

Ganado Unified School District  
Athletic Handbook  
2023-2024



# GUSD ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

## **Introduction**

Welcome to the Ganado Unified School District Athletic Program. We have a positive, safe, healthy sporting environment for our program, school and community. Together, as one, we will continue to build a competitive program for our student athletes.

## **Purpose**

This handbook is intended to provide you with information that is essential to a successful and fulfilling participation in the Ganado Athletic Program. As parents/guardians, you are vital to the success of your child's athletic career and the Ganado Athletic Program. Note: The Ganado Middle School (GMS) student athletes and parents are included into the Ganado Athletic Program. Most rules and guidelines are applicable to middle school student athletes. The Middle School first day of practice and tryouts are available for the first quarter only and will be updated after the first athletic director's meeting.

## **ADMINISTRATION ORGANIZATION – CHAIN OF COMMAND**

	Board of Education	
	Superintendent	
	Athletic Director	
Volunteer Coach	Head Coach	Assistant Coach
	JV/Freshman Coach	
	Student-Athlete/ Manager	

## Sports/First day of practice and/or tryouts

- **GHS Fall Sports**
  - Cheer: August 07, 2023
  - Cross Country: August 07, 2023
  - Football: July 24, 2023
  - Volleyball: August 07, 2023
- **GHS Winter Sports**
  - Boys Basketball: November 6, 2023
  - Cheer: November 06, 2023
  - Girls Basketball: November 06, 2023
  - Wrestling: November 06, 2023
- **GHS Spring Sports**
  - Baseball – February 12, 2024
  - Softball – February 12, 2024
  - Track & Field – February 12, 2024
- ★ **GMS First Quarter**
  - Football - August 21, 2024
  - Cross Country - August 21, 2024

## Governing Associations

The Ganado Athletic Program supports and participates in the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) for all its high school sports as well as the Northern Arizona Interscholastic Conference (NAIC) for all its middle school sports.

Items not specifically covered in this handbook will be guided by the Ganado Unified School District Parent and Student Handbook, the Ganado Unified School District Governing Policies, 3A Conference, National Federation for High School Sports (NFHS), the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) and the Northern Arizona Interscholastic Conference Constitution and Bylaws.

## High School Athletics

The Ganado Athletic Program encourages you to read the AIA Constitution and Bylaws, found on the AIA website: [www.aiaonline.org](http://www.aiaonline.org). Pertinent information for the student-athlete and their parents/guardians can be found in Articles 14, 15, and 16 of the AIA Constitution and Bylaws. The athletic director is available to answer any questions, concerns, and/or clarifications of any section in the AIA Bylaws.

## Ganado Unified School District Athletic Program Rules and Guidelines

The Ganado Athletic Program provides a positive, safe, and healthy sporting environment. Participation in school athletics is a privilege that carries individual responsibility. These guidelines are set forth to help each student-athlete and their parent(s)/guardian(s) to meet and accept those responsibilities.

### A. Participation Eligibility

1. All high school student-athletes are required to complete the online Brainbook Concussion and Opioid Education courses prior to participation in practice/tryouts: <http://aiaacademy.org>. Both courses are required only once in high school.
2. All Student-Athletes must complete an annual Sports Physical packet. **You may renew your sports physical as early as March of every year to count toward the upcoming school year.** The Sports Physical packet includes the following forms:

- Risk Acknowledgement & Consent to Participate Forms (two pages – AIA Bylaw 15.8)
  - AIA Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form (four pages – AIA Bylaw 15.7.2.1/.2)
  - AIA Mild Traumatic Brain Injury/Concussion Acknowledgement Form (one page - AIA Bylaw 15.7.2.3)
  - AIA Consent to Treat Form (one page-AIA Bylaw 15.7.2.4)
3. You may find the forms at the following locations:
    - District Administration building
    - Front office of Ganado Middle School and Ganado High School.
    - Available via the Ganado Unified School District website. Download a copy from the following link: <http://ghs.ganado.k12.az.us/Athletics>
  4. All student-athletes are cleared to participate only when all required forms are complete and turned into the Athletic Director. At the beginning of each season, the Athletic Director will provide you with a tryout pass.
  5. The age limit for high school students, the student cannot turn 19 before September 1<sup>st</sup> (AIA Bylaw 15.6.1), while middle school students cannot turn 15 before September 1<sup>st</sup> (NAIC Bylaw Rule 6). Student athletes enrolled in grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade may participate in middle school athletics.
  6. In order for high school student-athletes to establish eligibility, a student's initial enrollment shall be no later than the 14th official school day of the semester. If a student's initial enrollment occurs after the 14th official school day of the semester, he/she is ineligible for that semester (AIA Bylaw 15.3.2)
    - The 14<sup>th</sup> official day of school for Ganado High School is August 21, 2023. Students who transfer to Ganado High School after this day cannot join athletics for the semester (AIA Bylaw 15.3.2)
    - Should the student transfer after August 02, 2023 (first day of school) but before August 21, 2023, the student must make up the number of missed days of school before they can participate in athletics (AIA Bylaw 15.3.3).
  7. All Student-Athletes must accumulate ten practice days at the high school level and ten practice days at the middle school level before participation in the first contest (NAIC Bylaw Rule 5).
    - Student-athletes whose state playoff/postseason practices exceed the start of the next season's official start date will be able to count towards the required practices.

