



**2020-2021**

# **Athletic Handbook**

**Athletic Director: Dwayne Whiteheart**  
**Assistant Athletic Director: Jesse Wilson**

**2601 Jefferson Davis Highway**  
**Sanford, North Carolina 27331**  
**Phone: 919-774-4415**  
[www.gracechristiansanford.com](http://www.gracechristiansanford.com)

This handbook establishes policies and procedures for the Athletic Department at Grace Christian School. It should serve as a convenient reference for coaches, players, and parents concerning policies and procedures governing the Athletic Department. While it is not possible to find answers to every question in this manual, you should find it to be a useful reference guide.

All questions pertaining to student eligibility and Athletic Department policy should be brought to the attention of the Athletic Director. Questions regarding a specific sport or team can be directed to the head coach of that particular sport.

## **GCS Athletic Mission**

The mission of Grace Christian Athletics is to provide an excellent sports program for our students that will help them develop their God-given abilities. We want our student athletes to honor and glorify God in all that they do (I Corinthians 10:31). Athletics is something that God allows us to do, not something that defines us. We need to make God first place in our lives (Matthew 6:33).

## **GCS Athletic Philosophy**

In all aspects of life, whether occupation or recreation, Christians are called to glorify God and to acknowledge the lordship of Jesus Christ. Athletes and coaches are therefore encouraged to strive for Christ-likeness in all of their activities, whether training or competing. The Grace Christian School athlete will be challenged to do his or her very best with his or her God given talents, not for selfish gain but for the glory of God and the good of the team. Competing to win is strongly emphasized, without sacrificing the display and the development of Christ-like character. Athletic training and competition provide numerous opportunities to instill the practice of Biblical principles, such as developing an appropriate approach to authority, working together as members of a team, and learning self-control in the midst of competition.

These Christian character qualities are the goal for all of our athletes:

- Diligence – Use all your strength and ability to complete each part of a task, whether in practice, in a game, or anywhere else. (Col. 3:23)
- Endurance – Withstand stress, hard work, and the situations that Christian athletes experience. (Galatians 6:9)
- Boldness – Be strong and courageous. The Christian athlete cannot be one who is timid or gives up. (Acts 4:29)
- Obedience – Be obedient both to the Lord and to those He has put in authority over you. Jesus was always obedient to His Father's will (I Peter 2:13, Hebrews 5:8, Mark 14:36 )
- Faith – Show that you know the Lord is in control of all circumstances and that He is carrying out His will in your life. (Hebrews 11:1)
- Humility – Show the attitude that God is the one responsible for your abilities, talents, and success. (Proverbs 22:4)
- Dependability – Be at all practices and games on time and do what is expected of you in all situations.

## **Middle School Athletics (5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade)**

The Middle School Athletic program is the foundation of all GCS athletics. This stage of development is the most important level of learning:

1. Spiritual emphasis (developing Christian character)
2. Respect for authority (coaches, teachers, parents, etc.)
3. Developing a consistent work ethic
4. Preparing athletes to work together as a team (team concepts)
  - Encourage
  - Motivate
5. Fundamentals (individual skills)
6. Learning the game (terminology)
7. Prepare GCS athletes for Junior Varsity programs
8. Teaching healthy competition (learning how to be aggressive within the rules of the game)
  - Competing for a roster spot
  - Competing for a position
  - Competing for playing time

Middle school athletics give us an opportunity to introduce and teach the fundamental aspects of a particular sport. When our athletes reach the next level, they will be ready to learn more advanced aspects of the sport. We want to encourage our athletes to have fun while doing their very best. The wins and losses will take care of themselves. “You can win a game and still be a loser. You can lose a game and still be a winner.” We want to provide all of our players with as much real-game experience as possible. Decisions related to playing time are made solely at the coach’s discretion. Middle School teams/athletes should expect to practice/or play **at least** 4x a week. Wednesday is normally the off day for MS practice.

## **Junior Varsity Athletics (6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grade)**

Our focus for junior varsity athletics is to refine the concepts learned in middle school. However, the demands of excellence, competition, and the complexity of the game will intensify. GCS athletes do not practice to lose. Therefore, the athletes must be prepared to compete for roster spots, positions, and playing time. We encourage our athletes to do their very best. Our goal is to prepare our athletes for the demands of our varsity programs. We want our athletes to make the transition from junior varsity to varsity as smoothly as possible. Our athletes should know the system and be ready to contribute immediately. Decisions related to playing time are made solely at the coach’s discretion. Junior Varsity teams/athletes should expect to practice/or play **at least** 4x a week.

