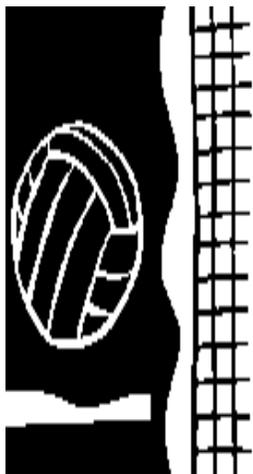


# GLADEWATER MIDDLE SCHOOL



# ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

## Athletic Period

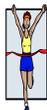
We do not want your child to miss school for any reason. We will do everything we can to minimize absences due to athletic competition. We also expect the student athletes to consistently attend their respective athletic period. This is the only time we see them on many occasions. We would appreciate medical appointments to be scheduled after school whenever possible. We realize these times are not always available, but your cooperation is appreciated.

## Multiple Extra-Curricular Activities

A student athlete who attempts to participate in many extracurricular activities must communicate with coaches and sponsors. This will prevent possible conflicts from occurring. We recognize that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular activities. We will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts. When conflicts do arise, the sponsors will work out the best possible solution. UIL activities take precedence over non-UIL activities.

## Use of Technology/Social Media

Students are prohibited from possessing, sending, forwarding, posting, accessing, or displaying electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. This prohibition also applies to conduct off school property, whether the equipment used to send such messages is district-owned or personally owned, if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment.



## Use of Technology/Social Media Continued

Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, possessing, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content, commonly referred to as "sexting," will be disciplined according to the Student Code of Conduct, may be required to complete an educational program related to the dangers of this type of behavior, and, in certain circumstances, may be reported to law enforcement. In addition, the use of mobile telephones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms or restroom areas while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event.

## Drug Test

Drug testing for all student athletes will follow the guidelines set forth and adopted by Gladewater ISD.

## Equipment

School equipment provided to the student athlete is his or her own responsibility. It is expected to be kept in good condition. The athletic department will aid in the cleaning and maintenance of the equipment, but the athlete must be sure to understand his or her part in this process. *Loss of any equipment is the athlete's financial responsibility. Athletes are expected to wear only clothes issued to them during practice- **all items issued are NOT permitted to be worn outside of practice or competition.***

## Suspension from School

If an athlete is suspended from school for any reason, **he or she will be ineligible for athletics during the period of suspension.** *Missed workouts or athletic periods, as a result of suspension, are unexcused absences.*

# Gladewater ISD Athletic Program Objectives and Philosophy

Before any program can operate effectively and efficiently, a philosophy should be set to provide a preview of the goals to be achieved. The major objective of an athletic program is to provide activities and opportunities for students to develop favorable habits and attitudes from their experiences which will help them succeed in life.

The athletic program will always be in compliance with the general objectives and policies of the school district. **At no time should the athletic program be given emphasis greater than the total education curriculum.** The program should function as a part of the whole curriculum and should constantly strive for the development of well-rounded individuals.

The purpose of the athletic program is:

1. To provide experiences that will serve as an opportunity for students to cope with problems and handle situations encountered under conditions prevailing in the contemporary world.
  - a. Physical, mental, and emotional growth development
  - b. Acquisition and development of life-long skills in activities that each student athlete chooses.
  - c. Team play with the development of such commitments as loyalty, fair play, and cooperation that are desirable social traits.
  - d. Directed leadership and supervision that stresses self-discipline, self-motivation, excellence, and the ideals of good sportsmanship that make for winning and losing with dignity and pride.
  - e. Provisions for worth leisure time in later life either as a participant or a spectator.
  - f. Participation by the most skilled that will enable these individuals to ascertain possibilities for future pursuits (i.e., college or professional)
2. To improve the image of Gladewater ISD and GSD athletic programs.
3. To strive for playing excellence that will produce winning teams.
4. To ensure growth and development that will raise the number of individual participants.

Athletics in our society provides one of the finest ways in which our young people can develop into responsible men and women. This being true, the athletic program should assume its rightful place in total school program and make its vital contributions for young people in the past and present; and will continue to do so with even more enthusiasm in the future. These programs present the opportunity for immeasurable enrichment for both the student athlete and the coaching staff. The coaching staff at Gladewater will make every effort to lead our student athletes in a direction, which will allow them to make the best decisions in later life.



