



## Gatesville ISD Athletics

# 2025-2026 Code of Conduct

### Extracurricular activities

Student participation in athletics and extracurricular activities is encouraged. Gatesville ISD makes these activities available as an extension of the regular school program. However, there is one important difference: participation in the regular curriculum is a right afforded to each student, while participation in the athletic program is a privilege that carries additional expectations of acceptable conduct.

Because participation in athletics is a privilege and not a right, Gatesville ISD is authorized to set higher standards for participants in athletics than it would for those students who choose not to participate in the same activities. Therefore, the GISD Athletics Code of Conduct extends beyond the Gatesville ISD Student Code of Conduct not only in types of behavior prohibited, but also in corresponding consequences and jurisdiction for imposing discipline. This Code of Conduct will be enforced with all student-athletes in grades 7-12 participating in athletics:

- 1) regardless of whether school is in session;
- 2) regardless of whether the offense occurs on or off school property or at a school-related event;
- 3) regardless of whether the athletic activity is in season; and
- 4) regardless of where or when the conduct occurs.

It is possible that a student-athlete who violates the GISD Athletic Code of Conduct will receive consequences from both the appropriate school administrator and from his/her coach for the same violation. It is also possible that a student participating in athletic activities could violate the Athletic Code of Conduct without having violated the Gatesville ISD Student Code of Conduct.

### Conduct expectations

The following conduct is expected of all student-athletes. Failure to meet these expectations can result in disciplinary action by the coach:

- 1) Athlete commitment to a team or program is expected for the entire season. There will be a two-week "tryout" period where athletes may choose to withdraw from that sport without punishment.
  - > An athlete that quits a sport after the "tryout" period will not be allowed to participate in another sport until that sport has concluded its season AND will miss 20% of his/her next sport's events unless mutually agreed upon by both head coaches and the athletic director.
- 2) Athletes will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times when competing against other schools. This includes behavior towards visiting teams or hosting teams as well as the opponent's fans. Gatesville ISD athletes will be noted for clean, tough, competitive play - praise your opponents and play beyond your ability.
- 3) Athletes should arrive to practices, meetings, and events on time and prepared.
- 4) Athletes that are unable to attend a practice, meeting or event should contact the coach as soon

as they are aware they will be absent. Failure to notify the coach will result in disciplinary action.

- 5) Athletes are required to show respect at all times to all students, staff and employees.
- 6) Athletes should refrain from wearing hair styles or hair colors that draw attention to themselves or make them stand out from the team.
- 7) Athletes should also follow the rules outlined in the Gatesville ISD Student Code of Conduct. Failure to do so may result in additional disciplinary action related to the athlete's participation in athletics as determined by the athletic director and head coach.
- 8) Expect to receive additional incentive and consequences for the following violations:
  - > DAEP placement
  - > excessive absences
  - > every day served in ISS
  - > excessive tardies

*Note: Excessive violations will result in removal from the athletic program.*

### **Drug- and alcohol-related offenses**

The use of drugs and alcohol are prohibited by Gatesville ISD and the athletic department. GISD Athletics does have an extensive Substance Abuse Policy with consequences for positive tests. Any drug-related arrests or charges will be treated in the same manner as a positive test.

See GISD Substance Abuse Policy for details.

### **Social media**

Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms have increased in popularity and are used by a majority of students in Gatesville ISD. The use of pictures, videos, comments or other inappropriate material affects the perception of the student-athlete and Gatesville ISD.

If an athlete's profile and/or contents are found to be inappropriate and/or offensive, consequences will be issued based off the level of the offense as deemed by the head coach and/or athletic director.

### **Stealing**

Taking things/items from other players, students, school, etc. will not be tolerated. Punishment will be handled individually and may result in expulsion from all athletic activities for up to one calendar year from the date of the incident.

- 1) First offense: Punishment will be determined by the head coach and athletic director. Minimum penalty will be suspension from 30% of current/next athletic competitions.
- 2) Second offense: Removal from the athletic program for 1 calendar year. The head coach and athletic director will determine if said athlete warrants re-entry into the athletic program after the 1-year suspension has been served.

### **Procedures**

The coach and/or athletic director will determine whether a violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct has occurred. Upon determination of a violation, the following individuals will be notified:

- 1) the athlete and athlete's parent(s) or guardian(s);
- 2) the appropriate school counselor or administrator to provide counseling, support, and guidance

in dealing with issues associated with alcohol, drugs, and other prohibited activities.

Nothing in the Athletic Code of Conduct limits the authority of a coach to impose reasonable sanctions, including extra workouts, for athletes that breach team or program conduct expectations.

#### **Other related information**

- 1) All suspensions will begin immediately with the next official competition.
- 2) Number of games missed will be calculated based upon the original season schedule.
- 3) If an athlete is involved in multiple sports, the percentage will be divided between the sports.
- 4) If an athlete receives a suspension at the end of a season and not completed the suspension assignment, the remaining percentage will be applied to the athlete's next sport.
- 5) If an athlete does not complete the suspension by the end of the current school year, the remaining suspension will be applied to the next sport the following school year.
- 6) An athlete removed from a sport in season due to a discipline infraction is considered ineligible to participate in another sport until the end of the sport for which they have been removed, unless the head coaches of both sports and the athletic director agree to his/her participation.
- 7) Other than for documented healthcare appointments, athletes that are not in attendance for at least one-half of the school day will not be allowed to participate in any school-related event that day, except in unusual circumstances approved by the athletic director.
- 8) Athletes are expected to attend all scheduled practice sessions. Coaches may impose extra conditioning or limit playing time for unexcused absences. Excessive absences will result in removal from the program.
- 9) All equipment issued by GISD is the property of the district and will be returned at the end of each season. Athletes are responsible for reimbursement for any lost or stolen equipment.
- 10) ISS: Athletes assigned to In-School Suspension (ISS) are required to attend all scheduled practices while serving any ISS sentence. Athletes assigned to ISS for consecutive days will not be allowed to participate in a contest if they are serving ISS the next day. Coaches will assign additional consequences for ISS and may limit playing time as well.
- 11) DAEP placement: An athlete assigned to alternative school will also be ineligible for a period of 5 days following completion of the DAEP placement.
- 12) Grades: Athletes are expected to be students first and excel in the classroom. Athletes that appear on 3 consecutive academic failure reports will be considered for removal from the program until they show the ability to handle the athletics/academic requirements.
- 13) Any athlete involved in incidents resulting in arrest and/or possible charges filed will be suspended until the case is finalized. No athlete that has been charged with a felony offense will be allowed to participate in GISD athletics. That standard could change once the charges have been dropped, the athlete has completed his/her probation, or there has been an acquittal. Athletes charged with Class A or B misdemeanors will adhere to consequences determined by the head coach and athletic director.

# Gatesville ISD Athletics Code of Conduct

This sheet must be signed and returned

I have read the Gatesville ISD Athletic Code of Conduct and agree to adhere to these rules as a condition for my voluntary participation in Gatesville ISD extracurricular activities. I understand that failure to meet these requirements will result in disciplinary measures related to my participation in any sport.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the Gatesville ISD Athletic Code of Conduct and understand requirements for my child's voluntary participation in Gatesville ISD athletics. I understand the consequences that my child will face if he/she fails to adhere to these rules and agree to such terms.

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_