## **Varsity Athletics (7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade)**

It will be a privilege for an athlete to wear a GCS varsity uniform. The athlete must be prepared to compete for a roster spot, position, and playing time. Once an athlete has solidified his/her position he/she must work to keep it. Seniority of a player is not a factor. Players will be judged on athletic ability, work ethic, attitude, and knowledge of the coach’s strategy/strategies when determining playing time. Competing to win is strongly emphasized, without sacrificing the display and the development of Christ-like character. The athletes are expected to act accordingly to their roles on

the team, and the coaches expect athletes to contribute unselfishly in accordance with their abilities. Playing time will be determined solely by the coach/coaches. Coaches will not discuss playing time or strategy. Varsity teams/athletes should expect to practice/or play **at least** 5x a week with possible Saturday practices and games.

## **ACADEMICS**

The athletes at Grace are students first and foremost. Students participating in athletics should anticipate the demands on their time and plan accordingly. Athletic participation should never be used to excuse incomplete assignments, missed tests, or tardiness. Student-athletes should be present and prepared for class regardless of game and practice schedules. Student-Athletes will occasionally have to leave class to accommodate travel schedules. It is the student’s responsibility to work with the teacher on how and when to make up missed assignments.

## **ADMISSION HELP**

The success of the GCS athletic program rests, in large part, on parental help and support. Collection of gate receipts help make this program thrive. We ask that parents of athletes who make a GCS sports team run gate at least one time during the season that your child plays.

## **AFFILIATION**

The middle school and high school teams are 1A members of the Mid-Carolina Conference (MCC) as part of the North Carolina Independent School Athletic Association (NCISAA) and must abide by the rules that they set forth.

## **ATHLETIC FEES**

In order to help the athletic programs with overall operational cost, some funding will need to come from athletic fees. Additional funding for the sports program will be necessary, and will come in the form of contributions, concessions sales, admission charges, fund-raising and sponsorships/donations. The GCS Athletic program will need your help in these areas. Expenses that the athletic department incurs include, but are not limited to: paying referees/officials, associations’ dues, equipment cost, uniforms, awards, etc. The athletic fee covers only a small portion of our overall total expenses.

### **Athletic Fees 2020-2021**

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Sport Level</b>	<b>Athletic Fee Per Participating Student</b>
Volleyball	Varsity	\$175
Volleyball	Junior Varsity	\$150
Volleyball	Middle School	\$125
Soccer	Varsity	\$175
Soccer	Middle School	\$125
Basketball	Varsity	\$175

Basketball	Junior Varsity	\$150
Basketball	Middle School	\$125
Cheerleading	All Levels	\$150
Cross Country	Varsity	\$100
Cross Country	Middle School	\$100
Baseball	Varsity	\$175
Baseball	Middle School	\$125

**Additional Information:**

- Fees are non-refundable and will be billed to your FACTS account upon the student earning a spot on the team.
- Families serving one day in the concession stand **and** one day at the gate per season will earn a \$25 credit.
- This fee does not cover any other elected incidental expenses, not limited to but including things such as team shoes, t-shirts, warm-ups, camps, etc. The athletic fee only covers each student participating in the sport.
- The payment of athletic fees does not imply or guarantee, in any way, game playing time.

**ASSISTANTS/VOLUNTEERS**

When volunteers offer to assist, the head coach is required to attain approval first from the Athletic Director. All assistant coaches and volunteers assisting with athletic teams must have proper paperwork completed, including background checks, before interacting with any student-athletes.

**AWARDS**

Coaches will present awards in the approved categories. The number of awards is limited; therefore, careful consideration is given to athletes selected. Additional team and/or individual presentations or recognition may be made at team parties at the conclusion of the season.

