

GREYHILLS ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL Athletic Handbook



School Year 2024-25

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GAHS CHECK OFF LIST

1. ___ Completed current school year Greyhills Academy High School enrollment packet
2. ___ AIA Forms: Annual Pre-participation Physical Evaluation, Physical Examination, Concussion Statement, and Consent to Treat Form.
3. ___ Parent permission and Emergency Medical Release Card
4. ___ Student Participation Agreement, Parent/guardian consent
5. ___ Consent of Emergency Care, Release and Assumption of Risk form
6. ___ Proof of Medical/Health insurance
7. ___ Signed acknowledgment of Athletic Handbook

INTRODUCTION

To Parents/Guardians:

This handbook is presented to you and your student athlete because he/she has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics and you have expressed your willingness to permit him/her to compete. Your family interest in this phase of our school program is gratifying and your positive support and encouragement of your child's educational priority and the athletic program is appreciated. The Athletic handbook is intended to provide Greyhills Academy High School athletes and parents with essential information for a successful and fulfilling experience of the GAHS interscholastic athletic programs, and to improve communication between the parent, athlete and the athletic department.

To the Athlete:

Becoming a member of Greyhills Academy High School athletic team is fulfilling an early ambition for many students. As a member of the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) and Greyhills Academy High School, you will inherit and understand what Pursuing Victory with Honors means and supports. Our desire to achieve success in competition shall not be overshadowed with unbecoming conduct. Our desire to win will be upheld to respect ourselves, our family, our school, and our community. It will not be easy to contribute to such a great athletic tradition, but can be supported through your commitment to overall excellence. When you wear the colors of your school, you assume the responsibilities it entails respectfully. The contributions you can make should align with family values and satisfactory accomplishment. The goal of sportsmanship is not simply to win, but to pursue victory with honors by giving your best effort.

To the Coach:

As a member of the athletic coaching staff, adhering to the Vision and Mission statements of Greyhills Academy High School is expected. Coaching is about providing young people with opportunities to succeed. Coaches unlock a person's potential to maximize their performance. A good coach will make his/her athletes see what they can be rather than what they are. A good coach can change the game; a great coach can change a life. Treating and coaching each student-athlete... *as your very own child*, is an important Greyhills Academy commitment and the qualities describing coaching responsibilities and what is a coach, exemplifies that commitment. Therefore, your success and your athlete's success is your responsibility.

PHILOSOPHY

The Greyhills Academy High School Athletic Department will strive to be a source of pride for our athletes, students, school, and community. We believe athletics to be a beneficial and valuable experience. Athletics is an area in which the young men and women who participate can develop the skills they need to meet the demands and challenges of adult life. Such personal traits as sacrifice, determination, discipline, and the will to succeed will always be part of athletics; however, all students should remember, classroom performance should always come first. We will continue to seek significant contributions to the total education of our students.

PURPOSE

“ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE is our Priority and ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES is our Privilege”

Participation in athletics is considered a privilege, not a right. As an athlete you can earn this privilege through dedication, desire, and discipline. The athlete must discipline themselves to be of good citizenship and strive to achieve academic and athletic excellence. For a determined course of action in the pursuit of academic and athletic achievement and the character training of young men and women, the following Athletic Policies shall be understood and agreed to between the school, the student-athletes, and the parents/guardians.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Greyhills Academy High School seeks to contribute to the growth, development and education of all student-athletes with the following goals and objectives:

- Each student is aware of the importance and value of a physically fit body, how to reach that acceptable fitness level, and how to maintain that level.
- Each student will realize that a healthy body increases the probability of effective learning
- Each student understands the important role of healthy mental attitudes and emotional stability in effective athletic performance
- Through the practice of justice, fair play, and good sportsmanship, each student will develop good citizenship and respect for rules and authority
- Each student will be provided the opportunity to develop his/her athletic skills to their fullest potential
- Each student will realize the benefits of self-esteem, self-confidence, a desire to achieve, and a commitment to excellence
- The athletic programs will develop the leadership qualities that each student brings
- The athletic programs will seek to promote community interest and involvement in school activities by providing enjoyable experiences for participants and spectators
- Through athletic participation, each student will become aware of the principles of responsibility

Arizona Interscholastic Association ELIGIBILITY RULES

Requirements

To be eligible to participate in any athletic contest, a student must meet one of the following requirements: Domicile

1. Be living with parents who reside in the high school attendance area.
 - A student who transfers to a new school attendance with one parent where the parents are not divorced or legally separated, is not eligible at the school to which he/she transfers.
 - A student may reside with a guardian; but the guardian must be a legal guardian appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction.
 - If the student lives with a legal guardian, he/she must petition the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) Executive Board to be declared eligible.
2. Any student that has attended the same high school a minimum of one school year is eligible at that high school. (Must be from the previous school year)
3. An eighth-grade student enrolled in the ninth grade for the first time is eligible for participation no matter where his/her parents reside.
4. A foreign exchange student that is placed in the school's attendance boundary by a bona fide exchange program is eligible unless they have graduated in their home country.

