

Garner ISD Athletic Handbook

Introduction

This handbook communicates important information concerning athletic policies and procedures for Garner ISD Athletics. After reviewing this information, we ask that the parents and students sign the receipt page located in the back of the handbook and turn it into his/her head coach. As it is impractical to cover every possible occurrence, any issue that arises that is not covered will defer judgement to the head coach of the sport and then to the Athletic Director.

Philosophy

The athletic program is part of the total educational program here at Garner. Sports are a vital part of the physical, mental, social, and moral growth of our students. Sports are extracurricular, not designed to transcend the academic program, but to enhance it. Our program values teaching dedication, commitment, goal setting, hard work, fair play, sportsmanship, teamwork, and sacrifice. Furthermore, we believe that living up to these values, can and will, serve as an outstanding extension of academics.

Academics

The character and hard work of athletes should and will manifest itself in the classroom. Athletes are expected to manage their time and schedule so that sufficient time and energy are applied to their studies ensuring acceptable grades. In addition to maintaining good grades, the athlete is expected to give their respectful attention to classroom activities and for faculty and other students at all times. Student grades will be monitored by coaching staff through various means of grade checks and teacher communication. Student-athletes who are struggling will receive mentoring, tutoring, counseling, and or motivation, as needed, in order to improve the student's success.

Athletic Goals

1. Teach and apply the values of hard work, discipline, and teamwork
2. Develop sportsmanship in our athletes, coaches, and community
3. Adhere to all rules set forth by TEA, UIL, and Garner ISD
4. Have fun while promoting Garner Greatness!

Obligations of the Athlete

Practice and Game Attendance:

It is the obligation and responsibility of the athlete to attend all scheduled practices, meetings, and competitions. If this commitment, for any reason, is going to be broken; prior notification shall be given to the coach.

Tardiness:

It is the obligation and responsibility of the athlete to be on time to all scheduled practices, meetings, and competitions. If this commitment, for any reason, is going to be broken; prior notification shall be given to the coach.

*Note: Coaches of each sport will have makeup work and/or punishment for missed practices and violations of these obligations respectfully.

Dressing Out:

Athletes are expected to dress out for all practices. Discretion will be used for those who are injured and cannot physically dress out.

Equipment and Uniforms:

All clothing, materials, and equipment belonging to Garner ISD must be treated with care and caution. Athletes are responsible for keeping school-issued equipment clean and secure. All athletes are responsible for returning uniforms and any other equipment issued by Garner ISD, in a timely manner (usually 7 days) as prescribed by their coach at the end of that sport's season. Theft, loss, or damage of any equipment is the athlete's financial responsibility.

*Note: Privilege to begin next sport, award recognition, letter jackets, removal from athletic program, and other privileges may be withheld until all equipment is returned or replaced.

Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drugs (including vape of any kind)

It is a violation of the athletic policy of Garner ISD for athletes to use or possess alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia, tobacco products, or any form of vape products on or off of school premises. Violations of this nature, reported by a coach, school administrator, or law enforcement will be investigated by the athletic department (coaches and administrators.)

Punishment for Violation of Rule:

First Offense: One-week suspension from all athletic competitions. Coach of sport will maintain authority over amount of physical activity needed to retain commitment to team.

Second Offense: One-year suspension from all athletic competitions. Athletic Director will maintain authority over amount of physical activity needed to retain commitment to program. Ex: (80 miles running over that year)

Third Offense: Complete removal from Athletic Program.

Behavior

Poor Attitude:

Any action that a coach determines as detrimental to their team(s) could result in an athlete being suspended for all or part of a sport's season. Suspension shall be dealt with on an individual basis. Some examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to:

1. Poor Effort or laziness
2. Disrespect to staff, teammates, officials, or opponents
3. Negative team morale (including language)

Hazing:

No athlete, at any time, by means of practical jokes, initiation rites, horseplay, or any other method may humiliate a fellow athlete or any other student. The Garner ISD Athletic Program will not tolerate hazing in any form. No one has to "earn their way" on a team by being subject to humiliation or ridicule by other members of a team. It is the duty of every athlete to discourage this behavior if witnessed. The Athletic Director will discipline any athlete deemed guilty of some, or any, form of hazing. The punishment for such a violation could and would likely lead to complete removal from Athletic Program.

In/Out of School Suspension:

Athletes assigned to school suspensions are still required to attend all outside the school day practices and to complete any makeup work, assigned by coaches, for missed athletic periods. If the suspension occurs on the day of a competition, the athlete will be suspended from that competition.

AEP:

Athletes are suspended from any and all athletic competitions during the term of assigned AEP. If not removed from team or athletics, the student will complete makeup work assigned by coach.

Destruction of Property:

Any athlete caught vandalizing school property or property of an opposing school will be subject to punishment. Each case will be handled on an individual basis and could include fixing, cleaning, or paying for destruction and could lead to removal from sport or Athletic Program.

Quitting a Sport:

Commitment is a key value and a necessity in any Athletic Program. It is one of the most valuable lessons learned in athletics.

Every athlete at Garner ISD will be given a "Free Trial Period" for each sport. The trial period will last for one week beginning the first day of official practice for the sport. Should the athlete (or parents) determine that the sport is not for them, they may choose not to participate with no repercussions.