**CHANGING SPORTS/ LEAVING A TEAM IN-SEASON**

Whenever students enlist in the athletic program by joining a specific team, they assume a responsibility and commitment to that team and coach. Dropping out of a sport is discouraged. On occasion, however, an athlete may find it necessary to drop a sport for a good reason. The dropping of a sport and subsequently transferring to another team will not be allowed unless coaches and the Athletic Director agree. An athlete who is dismissed from a team for disciplinary reasons or quits the team (unless approved by the Athletic Director) will not be allowed to participate in another sport for the remainder of that sport's season and possibly the next and the full athletic fee will be due.

## **DISCIPLINE**

Coaches are employees of the school. Therefore, the coaches at practices, games, and road trips carry out all school policies and standards of behavior for students set forth by the administration. Disciplinary actions for misconduct are applied. If a student athlete receives an ISS, they will not be allowed to practice or play in games on the day of the ISS. Disciplinary issues at school can be cause for dismissal from a GCS sports team. The decision will be made by the Athletic Director in conjunction with the Dean of Students and Head of School.

## **DRESS CODE**

All GCS dress codes must be followed at all times. On the day of an athletic event the members of the team including all managers must be dress by this code. On occasion, athletes may be permitted to wear matching athletic gear provided by the coach or Athletic Director (Warm-ups, shirts, etc.) Team Jerseys/Uniforms are **NOT** to be worn to school unless approval is given from the Athletic Director.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Athletic competition is a privilege at Grace. To participate in interscholastic sports, students must have an updated physical/medical form and athletic contract on file with the athletic department.

In order to participate in athletics (practice or games), student athletics must be present for a minimum of 3 hours on the day of the activity. If a student is not at school or at a school sponsored event for that amount of time, they are not eligible to participate without the approval of the Athletic Director.

### **Academic Eligibility**

GCS follow the NCHAA guidelines for academic eligibility.

## **COACH PARENT CONFERENCE POLICY**

No parent is to talk to any coach during practice or anytime on game day regarding specific concerns or frustrations. If a parent wants to talk to a coach about any specific concerns or frustrations, they must set up a time on another day to meet with that coach and possibly the AD. We encourage parents and players to communicate with the coaches but it must be at the right time and place with the right frame of mind. Please schedule an appointment to talk with the coach if you have a concern. If a parent breaks this rule they may be removed from attending GCS athletic events and that athlete may be in jeopardy of not being on the team.

## **EQUIPMENT**

All equipment used by athletic teams at Grace is the property of the school. The care of the equipment is the responsibility of the coach. After each practice and game, a careful check should be made to make sure that all equipment is accounted for. If necessary, the equipment should go home with the coach and not a student. No equipment should be checked out to students for personal or home use unless approved by the AD. Equipment and uniforms must be returned within one week of the final game. If it is not returned, then the student may be charged for the replacement of the jersey. All jerseys should be kept on school grounds or with the coach.

## **FACILITIES**

Extreme care and caution should be taken in the use of facilities that have been provided for students at Grace. Coaches should enlist the help of athletes to ensure that every field and court is left in the condition in which it was found. All fields should be left clean with no equipment on them each day including soccer goals, baseball screens, volleyball nets, or basketball equipment. Teams using the gym are required to sweep before and after their practice. Any student defacing or destroying property will be disciplined according to school policy. Activities by teams should be limited to the area specifically designated for the team's use. All other areas are off limits. Players are to be picked up at the end of practice as posted on the schedule. All athletic facilities have a designated calendar kept up by the AD. Coaches should communicate all practice/game times with the AD to input in the calendar. If there are any changes to the schedule, the AD should be notified at least 24 hours prior.

## **GAME AND PRACTICE ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Except for illness, injury, or genuine family emergency, attendance is required at all games, practices and team events. Team discipline may result for unexcused absences.

## **GAME DISCIPLINE**

We will follow the NCISAA rules for technical fouls, yellow/red cards and ejections. All infractions are reported to the commissioner. The NCISAA uses a point system that carries over from one sport

too the next within the school year. If a player receives too many technical fouls, yellow cards, red cards, or ejections that player will not be allowed to play any sport for the remainder of that school year and possibility into the next school year. (See NCISAA rules)

## **GENERAL BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES FOR ATHLETIC CONTESTS**

Coaches, players, and spectators are representing Grace as well as the name of Christ during all public events. Therefore, compliance with the following guidelines will be expected from all participants. Those who exhibit behavior not acceptable may be suspended from athletic competition, dismissed from the team, and face school disciplinary action.