## **B. Academic Eligibility**

1. Student-athletes must maintain a 70% or better in every class to be deemed eligible at the high school level and 70% as well at the middle school level.
2. Ineligible student-athletes may practice during ineligibility, but cannot travel or participate in a contest. However, it is in the best interest of the Student Athlete to attend afterschool tutoring. It is at the coaches' discretion for ineligible student-athletes to support their team from the bench during home games.
3. Any student-athlete deemed ineligible **three times** in a season will be released from the team.
4. Student-athletes with an academic status of No Credit (NC), will be ineligible until credit is recovered.
5. Student-athletes are encouraged to take advantage of academic tutorials offered by teachers and online tutorial programs like ALEKS (math) and STAR/AR360

(reading).

### **C. Transfer Students for High School Student-Athletes**

1. Steps for Filling out the Transfer Form 550
  - Upon enrollment at the new school (receiving school), student-athletes and their parents/guardians shall visit <https://admin.aiaonline.org/public-forms/student-transfer> to begin the transfer process. If you do not have internet access, the athletic director may assist student-athletes and their parents/guardians in scheduling a time to utilize a school laptop/computer.
  - Once submitted, AIA Bylaw 15.10.2 shall be followed. The sending school administration shall provide to the receiving school, via Form 550, the verification of activities in which a transferring student has participated. The receiving and sending school(s) shall reasonably cooperate and complete Form 550. Upon receipt by the receiving school of a completed Form 550, assuming all other eligibility requirements are met, the student becomes eligible for all interscholastic activities except for those activities in which the student has competed during the current or previous school year.
2. Transfer Eligibility Dates Per Sport
  - Regardless of the number of games scheduled, a student must sit out a minimum of 50% of contests (AIA Bylaw 15.10.1.1).
  - If a transfer occurs during the season, the student is ineligible for one year from the date of their first attendance (15.10.1.2)
  - For subsequent transfers, the student is ineligible for one year from the date of their first attendance (15.10.1.3)
3. Hardship Appeal Form 15.10
  - Student-athletes and parents/guardians wishing to appeal the outcome of Form 550, may contact the athletic director to file an appeal.

### **D. Home School Student-Athlete (AIA Bylaw 15.3.1.1)**

1. Home schooled student-athletes are required to submit documentation verifying their home school status.
2. It is the responsibility of the home school student-athlete to provide their own transportation to and from practice.
3. Home school student-athletes are responsible for submitting their % grades every Friday. Failure to do so will result in an ineligibility for the following week.

### **E. Student-Athlete Personal Conduct**

1. Student-athletes are expected to act in a manner that positively reflects their team, coach, Ganado Unified School District, and Ganado community. Individual coaches will have the authority and discretion to set team-specific policies on student-athlete conduct.
2. Students-athletes have the responsibility to follow expectations set forth by the team and coaches.
3. Students-athletes have the responsibility to report to practice at the prescribed time and with appropriate active wear and equipment.
4. During the duration of a contest, student-athletes shall not leave the field, track, court, bench area, without the consent of the coach.
  - School athletic programs at all levels are subject to disciplinary action when a school team is removed from the floor or field, prior to completion of the

contest (AIA Bylaw 19.3.1).

