



GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PATRIOTS ATHLETIC

HANDBOOK

2026-2027

Compete with Excellence. Lead with Integrity. Honor Christ in
Everything.

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Athletic Handbook Notice

This handbook provides student-athletes and families with the expectations, policies, and procedures for participation in Grace Christian School Athletics. Participation is a privilege and carries responsibilities. The Athletic Department reserves the right to revise this handbook as needed in support of the school's mission and student well-being.

Welcome to Patriot Athletics

Welcome to Grace Christian School Athletics! Athletics are an extension of our educational ministry and an opportunity to develop young men and women who honor Christ through their attitude, effort, leadership, and character. Every student-athlete who wears the Patriots uniform represents our school, teammates, families, and ultimately Jesus Christ.

Mission Statement

Grace Christian School Athletics exists to glorify God by developing student-athletes who pursue excellence in competition, demonstrate Christlike character, and serve others through leadership, integrity, and teamwork.

Vision Statement

To build a championship athletic program that develops Christian leaders who compete with excellence, lead with integrity, and influence others for Christ.

Athletic Motto

Compete with Excellence. Lead with Integrity. Honor Christ in Everything.

The GRACE Way

G — God First

R — Respect

A — Accountability

C — Commitment

E — Excellence

Core Values

Faith: Christ is the foundation of everything we do.

Integrity: We choose what is right, even when no one is watching.

Excellence: We pursue our best in academics, athletics, leadership, and service.

Respect: We honor God and others.

Servant Leadership: We lead by serving others.

Athletic Philosophy

Grace Christian School believes athletics are an extension of the educational and spiritual mission of the school. Through competition, student-athletes develop Christian character, discipline, teamwork, leadership, perseverance, and service. Our greatest victories are measured not only by championships but by the lives we impact for Christ.

Sports Offered

Boys Sports

- Soccer
- Basketball
- Baseball
- Cross Country
- Bowling
- Golf

Girls Sports

- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Softball
- Cross Country
- Bowling
- Golf
- Cheerleading

Eligibility Requirements

- To participate in interscholastic athletics, student-athletes must:
 - Be officially enrolled at Grace Christian School.
 - Maintain academic eligibility, student must have a 2.0 GPA on the 9 week report card.
 - A student may not fail ANY core subject class.
 - A student must take a minimum of four major courses (seniors.. min 3)
 - Previous School Year: A student who failed to pass (4) unit (academic) subjects the previous school year or did not earn a 2.0 GPA shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition during the first quarter of the school year.
 - Submit all required participation forms before the first practice
 - Have a current FHSAA physical and emergency information on file.
 - Meet any applicable governing athletic association requirements.

Athletic Fee

Athletes participating in a sport will be charged an athletic fee for each season of sport in which they participate. Fees are non-refundable and will be billed to your FACTS account upon the student earning a spot on the team. If the student quits or is unable to remain on the team for any reason, the Athletic Fee is non-refundable.

Students who participate on GCS sports teams cannot play a game until the sports fee and uniform fee for that sport has been paid.

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is expected. A student who is absent from school without administrative approval is generally not eligible to participate in practices or contests that day. Excessive absences or tardiness may affect participation.

Athletic Suspension

A student who is suspended from school will miss the next interscholastic athletic competition on the schedule. If the student is suspended for a lengthy period, they will miss all athletic contests during their suspension.

Communication Guidelines

Grace Christian School values respectful communication between coaches, student-athletes, and families. Parents are encouraged to contact coaches with concerns regarding student welfare, academics, or team expectations. Questions regarding playing time or coaching decisions should follow the school's communication process, including a 24-hour waiting period after contests before requesting a meeting.

Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

Participation in Grace Christian School Athletics is a privilege. Student-athletes are expected to model Christian character, demonstrate respect, and uphold the reputation of the school at all times. Athletes are expected to obey school rules, team rules, and directions from coaches and school personnel. Students who quit a team at GCS may not be eligible to play on future teams at GCS.

Practice Expectations

Student-athletes are expected to attend all scheduled practices unless excused by the coach. Athletes should arrive on time, prepared to participate, and communicate promptly regarding unavoidable absences. Consistent effort and a positive attitude are expected.

Game Day Expectations

On competition days, athletes should represent Grace Christian School with professionalism. Team dress requirements, punctuality, respectful behavior, and encouragement of teammates are expected throughout the event.

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. The 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 for our program/teams to be excellent, time must be spent developing those skills.