1. Actions and comments by coaches, participants, and spectators should be positive and encouraging. See Ephesians 4:29-32
2. Verbal abuse and/or inappropriate language toward athletes, spectators, or referees are not acceptable. The Athletic Director will determine whether or not such abuse has occurred. Generally, Ephesians 4:29-32 and Galatians 5:22-24 will be the standard.
3. Coaches should demonstrate Christ-like decision making and behavior when coaching a game
4. Conduct judged to be improper by the coach, or Athletic Director may result in immediate removal from the game, as well as further disciplinary action. Sportsmanship-related technical fouls, yellow cards, penalties, ejections, etc. may result in a removal from the game for a first offense. Additional offenses will result in game suspensions and possible removal from the team. Coaches must report to the Athletic Director all occasions where they or a team member receive an official reprimand for sportsmanship violations (technicals, yellow cards, ejections, etc.). Team members will also be subject to suspension or removal for inappropriate behavior even if an “official” warning is not given.
5. Derogatory or demeaning chants or cheers are not permitted, no matter whom directed toward and no matter the purpose.
6. In summary, we expect all Grace Participants (coaches, fans, and athletes) to perform for an audience of one...Jesus Christ.

## **HEAT AND HUMIDITY POLICY & CONCUSSION POLICY**

Heat and Humidity - Coaches must closely monitor athletes when temperatures are 90° or above, especially on high humidity days. Allow frequent breaks for water, rest, and shade when the heat index is high. Coaches must visually observe all athletes, especially those with a history of heat related illness. Athletes and parents should notify the coach of any such history. For all fall sports the NCISAA heat policy must be followed. All NCISAA forms and policy for concussions must be filled out and followed.



## **INCLEMENT WEATHER GUIDELINES FOR ATHLETICS**

GCS Athletic Weather Cancellation Policy - In the event of a school closing / early dismissal -

IF weather and road conditions permit later in the day, athletic activities (games/practices) may still take place. The decision to cancel athletic events will be made by the athletic director, head of school and in cooperation with representatives from the competing school(s) if necessary. Extreme caution will be used in decisions regarding road conditions and poor weather conditions. Typically, decisions will be made no later than 1:00 p.m. on those days. Cancellations will be posted on the athletic website, the athletic Facebook page and Schedule Star - coaches should also contact their players and families.

## **NEW STUDENTS**

Students enrolling at GCS after teams have been decided are eligible (after 5-day waiting period, NCISAA approval and NCISAA deadline dates) and will be given the opportunity to join a team **if** positions are open. New students are ineligible to participate in a contest for a period of five enrolled school days if approved.

## **PARENT/STUDENT CONTRACTS**

Both parent and student are required to sign these forms in order for the student to participate in athletic practices or games.

## **PHYSICALS**

All students participating in athletics must have record of a current physical on file with the athletic department. The physical is good for one year from the last date of the physical. This is your responsibility to have completed by a physician.

### **Concussion Form**

All students and parents are required to initial and sign the NCISAA Gfellar-Waller concussion form to be eligible to participate in GCS athletics

## **PLAYING TIME**

The amount of playing time an athlete receives on any level team at GCS is a privilege, not a right. While we are committed to developing all our athletes, most of an athlete's development should take place during practice. Practice is where you prepare to play. Playing time is earned in practice and is not an entitlement. Seniority of an athlete is not a factor in determining if a player will start or how much they will play. Players will be judged by their coaches on their athletic ability, work ethic,

attitude, and knowledge of the coach's strategy/strategies when determining playing time. We must teach our athletes that most things in life are not given to us and in order for our program/teams to be excellent, time must be spent developing those skills.

## **PLAYING TWO SPORTS IN ONE SEASON**

If cuts are required for a team because of excessive interest, a spot on the team/roster will **NOT** be held for a student athlete wanting to play two sports in the same season. If a student is allowed to take part in two sports (decision made by the Athletic Director and coaches in both sports) in the same season they must **at the start of the season name one sport as the main activity** and cannot miss any games for that sport. They can miss practice to take part in a game for the second sport.

MS students may be allowed to play on MS and JV or Varsity teams in the same season **ONLY** if coaches and Athletic Director agree that is best for the student athlete and the GCS Athletic Program. To be eligible for conference tournament play a student athlete must play in at least half of the conference games of that team for the season.