## Athletic Insurance

Gladewater ISD provides a secondary insurance policy for all student athletes. Should an injury occur, the Head Coach of the sport involved will provide the parent or guardian with the appropriate forms to be filled out and turned in for treatment of the injury. We will take every precaution to ensure your child's well-being. If you should have any questions regarding the paperwork involved with the districts athletic insurance, please contact the Athletic Director.

## Athletic Training and Medical Care

***PLEASE NOTE: Athletes must see the trainer before visiting a doctor or emergency room.*** All injuries will be addressed by a GISD certified trainer to evaluate the severity of the injury before any other steps are taken. We will always notify a parent or guardian first. We will take every precaution to see that each athlete participates in the safest environment possible.

## Physicals

All incoming 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to have a physical. Also, any student new to the district that does not have a physical on file at the school from their 7<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade years must obtain a current physical. ***Physical forms must be turned in no later than the first WEEK of school.***

## Injuries and Illness

We understand that illnesses and injuries are a part of life. Occasionally, student athletes miss workouts and the athletic period after spending an entire day at school. Please do not come to school ill. You not only jeopardize your well being, but that of others.

Please be aware that after three (3) consecutive days we require a doctor's excuse. This is to insure a complete diagnosis so that we will know a timetable for recovery. If there is a delay in making an appointment, please make us aware of it and we will adjust accordingly. If after three days no excuse or notification from the parent has been received, we will follow the code of conduct for unexcused absences.

## Transportation to and from Games

All students will ride to games on the school bus. Students must return on the bus unless there is a signed release form from a parent/guardian. We will not release students to anyone other than a parent or guardian, unless prior arrangements have been made. This is for your child's protection, safety, and well-being. Please remember that when traveling as a team, our student athletes are representing our school, their parents, and our community. All athletes are expected to conduct themselves with exemplary behavior.



## **Philosophy of Coaching Responsibilities**

All coaches assume certain obligations and responsibilities to the players they coach, the sport, and to their fellow colleagues. It is essential that our staff be aware that the coaching profession will always remain an honorable profession. Each member will conduct himself or herself in a manner to maintain the dignity and decency of the profession.

Coaches, regardless of the position on our staff or years of experience, should be an example to everyone with enthusiasm and honesty. It is the coach who sets the tone of the true experience of winning and losing. A coach in our school system must strive for technical expertise and excellence, superior classroom teaching, and a positive attitude.

Coaches who conduct themselves with honesty, loyalty, and integrity will bring credit to our profession, to the players they coach, the Gladewater school system, and themselves. It is only through such conduct that the profession can earn and maintain its rightful place in the educational program.

## **Conflict of Law**

We expect our student athletes to abide by the laws of our society and be an example to others. Violations of these laws will result in severe punishment and suspension of participation privileges for a period of time to be determined by the Athletic Director and coaching staff. Our coaching staff will abide by the THSCA Code of Ethics.

## **Expectations**

**It is a privilege to participate in our athletic program at Gladewater ISD.** Student athletes must be willing to adhere to the following guidelines:

1. The use of drugs and/or alcohol will not be tolerated.
2. Theft from teammates is inexcusable. Severe disciplinary action will be taken, and may include removal from the program.
3. Profanity will not be allowed at any time.
4. Coaches must be notified in advance when a practice or game will be missed. The athlete should provide a parent note or have a parent contact the coaching staff. Without a parent/guardian note or phone call, the absence is unexcused and subject to disciplinary action.
5. Any athlete who leaves a practice without permission from the coaching staff will be considered absent, and the absence will be unexcused.
6. *The unauthorized use of mobile telephones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms or restroom areas while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event. **Severe disciplinary action will be taken, and may include removal from the program.***



# Code of Conduct and Athletic Discipline Plan

## **Level ONE**

Verbal insubordination to a coach; Missed workout/no excuse; Inappropriate conduct during a game; Profanity.

### **Action Taken**

Parent contact; Physical conditioning; suspension of contests or dismissal from sport

## **Level TWO**

Disclosure of drug/alcohol use; Theft; Vandalism; State Law Violations

### **Action Taken**

Parent contact; suspension of contests or dismissal from program. The type of punishment or discipline administered will vary according to the severity of the infraction and will be at the discretion of the Athletic Director and/or Administration.

