalt@pasco.k12.fl.us.

*Each coach will have a tardy and attendance policy for his or her perspective athletes.

SPORTSMANSHIP

The following guidelines are set forth to assist our administration, parents, students and staff with the monitoring of the Gulf High School Athletic program. Please note Article 8.1.1 of the Florida High School Activities Association By-Laws; students, coaches, administrators, spectators and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with a member school, as well as contest officials, shall practice and promote the highest standards of sportsmanship and ethics at all times directly or indirectly related in any manner to interscholastic relationships or events, whether prior to, during or following such relationship or event. It shall be the responsibility of each member school principal to ensure that those individuals connected with his/her school adhere to these standards. The Commissioner shall have the authority to investigate allegations and incidents of unsportsmanlike conduct or conduct which adversely affects the ethics of competition in connection with interscholastic contests. The Commissioner shall have full authority to invoke penalties against a member school and/or individuals whose conduct in connection with an interscholastic contest violates these principles or ethics. NEW POLICY: IF A STUDENT ATHELTE HAS TWO UNSPORTMANSHIP LIKE CONDUCT IN THE SAME SEASON: THEY ARE SUBJECT TO BEING REMOVED FROM THE TEAM-NOTE: TWO STRIKES YOUR OUT POLICY

Also please note Article 11.11.2

A student who, prior to, during or following an interscholastic athletic contest, commits an act of a malicious and hateful nature toward a contest official or an opponent, shall be guilty of gross unsportsmanlike conduct and be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletic competition for a period of six weeks. Such malicious acts shall include, but not be limited to, cursing, striking or threatening a contest official during a contest or at any other time because of resentment over occurrences or decisions during a contest; physical contact with an opponent that is beyond the normal scope of competition and which appears to be with the intent of inflicting bodily harm on the opponent; spitting on a contest official or opponent/ directing gender, racial or ethnic slurs toward a contest official or opponent; or other such acts which may be deemed as unacceptable conduct either by the principal of the member school the student attends or this Association. The Commissioner, the Sectional Appeals Committee or the Board of Directors on appeal, may restore the eligibility of such a student prior to the expiration of the six weeks when in his/their opinion the student has been properly disciplined by the authorities of the school which he/she attends and the student signs a written statement of his/her intention to comply with the provisions of Articles 8.1.1 and 11.11.1 of these Bylaws in the future.

Gulf High School may lengthen the suspension if deemed necessary.

*Note - FHSAA By-Law 9.7.4

The FHSAA has mandated that the home school is responsible for the control of spectators during athletic contests. If in the event that a spectator or spectators create a distraction, they will be removed from the facility and face possible suspension from future athletic events.

In the event that a student is assigned in-school suspension during a particular sport season, the student will be suspended for a minimum of one contest.

Gulf High School administrative staff insists that all of our supporters and athletes exhibit sportsmanship and respect for our opponents, their fans, and the officials who are working our contests.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE FINES

Please note it is the responsibility of the athlete to pay for any fines assessed by the FHSAA due to unsportsmanlike conduct. The athlete will not be permitted to participate until applicable suspension has been served and fines have been paid to the High School (General Athletics).

Bench clearing:* In accordance to the FHSAA, any athlete that comes off of his/her seat, moves out of the box, and or assigned area will be considered participants in a *bench clearing and subject to FHSAA Unsportsmanlike fines and possible suspension.

GULF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETES WILL BE INSTRUCTED AND BE TRAINED TO TAKE A KNEE WHEN/IF A BENCH CLEARING SITUATION IS ARISES.

UNIFORMS AND OTHER ISSUED EQUIPMENT

Students are responsible for the proper care of all equipment issued to them. It is their responsibility to properly care for these items and return them at the end of the season in proper condition. Any of these items not returned must be paid for at the current replacement price (It is standard manufacturer's policy that, when replacing fewer than six uniforms, the cost of each equates to roughly 200% of original cost). Any awards, letters or honors will also be withheld until the student has cleared all debts or uniform responsibilities.

WHEN WASHING UNIFORMS, AT NO TIME SHOULD BLEACH BE USED! Dry on Low Heat!

TRAVEL

In most cases, travel to and from athletic contests will be provided on buses. There will, however, be times that private vehicles will be used for this purpose. In either case, athletes will be expected to travel to and from these events with the team. If parents wish to bring their child home instead, permission to do so must be obtained from the coach and this permission will be at his/her discretion. At no time will athletes be permitted to return with anyone other than their parents.

NCAA REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOLARSHIP ATHLETES

The NCAA has requirements for Athletic Scholarships and should be of interest to all parents. It is suggested that you familiarize yourself with these requirements and keep them in mind throughout your high school days, especially when scheduling classes from year to year. The guidance department has a complete copy of these and is more than pleased to help the students with any questions regarding this matter. All NCAA member schools strictly adhere to these requirements**.** NCAA Clearing House must be completed.