## **PRACTICE**

Consistent practice or attendance at scheduled practices will be required for participation in all sports. Practice is not optional. Students are expected at every practice and should make every effort to notify coaches of their need to be absent for any circumstances. If a student is sick to the point where they are not able to even attend and watch practice, their absence is excused. Any athlete who misses a practice the day before a game may lose his/her starting position and the coach may limit their playing time at his/her discretion. Repeated absence from team practices or meetings may be cause for removal from the team.

It is expected that Grace Athletes commit to their Grace team above and before "outside" activities. For example, if a Grace practice or game conflicts with a city league game, it will not be an excused absence to miss your Grace practice or game. Coaches may use their discretion in allowing practice to be missed for other situations when the student asks for permission in advance. Team members who with an unexcused absence should not expect to play in the next game.

Exceptions to the policy will require approval of the Athletic Director. The athletic director, in cooperation with coaches, will determine practice venues and times. Because of limited facilities that must be shared, flexibility is required.

Saturday and over Holiday practices are to be expected for Varsity level team. JV and MS teams may have Saturday and over Holiday break practices but they will not be

required. No practices are to be scheduled for weekends or holidays for JV or MS teams without the approval of the Athletic Director. As a general rule, middle school and JV teams do not practice on Wednesdays. Practices should not extend beyond two hours for varsity teams and 1 ½ hours for JV and middle school teams.

MS Teams – will be expected 4x a week – MS teams do not practice on Wednesday  
JV Teams – will be expected 4x a week – JV teams typically do not practice on Wednesday  
Varsity – will be expected at least 5x a week – Saturday practices and games should be expected.

Grace Christian School values the importance of the local church and the importance of being affiliated within the local body of believers. As GCS is not intentionally trying to plan practices or games during weekly services, we cannot accommodate each church's weekly services, youth meetings or activities. We will always honor Sundays as having no practices or games, but all other days of the week are open for practices and games depending on the team level.

Coaches should wait until the last player has left before leaving the practice site. At the beginning of the season, coaches should communicate to team members his/her expectations for performance and attendance. The consequences for missing should be outlined ahead of time and then implemented consistently.

## **SENIOR NIGHT**

Senior night is usually designated on the last regular season home game of each sport, but this is not always the case. Coaches have the option to start seniors on this night, but it is not required.

## **SCHEDULES AND NOTIFICATIONS**

All athletic schedules will be available from the Grace athletic website. All coaches and parents will need to access the website for scheduling information. Any schedule changes will be communicated through the website, athletic Facebook page and at times a RenWeb media message.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Athletes and coaches at Grace are to be exemplary in their display of sportsmanship during games and practices. Team members should congratulate opponents after a game with a handshake. Physical and/or verbal abuse aimed at an opponent, official, coach, or teammate will result in immediate discipline by the coach, and possibly, the administration. Taunting and/or inappropriate language directed toward an opponent or teammate is not "part of the game", and is inconsistent with the mission of Grace Chapel Ministries. Parents and all spectators are expected to follow these guidelines.

An athlete ejected from a contest is automatically suspended for the next game but may sit on the bench. A coach that is ejected from a game may not sit on the bench the next scheduled contest. All ejections are to be reported to the athletic director immediately after the conclusion of the game the ejection took place. Athletes are to demonstrate sportsmanship and an attitude of cooperation with coaches and teammates. An athlete or parent who has a grievance with the coach or another player should attempt to resolve the problem with that individual first, in private, in accordance with Biblical principle. Matters of disagreement and dispute should be kept confidential between the individuals involved. If the situation remains unresolved, the athletic director should be informed.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

The Grace Chapel Ministries provides safe vehicles for transportation of teams to all out-of-town games. Male and female students are not allowed to sit in the same seat and should sit on opposite sides of the bus. Players must travel with the team. The only exception to this rule would be if there is a family emergency and the athlete may arrive with a parent only. After the conclusion of the game, it is preferred that students ride the bus/van back to campus with the team. However, if a parent wishes to drive their child home from an away game, they **MUST** talk face to face with the Head Coach or AD and notify them they are taking their child home. Student-athletes may not leave with anyone other than their parent or guardian. If a parent or guardian needs their child to be picked up by someone else, they must contact the head coach or AD directly to notify them. If this is not done, students will not be allowed to leave and will ride the bus/van back to school. The coach should monitor the students on the bus/van. **Buses and vans must be returned clean. All trash must be emptied after each trip.**

## **TRY OUTS**

Tryouts are conducted to assess skill level and make decisions that will benefit both the team and the players. Please be aware that not all who signup/tryout will make the team. Due to the nature of some sports programs/teams, it may be necessary to limit team rosters. Selecting an appropriate number of players results in achieving effective practices and coaching in preparation for games.

