GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
ATHLETICS

Parent Code of Conduct

Our Speech:

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

1. Emphasize positive speech toward athletes, fans, and officials. Avoid any questionable or degrading language, "slang", or anything that can be misconstrued as negative or insulting.
2. Be positive and encouraging. Be a cheerleader to your student and others. Let them know the importance and accomplishment of being a part of the team. Let them know they are valued!
3. Show respect to all officials or coaches. These people represent the authority figure, "boss", parent, teacher and "Law". If you are "bad mouthing" your child's coaches or officials, it makes it difficult for him or her to play with respect for these people. All authority is God-given and disobedience to authority is disobedience to God. 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.
4. Insist that your students address all coaches and officials with respect. They should call their coaches "Coach" or "Mr., Miss, or Mrs." and address officials as "Sir" or "Ma'am". Modeling these titles in the presence of your students will help your student follow suit.
5. Set a positive example for your student by not participating in negative cheering. Booing the officials or opponents or getting into negative chants against the opposing crowd sets a bad example for your children and is counter to everything we say we believe.
6. Determine to be one who admonishes those who speak in a negative manner around students or other parents concerning:
   a. The school: A negative atmosphere can be contagious. Rather, do everything to create an atmosphere of gratitude.
   b. The church: without Grace Baptist Church there would be no Grace Christian Academy. Such speech demonstrates ignorance, arrogance and an ungrateful heart.
   c. Other students or parents: Speak to parents only about your student and their students. Speak to other students only in an encouraging manner. The only time another student or parent's name should be mentioned is in a praiseworthy or complimentary fashion.
7. Encourage your student and his/her teammates to do their best and to keep striving for worthwhile goals. Refrain from criticizing your child's teammates, but rather help your student learn the team approach to success. Never offer excuses for your children if they are not playing.
8. Always resolve differences with your coaches out of sight and sound of students and other parents. Speak with the coach privately. Call to set an appointment. Pray about what you will say and what is motivating your discussion.
9. Smile, meet and greet! You may be the first impression someone has of Grace Christian Academy and of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

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 your children and their teammates. God has placed you in the role of parent or guardian for a purpose. Use this opportunity to minister and be an encouragement to others. You may never know who is hurting and needs your show of God's love in their life. If sports becomes all about you and your student, you need to evaluate whether or not to participate.
2. Develop relationships and a healthy rapport with other parents. You will need their prayers and support as much as they will need yours!
3. Develop relationships and a good rapport with parents from other schools. Never miss an opportunity to share Jesus Christ with others. Promote your school and your students. The relationships you develop are a reflection on our entire ministry.
4. Develop relationships with the coaches. Get to know them and their families. Pray for them. Communicate with them with an open heart and mind. Be open, honest, and use gentle words. Set appointments to meet with the coach rather than confront them before or after a game.

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 our school family. God has called each one of us to this school. Each of us have different abilities and, therefore, different roles. Never be jealous or envious of someone else's role. Commit to fulfilling your role. Your example of being a unified school body is a valuable one you will want your student to emulate.
2. Develop unity with our church. GCA is a ministry of Grace Baptist Church working together for a common purpose. Be supportive in action and in spirit. Remember that without Grace Baptist Church there would not be a Grace Christian Academy.
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 as a tool to teach your students. Remind them that athletics is merely a means to an end and not an end unto itself.
3. Teach your students to abide by the rules of the game in letter and in spirit. Tactics that promote unfair "gamesmanship" are not part of the character of one who follows Christ.
4. Teach your students about athletics in light of your family's mission, philosophy and goals. What you are teaching your student through athletics should match with what you are teaching them at home.
5. Use your child's experience as a chance to be involved his or her life. Your relationship with your child as an adult will last longer than your relationship with them while they are in your home. To establish a strong and lasting relationship with them as adults, begin building that relationship now. Athletics affords you an amazing opportunity to do it!

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

1. Maintain the highest class and character. You are setting the example for your children. Realize that your every action reflects upon you, your family, GCA, and ultimately, your Lord. People will remember your actions long after they have forgotten your words.
2. Always insist that your children follow instructions. Coaches must depend on a player's ability to follow directions immediately and without question. Teach them that questions should be raised, but at the appropriate time, such as at practice or after a game when there is time for explanation. This builds respect for authority and a bond of trust between your children and their coaches.
3. Always dress appropriately. Modest attire that does not attract attention to you and away from your child should be worn.
4. Be an example and a guard. Set the standard high for behavior and appearance and do not be afraid to speak to those who are indifferent to our ultimate purpose of glorifying God in all we do..
5. Respect game officials. Be one who "Works with" the officials …not one who "works" the officials. Badgering an official to persuade a call our way comes with too high a price – our testimony and our ability to influence those others for Jesus Christ. There is never an appropriate time in any contest where a parent should say anything to an official other than "Thank you". Without these men and women and their willingness to officiate, we would not have games to *play* [emphasis added]!
6. Remain in the stands and off the field, court, bench area, press box, score table or the officials before, during or after a ballgame. TSSAA rules are very stringent on this point. Visiting with and complementing the coach briefly after a game if available is encouraged. Game officials are always off- limits.
7. Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat. Coaches, students, parents and spectators need to take the lead in this area. Warmly greet and welcome our visitors before and after a game.
8. Recognize the success of your opponent. Compliment the good play of students from the other school. Congratulate their coaches on a well coached game.
9. Teach your children that they have a special purpose from God. It is their responsibility to accept God's purpose for them. Avoid comparing or contrasting them to other student-athletes. This limits their ability to fulfill ***their*** unique potential and purpose.
10. Have FUN, touch lives and be yourself. You have the opportunity to be a positive influence, like no one else may be able to, in the lives your children and their peers. Enjoy this time in their lives and help them to enjoy it as well. Games, plays and officials will be forgotten, but your behavior and attitude will stay with your child forever.

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.