Eight Semesters Eligibility Rule

A student is privileged with eligibility for only four (4) consecutive seasons in each sport or activity and for no more than eight (8) consecutive semesters after he/she first enrolls in the ninth grade.

Age

Any student who becomes nineteen (19) years of age on or after September 1st will be eligible to participate. Any student who becomes nineteen before September 1st is not eligible for athletic participation for any part of that school year.

Competition of School Team Only

A student who becomes a member of a school team shall not practice or compete with any other group, club organization, association in that sport during the interscholastic season of competition. The interscholastic season of competition shall begin with the first regularly scheduled game and conclude with that team's final game. Any student violating this rule shall forfeit his/her eligibility for a minimum of the balance of the season for that sport or up to a maximum of one calendar year.

Amateur Standing

Each student athlete shall be and shall remain an amateur.

GAHS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Student-Athlete Assumption of Risk Statement

Safety for student athletes during participation in the interscholastic athletic program is of utmost concern. Greyhills Academy High School attempts to provide all students with a safe practice and playing environment. Proper protective equipment and proper facilities maintenance are provided as an important aspect in injury prevention. Despite these efforts, injuries do occur. Athletic competition by its very nature creates various situations where injuries cannot be avoided. As an athletic participant, there is always the possibility that you may

sustain an injury, and this could range from a minor concussion to a severe spinal cord injury resulting in quadriplegic or death.

Travel Policies for Student

1. All students must travel in school transportation to all sports and activities sanctioned by the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA).
2. A student/athlete may only be checked out by an adult on the student's check out list, AFTER the sporting activity event.
3. Coaches will encourage student/athletes to look and act the part of student/athlete representing the school with at all sports and activities sanctioned by AIA.
4. Student/athletes will respect and care for all GAHS property.
5. Parents or guardians will be notified of departure time and return time.
6. All athletes will meet eligibility through the Athletic Department prior to traveling date.

No Pass, No Play Policy

Greyhills Academy High School requires the following to be eligible to participate in any athletic events:

1. A student must be enrolled in GAHS as a full-time student as required by AIA.
2. A student must maintain a "C" or better in every class (2.0 or better in every class).
3. A student will become ineligible if there is one or more "D(s)" on the Grade Report.
4. A student will become ineligible if there is one or more "F(s)" on the Grade Report.
5. After school tutoring will be required in lieu of practice to make-up deficient grade.

No Pass, No Play Procedure

1. The student/athlete's respective teacher will submit a progress grade report to Infinite Campus or with eligibility report forms given to all GAHS students.
2. The Athletic Director or designee will collect the progress report online with Infinite Campus and check grades for eligibility.
3. Grade Checks will be administered every three weeks. Eligibility forms for quick references as students attend each class and have teachers fill and sign.
4. All teachers will submit a progress grade and the Athletic Director or designee will determine eligibility.

Participation Clearance Card

All students must meet the minimum requirements set forth by the Arizona Interscholastic Association before they will be issued any equipment, allowed to practice, or participate in interscholastic competition.

1. Student athletes should pick up all clearance materials from the athletic department. The clearance packet will contain the following information:
 - Physical examination forms,
 - Emergency care information and other consent forms
 - Student Waiver of Liability Form
 - Parent and Student Code of Conduct Form.
2. When all materials have been filled out, return them to the Athletic Director along with a copy of your birth certificate and a clearance card will be issued to the students.

It is the responsibility of the entire Athletic Department to ensure that all students who participate in athletics have met all eligibility requirements set forth by the Arizona Interscholastic Association. If any student or parent has a question regarding athletic eligibility they should contact the Athletic Director.

DISCIPLINE and CONDUCT POLICY

Student-athletes of Greyhills Academy High School will abide by the Student and Parent Handbook Discipline and Student Code Policies. Actions or words which are disrespectful to the coaching staff, or school personnel, will not be tolerated and could be grounds for dismissal from that sport.