This selection of players allows for a coach to spend focused time with individual players and player's groups, promoting growth in athletes and developing cohesiveness among the team members.

## **TOURNAMENTS**

Grace athletic teams have the opportunity to participate in tournaments that sometimes require an overnight stay. Student-athletes are responsible for the cost of accommodations unless otherwise denoted by the AD. The coach, before departure,

should collect funds from the students in order to reimburse the school. Students are expected to adhere to all school codes of conduct. With the exception of state tournaments all hotel arrangements will be set up by that team's coach. While staying overnight all school policy are in effect and the coach is in charge of supervising their team.

## **UNIFORMS**

Uniforms are the property of Grace. The athletic department provides the funds for purchasing uniforms. An inquiry regarding a donation or the purchase of uniforms by anyone should be referred to the Athletic Director. At the beginning of the season, the coach will be given an inventory form on which to record the athlete's name and the uniform he/she is given. The coach and the athletic department will keep a copy of the form.

For teams where our student athletes are responsible for the care of their uniforms, they should follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning after each use. An athlete who loses a uniform must pay the replacement cost for that uniform. Uniforms which show more than normal wear may also have to be replaced and must be paid for by the student. Uniforms are not to be altered or tailored by the athlete. Athletes are to wear the complete uniform provided by the school at games. **They should not be worn to school, practice, or used for other recreational activities.** Athletes are to be in complete uniform for team pictures, which are made each season. The dates for team pictures are given well in advance. All uniforms are to be cleaned and returned to the coach within one week of the final game of the season.

The goal of the uniform is unity. With that in mind, we expect our athletes to dress in such a way as to promote unity over individuality. Uniforms should be worn in modest fashion. Practice jerseys should be worn when available. Modest shorts and tops should be worn when practice gear is not required in a sport. Coaches have the right and obligation to make students change or sit out of practice if they are dressed inappropriately.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

The Athletic Department is responsible for all social media posts about Grace Christian Athletics. GCS Coaches, players and parents are not permitted to broadcast anything negative towards other teams, coaches, administration, teachers, parents or the athletic programs. Failure to follow this rule may result in not being able to attend GCS athletic events and/or that athlete may be in jeopardy of being on the team. Please refer to the student handbook with questions about social media.

## **PANDEMIC COMMUNICATION**

The following structure will be followed by the administrative team regarding communication to parents, students and staff when positive COVID-19 cases are confirmed for those related to our campus directly. We are preparing and have been training on how to handle COVID-19 cases that affect our campus. Here are some frequently asked questions, we hope will help you to understand how we expect to deal with communication to you, when appropriate, should cases arise.

### **Who does GCS take directives and guidance from when there is a confirmed positive case?**

While each individual has opinions and feelings regarding the current COVID-19 pandemic, the leadership at Grace Christian School will only discuss and take directives, guidance and facts from the county Health Department and when appropriate, the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). Please know, there are many times individuals will make claims, communicate rumors and have genuine feelings about potential or positive COVID-19 cases. Please understand, the administrative team here at GCS will always listen to our families. However, the collaboration with the Health Department and the NCDHHS will determine the appropriate next steps as it specifically relates to the circumstances at GCS.

### **What do I do and who do I tell in the case where my child or someone in our home has symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19?**

Stay home.

Please do not discuss with any other family, student or teacher. Contact the Mrs. Hicks in the school office at 919-774-4415 or by email at [healthandwellness@gracechristiansanford.com](mailto:healthandwellness@gracechristiansanford.com). You will be asked some questions. Mr. Shumway will then contact the health department and/or the NCDHHS to discuss next steps.

Due to the sensitivity of this matter, how we communicate is very important. If our families, staff and students "loosely" communicate this to others, it can create panic within our school staff and families. Once Mr. Shumway has received next steps from the Health Department and/or the NCDHHS, he will execute the communication priorities listed below.