BANQUETS AND AWARD CEREMONIES

Head coaches are responsibility to coordinate and schedule individual sport banquets.

LETTERS AND AWARDS

The following are athletic Department policies outlining what must be done to earn a letter in varsity or junior varsity sports at Gulf High School. Coaches have been instructed to set standards for their individual sport that must be met in order to earn a varsity letter. These standards have been established to ensure the Gulf High School varsity letter winners are qualified student/athletes.

1. A STUDENT MUST BE ACADEMICALLY ELIGIBLE AND IN GOOD STANDING AT THE END OF THE SEASON TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ANY AWARD(S).
2. EACH HEAD COACH WILL ESTABLISH SET STANDARDS FOR THEIR SPORT THAT EACH ATHLETE MUST MEET TO EARN A LETTER. A COPY OF THESE APPROVED STANDARDS MUST BE GIVEN TO EACH ATHLETE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON.
3. STUDENTS MEETING THE ESTABLISHED CRITERIA FOR A LETTER WILL RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING:
   A) FIRST TIME LETTERING (VARSITY) LETTER
   B) FIRST TIME LETTERING IN THAT SPORT: PIN
   C) SECOND TIME OR AFTER IN THAT SPORT: BAR
   D) Third and fourth year varsity letter winners receive a recognition plaque

DRUG-FREE ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS

The manufacture, distribution, dispensation possession or use of controlled substances; including alcohol, is prohibited on District School Board property or at any sanctioned activity. This offense is a Level III violation of the Student Code of Conduct and may result in the expulsion of the student from Gulf High School.

The GHS Athletic Department policy re: controlled substances are:

First offense - 18 week suspension and mandatory completion of counseling program *18 week suspension is only counted through the regular school year; summer does not count as part of the 18 weeks.

Second offense - Athlete is dismissed from the athletic program for one calendar year.

If a student is found to be in possession or to have used tobacco products on school board property - student will be subject to District School Board of Pasco County guidelines and will be suspended from a minimum of one athletic contest.

*FHSAA POLICY ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS

USE OF PROFANITY

The use of profanity, obscene gestures, or abusive language is a Level III (serious breach of conduct) offense of the Student Code of Conduct. At anytime a student shows disrespect toward school officials, contestants, spectators, game officials, teammates or their coaches, the student will be suspended for a minimum of one contest.

STUDENT ATHLETE OR STUDENT INVOLVED IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES BEING ARRESTED AND CHARGED

If a student has been arrested on or off campus and charged with a misdemeanor other than a minor traffic violation as defined in F.S. 775.08 or a crime that would be a felony if that student was an adult, then that student will receive a four week suspension from practice and competition the first day the school administration becomes aware of said violation(s). After the suspension expires, the coach and administration will make a decision as to whether that student remains eligible or extend the suspension up to four additional weeks based on supportable information obtained from the police or the state attorney's office. The suspension will be immediately lifted should the charges be dropped. If the student is adjudicated guilty of a misdemeanor (F.S. 775.08), the student will be ineligible for a period of four weeks from the date of conviction. The four weeks must be part of the regular school year and will not include summer school. If the student enters a plea of "no contest" and adjudication is withheld, then the student will be ineligible for a period of four school weeks from the date the plea is entered into the court records. If the student is found to be "not guilty", the student may resume eligibility from the date the charges are dropped or that the "not guilty" is entered into court records. If the student is adjudicated guilty of a crime that would be a felony if that student was an adult, then that student will be ineligible for a period of no less than eighteen school weeks from the date of conviction. If the student enters a plea of "no contest" to the felony charge, the student will be ineligible for a period of no less than eighteen school weeks from the date the plea is entered into court records. If the student is found "not guilty" to the felony charge, the student may resume eligibility from the date the charges are dropped or a "not guilty" is entered into court records.

STUDENT ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH A MISDEMEANOR

The GHS Athletic Department policy regarding a student charged with a misdemeanor; student eligibility will be suspended pending adjudication.

- If the student is found guilty of misdemeanor, the student will be ineligible from a period of 4 weeks from the date of conviction.
- If the student enters a plea of no-contest, the student will be ineligible for a period of 2 weeks from the date the plea is entered into court records.
- If the student is found not guilty, he/ she may resume eligibility from the date charges are dropped or that not guilty is entered into court records.
- If a student enters a diversion program, he/ she will become eligible upon successful completion of the program.

OFF SEASON GUIDELINES

The GHS Athletic Department policy regarding off-season programs is:

1) Off-season programs during the regular school year will be limited to those agencies recognized by the FHSAA or approved by the school administration
2) Summer programs will be limited to those agencies recognized by the FHSAA or approved by the school administration
3) An open gym in the summer must follow the guidelines set forth by the FHSAA and school administration
4) FHSAA - Policy on summer participation will be strictly enforced.