Greyhills Academy High School practices a strong Zero Tolerance policy. Any student athlete who is found to have violated the Zero Tolerance policy of Greyhills Athletic Department will be removed from that activity for the remainder of the regular season and post-season play. A second offense will constitute removal from future activities for the remainder of the school year. GAHS Zero Tolerance Policy:

- Use or possession of tobacco, alcohol, or any non-prescribed narcotics or drugs that is defined as illegal by Arizona law.
- Use or possession of any firearms, explosives and/or weapons, including bomb threats, setting off fire alarms, vandalizing of school, etc.
- Sexual Harassment, hazing, bullying, etc.
- Failure to abide by GAHS Covid-19 Safety Protocols

There shall be no hazing, solicitation to engage in hazing, or aiding and abetting another who is engaged in hazing of any person enrolled, accepted or promoted to enrollment, or intending to enroll or be promoted within twelve (12) calendar months. "Hazing" means any intentionally, knowing or reckless act committed by a student, whether individually or in concert with other person, against another student.

Due Process for Athletes

In the event of a reported violation requiring disciplinary action of any athlete, the following protocol must be followed:

1. The coach has the right to immediately suspend a student athlete who violates school or team rules and regulations until the due process procedure has been completed.
2. The coach will immediately inform the athlete and the Athletic Director or designee of the alleged violation in writing.
3. The athlete will have an opportunity to respond to allegations in writing within two (2) days to the coach and Athletic Director or designee.
4. The Athletic Director or designee will administer a decision to the alleged violation in writing to both parties involved.
5. If the athlete is not satisfied with the Athletic Director's or designee's decision, he/she may appeal to the Principal.
6. If the athlete is not satisfied with the Principal's decision, he/she may appeal to the Chief Administrator.

Attendance

The following will be adhered to for all programs in the Greyhills Athletic Department:

1. In the event that an athlete has an unexcused absence from practice the day before competition, that athlete will be not allowed to participate in the scheduled athletic event.
2. If circumstances arise whereby the athlete cannot attend practice or meeting, he/she must:
 - Notify the coach prior to the practice or meeting to be missed.
 - Contact can be done by personal contact, phone call, or written statement from the parent or guardian.
 - Excessive absences from practices or games may be cause for removal from the team.
3. An athlete must attend all class periods to practice or participate in a scheduled event.
4. Athletes are responsible for seeing their teachers for all class work the day prior to any away games.

Equipment and Uniforms

Greyhills Athletic Department has adopted the following regulations regarding sports equipment and uniforms.

1. School uniforms are to be used or worn in competition only. Exception: Jerseys may be worn the day of or before competition to enhance school pride.
2. Student athlete will be held responsible for unusual abuse or loss of equipment.
3. Student athlete will be held responsible for all athletic equipment issued to them.
4. Student athlete shall return all equipment and uniforms issued to them within one (1) week after completion of any season or immediately if dropped from any activity. If after one week, the equipment/uniform is not returned, the student will be pulled from any activity he/she is currently participating in.
5. Student shall pay for all items not returned. Their money may be refunded when items are returned in good condition with receipt.

Student Responsibility

Participation in high school athletics is a privilege that carries a certain amount of individual responsibility. The following guidelines are set forth to assist each student athlete meet and accept those responsibilities.

1. Report all injuries to the coach as soon as possible.
2. Team practices are scheduled during the season. Please be prompt.
3. As a member of an athletic team, members are representing much more than themselves. Athletes should always strive to be on their best behavior, on and off the court. Qualities of good character will bring pride to themselves, their team, their school and their families.
4. As an athlete, poor decision making or errors in judgement may be deemed unacceptable by social standards and may not be taken lightly. Stealing, disrespect, fighting, excessive display of affection, or any other inappropriate behaviors certainly are not in the best interest of Greyhills Academy High School.
5. On the field or court, the student athlete should conduct himself/herself in commendable

manner. True athletes always have complete control of themselves. Coaches will review and discuss more specific regulations related to proper athletic conduct.

6. At all times, student athletes are expected to follow training rules as outlined by their coaches. Use of drugs and poor citizenship are grounds for immediate dismissal from the activity.
7. The Athletic Department recognizes those athletes who successfully complete an interscholastic athletic program. Each successful participant will receive recognition for completion, in addition to other honors by their coaches.

Athlete's Code of Conduct/Ethics

As a member of the Greyhills Academy High School athletic program, I pledge to myself:

To demonstrate **courtesy** by:

- Showing respect for the rights, privileges, and safety of fellow students and adults;
- Having proper conduct at school;
- Always be polite.