### **Will you send communication to everyone if there is a positive case?**

We will communicate in a manner of priority as directed by the Health Department. Currently, the priority and order of communication is as follows:

- Direct Communication with the individual who has tested positive
- Direct Communication with staff and families who may have been in direct contact (based upon the current definition from the health department) with the individual who tested positive, based on the guidance of the Health Department.

- Direct Communication at grade/school level with staff and families who may have had indirect contact with the individual who tested positive, based on the guidance of the Health Department.
- Please do not expect communication to the school, as a whole, regarding positive cases, unless it is appropriate and directed by the Health Department.
- Under no circumstances will the names be released of individuals who have positive COVID-19 cases as well as any other private health related matters. Even if individuals discuss their personal situations with others, our staff and administration will not.

### **Will you treat every case the same?**

As you know, the guidance and directives regarding COVID-19 seem to change regularly. Therefore, how we handle one circumstance will, most likely, differ from the next. Please do not expect our administrative team to handle each case the same. In every confirmed or potential case, we will consult with the Health Department. We will provide them as much data as possible and they will, in turn, provide the recommended next steps for us to follow.

We understand the sensitive nature of the current COVID-19 pandemic. You can expect us to make decisions that are in the best interests of our students, staff and families. These decisions will not be subjective. We will collaborate with the Health Department with every case. We will respond according to that collaboration. However, you and your students have a very important role. Your role is to remain safe and should circumstances arise to allow our team here at GCS to communicate in a factual and effective manner that is helpful to our students, staff and families. We are grateful for your support!

### **Parents - Final Thoughts**

Parents support can be a strong and sustaining part of the success of an athletic program. Therefore, it is important to recognize certain attributes of "Do's and Don'ts" that are important to the ongoing success of the program. Many of these have already been discussed in the content of the policy manual. Hopefully, this will serve as a quick reference for parents to better support the Athletic Department.

DO help support the overall athletic program.

DO always encourage your athlete to do their best and to accept responsibly for their actions and omissions.

DO compliment your athlete's efforts and not just the results of their efforts.

DO support your athlete when things are not going well for them, but DO it in such a way as not to undermine the coach or the program. If handled properly, a negative

experience can become a valuable growth opportunity from which your athlete may learn a valuable lesson.

Though we want our coaches to maintain an "open door" policy to facilitate the best communication possible, DO NOT expect the coach to discuss an athlete's playing time with his or her parents, game strategy or player's position on the team.

DO NOT try to compare your athlete with someone else's athlete when you do have a conversation with a coach.

DO expect coaches to be honest with you in their assessment of your athlete's ability and potential.

DO encourage your athlete to talk to the coach if they seem upset about the team or their role on the team. This is an opportunity for their personal growth through dealing with their own personal problems.

If you are having a problem with a coach, please DO talk to the coach first and, if you are not satisfied, DO use the proper chain of command. The chain of command in the Athletic Department is the Head Coach of that particular team, the Athletic Director, and last the Head of School. Normally problems are solved on the lower levels.

If you are upset with a coach DO NOT confront them before, during, or after a contest. DO call to make an appointment to have a conference with the coach in private.

DO expect the coach to try to aid you in dealing with your athlete's overall development. Quite often coaches, because of their relationship with the athlete, may be of great assistance to the parents.

DO NOT publicly criticize the athletes. This means your own athlete or anyone else's athlete.

DO NOT send unsigned letters to the coaches or the Athletic Department.

DO make sure that your child adheres to the transportation policies of the school to away contests. The coaches will inform them on those occasions when personal transportation vehicles will be used.

Please DO remember that all athletes are not equal in skill level, determination, assertiveness, or their ability to function as a team member. Just as no two students are equal in math where they do not receive the same grades, athletes are not equal and do not receive the same playing time.

