

# **Gulf Shores High School**



## **Athletic Department Handbook**

## Gulf Shores High School

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Gulf Shores High School Athletics. We are proud of our athletic tradition and of the student-athletes and coaches who devote so much of their time and energy to honor and build on that tradition.

Gulf Shores High School's athletic program is designed to further the educational development of young men and women through participation. We at Gulf Shores High School believe that the competition, camaraderie, loyalty and respect for others experienced in athletics will serve as a foundation of each student's continued growth and life-long learning experience. It is our hope to maintain a program that is sound in purpose, reflects the goals and objectives of Gulf Shores High School, furthers each student's educational maturity and health and contributes to school spirit and morale.

Those students who participate in the interscholastic athletic program commit themselves to the following goals:

- A primary focus on academic development and attendance.
- Avoidance of any action that would bring embarrassment or disrespect to themselves, their team, their school, and their community.
- Development of desirable personal health standards which includes the avoidance of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and illegal drugs and substances.
- Development of athletic skills.
- Growth of a competitive philosophy, which includes sportsmanship and a consistent awareness of school and community pride.

As a member of the Alabama High School Athletic Association, Gulf Shores High School adheres to and enforces a policy of academic eligibility. Details regarding the academic eligibility policy are reinforced each season by the coaching staff. It is the role of the Athletic Department to make rules that govern the spirit of competition for the community. These rules need a broad base of community support, which can be achieved through communication to athletes and parents. It is our hope to accomplish this objective through this athletic handbook. We take this opportunity to acquaint you with the specific policies that are necessary for a well-organized program of athletics. **Please note that although the following policies and procedures are intended to set minimum guidelines for participation in athletics at Gulf Shores High School, the administration may establish additional sport specific rules or procedures from time to time that must also be observed.**

Gulf Shores High School reserves the right to interpret, amend or alter these policies at any time. If you have any questions or concerns about the materials contained in this handbook or about any aspect of the athletic program at Gulf Shores High School, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely yours,

Cindy Veazey  
Principal

Matt Blake  
Athletic Director

## **Mission Statement**

All stakeholders involved in our program are on a mission to develop the “whole” player. We strive to impact young people’s character, academics, and athletic development in a team atmosphere. We believe that all three components are essential to the Gulf Shores “Dolphin” Program. It is our mission that players leave Gulf Shores a “Champion for Life.”

## **Athletic Eligibility**

Students entering the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least six new Carnegie units with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those six units. Four core courses must be included in those units passed and averaged. English, math, science, and social studies are core curriculum courses. An updated Pre-Participation Physical Form signed by an M.D. or D.O. Student Birth Certificate. NFHS sportsmanship completion. Student Participation agreement. Student “Good Standing” Form (transfer students only). Concussion Form on File.

Students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least five new subjects with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those five subjects.

Students may regain eligibility at the end of the first semester by meeting the same requirements listed above during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable. All first semester work used in regaining eligibility must be completed by the fifth day of the second semester.

## **Athletic Trainer Coverage**

The athletic director shall determine the athletic trainer’s game and practice coverage schedule in consultation with the athletic trainer and coaching staff. Coaches, parents, and student athletes must alert the athletic director to any individual situation that may require changes to the coverage schedule.

## **Attire and Appearance**

Athletic teams represent our school and community. In order to project a good image, both athletes and team personnel must be well groomed and neat in appearance. It is expected that all uniforms will be properly worn and clean.

When a team travels and changes at the opponent’s site, they shall conform to the school’s daytime dress code as set forth in the Gulf Shores High School’s Student Handbook. Coaches may opt to have their team travel in the team’s appropriate uniform. Coaches may refuse to take an athlete to any game if his or her appearance violates this policy.

When all athletes enter their athletic period, participate in athletic practice or participate in an athletic game (home or away), they shall have their hair kept neat. The following guidelines will be followed:

- Hair will be fashioned so that all equipment will fit properly (no buns or ponytails for males; no protruding or wildly colored hair).
- Female student-athletes shall fashion their hair so that it is pulled back and out of their faces.

It should be understood that all AHSAA guidelines will be followed.

