

ATHLETICS (revised 2024)

PHILOSOPHY

It is the goal of Gloria Deo Athletics to coach, train, teach, and equip young men and women to use their God-given athletic abilities to compete to the best of their ability for the glory of God.

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 \$125 fee to participate in most sports.

Depending on the association or sport, there may be additional costs. (i.e., bass fishing, baseball hat, etc.).

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. They are not a part of CIA or Friday attire.

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 found on our school's website on the Athletics' page.

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.

For any special circumstance, you must get approval from the athletic director.

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 all athletic activity until the said grade is brought to a "D" or above.

ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY

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, athletes are expected to be at 100% of practices preceding the first game to participate.

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

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.

BOOSTER CLUBS

Each sport has the opportunity to have its own Booster Club. This will be led by the coach and parent(s). There must be a service or item exchanged for revenue. The money raised will go towards enhancing that sport.

Bass Fishing: For Bass Fishing, the Booster Club will only cover the regular season scheduled through the National Youth Fishing Association. All post-season or alternative tournaments will be the parents' responsibility. A team is allowed to have its own sponsor in order to cover these expenses.

INITIATING 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.

Signature of Guardian

Date

Signature of Athlete

Date

The Lions' Roar

It is the goal of Gloria Deo 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.

- ❖ *Respect* - We will treat coaches, players, officials, and those against whom we're competing with Christ-like respect.
- ❖ *Honor* - We will show honor to God and to one another through the way we train & compete.
- ❖ *Commitment* - We will be committed to our teammates, coaches, and the vision of Gloria Deo Academy.
- ❖ *Leadership* - We will strive to be Christ-like leaders on and off the playing court/field.
- ❖ *Calling* - We will remember our ultimate calling to live, play, teach, and learn as we remember that we belong to Jesus.