To aim for **higher academic achievements** by:

- Attending school regularly and being on time for school and classes unless properly excused;
- Striving for good study habits;
- Being efficient in completing and turning in assignments;
- Always being honest and trustworthy in all my actions;
- Setting a reasonable goal and striving to reach it.

To show **respect** for school property by:

- Treating furniture and facilities as my own;
- Putting refuse in proper containers.

To practice **sportsmanship** by:

- Upholding fair play;
- Being gracious in defeat and modest in victory;
- Being a worthy representative at all games.

To promote **school spirit** by:

- Supporting team and cheerleaders;
- Attending extracurricular activities;
- Participating in pep rallies;
- Having pride in, and loyalty to my school.

To promote **healthy choices** and avoid illegal substance by:

- Being drug free;
- Taking an active role in prevention of drug, alcohol, and tobacco.

Parent's Code of Conduct/Ethics

As a parent of Greyhills Academy High School student athlete, I pledge myself to:

Respect coaches;

- Treat coaches with respect at all times. Recognize that they have goals beyond those of your child;
- Do not shout to players or coaches from the stands; let the players play and coaches' coach.

Accept responsibility;

- Place the academic, emotional, physical and moral values of your child/children above the pressures to win;
- Be honest with your child about the possibilities of getting an athletic scholarship or playing on a professional level.

Be considerate;

- Be considerate of other players and parents;
- Provide positive comments to players and other parents;
- Be supportive and positive of the entire team.

Use the Chain of Command;

- If an athlete or parent has a disagreement with a coach, the Athletic Department requests that you make an appointment with the coaching staff to meet and try to work out the problem with the coach first;
- Athletes and parents should respect the private lives of coaches and should not contact them at home except in the case of an emergency;
- If the situation cannot be resolved, the athlete or parent will then go to the Athletic Director or designee, from there the grievance will go to the Principal. This process must be followed.

Respect Playing Time;

- Varsity Level Programs
 - The philosophy of the varsity programs is to place the best combination of athletes into a game or match situation;
 - This combination of athletes is to be determined by the coaching staff based on their evaluation of athletes;
 - There is NO GUARANTEED PLAYING TIME;
 - If the parent has a concern regarding playing time, he/she should make an appointment with the coach.
- Junior Varsity and Freshman Programs
 - The philosophy of the Junior Varsity and Freshman programs are to emphasize the development of physical and social skills for each athlete;
 - To teach fundamentals and basic skills in preparation for Varsity level program;
 - To learn the rules and regulations of organized sports.

Coaches' Code of Ethics

It shall be the responsibility of a coach to follow the directions provided in the following Coach's Code of Ethics. To ensure compliance with AIA policy and prevent sanctions all coaches are expected to follow the coach's code of ethics (AIA Article 17.4.1).

A Coach shall:

Abide by the National Federation, AIA, and Greyhills Academy High School rules in both spirit and letter. Ensure that the Recruitment Rule defined in Article 15, Section 15.12 is honored by everyone associated with their program. Coaches and/or game management personnel will not manipulate or control the environment or game conditions to gain an advantage over an opposing team or individual (AIA Article 17.4.2).

A Coach/sponsor should:

Cooperate with others in the field of education. Exemplify behavior that is a credit to the teaching profession. Exercise patience, tolerance and diplomacy in relations with all players and co-workers, contest officials and spectators. Adhere to high ideals of sportsmanship: quality of cooperation, courage, unselfishness and self-control; desires for clean, healthful living; and respect for wise discipline and authority. Support all reasonable moves to improve athletic conditions, to provide for adequate equipment, and to promote the welfare of an increased number of participants. Demonstrate high ideals, good habits and desirable attitudes in professional behavior, and demand the same standards of the players. Not make statements to or use the news media in a manner that is not consistent with the principles and objectives of the AIA, which include promoting cooperation, friendship and good sportsmanship among member schools (AIA Article 17.4.3).

GAHS Athletic Policies

ATHLETICS are part of the total education program at Greyhills Academy High School. We believe that participation in athletics provides our students a wide variety of rewarding experiences and the opportunity to develop many worthwhile traits: self-respect, self-discipline, character, leadership skills, decision making skills, and to develop personal habits which will promote as a lifetime goal.

General

Every Greyhills Academy High School student shall have the opportunity to participate in an interscholastic athletic program. GAHS sports participation shall be for both educational and recreational and conducted within the best interest of the student participants. All participation is subject to approval of the governing board, including approval of membership in any leagues, association, and conferences.