### **Attitude**

Athletes should come to practice with a good attitude. Athletes should understand that practice is to make the individual and team better. Athletes should listen to corrections and should not take constructive criticism personally. Coaches and athletes are all striving to reach the same goals, and if they work together these goals will be attained.

### **Game Ejections**

**Any Coach or Player Ejected from participation will be fined \$300 for the first offense and any applicable increase for future offense. Players and Coaches must sit out of the next game for the second ejection. Athletes and Coaches will pay the monetary fines themselves to AHSAA. Fines can be reduced to \$100 if STAR Sportsmanship 2 module is completed.**

### **Code of Ethics for Coaches**

At Gulf Shores High School each student-athlete should be treated as an individual whose welfare shall be primary at all times. The coach must be aware that he or she serves as a model in the education of the student-athlete and, therefore, shall never place the value of winning above the value of character building.

The coach must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the teaching profession. In all personal contact with the student-athletes, parents, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

The coach shall support and enforce school rules for the prevention of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use and abuse, and under no circumstances shall allow the use of these substances. If a student athlete is arrested for alcohol or drug related offenses, the student-athlete will be suspended for a minimum of 20% of the athletic events for that particular sport. Athletes may be removed from the athletic team at the coaches' discretion if their conduct is determined to be detrimental to the team, athletic department, or school.

A student-athlete may be removed from an athletic team by the Athletic Director or school administration if the student, parent, or student representative makes any post to social media that is negative towards the school, athletic department, coach, team, or

team member. A student athlete may also be removed from an athletic team if personal social media posts display conduct that may be offensive to others, in any way displays racist comments or suggestions, or displays any actions that are deemed unlawful or detrimental to the team, school, or community.

The coach shall promote the entire athletic program and direct his or her program in harmony with the total school program.

The coach shall be thoroughly acquainted with game, state, association and local rules, and is responsible for his interpretation to team members. The coach shall abide by the letter and spirit of these rules at all times.

Coaches shall actively use their influence to promote sportsmanship by working closely with parents, athletes, cheerleaders, and administrators.

Game officials shall have the respect and support of the coach. The coach shall not indulge in conduct that will incite players or spectators against officials, or against each other. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

Before and after games, rival coaches should meet and exchange friendly greetings to set the correct tone for the event.

## **Conduct**

The conduct of an athlete is closely observed in many areas of life. It is important student-athletes' behavior be above reproach in all of the following areas:

### On The Field

In the area of athletic competition, a real athlete does not use profanity or illegal tactics and learns fast that losing is part of the game and that he or she should be gracious in defeat and modest in victory. It is always courteous to congratulate the opponent on a well-played game after the contest, whether in defeat or victory.

### In the Classroom

In the academic area, a good athlete becomes a good student. A person cannot be a classroom laggard and think he or she can be an outstanding athlete. If he or she is lazy in class, he or she will become lazy on the practice field and will never reach his or her potential. As an athlete, one must plan his or her schedule so that he or she gives sufficient time and energy to his or her studies to ensure acceptable grades. In addition to maintaining good scholarship, an athlete should give respectful attention to classroom activities and show respect to other students and faculty at all times.

## **Communication**

Positive innovation in sports requires commitment from students, parents, and coaches. To be successful, all involved must work to ensure effective communication. The following guidelines are intended to aid parents and staff in their interactions.

### Communication Parents Can Expect from Coaches

1. Location and time of practices and games
2. Description of coach's philosophy
3. Coach's expectations for all players on the squad as well as the individual student-athlete.
4. Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning
5. Notification when a student-athlete is injured during participation
6. Notification of disciplinary action resulting in removal of student-athlete from participation.
7. Request for support toward the commitment of the program. For example, coaches may ask a parent's help in ensuring that a student-athlete is at practice on time or imposing a reasonable curfew.

### What are appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches?

1. The treatment of their child both physically and mentally.
2. Skill improvement and development
3. Concerns about their child's behavior.

### What things are not appropriate for parents to discuss with coaches?

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student-athletes

### Communication Coaches Should Expect from Parents

1. Individual concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Advance notification of any schedule conflicts
3. Support toward the commitment of the program. For example, coaches may ask a parent's help in ensuring that a student athlete is at practice on time or imposing a reasonable curfew.