- No player may leave the playing area and enter the spectator area of the facility to engage in any type of verbal or physical conflict. The minimum penalties for this violation include; The player is ineligible to participate in all interscholastic athletics for the remainder of the school year (AIA Bylaw 16.3.3.1).
5. Student-athletes are responsible for managing their time by balancing their academics and athletics in order to minimize tardiness and absences.
  6. Student-athletes shall remain with the team on school grounds and/or in designated areas at all times unless released to their parents/guardians or authorized adult.
  7. Student-athletes have the responsibility to report concerns to their coach.
  8. Student-athletes have the responsibility to maintain their personal health and cleanliness.
  9. Student-athletes have the responsibility to complete any missed assignments upon return to school from an athletic event.
  10. Student athletes have the responsibility to follow policies stated under Public Displays of Affections (PDA). PDA is prohibited. Examples of PDA include, but are not limited to: hand holding, hugging, kissing, etc. (Section V of the GUSD Parent and Student Handbook: General Rules for Student Behavior, Letter J - Page 25).
  11. Student-athletes have the responsibility to follow policies stated under Dress Code (Section V: of the GUSD Parent and Student Handbook: General Rules for Student Behavior, Letter J - Page 25).
    - Exceptions during practice/contest include: spandex shorts/leggings as it is recognized as athletic uniform code for cheer, cross country, volleyball, wrestling, and track & field.

**F. Practices/Tryouts**

1. Team practice schedules are at the discretion of the coach. Practices shall not be scheduled for Sunday (AIA Bylaw 14.2.1).
2. The tryout process is at the discretion of the coach. This includes the number of days, and the assessment/evaluation of skills.
3. The team roster limit is at the discretion of the coach and shall not exceed the following recommendations:

High School Sports	Athlete to Coach Ratio	# of coaches	Travel Roster Limits
Baseball	15 to 1	2	20 Varsity
Basketball	15 to 1	4	17 Varsity, 16 JV, & 16 Soph/Fresh
Cheer	15 to 1	1	16 Varsity
Cross Country, Girls/Boys	15 to 1	3	9 Varsity & 20 JV
Football	11 to 1	6	40 Varsity & 30 JV
Softball	15 to 1	2	20 Varsity

Girls/Boys Track & Field	12 to 1	4	15 Varsity & 15 JV
Volleyball	15 to 1	3	17 Varsity, 16 JV, & 16 Soph/Fresh
Wrestling, Men's	15 to 1	3	16 Varsity & 14 JV
Wrestling, Women's	15 to 1		16 Varsity & 14 JV
Middle School Sports	Athlete to Coach Ratio	# of coaches	Travel Roster Limits
Baseball	15 to 1	2	20 Varsity
Basketball	16 to 1	2	16 Varsity, 16 JV
Girls/Boys Cross Country	15 to 1	3	9 Varsity & 20 JV
Football	15 to 1	4	30 Varsity & 30 JV
Softball	15 to 1	2	20 Varsity
Girls/Boys Track & Field	11 to 1	3	15 Varsity & 10 JV
Volleyball	16 to 1	3	16 Varsity & 16 JV
Wrestling	11 to 1	3	21 Varsity & 19 JV

4. Closed practice is at the discretion of the coach.
5. All student-athletes have five practice days to decide which sport they wish to participate in each season, without penalty. The count of five days will begin once all sports practices officially begin.
6. Upon quitting a team, the student athlete will not be allowed to join another season of sport until the current/regular season is completed. All equipment/uniforms must be returned immediately to the coach or athletic director.

### **G. Attendance**

1. Student-athletes on travel with the team to events are considered present in school.
2. Student-athletes must be in attendance to all class periods the day of a contest in order to participate.
3. A student returning to practice after an absence must present a written note from a health care provider, doctor, parent/guardian, or teacher. This note should be turned into the coach on the day following the absence, otherwise, it may be considered unexcused. The note must include the following:

- The date(s) of the absence(s)
  - The date the note was written
  - The reason for the absence(s)
  - A signature of the parent/guardian
4. Excused absences might include:
    - Personal illness
    - Medical or dental appointment – with appointment slip/statement
    - Serious family illness or death in the immediate family
    - Verified Court appearances
    - Traditional ceremony
    - Out of state educational trips
    - Bad roads/inclement weather
    - Tutoring
    - Other school sponsored events
  5. Absences for the purpose of family trips and vacations are considered unexcused. Three unexcused absences to practice/contests will result in removal from the team.
  6. Student-athlete accountability before the first eligibility grade check includes the monitoring of attendance. Should a student-athlete accumulate three or more unexcused absences to school, it will result in non-participation until grade checks are given.