Interscholastic athletics are competitive. **School sports should not be identified with or measured against recreational, club, church, or intramural athletics activities.**



**Your child's success or lack of success in sports does not indicate what kind of parent you are. But having an athlete that is coachable, respectful, a great teammate, mentally tough, resilient and tries their best IS a direct reflection of your parenting.**

## **GCS Athletic Contract**

- 1. The athlete needs to understand that he/she is a representative of our Lord Jesus Christ as well as GCS, and such is expected to behave in a manner becoming of a Christian and a GCS student.**
- 2. The athlete shall respect their coaches at all times.**
- 3. The athlete shall insure that he or she meets the academic requirements of GCS.**
- 4. The athlete shall care for all equipment and uniforms issued to him or her. They shall report any lost or stolen equipment or uniforms to the coach immediately. The athlete may be held financially responsible for items that are misused or lost.**
- 5. The athlete shall show proper respect towards officials, opposing teams, and coaches. The athlete shall attend all practices to make arrangements if it is necessary to miss a practice.**
- 6. The athlete agrees to abide by all policies and procedures in the GCS Athletic Manual.**

## **GCS Parent Responsibility/Contract**

- 1. Parents should encourage their children to give 100% of themselves to represent Christ.**
- 2. Parents should support their children by attending as many games or matches as possible.**
- 3. Parents should always conduct themselves in a Christ like manner during athletic events. Parents should realize that they are as responsible for representing GCS as are the coaches and players. Parents attending athletic contests are asked not to criticize officials, coaches, and players.**
- 4. Parents need to realize that due to the varied talents of athletes on each team,**

playing time is not guaranteed. Encourage your child to improve his or her skills so that they can help the team.

5. Parents are asked to schedule routine doctor, dental, and other appointments so as not to conflict with practices and games. Illness and death in the immediate family are excused absences. All other absences need approval and must be requested prior to the missed practice.

6. It is imperative that your son or daughter be picked up and dropped off for practices and games on time.

7. Parents should direct any questions regarding their student athlete or manner of coaching to the coach directly in a mature and responsible manner in private and if needed by prior arrangements or appointments. Coaches should respond in a like manner.

8. Each student must have a physical on file prior to the start of their sport season.

9. Parents/Athletes understand that the amount of playing time an athlete receives on any level team at Grace Christian School is a privilege, not a right. Seniority of an athlete is not a factor in determining if a player will start or how much they will play. Players will be judged by their coaches on their athletic ability, work ethic, attitude, and knowledge of the coach's strategy/strategies when determining playing time.

10. As parent/s we agree to abide by all policies and procedures in the GCS Athletic Manual.

## **ENROLLMENT, ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT**

**I acknowledge that enrollment, attendance and participation in the activities of Grace Chapel Christian Church, a North Carolina non-profit corporation with its principal place of business at 2605 Jefferson Davis Highway Sanford, North Carolina 27332, its affiliates and subsidiary ministries, including but not limited to, Grace Christian School, Grace Christian Child Development Center, and Grace Cafe, involves risk to the participant (and to the participant's parents or guardians, if the participant is a minor), and may result in various types of injury including, but not limited to, the following: sickness, exposure to infectious/communicable disease, bodily injury, personal injury, property damage, financial damage and even death. In consideration for the opportunity to enroll, attend and participate in the activities of**

**the ministry, the participant (or parent/guardian if the participant is a minor) acknowledges and accepts the risks of injury associated with participation in and transportation to and from the activity. The participant (or parent/guardian) accepts personal financial responsibility for any injury, illness, death or other loss sustained during enrollment or activity or during transportation to and from the activity, as well as for any medical treatment rendered to the participant that is authorized by the sponsor or its agents, employees, volunteers, or any other representatives, (collectively referred to as the "activity sponsor"). Further, the participant (or parent/guardian) releases and promises to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the activity sponsor for any injury or illness arising directly or indirectly out of the negligence of the activity sponsor, the participant, or otherwise.**

**If a dispute over the agreement or any claim for damages arises, the participant (or parent/guardian) agrees to resolve the matter through a mutually acceptable alternative resolution process. If the participant (or parent/guardian) and the activity sponsor cannot agree upon such a process, the dispute will be submitted to a three-member arbitration panel for resolution in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association.**

# Grace Christian School Athletic Agreement / Contract Form

2020-2021

My signature indicates that I have read and agree to abide by the policies and procedures set forth in the 2020-2021 Grace Christian School Athletic Manual and Contract. I have had an opportunity to ask questions regarding any of the policies or statements contained in the Grace Christian Athletic Handbook / Manual.

Student Athlete: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Go CRUSADERS!**