### If a parent has a concern to discuss with a coach, what procedure should be followed?

1. Make an appointment with the coach
2. If the coach can not be reached, call the athletic director to set up a meeting.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach **before, during, or after a game or practice**. These are emotional times for both the parent and coach and this period does not promote objective analysis of the situation.

### What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call and set up an appointment with the athletic director to discuss the situation further.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

We are continually attempting to improve communication with the student-athletes and parents. For our program to be successful, it is necessary that everyone involved understand the direction the program is headed to avoid unnecessary miscommunications. Positive and effective communication can only strengthen our program.

### **Fundraising**

Student-athletes will be required to participate in the fundraising projects for the sports in which they participate.

### **Insurance**

Gulf Shores High School insures athletes on a very limited basis. The insurance coverage provided has very specific limits and is not designed as basic health insurance, but rather as a companion plan to the athlete's personal insurance and as limited coverage if the athlete has no personal insurance. The athletic department must have on file a copy of each student-athlete's parent's insurance card. If the student-athlete does not have health insurance, the parents must purchase All Kids Insurance.

### **Jewelry**

Student-athletes who enter their athletic block, participate in athletic practice or participate in an athletic game (home or away) shall not wear jewelry or adornments of any kind.

Female athletes may not use metal ponytail holders.

All student-athletes will abide by guidelines set forth by the Alabama High School Athletic Association.

### **Physical Examination**

All student-athletes must have on file with the athletic director a physical examination before he or she is allowed to tryout or practice with the team.

### **Quitting a Team**

In rare instances, an athlete may find it necessary to quit a sport for a good reason. If this is the case, the following procedure must be followed:

1. The student-athlete must talk with his or her coach and head coach.
2. The student-athlete and coaches must report the situation to the athletic director.
3. The student-athlete must return all equipment issued.
4. All monetary obligations must be met.

Athletes will be allowed to quit any team they try out for during the first two weeks of the season as established by the AHSAA official start date for practice. After that time, if an athlete quits for other than medical reasons, he or she will not be allowed to compete in another sports activity for the remainder of that sport's season, unless properly cleared by the coaches involved.

### Sponsored Sports

Boys			Girls		
Sport	JV	V	Sport	JV	V
Football	X	X	Softball	X	X
Basketball	X	X	Tennis	X	X
Baseball	X	X	Basketball	X	X
Tennis	X	X	Track	X	X
Track	X	X	Volleyball	X	X
Soccer	X	X	Swimming		X
Sport	JV	V	Sport	JV	V
Golf		X	Soccer	X	X
Cross Country		X	Golf		X
Swimming		X	Cheerleading	X	X
Bowling		X	Bowling		X
Wrestling		X	Cross Country		X

### Sportsmanship

We have a constant challenge that our high school sports program serves an educational purpose in the lives of young men and women.

The challenge is sportsmanship. Good sportsmanship and bad sportsmanship determine whether athletics will live or die.

The administrator holds the key to the issue of sportsmanship. If he or she appreciates the importance of it by insisting that sportsmanship be good at any cost, the school cannot go wrong. If he or she realizes the value of sportsmanship but fails to implement its good practice, then the school cannot help but run into problems.

The coach is the standard-bearer of sportsmanship. His or her role is a critical one. He or she has the challenge of either making a contest a real showcase for education or turning it into a meaningless exercise in winning or losing. He or she can help players and spectators do the right thing through winning or losing. He or she can help players and spectators do the right thing through self-control and dignity or can incite either or both to act contrary to the aims and objectives of school athletics.



The players generally mirror the coach in exhibiting sportsmanship. Many, of course, do not need the coach's direction; they know how you play the game is the number one priority. The players are neither puppets nor mature individuals and are, therefore, susceptible to inconsistent sportsmanship. But the coach, the good coach, knows how to handle difficult situations even in front of spectators.

What about the spectators? Most of them know what high school sports are about. But an irritating minority always will be with us. The "good guys" in the audience, we hope will minimize the influence of the "bad guys." But if they don't, then there is all the more reason for the players to present themselves well, for the coach to be above reproach at all times, and for the administrator to prepare and enforce procedures to keep fans in line.