After the "Free Trial" all athletes are determined to be committed to the team and expected to finish the season with their team. Should an athlete choose to break this commitment, they will not be allowed to begin any other sport until

the preceding sport has completely finished their season. Multiple violations of this commitment could lead to dismissal from the Athletic Program.

Personal Appearance

Student-athletes act as representatives of our school and community. Therefore, they are required to exhibit a well-groomed and appropriate appearance. These standards are expected to be exhibited throughout the year and not just “in season.”

All athletes, in any sport, will at a minimum, dress and groom, at or above the standards laid out in the Student Handbook.

There may also be additional standards required by coaches for their particular sports. Athletes wishing to participate in these sports will abide by the standards. I.e.; a coach requiring collared shirts to be worn on game day.

Additional Standards:

1. Jewelry may not be worn during practices or competitions.
2. Tattoos may not be visible
3. Hair may not impede vision or be kept in an unsafe manner. (I.e. medical personnel can't view eyes when checking for concussions etc.) If a coach determines that it does not meet the standard of their sport, then it must be cut or athlete may not be allowed to play until it has been.
4. Clothing representing alcohol, drugs, violence, gangs, inappropriate language, or in any manner offensive may not be worn.
5. Coaches of each sport will determine appropriate travel dress, head gear, sweat band policy, and any other multitude of accessory issues.

Social Media

Please note that if a student athlete is determined to be having a detrimental or a negative effect on a team's moral, that student athlete may be removed from the team and/or Athletic Program. We know that social media venues can be a great place for communication, for supporting others, and for showing pride in your school and programs. However, we also know they have been used to harass, embarrass, or degrade others. Again, hazing and negative team morale will not be tolerated.

Parent Support

Parents are fully expected to support the Athletic Program, their child's sports, and their child and teammates. This support can be shown in multiples ways:

1. By cheering and supporting in a positive manner at competitions.
2. By being involved with programs such as Booster Club
3. By initiating actions such as spirit lines, etc...
4. By volunteering or completing assignments such as concession stand help.
5. By accepting rulings by officials for what they are and reacting in a positive manner
6. Finally, by simply being there for your child and our program

Communicating with Coaches

Communication lines are expected to be open from our coaches to our community and vice versa. Once a student becomes a member of an Athletic Program, they, and their parents, have a right to know the expectations that are expected. However, there are appropriate methods for communicating with coaches.

What a parent should expect:

1. The expectations the coach has for your child
2. Locations and times of all practices, meetings, and competitions
3. Team requirements (fees, equipment, etc...)
4. Standards and Discipline issues that directly affect your child and their participation

Appropriate Discussions with coach:

1. Treatment of your child
2. Ways your child can improve

3. Any concerns about your child's behavior
4. Ways you can help support the program

Inappropriate Discussions with Coach:

1. Amount of playing time
2. Play calling
3. Team Strategy
4. Other student-athletes in any regard

Parent/Coach Conferences:

If you need a conference with a coach, please follow these procedures:

1. Call the Athletic Department and set up a meeting with the coach during their conference period the following day or as soon as possible after the following day. Do not confront a coach before, during, or after a competition or practice. These can be emotional times and usually do not promote a productive or rational solution to issues.
2. If a satisfactory resolution is not reached, please contact the head coach of that sport.
3. If issues still persist, you are welcome to call the Athletic Department and set up a meeting with the Athletic Director.

Forms and Paperwork

Physicals:

No student/athlete shall be eligible for participation until they have passed an adequate physical examination and have it on file with Garner ISD. The UIL physical form must be completed and signed by a licensed physician, a parent or legal guardian, and by the student/athlete. Physicals are required by all student upon entering their first year in Junior High Sports, upon entering their first year of high school sports, and two years after entering high school (typically 7th, 9th, & 11th grade years.) They may also be required for anyone who was injured during the previous years or notes they have conditions that require a physical examination.

Athletic Packet:

1. UIL Acknowledgment of Rules
2. Concussion Acknowledgment Form
3. Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form
4. Parent/Student Steroid Agreement Form
5. Medical History/Physical Form
6. Emergency Information Form

This packet must be filled out completely. Please double check that all information is properly filled out and sign in appropriate areas.

Injuries

A potential for injury is an inherent possibility in any sport. Even with the outstanding coaching, most advanced equipment, and the strictest adherence to the rules, injuries can happen.

Athletes should report any injury to both their parents and their coaches. Please remember that coaches are neither doctors or athletic trainers. They can make suggestions based on experience, but they are not certified to diagnose, treat, and/or release athletes from injury.

If an athlete sustains an injury that requires medical treatment, he/she must have a doctor's release before returning to practice or competition.

If any athlete is injured during an event:

1. Coach will get emergency help if needed
2. Coach will contact parent or guardian
3. Coach will contact Athletic Director and/or Administrator on duty
4. If injury requires EMS or Hospitalization, all parties will be kept up-to-date on status

Receipt of Garner ISD Athletic Handbook

Athlete's Name (print) _____

I have received a copy of the Garner ISD Athletic Handbook.

I understand that all athletes are accountable for the information outlined in the handbook.

Athlete's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Name (Print) _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

After Reading and signing this page. Please tear this page from back of athletic handbook
And return it with other forms contained in the athletic packet. Have a Great Year!