## **H. Grade Check Procedures**

1. The student-athlete is responsible for maintaining academic eligibility, bringing his/her grade up to eligibility requirements, and getting appropriate signatures in the ineligibility waiver process.
2. Quarterly grades (Current grades) are reported by teachers to the Athletic Director every Thursday at 4:00 pm (exceptions include the week of breaks). Ineligibilities will take effect the following Monday through Saturday of the following week. Grade checks will begin in the second week all sports begin competition.
3. A list of ineligible submissions will be provided to the coaches.
4. Coaches are responsible for notifying student-athletes of their ineligibility status. Coaches will provide student-athletes with the Ineligibility Waiver Form and ensure student-athletes understand the steps to become eligible.
5. It is at the teacher's discretion to complete the Ineligibility Waiver Form. Student-athletes and parent/guardians shall understand that completing the Ineligibility Waiver Form is a process. Parents/guardians are welcome to contact teachers via email or by setting an appointment.
6. After obtaining all signatures on the Ineligibility Waiver Form, it is the student-athletes responsibility to return the completed waiver form to their coach/Athletic Director. It is the coach's responsibility to ensure the Athletic Director receives a copy before participation in any contest.
7. It is at the coach's discretion to allow a student-athlete to travel despite a completed Ineligibility Waiver Form.

## **I. Student-Athlete Wellbeing**

1. Physical health: also known as physical trauma, is damage to the body caused by external force. This may be caused by accidents, falls, hits, weapons, etc.
  - Student-athletes shall report all injuries to the coach and to their parent(s)/guardian(s) immediately.
  - All coaches are first-aid certified and will provide appropriate treatment as needed. Parents/guardians will be notified of any treatment provided.
  - If an injury is in need of urgent medical attention, an ambulance/ EMT will be called, and parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified.
  - GUSD is not responsible for any medical expenses.
  - In the event that an injury exceeds three (3) days, student athletes are required to seek medical assistance. Clearance from the same medical facility/doctor must be received before returning to practice or competition.
2. Mental health: includes our emotional and psychological well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices.
  - Student-athletes and parents/guardians are encouraged to report any feelings of their child being overwhelmed, stressed, depressed, hopeless, worthless, agitated, socially isolated and/or lonely, etc. to the coach and to their parent(s)/guardian(s) immediately.
  - Initial referrals for psychological evaluations may come from certificated staff members or



parents, or from the student (GUSD Policy JLDA). Parents/guardians are recommended to seek counseling for their child, depending on the severity of the emotional and psychological well-being of their minor child.

- Upon assessment and recommendation of the mental health screening in a nonclinical setting or mental health treatment on a minor, to resume athletic participation, parents/guardians shall provide documentation to ensure the health and wellbeing of the student-athlete in the athletic environment.

#### **J. Behavior Contract**

1. Student-athletes have the responsibility to respect and comply with all rules. A behavior contract is utilized to support the student-athlete in recognizing consequences of their behavior/choices.
2. Should a teacher/staff contact the coach or athletic director regarding disciplinary referrals and/or minor offenses, student-athletes are required to complete a behavior contract indicating that he or she will cooperate with school personnel and work on improving any unacceptable behavior.
  - a. The Behavior Contract shall be addressed to the teacher/staff who reported the disciplinary referral.
  - b. Before participation in a contest, the behavior contract will require acknowledgement signatures from the teacher/staff, coaches, and turned into the principal and/or athletic director.
3. A behavior contract is limited to three offenses per season before the student-athlete is released from the team.

#### **K. Electronics**

1. Students bring these items to school at their own risk. The athletic department is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen electronic equipment. The athletic department will not be liable for loss, damage or theft of any personal electronic devices.

#### **L. Equipment/Uniform**

1. The head coach shall supervise and maintain record of the checkout and return of equipment and uniforms.
2. Students have the responsibility to protect school property, equipment, uniforms, and other materials issued to or used by them.
3. Students will be held financially responsible for any loss or intentional damages caused to school property. The value of loss or damaged equipment and/or uniform will be added to the student's school debt.
4. Student-athletes will not be cleared for another sport until all equipment/articles are returned, replaced, or paid for monetarily. Equipment may be returned to the coach or the athletic director.
5. Equipment that could unintentionally cause harm to others are not allowed on the regular/activity school bus. Examples of equipment include and not limited to helmets, bats, shot put, discus, javelin, etc.