As long as there exists within all of us that human drive to win, we will have to be concerned about sportsmanship. The desire to win is not bad by itself. On the contrary, it is good. It is the proper attitude with which to approach any endeavor. To do otherwise would be opt for failure instead of success. But while the quest to win must not be stifled, it must be honorable. In athletics, the quest must carry with it the realization that somebody is not going to win. In high school sports, winning cannot be the "only thing." Handling loss is equally as educational, therefore, equally as important as winning. Remember, high school sports will live or die not by contests won or lost, but by my sportsmanship – good or bad.

### **Transportation**

All athletes shall travel to and from all away athletic contests in transportation provided by the athletic department. Athletes will remain with their team under the supervision of a coach when attending away contests. All school bus rules remain in effect for athletic travel, including but not limited to rules regarding food, noise, remaining in seats, and the care and respect for equipment.

Exception: When an emergency arises, athletes may return from athletic events with their parents with the permission of the particular coach. Written parental permission must be submitted to the coach prior to the event. The athletic director will handle extenuating circumstances. Parents should contact the involved coach well in advance of the event if there are any questions.

The use of privately owned automobiles to transport athletes is not recommended. All forms are to be filed and state transportation guidelines are to be followed. **Athletes may not transport other athletes by automobile.** Only parents/guardians may transport their own child to and from a contest.

It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that their children are picked up from the school at the end of each practice and athletic contest. If a student-athlete is left at a school waiting for a ride home for an extended period of time, the Gulf Shores Police Department will be contacted.

## **Valuables**

Athletes should leave all valuables at home – not in the locker room. The Gulf Shores High School Athletic Department provides student-athletes with locks. Each replacement lock will cost the student-athlete \$10. All lockers must be locked properly.

**Forms  
To be  
completed,  
signed, and  
returned**

# GULF SHORES HIGH SCHOOL

## Athletic Department

### NOTICE OF RECEIPT

We hereby acknowledge by our signatures that we have received and read or had read to us the GSHS Athletic Handbook. We understand that these policies apply to all student-athletes and parents at Gulf Shores High School.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

**NOTE:**

The student is to sign the above statement.

If the student lives with two parents or guardians, both are to sign the statement.

If the student lives with only one parent or guardian, only one is to sign.

Please sign this page and have the student return it to his/her head coach.

Keep the Athletic Handbook for future reference.

**GULF SHORES HIGH SCHOOL  
Athletic Department**

**CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE**

Student's Names \_\_\_\_\_

Sport \_\_\_\_\_

As an athlete/athletic parent in the Baldwin County Schools' athletic program, we understand that participation in any sport can be a dangerous activity involving RISK OF INJURY. We further understand there are serious risks including and not limited to brain damage, cardiac arrest, damage to bones, joints, ligaments, tendons and other serious injury or impairment to other aspects of the athlete's general health and well being.

We understand the dangers and risks of participating in sports also include the potentially high cost of medical care and impairment of the athlete's future ability to earn a living, to engage in other business, social and recreational activities, and generally to enjoy life. Recognizing these risks, we consent to the participation of my/our son/daughter in the sports program offered by Gulf Shores High School.

We also agree to comply with the rules, regulations and recommendations of administrators, coaches, athletic trainers, and doctors concerning injury prevention and care.

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature/Student Athlete \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# GULF SHORES HIGH SCHOOL

## Athletic Department

### EMERGENCY INFORMATION

School Year 20\_\_ - 20\_\_ Sport: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

SS# \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone List: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Father Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother Work: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### IN AN EMERGENCY, IF PARENTS CANNOT BE CONTACTED, NOTIFY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ night \_\_\_\_\_

Family Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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### HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION

CHECK ONE:

\_\_\_\_ - We have family insurance and we will use our family insurance to cover all injuries.

Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy#: \_\_\_\_\_ Group#: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Holder: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ - We will use the All Kids Insurance

\*Please see attached letter

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### HEALTH HISTORY

List any

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

(Bees, Medications, Etc.)

Medical

Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the front of the AHSAA pre-participation Physical Evaluation

**GULF SHORES HIGH SCHOOL  
Athletic Department**

**MEDICAL CONSENT WAIVER**

We understand that should an emergency arise during a practice session, game or similar activity an effort will be made to contact us. We hereby grant consent to any and all health care providers designated by Gulf Shores High School to provide my child any necessary medical care as a result of any injury/illness. This may also include transportation to and from a doctor's office or hospital. We will notify the school in writing of any changes or cancellation of my insurance.