Off-Season programs are voluntary and participation is not a requirement

INSURANCE AND ACCIDENTAL INJURIES

The Pasco County School Board will provide excess student athletic insurance coverage. The plan provides limited excess coverage for medical expenses that arise from the treatment of accidental injuries incurred while a student participates in interscholastic sports. ***Please see attached insurance forms**.

THIS PLAN IS NOT A GUARANTEE OF PAYMENT FOR MEDICAL SERVICES. YOU MAY ENCOUNTER CERTAIN OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES WHEN YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER IS TREATED FOR ACCIDENTAL INJURIES.

*******IMPORTANT*******

ALL INJURIES MUST BE REPORTED TO THE COACH BEFORE LEAVING PRACTICES OR GAMES. Do not wait until the following day to report your injury.

BEFORE SEEING ANY DOCTORS FOR TREATMENT, the student will need to see the Athletic Director for the necessary school insurance claim form(s).

Parents, your insurance is primary. If you have an HMO or a PPO insurance plan it is absolutely imperative that you follow the procedures as prescribed by your insurance plan should your son or daughter need medical treatment. In general, this will mean that you will have to take your child to your primary physician for treatment. If this is not done, your insurance will not cover any of the costs incurred and the medical benefits otherwise payable under the Board provided excess student athletic insurance policy should be reduced by 50%.

For parents who do not have primary insurance, we encourage the use of the preferred providers. These medical providers have shown an interest in charging for services in accordance with policy limits in an effort to minimize your out-of-pocket expenses.

Parent/Athlete/Coach- Communication Guide

Our Philosophy

-Athletic achievement requires a commitment from all athletes, parents, coaches, and administrators. For us to be successful, effective communication must occur.

-The GHS athletic director and administration believe strongly in being accessible to the parents and supportive of the coaching staff.

-We will continuously strive to improve communication with our students and parents. To be successful, everyone must understand the goals and direction of our programs.

Parent Expectations

1. It is reasonable to expect your child's coach to inform you:
    - Times and locations of practice and contests
    - His or her coaching philosophy
    - Expectations he/she has for all athletes on the squad
    - Requirements of the team, i.e. fees, equipment, conditioning, lettering requirements, fundraising, etc…
    - Of any injury occurring at practice or a contest
    - Whenever any disciplinary action will result in your son/daughter being suspended from a practice or contest.

CONTINUED PARENT EXPECTATIONS

2. Typical concerns of parents those are appropriate to discuss with the coach:
   -Any mental or physical strain on your child that is affecting their behavior at home or in the classroom.
   - How you can contribute to your child's skill improvement

   - Health concerns regarding your child
   - Schedule conflicts
3. Inappropriate items to discuss with a coach:
   - Team strategy and play calling
   - Other student athletes

If you have a concern regarding a coach, please follow the procedure below.

1. Make an appointment with the coach. Never approach the coach after a game or practice unless the coach requests this.
2. At the meeting, please professionally discuss the situation.
3. Determine the next step in resolving the issue.

What if the meeting with the coach does not resolve the problem?

Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.

This Gulf High School Athletic Handbook does not cover all situations that may occur in our Athletic Program; however, we have tried to include as many as possible in writing so the athletes and parents understand our expectations. We will strive to do all we can to ensure our student/athletes represent this school and community with dignity and integrity.

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. Any student/athlete who violates a team rule or commits a serious breach of the student code of conduct may be dismissed from the team immediately. The final decision rests with the Coach, Athletic Director, and Principal.

Parent/Student Athletic Code of Ethics Agreement

As a member of the Gulf High School Athletic Program, I understand that it is my responsibility to abide by all state, district and school regulations that govern interscholastic athletic activities.

The Gulf High School Athletic Department shall practice and promote the highest standards of sportsmanship and ethics in all interscholastic activities. The Principal and/or Athletic Director shall have full authority to suspend eligibility of any student for violation of state or school policies. Any spectator that demonstrates unsportsmanlike conduct may be removed from that contest and may lose the privilege of attending future activities at Gulf High School.

I know that athletic participation is a privilege and I agree to follow the rules of my school, district and the FHSAA and to abide by their decisions.

Date: _____

Name of Student: _____

Student Signature: _____

Name of Parent: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

GHS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Kim Davis, Principal

Travis DeWalt , Assistant Principal over Athletic Compliance

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Gulf High School requires that all athletes have this form signed by a parent/guardian. This form is mandatory in order to participate in the GHS athletic program.

This is to confirm that _____has received information concerning GHS policy, procedures and insurance.

We understand that the school insurance plan is a secondary coverage and that all accidental athletic injuries must go through our primary carrier first.

All involved with GHS athletic program fully understand that the student/athlete will be expected to follow GHS guidelines and display the utmost respect for teachers, coaches, administration, officials and opponents. Athletes that violate these standards will lose the privilege of representing GHS athletic program.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Athletes Signature: _____

Please list the sport(s) that the athlete participate:

_____ _____

_____ _____