#### **M. Game Day Expectations**

1. Student-athletes are to remain on school grounds by reporting to their designated areas.
2. Student-athletes of the respective sport may enter free of charge into the home contest. Student-athletes are responsible for entering facilities through the admission entrance and provide their team pass to enter free of charge. Student-athletes who do not provide proof of a team pass will not be allowed to enter unless acknowledged by a coach or administrator.
3. Students-athletes are responsible for planning ahead by bringing their own beverages/food items upon entering the facility. Parents/guardians will not be allowed to bring in beverages/food items.
4. It is at the coach's discretion to enforce a team dress up day for contests. All dress codes policies stated under Dress Code (Section V: General Rules for Student Behavior) will apply.

#### **N. Playing Time**

1. Team selection and playing time is based on student-athlete performance, attendance, and

behavior and is at the authority of the coaches.

#### **O. Locker rooms**

1. Student-athletes are responsible for their personal belongings and may store items utilizing locker storage provided at all facilities. Student-athletes may purchase personal combination locks and are responsible for keeping their key/code safe.
2. The athletic department will not be liable for the loss of personal items. It is advised that lockers are not shared and items of value are kept with you.
3. The athletic department will not be liable for personal items left in locker rooms once school has ended. Locks will be cut and items will be disposed of.

#### **P. Duty to Report**

1. Any student-athlete, coach, or parent who witnesses unsafe behavior are required to utilize the chain of command to report behaviors.

#### **Q. Energy Drinks**

1. Student-athletes shall not be in the possession of energy drinks.

#### **R. Out of Season/Summer Opportunities**

1. Out of season and open activities will be under the direction of a board approved coach, sponsor and/or authorized personnel.
2. Only students who attend GUSD are allowed to attend open activities. Middle School student-athletes may not participate in high school open activities until they are promoted from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
3. Student-athletes shall meet the eligibility requirements before participation.
4. Out of season activities and summer practices shall not overlap the dates of seasonal sports.
5. Student-athletes cannot practice or compete with other teams during the respective sports season of practice and competition. For individual sports (cross country, wrestling, and track & field), student-athletes may not enter into any competition outside the school team during the season. Any student violating this policy will be released from the team.
  - A student who is a member of a school team shall not practice or compete with any other group, club, organization, association, etc., in that sport during the interscholastic season of competition (AIA Bylaw 14.4.1)
  - Any student violating the above 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 (AIA Bylaw 14.4.1)
6. Students not affiliated with GUSD Athletic teams, who wish to enter unattached or individually may do so at the discretion of their parents/guardians. Students shall not be affiliated with the school.
  - Any student who competes outside of their school team during the season of sport, must compete UNATTACHED
  - A student competing as an individual and in his/her name shall not be coached by, transported by, financed by, or chaperoned by the school or school personnel. He/She shall not be identified as a representative of the school. He/She shall not use any school equipment when competing (AIA Bylaw 14.5.1)
7. Student-athletes and parents who seek nominations or recommendations toward all-star like competition, must do it at their own discretion. The district shall refrain from supporting and/or recommending a student-athlete to outside all-star competitions during the academic school year.
  - The member schools of the AIA oppose all-star competition during the school year and shall oppose all efforts of any organization, agency or individual to establish such competition. (AIA Bylaw 14.7.1)
  - During the school year, administrators and coaches shall decline any invitation to participate in all-star competition, shall refrain from recommending any student athlete for all-star competition and shall refuse to provide use of any high school facility for all-star

competition, unless specifically sanctioned by the Executive Board (AIA Bylaw 14.7.2)

### **S. Overnight Trips**

1. Student-athletes may not be checked out, they must remain with the team and under the supervision of coaches until the completion of the team events/individual events.
2. While at a hotel, student-athlete guests are limited to individuals listed on their check-out consent form and limited to visits in the lobby with a coach/chaperone present.
3. Student-athletes are expected to follow all rules set forth by the coach, which include and are not limited to curfews, phone, television, and internet rules.
4. Student-athletes are required to remain in the rooms they are assigned to.
5. Hotel property (such as blankets and pillows) stay in the room at all times.
6. Any damages done to the hotel room shall be reported immediately to the coach.
7. Any damages or fees incurred by a student must be paid in full by the student-athlete and/or their parent/guardian.
8. Violations of the above will result in and are not limited to: non-participation in the next overnight trip or dismissal from the team.

### **T. Student-Athlete Searches**

1. Authorized school officials may conduct searches when they have reason to suspect that the health, safety, or welfare of students may be in danger.
2. For the protection of students and staff, athletic bags in GUSD schools are required to be completely mesh or clear. Additionally, the district will not be liable for any loss, damage, or theft of confiscated bags or items in the bag.