It is the policy of Greyhills Academy High School that students participating in athletics and other extra- curricular activities are subject to the following:

1. All athletes need to complete an athletic packet which includes:
 - a. A signed parental consent form to participate,
 - b. Emergency medical contact information,
 - c. A written physical examination clearance form by competent medical personnel,
 - d. A written statement and acknowledgement (AIA) form for reporting all injuries and /or illnesses to the school staff and/or coaches signed by the parent or guardian.
2. Must be passing all subjects/classes by maintaining a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale (a C or better in each class within a grading period).
3. The Greyhills Athletic department reserves the right to remove a student from a team for poor academic performance and may reinstate the student upon enough evidence of improvement.
4. All participants in interscholastic activities must be in compliance with all student eligibility rules. The student eligibility rules are enumerated and presented in detail in Article 15 of the AIA Bylaws (AIA Article 15.1.1).

The athletic director or designee is in charge with the oversight of the athletic sports program, including scheduling, budgeting, meeting, reporting, directly supervising all coaches, and other related duties assigned.

Handbook

The school principal and athletic director or designee shall set up other rules for participation in student athletic handbook, such as: academic standing, in accordance with policies of school, health and safety of participants, and pertinent regulations and recommendations of the state interscholastic athletic association. Periodic review of the handbook will be conducted as necessary.

Coaching

Coaches are first and foremost teachers; athletes are first and foremost students. Each should exhibit on the playing field the same high standards one would find in the academic classroom.

Hiring of coaches will be according to the GAHS Personnel Policies. All head varsity coaches shall have completed the Arizona Coaching Certificate, **or** have completed each of the following. Level I Certification criteria from the National Federation of State High School Associations online at www.nfhslearn.org (AIA Article 17.12)

- Fundamentals of Coaching
- First Aid/CPR
- Sport specific course or teaching sport skills if sport is not offered.

This certification shall be on file or recorded in the office of the Human Resource, principal or his/her designee. All head and assistant coaches, whether paid or volunteer, hired on or after April 1, 2024 must complete the NFHS Coach Education Program, or approved equivalent, within forty five (45) days from the date of hire. All head and assistant coaches, whether paid or volunteer, and all registered officials, shall complete the NFHS online education course entitled “Concussion in Sports – What You Need to Know” (AIA Article 17.1.1). All head and assistant coaches, whether paid or volunteer, and all registered officials, shall abide by AIA Concussion Policy (AIA Article; 41.3.1 – 41.3.6).

All head and assistant coaches, whether paid or volunteer, shall follow the Vision and Mission statements of Greyhills Academy High School.

Health and Safety

The health and safety of participants in the athletic sport program must receive careful consideration. The participants must always have access to water with their own water bottles during practice sessions, games, or other athletic activities. It is the athlete's responsibility to report to the coach all injuries, and illnesses, or symptoms of Covid-19 as soon as possible.

Pandemic era safety protocols are as follows:

- All athletes need to be vaccinated (should have two plus one booster)
- Mask always, practice, games, and while on campus (includes bus transportation)
- Wash and sanitize hands frequently, before, during, and after all games/practices
- Social distance in during practice and while on campus (competition only exception)

- Screen with questions and temperature check frequently
- Immediately contact coach if feeling symptomatic or sick, isolate, call parent for pick up
- If a student is confirmed with Covid-19, they will have to isolate at home (5 days), and may return once they have a negative test with no symptoms.

It is recommended that each student athlete have on file with the principal or his/her designee proof of insurance coverage or a waiver prior to practice.

Equipment and Facilities

Athletes are financially responsible for the care and condition of the equipment and uniforms issued to them. Reasonable wear and tear are accepted. Coaches and athletes are also responsible for the care and upkeep of the playing facilities. All equipment must be wiped with provided disinfectant wipes or solutions and uniforms washed daily before each use.

Attendance

Athletes shall abide by the general school policies on attendance for all students. Moreover, students involved in athletics must realize that their status on the various teams may be jeopardized by absences from school. The following items are guidelines to be utilized by the coaching staff when confronted with athletes missing school.

- Attendance is necessary and required in school and athletic activities.
- The only acceptable excuse for missing practice or a scheduled contest is illness on that day or previously arranged with the head coach.
- All athletes are expected to attend school the day before, the day of, and the day following an athletic activity
- If a student is out due to a positive test for Covid-19, they would have to isolate for a week, and will need to provide a negative test result upon return into school/practice.

