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GLORIA DEO  
ACADEMY

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**Activities/Athletic Handbook**

*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore, I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I will not be disqualified for the prize. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27*

## **PHILOSOPHY**

Sports and activities are to be an enhancement to a student's overall education. Participating is a privilege that is to be earned and handled with professionalism. It is the goal of Gloria Deo Academy Activities and Athletics to coach, train, teach, and equip young men and women who will use their God-given athletic abilities to compete for the glory of God.

## **BASIC RULES**

The following list of school rules are those essential policies that GDA requires all our students to be aware of and adhere to:

1. Students are expected to cooperate with basic Christian standards of behavior and conversation.
2. Prompt and cheerful obedience is expected.
3. Students are expected to treat all the school's materials or facilities with respect and care. Students may be charged with any damage to the school's property that is attributable to their actions.

The following behaviors are prohibited and will result in discipline from the Head of School:

1. Disrespect shown to any staff member. The staff member will be the judge of whether disrespect has been shown.
2. Dishonesty in any situation while at school or a school sponsored event, including lying, cheating, and stealing.
3. Rebellion, i.e., outright disobedience in response to instructions.
4. Fighting, i.e., striking in anger with intention to harm the other person.
5. Obscene, vulgar, or profane language, as well as taking the name of the Lord in vain.
6. If a student fails to perform academically and falls into a failing grade in any class, he or she will be prohibited from continuing participation in any and all athletics until the said grade is brought up. This is non-negotiable.

## **ZERO TOLERANCE**

Gloria Deo Academy is a **zero-tolerance** school when it comes to drugs, alcohol, or any other illegal activity, including but not limited to: use, possession, ingestion, having under his or her control, selling, manufacturing, administering, dispensing, distributing, or compounding. Any instances dealing with such behavior will be dealt directly with the Head of School. Any participation in any sport or activity will cease until dispute is resolved and may lead to termination from the team.

## **REGISTRATION**

Athletic registrations occur throughout the school year preceding a sport. Registration deadlines are firm due to the amount of organization (hiring a coach, scheduling games, reserving facilities for practices, etc.) that is involved with providing a sport.

## **FEES**

There will be a \$105 fee to participate in a sport for the first year.

There will be a \$80 fee to participate in any consecutive year with the same sport at the same level.

Fees go back to the first-year amount when a student leaves junior high and enters high school.

If a student is signed up for an event which includes an additional fee (i.e., Speech and Debate entry) and for any reason is unable to attend the event, he will be responsible for paying that fee.

### **UNIFORMS**

Uniforms are to remain school property. As such, students will be responsible to care for them while in their possession. Students will also be accountable for turning uniforms in at the end of a sport season. If a student fails to turn in his uniform, there will be a fine based off the cost of the uniform.

Uniforms are only to be worn at competitions.

### **EQUIPMENT**

Students must always respect any equipment provided by any school. A failure to do so leading to damaged property may lead to student reimbursement or replacement of the item(s).

Some school sponsored activities and sports may require students to purchase or use their own equipment.

### **PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS**

Before participating in any sport, an athlete must have a physical on file with the school. These may be picked up in the school business office.

### **BONA FIDE STUDENT REQUIREMENT**

To represent GDA in any school sponsored interscholastic activity, one must be a bona fide student, which means he or she must be enrolled and regularly attending classes at our school and registered for the sport or athletic activity in question.

### **ACADEMICS ELIGIBILITY**

Participating students should be making satisfactory progress towards graduation credit requirements of GDA. Students' current semester grades must be passing to retain eligibility to compete. If a student has an "F" in any one class, he or she is ineligible for any and all athletic activity until the said grade is brought to a "D" or above. This is non-negotiable.

### **ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY**

A student shall not be considered eligible while serving in-school or out-of-school suspension.

If a student misses a class(es) without being excused by the principal, the student shall not be considered eligible to participate in a game on that same date. Further, the student cannot be certified eligible to participate on any subsequent date until the student attends a full day of classes (unless excused).

### **PRACTICES**

Practices are vital to a sport season, so attendance is expected. MSHSAA sports require an athlete to attend 14 practices before being eligible to compete in a game. For the variety of other sports programs, there will be a 75% attendance rate for the number of practices preceding the first game in order to participate.