For a complete description regarding student searches, please refer to the Student Searches under Section IV: General Student Information and Services.

### **U. Serious Offenses (See Sections V: General Rules for Student Behavior further information)**

1. Hazing
  - There shall be no hazing, or solicitation to engage in hazing, of any student enrolled in the District's schools. Aiding and abetting another person who is engaged in hazing is prohibited. Hazing is defined as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a student, whether individually or with other persons, against another student, and in which both of the following apply
  - All complaints will be handled per district policy.
2. Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Policy
  - Harassment, intimidation or bullying of one student or student group by another will not be tolerated. A.R.S. §15-341
  - Harassment is any act or communication by verbal, electronic, mechanical, telegraphic, telephonic or written means intended to harass another.
  - Intimidation occurs when a person indicates by word or conduct the intent to cause physical injury or serious damage to a person or their property.
  - Bullying is repeated acts over time that involves a real or perceived imbalance of power with the more powerful person or group attacking those who are less powerful. Bullying can be physical in form (pushing, hitting, kicking, spitting, stealing); verbal (making threats, taunts, teasing, name-calling); or psychological (social exclusion, spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships).
  - All complaints will be handled per district policy.
3. Dating Abuse Policy
  - Dating abuse is a pattern of behavior in which one person uses or threatens to use physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control the person's former or present dating partner. Behaviors used may include but are not limited to physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and threats.
  - All complaints will be handled per district policy.
4. Dangerous Weapons Policy

- A “dangerous weapon” is any weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury, except that this does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2½ inches in length. 18 U.S.C. §930(g)(2).
- The district is a Gun-Free School Zone. Possession of a firearm, weapon or other destructive device on school grounds is a violation of State and Federal laws. Firearms are not allowed in school buildings or on school grounds at any time, day or night. See Policy JICI for definitions. No student shall go onto the school premises with a dangerous weapon, including a firearm, explosive weapon, knife, any other dangerous or illegal instrument, or any instrument simulating a weapon or represented as such. A.R.S. §13-3101
- Any student-athlete violating this policy will be released from the team.

#### 5. Alcohol and Drugs Policy

- The use of (including inhalation), possession of, sale of, or being under the influence of alcoholic substances, drugs, narcotics, contraband, (including prescription or over-the-counter drugs without a prescription or in excess of the prescribed amount) or other controlled substances and/or their precursors is strictly prohibited. Drug paraphernalia are also prohibited, such as rolling papers, pipes, roach clips, coke spoons, lighter, eye drops, fragrances (sprays or aerosols), screens, bags, cans, light bulbs, matches and straws. Students who are suspected of using alcohol will be referred to the school nurse’s office and/or law enforcement authorities. Violation of the district’s alcohol and drug policy may result in a warning, reprimand, probation, suspension or expulsion in addition to other civil and criminal prosecution (See Policy JICH).
- Any student-athlete violating this policy will be released from the team.

### V. Sportsmanship

1. At all contests, student-athletes, parents, coaches, and spectators are expected to adhere to the principles of good sportsmanship at all times. Good sportsmanship is displaying cooperation, self-control, fairness, respect for one's opponent, and graciousness in winning or losing.
2. There should be no vulgar, derogatory, profane, or other inappropriate language.
3. There should be no verbal or negative gestures that indicate taunting of the officials, opponents, and their fans.
4. Student-athletes and parents shall be supportive and positive while cheering for their team.

### W. Social Media

1. Student-athletes are expected to represent themselves, their team, and GUSD with honor, dignity and integrity at all times. This includes interaction in the media, social networking websites and in other online environments. As a condition of being a student-athlete, student-athletes must abide by the following rules related to the use of the internet and social networking sites:
  - Any postings or communications via social networking websites which disrupt either the educational or athletic environments or which advocate violation of any school or team policy would be unacceptable.
  - Student-athletes may not post any pictures, information or other content that may be deemed inappropriate in accordance with GUSD Handbook Guidelines; to themselves, fellow student-athletes, teams, coaches, the athletic department, and school district.
  - Student-athletes may not suggest, share, and post any content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual, teammate, team, coach, athletic department, and school district.
2. The failure to do so will be considered a violation which will result in disciplinary action by the Athletic Department.
  - 1st Offense - Parent meeting with the head coach and the Athletic Director. Consequences will be determined based on the severity of the infraction, which may include a suspension from practice, contests, and/or released from the team.
  - 2nd Offense - Parent meeting with the head coach and the Athletic Director. Consequences

will include dismissal from the team for the season and/or ineligible for athletics for the remainder of the school year.