Sportsmanship

Grace Christian School believes sportsmanship reflects our Christian faith. Student-athletes will respect officials, opponents, teammates, coaches, and spectators. Unsportsmanlike conduct, taunting, or inappropriate language will not be tolerated.

Social Media Policy

Student-athletes are ambassadors of Grace Christian School. Posts on social media should reflect Christian values and good judgment. Content that is disrespectful, threatening, inappropriate, or damaging to the school's reputation may result in disciplinary action.

Dress Code & Appearance

Student-athletes are expected to follow the Grace Christian School dress code during the school day, while traveling with teams, and at school-sponsored athletic events unless otherwise directed by a coach.

Travel Expectations

Team travel is an extension of the classroom and athletic program. Athletes must ride to away games in school vehicles or school-arranged carpools unless otherwise specified by the coach. Athletes may ride home with their parents, but not with other students unless permission from a parent/guardian is given. Athletes that ride home with their parents following a game must notify the coach they are riding in another vehicle. Players and parents are responsible for transportation to and from practices and home games. Respectful conduct is expected on buses, at restaurants, hotels, and competition venues.

Uniform & Equipment Responsibilities

Uniforms and equipment issued by the Athletic Department remain the property of Grace Christian School. Student-athletes are responsible for proper care and timely return of all issued items. Lost or damaged uniforms will be replaced by the parent at the replacement cost of the uniform.

Patriot Commitment

I will honor Christ in my attitude and effort.

I will respect my teammates, coaches, officials, and opponents.

I will pursue excellence in the classroom and in competition.

I will represent Grace Christian School with integrity wherever I go.

Parent Partnership

Grace Christian School recognizes that parents, coaches, and school administrators form a partnership dedicated to the spiritual, academic, and athletic development of every student-athlete. Open, respectful communication strengthens this partnership and supports a positive athletic experience.

Parent Expectations

- Model Christlike sportsmanship at all athletic events.
- Support coaches and school policies.
- Encourage effort, growth, and character over wins and losses.
- Promote respect for officials, opponents, teammates, and spectators.
- Communicate concerns respectfully and through the appropriate process.

Spectator Conduct

All spectators are expected to demonstrate respect and self-control. Profanity, unsportsmanlike behavior, harassment of officials, coaches, players, or spectators, and disruptive conduct are inconsistent with the mission of Grace Christian School and may result in removal from athletic events.

Injury Reporting

All injuries occurring during practices or contests must be reported to the coach as soon as possible. Coaches will document significant injuries and notify parents when appropriate. Student-athletes should not return to participation until medically cleared when required.

Concussion Protocol

Any student-athlete suspected of sustaining a concussion will be removed from participation immediately. The athlete may not return to practice or competition until evaluated and cleared by an appropriate licensed healthcare provider in accordance with school policy and applicable athletic regulations.

Heat Illness Prevention

Florida's climate requires careful attention to heat safety. Coaches will provide hydration opportunities, monitor environmental conditions, modify activities when necessary, and encourage athletes to recognize signs of heat-related illness. Athletes should arrive well hydrated and immediately report symptoms such as dizziness, nausea, confusion, or cramping.

Emergency Procedures

Coaches will maintain emergency contact information for all participants and follow the school's Emergency Action Plan during serious medical situations. Emergency medical services will be contacted whenever circumstances warrant immediate care.

Insurance

Families are responsible for maintaining appropriate medical insurance coverage for student-athletes. Participation in athletics may involve inherent risks despite reasonable safety precautions.

Closing

Thank you for being part of Grace Christian School Patriots Athletics. We pray that each season strengthens faith, builds character, develops leadership, and creates lasting memories. May God bless every Patriot as we compete with excellence, lead with integrity, and honor Christ in everything.

Final Acknowledgment

By signing the forms contained in this handbook, the student-athlete and parent/guardian acknowledge that they have read, understand, and agree to follow the expectations and policies of Grace Christian School Athletics.

Athletic Participation Agreement

I understand that participation in athletics is a privilege. I commit to honoring Christ through my attitude, effort, and actions. I will pursue excellence in the classroom and in competition, respect teammates, coaches, officials, and opponents. I agree to follow the policies outlined in the Grace Christian School Patriots Athletic Handbook and to represent my school with Christian character.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Agreement

I have read the Grace Christian School Patriots Athletic Handbook and agree to support its policies, encourage positive sportsmanship, and partner with the school in the development of my student-athlete.

Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____