GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
ATHLETICS

Athlete's Code of Conduct

Our Speech:
Colossians 4:6 *"Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt…"*

1. Avoid any questionable language or "slang" words. The GCA athlete will never engage in any language that can be termed "trash talking" or use profanity or questionable slang. Example: In basketball, chanting "air-ball" or screaming while the opponent is on the free-throw line shows poor sportsmanship.
2. The GCA athlete will address the coaches and officials with respect. The athlete will address coaches as "Coach" or "Mr., Miss or Mrs." and will take concerns or complaints directly to him or her. Insubordination and divisive speech or behavior will not be tolerated. The athlete will address officials as "Sir" or "Ma'am".
3. Officials represent an authority figure which must be respected as any authority God has placed over us. Obedience to authority is not optional and is not predicated on whether or not you agree with it. All disobedience to authority is disobedience to God.

Our Relationships:
John 15:12 *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."*

1. Develop relationships and a good rapport with teammates and coaches. God has placed you in this situation for a purpose. You have an opportunity to develop life-long friendships. If sports becomes all about you, you need not participate.
2. Develop relationships and a good rapport with classmates. Do not attempt to set yourself upon a pedestal. Think of them and treat them as being better than you (Phil. 2:2-3) and watch what happens!.
3. Develop relationships and a good rapport with students from other schools. Never miss an opportunity to share Jesus Christ with others. You may be the only 'Jesus' that they ever see!

Our Unity:
I Corinthians 12:12-13 *"For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body…"*

1. Develop unity within your team. "*It is amazing what can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit.*" - legendary UCLA basketball coach John Wooden
2. Develop unity within our school family. God has called each one of us to this school. Each of us has different abilities and, therefore, different roles. Never be jealous or envious of someone else's role. Be occupied with fulfilling your role in the life of GCA.
3. Develop unity within the Kingdom. We must establish our philosophy with other schools in order for our ultimate purpose to be met – to further the Kingdom of God. It will take other Christian schools being successful for this to happen. Pray for them as you pray for the families at GCA.

Our Motives:
I Corinthians 10:31 *"…do all to the Glory of God."*

1. Be motivated by the love of God. Because He died for us, we can live for Him!
2. Strive for victory in order to glorify God. Athletics is only a means to an end, not an end unto itself.
3. Demonstrate Christ in our lives by abiding by the rules of the game in letter and in spirit. Tactics that promote unfair "gamesmanship" should have no place in the character of a Christ-follower.
4. Be committed to excellence in **all** areas – faith, practice, academics, in preparation, and in games.
5. Have FUN with your sport, play with all your heart, and act like a CHAMPION!

Our Behavior:
I John 2:6 *"He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."*

1. The athlete will maintain a good reputation. The athlete's character will be in good standing with the faculty, staff, administration, and church.
2. The athlete will meet all eligibility requirements.

3. The athlete will know and understand all requirements. The athlete will know all of the expectations of their team and will follow them both in action and in spirit.
4. The athlete will show respect for all coaches, trainers and all staff personnel. This includes the game plans, methods and philosophies.
5. The athlete will show respect for their teammates, helping to hold teammates accountable for their actions.
6. The athlete will respect the seriousness of their commitment by attending all practices, meetings and games as prescribed at the beginning of the season and by working together to accomplish a common goal.
7. The athlete will maintain a high standard of appearance, both on and off the field of play, adhering to the strictest interpretations of the school dress code, the team dress and uniform code.
8. The athlete will demonstrate Christ-like character on and off the field, showing respect in speech and actions for game officials, opponents and all those associated with our opponents.
9. The athlete will maintain self control at all times. Unsportsmanlike conduct penalties, fighting and inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and will be penalized. Penalties include, but are not limited to loss of playing time, suspensions or dismissal from the team.
10. The athlete will know and understand our philosophy. The athlete will respect the eternal effects of their speech and actions as they represent themselves, their families, their school, their church and ultimately their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Note: Please print out the Code of Conduct Signature page, fill in, sign and return with all other Athletic Forms.
You do not need to print out the Code of Conduct.