#### **X. Student-Athlete Discipline**

1. Student-athletes serving Out of School Suspensions (OSS) will be released from the team/season.
2. Student-athletes serving Internal School Suspensions (ISS) cannot participate in athletics until their assigned detention is served. Additionally, the student-athlete must complete a behavior contract before competing.
3. Unless otherwise noted, all other discipline will be handled per district policy, Section VI.

#### **Y. Team Photos**

1. All team members, including coaches and managers who do not plan on purchasing personal photos shall still take part in the team photo.

#### **Z. Awards**

1. High School Athletic Awards Ceremonies will be held at the end of each fall, winter, and spring season for student-athlete recognition.
  - Only varsity athletes will letter once they complete a varsity season, they will not receive additional letters thereafter.
  - Each varsity athlete will receive a letter and pin from their respective sport.
  - Student-Athletes who have been pulled up at the end of the season for regional and/or state playoffs are not considered to letter.
  - Student-athletes who completed a season will receive a Ganado Hornet Athletic apparel. They will not receive additional apparel thereafter.
  - At the end of the year, one male and one female three sport student-athlete shall be recognized with:
    - Scholar-Athlete Honors
    - All-Around Athlete Honors
      - Managers, film crew, etc. positions will not qualify towards these recognitions.
2. Middle School Athletic Pot locks will be held at the coach's discretion for student-athlete recognition.

#### **AA. Parent/Guardian Conduct**

1. Parents/guardians are expected to support athletic/team expectations by helping their child to understand rules and consequences.
2. For each season, parents/guardians are expected to attend the seasonal Parent Athletic Meetings to review expectations of the Athletic Department and meet with their child's coach.
3. Parents/guardians are encouraged to track their child's grades and attendance using FamilyLink.
4. Parents/guardians shall not interfere with student-athlete(s)/team during the duration of practices/contests.
5. Unless consent is given by the coach, parents/guardians and spectators shall not leave the bleacher/spectator area to enter onto the field, track, court, bench area, locker room, and coach's office.
6. Parents/guardians shall wait at least 24 hours before approaching a coach regarding concerns regarding the last contest.
7. Utilizing the chain of command, parents/guardians shall make an appointment 24 hours in advance to communicate concerns at the respective level regarding their child. Only legal parents/guardians listed in PowerSchool can request a meeting and may only address matters pertaining to their child. A written statement will be required BEFORE all meetings can be scheduled. Statements should include:
  - a. Date/Time of incident
  - b. Individuals involved
  - c. If applicable, statements from witnesses.

8. To ensure timely accountability of matters, it is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to address concerns within two weeks of the date of the incident.
9. Parents/Guardians and spectators may be subject for removal from an athletic contest by GUSD security or local law enforcement.
  - Spectator Behavior—In the event that spectators, parents, or other non-school personnel initiate or use profanity in cheers or chants having the intent of sounding profane, single out opposing players personally and/or heckle them by directing derogatory or profane statements or chants at them, use racist remarks, direct offensive cheers/chants at opposing cheering sections, or engage in physical conflict or other threatening or aggressive behavior with school personnel, officials, players, coaches, or other spectators, the school(s) involved shall utilize all available law enforcement resources to prosecute such offenders, and shall take all reasonable actions to help ensure that future similar incidents do not occur, such as temporarily or permanently prohibiting the offender(s) from attending future contests (AIA Bylaw 16.3.4).
9. Unsportsmanlike conduct will result in a warning. Before resuming attendance at athletic events, parents/guardians will be required to complete the online course, *Positive Sport Parenting* on the NFHS Learn website: <https://nfhslearn.com/courses>.
10. The continuation of unsportsmanlike conduct will result in banishment of the individual(s) from all athletic contest(s) for that season.

## **BB. Emergency Action Plan**

1. Coaches have a copy of the Emergency Response Plan and students-athletes are to follow the coaches' directions during an emergency.