**Parent/Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature/Student Athlete** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

We understand that should a minor condition (headache, upset stomach, sore throat, or other minor illness) arise during a practice session, game, and similar activity or while traveling to and from an athletic event we hereby grant consent to any and all healthcare providers designated by Gulf Shores High School to provide my child any necessary medical care. This includes but is not limited to over the counter medication (i.e. Advil, Pepto Bismal, cough syrup). I also understand that I will be notified by a phone call or note from the care provider if such medicine is issued frequently for the same condition.

**Parent/Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature/Student Athlete** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**BALDWIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION  
AGREEMENT FORM**

The following requirements shall apply to any student leaving campus under circumstances where the students will be transporting themselves via privately owned vehicles to participate in any school related program or activity. It is the sole responsibility of the undersigned student and parent/guardian to comply with the following:

- Students must be in the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade and possess a valid driver’s license.
- All vehicles shall be maintained in a reasonably safe condition.
- All vehicles and drivers shall be insured in accordance with all mandatory insurance requirements imposed by the State of Alabama.
- Students and parents/guardians are responsible for all aspects of transportation and all costs associated therewith.
- Other than parents or guardians, students shall not transport passengers.
- Parents/Guardians shall assume responsibility for their child during all periods of transportation hereunder.
- Students shall comply with all applicable laws of the State of Alabama and all policies of the Baldwin County Public Schools.
- There shall be no obligation on the part of the Board to monitor or supervise student transportation hereunder.
- Each student, his/her parents/guardians and the principal must sign this Transportation Agreement Form prior to any period of transportation provided for herein.
- Students shall comply with all applicable attendance policies.
- Students shall follow any additional accountability measure implemented in furtherance of this agreement.

We, the undersigned student and parent/guardian, agree to release and hold harmless the Baldwin County Board of Education and its employees from any liability for injury to person or damage to property which may occur during the course of any period of transportation hereunder. We further assume full responsibility for the conduct of the undersigned student driver. We acknowledge that the driving privileges provided for herein may be revoked in the discretion of the school principal for failure to adhere to the requirements set forth above.

**SIGNATURES REQUIRED:**

Student Name	Student Signature	Date
Address _____ _____	Phone _____	
Parent Name	Parent Signature	Date
Principal or Principal Designee	Date	



**RELEASE FROM LIABILITY OF BALDWIN COUNTY BOARD OF  
EDUCATION, ITS PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS OR SUPERVISORS  
STUDENT NAME ACTIVITY**

This is to certify that the above named student has my permission to attend the activity noted above. I also absolve and release the Baldwin County Board of Education, its members, superintendent, principals, teachers, or other assigned staff from any claims for personal injuries and medical expenses which might be sustained while my child is engaged in, or is en route to and from or during, the above noted activity. I also authorize the assigned staff member of the Baldwin County Board of Education to secure the services of a physician or hospital, and to incur the expenses for necessary services in the event of accident or illness. I agree that I will be responsible and make payment for the necessary services incurred. I currently have in force a medical insurance policy with \_\_\_\_\_, which insures me against medical expenses incurred for my child. We have read and agree to abide by the Code of Student Conduct and further agree to abide by the specific rules and regulations established by the assigned staff member to this activity.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT  
PARENT/GUARDIAN  
ADDRESS  
TELEPHONE

# Baldwin County BOE

## Parent Permission Form

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ School GSHS

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Parent or Guardian of,  
\_\_\_\_\_ agree to permit the Baldwin County Public Schools to photograph, audiotape, or videotape my child at any time my child may be at school or at any school function or activity and I give my permission to the Baldwin County Public Schools to use any such photographs, audiotapes, or videotapes for whatever purpose they may deem appropriate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/ Guardian

## **Gulf Shores High School: Injury Information**

Athletic Trainer: Camille Forte/ Alisha Tolbert

Team Physician: Dr. Tim Frerichs

Can be reached through athletic department at 251-968-4747

OR

For appointments/information contact

Camille Forte at 256-617-0919

Alisha Tolbert at 251-424-7125

*All forms including insurance, consent, HIPPA, and updated physical must be filled out prior to participation.*