## **Level THREE**

Continued incidence of above; Infractions with no correction of behavior; State Law Violation

### **Action Taken**

Suspension from athletics for up to one year.



Students who are removed from the program will be re-evaluated at the beginning of the following year.

Any student assigned to in-school suspension for serious or persistent misbehavior WILL NOT be allowed to practice with the team or participate in a game if placed in ISS on the day of the game.

**A student athlete must participate in at least two sports in order to be eligible to remain in the athletic period. Otherwise, the coach has the discretion to remove the student from the athletic period.**

Corporal punishment- spanking or paddling the student athlete-may be used as a discipline management technique in accordance with district policy.

## Quitting

If a student athlete notifies a coach of his/her intent to quit a team, the athlete will be required to have a meeting with the Head Coach of that sport and a parent or guardian. Re-joining any team after quitting a sport is at the discretion of the Head Coach of that sport. An athlete will not be allowed to participate in any other sport until such time as the first sport is completed.

\*\* Each Head Coach has the prerogative to establish rules pertaining to the sport being supervised. These rules may include attendance at practices make-up practices, curfew, dress, and general conduct of athletes during practices, trips, etc. Rules set by the individual Head Coach must be approved by the Athletic Director and communicated to the athletes in that sport's guidelines and/or policies before the season begins.

## GIRLS ATHLETIC POLICIES SUPPLEMENT

### Expectations:

1. All girl athletes must wear the Lady Bear workout clothes issued to them. Athletes are not permitted to borrow clothes from other athletes. **CONSEQUENCE: 1 mile Run in 10 min.**
2. Athletes must attend all practices set by the coach. This includes off-season during the class period. Athletes may not attend tutorials (unless mandatory) during the period. Athletes will be excused to attend after school tutorials, if necessary. Excused absences will be made up at the coaches' discretion.
3. Girl athletes will ride the bus TO and FROM ALL games unless a signed PARENT note is given to the coach prior to loading the bus for an out of town game. Student's will only be released to parents unless previous arrangements have been made.
4. NO jewelry on the court or track. NO EXCEPTIONS!
5. **Athletes will suit up everyday and every practice whether they are practicing or not. Athletes will need a DOCTOR'S note to be excused from practice/workout for more than 3 days.** If an athlete knows they will be absent that day from practice or did not attend school that day, the PARENT needs to call and leave a message at 903-845-2243. Parents must call the athletic office or the missed practice will be unexcused. The coaches will decide on the type of make-up work the athlete will do.
6. No cell phones, drinks, or food on the court during practice or games. They should be locked in your locker! Cell phones will be taken up and turned into the office as noted in school policy.

### Locker Room Code of Conduct:

1. Girls will have 4 minutes after the TARDY BELL to be on the court and ready to stretch.
2. No cell phones, drinks, or food on the court during practice or games. All electronic devices that are capable of recording or taking video images MUST remain off and secured in the athletic locker, while dressing/undressing for class or an athletic event. **Failure to comply with this step may result in suspension from the program.**
3. Fighting, bullying, harassment, and horse playing will not be tolerated in the locker room.
4. The locker room and restroom must remain clean and neat AT ALL TIMES!! Consequences will be issued for trash or equipment left on the floor in the locker room.
5. Students are expected to respect their peer's privacy, personal space, and belongings while in the locker room. The locker room is an area of trust and students should feel comfortable dressing without the fear of judgment or scrutiny from their peers.

### Consequence/Makeup Workout:

All consequence/makeup workouts will be conducted at the conclusion of practice (in season) or class period (off season).

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Dear Parents:

The coaching staff of the GMS Athletic Department would like to emphasize the importance of parents, students, and coaches working together to insure the success of your athlete at Gladewater Middle School. The Athletic Department has dedicated this time to thoroughly introduce and review our rules, procedures, and expectations of the program. Please read and review this handbook with your athlete and return this portion to the coaching staff. Thank you for supporting our program, and we are looking forward to a great year.

Sincerely,

**Lady Bear Coaching Staff**

*I understand all the athletic policies of the Gladewater Girl's Athletic Program, including those listed in the athletic handbook. I agree by signing this that I am expected to follow these guidelines and represent Gladewater Middle School in a positive and productive manner.*

PLEASE PRINT:

Student's Last \_\_\_\_\_

Student's First \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent  
Contact # \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