## **CC. Transportation/Travel**

1. Activity Bus Run
  - A temporary or permanent pass is required to get on the activity bus.
  - Upon release from practice, it is the student-athlete's responsibility to get on the bus in a timely manner. Activity bus departure from the middle school is at approximately 5:30 pm and at the high school; 6:00 pm.
  - Practices may consist of two sessions, which may require parent drop off and pick up.
2. Check out from a contest
  - Parents/guardians may utilize the "Authorized Adult" section of the *Risk Acknowledgement & Consent to Participate Form*, parents/guardians may designate individuals listed in PowerSchool to sign out their child after a school sponsored game or event.
  - For the safety of the students, only authorized individuals listed in PowerSchool will be allowed to checkout student-athletes. If it is planned for a student-athlete to be checked out by someone not on the checkout list, a written document (handwritten or email) from the parent/guardian must be given to the coach prior to departure of an athletic event. Coaches shall verify all written statements by contacting parents/guardians.
  - It is required of all parents/guardians to sign out their child upon returning from a contest or following a home contest.
  - An individual checking out the student may be asked to provide a state issued Identification Card (I.D.) for personal identification purposes.
  - Authorized Adults will not be allowed to release your child to a third party.
  - Once a student-athlete is checked out, they become the sole responsibility of the parent/guardian or authorized adult.
3. Departure/Return
  - To participate in a traveling contest, student-athletes are required to travel to school sponsored events via district transportation vehicles.
  - Exceptions for parents/guardians to transport their child include unforeseen emergencies and transportation from a previous school related function.
  - All exceptions must be approved prior by the athletic director and/or principal.

- Student-Athletes cannot be picked up or dropped off along the route to a contest.
4. Although the district is not legally required to provide transportation to students, as a courtesy, students are generally provided with transportation to and from school/athletic events. The bus driver is responsible for the students on the bus. Students with serious disciplinary problems while on the bus may have their riding privileges suspended. Student responsibilities on the bus include:
- Be courteous and follow the directions of the driver at all times.
  - Remain seated facing the front with your feet on the floor.
  - Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself inside the bus.
  - Do not display any verbal or physical behavior that disrupts the ride.
  - No gum chewing, eating, drinking or smoking.
  - All school rules and policies apply while on the bus.

The Transportation Department reserves the right to determine non-allowable items. All bus infraction referrals will be dealt with in accordance with the student discipline policies and regulations. Bus transportation is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, please respect and comply with all the bus safety rules.

For a complete description regarding bus conduct/discipline, please refer to the Bus Transportation under Section V: General Rules for Student Behavior.

#### **DD. Personal Vehicle**

Student-athletes who utilize their personal vehicles are required to follow the high school policies. See Section C. Student Drivers, Section IX: Individual School Policies and Procedures.

# 2023-2024 GUSD Athletic Handbook Agreement Form



Student-Athlete Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Male/Female \_\_\_\_\_

Sports Competing in: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I have read, understood and explained the information contained within this handbook to my child. I will, to the best of my ability ensure that my child and myself, the parent/guardian, uphold the standards addressed in the Ganado Unified School District Athletic Handbook 2023-2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent(s) Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I have read, discussed, understand, and will uphold and abide by the rules contained within the Ganado Unified School District Athletic Handbook: 2023-2024

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**Ganado Middle School Athletics  
Ganado High School Athletics  
Photo Release and Social Media**

**Consent Form**

I hereby grant Ganado High School (GHS) Athletics and Ganado Middle School (GMS) Athletics, its representatives and employees, permission to use and/or publish photographs or videos of myself in print and/or electronically. I understand and agree that these materials will become the property of GHS/GMS Athletics and will not be returned. I hereby authorize GHS/GMS Athletic Department to edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish, or distribute the photograph or video for purposes of publicizing athletic programs or for any other lawful purpose. In addition, I waive my rights to any compensation arising or related to the use of the photographs or videos. I release and discharge GHS/GMS Athletic Department from all claims arising out of use of the photos or videos for any lawful purpose such as for publicity, illustration, advertising, and web content.

Additionally, I grant GHS/GMS Athletic Department, and its agents and employees, the irrevocable and unrestricted right to reproduce the photographs and/or video images taken by me, or members of my family, for the use of publication, promotion, illustration, advertising, or trade, in any manner or in any medium. I hereby release GHS/GMS Athletic Department and its legal representatives for all claims and liability relating to said images or video. Furthermore, I grant permission to use my statements that were given during discussion, interview, or other communication, with or without my name, for the purpose of advertising and publicity without restriction. I waive my right to any compensation.

In the case of minors, GHS/GMS Athletic Department has my permission to use photo or video of my child or legal custody with all the permissions outlined above. I understand that the images may be used in print publications, online publications, presentations, websites, and social media. I also understand that no royalty, fee, or other compensation shall become payable to me by reason of such use.

Student's Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature (sign): \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name, if student under 18 (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's signature (sign): \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_