Please communicate with the head coach whenever practice will not be able to be attended.

### **SEMESTERS OF PARTICIPATION**

**9-12 Grades:** A student shall not participate in more than four seasons in grades 9-12 in any interscholastic activity. A student shall have only 8 consecutive semesters (four consecutive years) of eligibility in high school, in which he may participate in one season per year in an activity.

**7-8 Grades:** A student is eligible for only two semesters in each year of the 7th and 8th grade beginning with the first semester of entrance in each grade. A student who is repeating a grade is not eligible.

### **ACTIVITIES CONFLICTS**

If there arises a conflict between two activities (i.e., basketball game and speech and debate tournament) occurring at the same time, students will be excused from one of the activities. It will be the student's choice as to which activity to attend by making the best decision. Communication and prioritizing are vital when such a situation arises. If a student enrolled in a speech and debate course is unable to attend the required number of speech and debate tournaments due to the conflict, make-up assignments will be available to earn missed points.

If the conflict is between an athletic event or an academic event, the expectation is that the student opts for the academic event. Consistent with our philosophy, athletics serves to bolster academic performance.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Parents are responsible for transporting students to activities and sports competitions unless the event organizer states otherwise.

### **SUSPENSIONS**

If a student has been suspended from school he may not participate in any interscholastic activity, including practices, games, etc., during the time of suspension. Depending on the severity of the offense, a student may be eliminated from the team. Duration of ineligibility will be dependent on the season of the sport/activity, not by a fiscal school year.

### **EXPULSIONS**

If a student has been expelled from school, he shall be considered ineligible for 365 days from the date of the expulsion.

### **GRIEVENCE POLICY**

All concerns about and within a sport need to be brought to the coach/es first. If the conflict is not resolved, then it can be brought to the athletic director.

If there is ever a situation you wish to speak with the coach about, please schedule a time with them to have a meeting. Please do not approach a coach immediately after a game to discuss any issues that may arise.

For more details, please refer to the Grievance Policy in the Student Handbook.

## **INNITIATING SPORTS**

If you have an interest in starting a sport, please contact the athletic department. This includes younger teams through community organizations. To use the lions as a team name/mascot, you must get permission from the athletic department.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

Parent Commitment: As a parent of a student athlete, I am making an investment in my child and in the total athletic program.

I commit myself to the following:

- Read, adhere to, and promote the Athletic Philosophy of Gloria Deo Academy.
- Pray with my student athlete to encourage them to glorify their Lord and Savior on and off the playing field.
- Support my son/daughter as they pursue physical, emotional, and spiritual excellence.
- Cheer in a positive manner exhibiting Christ-like behavior.
- Let the coaches coach. Resist the temptation to coach from the sidelines. Keep clear of the team bench.
- Never approach a coach, athlete, referee, or school official regarding a ruling on the field of play, or during the competition.
- Maintain the Matthew 18 principle of going directly to the source of my frustration regarding a coach, player etc. if there are issues. I will follow the steps outlined in the school's grievance policy. Be mindful first to bring the frustration before the Lord in prayer.
- If my student athlete takes issue with a coaching decision, advise him or her to talk with the coach regarding their feelings.
- Maintain perspective and be in control of my emotions.
- Avoid derogatory remarks, as this will only weaken the team.
- Focus on performance and effort of the student athlete, not on outcome. Winning or losing does not define success.

Parent Expectations:

- Help with transportation of student athletes to and from practices and games (both home and away). If dropping your student off, be respectful of the drop off time a coach gives.
- Pick up students after all practices and games in a timely manner.
- Support the eligibility requirements of your student athlete.
- Attend mandatory athletic meetings for each sport.
- Always supervise your other children at practices and games.
- Ensure that your athlete has a sports physical each year they are participating in school sports and that it is submitted before the first practice with a sport.
- Uphold school rules regarding dress code at games.
- Abide by all school rules/policies as outlined in the Gloria Deo Academy Student/Parent Handbook.

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Signature of Guardian

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Date

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Signature of Athlete

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Date