

Grand Canyon Phantoms



2022 - 2023

Athletic Handbook

Board Approved July 20, 2022

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BACKGROUND

The Grand Canyon High School competes in Division 1A of the AIA in the Central Section. State tournaments are determined by power point qualifications. It is the coach's responsibility to review the guidelines and understand tournament qualification requirements.

The Grand Canyon Unified School District Athletic Program functions within the adopted policies of the Grand Canyon Unified School District Governing Board and the (AIA) Arizona Interscholastic Association.

The Athletic Department provides a consistent set of rules and regulations for all athletic participation. All coaches, assistants, and volunteers must learn and follow the National Federation of State High School Associations (nfhsnetwork.com) rules for their particular sport (every year). They are also required to complete the NFHS basic coaching class and carry a current first aid card. In Arizona, coaches and adult volunteers cannot work around kids without a background check and possess a valid fingerprint clearance card.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Student participation in sports is a good thing. However, it is a privilege and not an entitlement. While wearing the school uniform, you represent Grand Canyon Unified School District and it is expected that your behavior reflects the pride in our school.

Our school offers the following programs

1. Fall Soccer (co-ed)
2. Fall Girls Volleyball
3. Winter Basketball (boys and girls)
4. Spring Track (boys and girls)

If you are interested in managing one of these teams instead of playing, please sign up with the Athletic Director.

You must be signed up and paperwork completed and turned in to the office by the end of the 2nd week of each sport in order to play on the team.

PAY TO PLAY

In previous years, middle school and high school athletes were required to pay an athletics fee. For the 2022-2023 school year, no athletics fees will be collected.

TEAM TRAVEL

A. Music is permitted on buses only if used with headphones.

B. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of students while traveling. Coaches are to sit in the back of the bus or midway to allow the team to be in his or her field of vision.

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C. Coed trips will require that the boy and girl participants sit in separate sections of the bus. Under no circumstances will athletes of the opposite sex be allowed to sit together. If there are "relationships" of the same gender, the student athlete would be treated the same as students in "relationships" of the opposite sex, including not sleeping in the same room on overnight trips.

D. When events require overnight travel, boys and girls will be in separate hotels, whenever possible. One sponsor will stay with each group.

1. Girls and boys are not allowed in each other's rooms.
2. During overnight and long travel days, team(s) must stay together as a group (i.e. dinner stops, discretionary time, and down time between games or contests).

E. Athletes are required to travel as a team in the school provided transportation to school events and return in the school-provided transportation unless there is written permission for the student to ride home with parents.

1. Written permission may be given to the coach at the event. Without written permission, students shall ride the bus home. This requires the parent to make face to face contact with the coach so you know the child is with their parent/guardian.
2. One written permission note filed with the Athletic Director will cover the entire sports season(s) for the student to ride home with parents/guardians.

F. When students travel, they will obey the bus rules as communicated by the bus driver and as posted on the bus.

G. Staff is authorized to search personal bags when traveling to and attending school related activities in school provided transportation. On overnight trips, athletic bags may be searched prior to the bus departing.

EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

1. Uniforms will be issued to the student athlete and although it is the property of the School District it is the student's responsibility to properly care for the uniform. Please wash them, but don't put them in the dryer.
2. School uniforms should only be worn while participating in the scheduled contests.
3. Uniforms should be washed and turned in to the coach as soon as the season is completed.
4. Students shall turn in all athletic equipment/uniforms issued to them immediately after completion of their season.
5. It will be the responsibility of the student to pay for any uniform/equipment that is lost, stolen or damaged at the replacement value.
6. Students who fail to turn in or pay for their uniforms or equipment issued to them, will not receive awards or be permitted to participate in any other sport until the situation is resolved.

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ELIGIBILITY

A. Full-time enrollment (5 classes) in Grand Canyon School or approved home school program.

B. Must meet AIA Eligibility requirements (HS only)

C. Eligibility:

- Grades will be checked by the administration immediately after 1:00 p.m. each Monday (Tuesday following a Monday holiday).
- If a student has less than 70% in any class that student will be ineligible for all extra-curricular activities until 1:00 p.m. the following Monday. An Incomplete (I) as a grade is considered a failing grade.
- To regain eligibility the student must have a **70%** in all classes. Once it is determined that a student is ineligible, **the student must attend daily tutorials** (4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.) prior to practice. Any student on the ineligible list may not travel with the team, sit on the bench for away games, nor dress with the team during home contests. If a student is declared ineligible before a school holiday the student will remain ineligible until grades are checked after the holiday period.

Study sessions for ineligible students will be held daily from 4:00pm to 5:00pm.

Students/athletes must be on time to tutoring, and attend all sessions in order to regain eligibility for the next week's athletic/extracurricular event. Failure to attend, or being tardy will result in further suspension from games.

* Special needs students may have unique eligibility requirements only if specifically outlined in the IEP of the student.

*Transfer students will become eligible to compete in interscholastic competition after they have been registered for 2 ½ calendar weeks (10 school days), providing other A.I.A. eligibility requirements are met. They may begin practicing upon completion of the enrollment process.

*Unique individual circumstances may be reviewed by the administration.

Eligibility – Attendance

To participate in any extra-curricular activity that is scheduled to take place on a school day, a student must attend school on the day of the competition or activity for at least half of his or her scheduled classes unless the student is involved in athletic travel for the entire day. If a competition or activity is scheduled over a weekend, a student may be absent on the school day before the weekend and still participate over the weekend at the coach's discretion.

Behavior Eligibility

Student athletes will have a two (2) week grace period from the beginning of that particular sport season in which to leave the team. **A student athlete who chooses to quit the team is responsible to inform the coach and return all uniforms and equipment issued to them within 72 hours of notifying the coach that they quit.** After the two (2) week grace period, any student athlete who leaves a team (quits) will be interviewed in order to determine the continuing eligibility for any other interscholastic activity. Grand Canyon Schools discourage the habit of quitting.

Suspension or Expulsion: If you are suspended from school, you are ineligible for the period of suspension. You must also attend a day of practice for every day of suspension before you can participate in a contest.

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Grand Canyon Unified School District and the Arizona Interscholastic Association have a Drug Free/ Smoke Free Policy.

The following infractions will be **cause for automatic suspension for the athletic season:**

1. Drinking of alcoholic beverages on or off campus at school related events
2. Smoking: the act of smoking or use of tobacco in any form in the school area (ARS 133622).
3. Possession, use, or transfer of any stimulating, or behavior altering substance without a medical prescription, any form of hallucinogenic drug, marijuana, alcohol or being a party there to, including possession of drug paraphernalia will result in immediate removal from the team.
4. The list is not all-inclusive as dangerous substances are constantly introduced to the marketplace.

The following infractions may be **cause for automatic suspension for one fiscal calendar year:**

1. Theft or Vandalism may result in automatic dismissal from all interscholastic participation for one fiscal calendar year from the date of the infraction. In addition, referral to legal authorities will occur for theft or vandalism on school property and restitution whether on school property or the property of another school.
2. Conviction of a minimum of a Class One misdemeanor is cause for automatic suspension from interscholastic/athletic program for one fiscal calendar year from date of conviction.

Behavior During Contests

The following will be reason for automatic suspension for a period of time commensurate with the severity of the offense (minimum one game) as observed or verified by a Coach, Principal, or Administrator. (To be determined by the A.D. after meeting with the Principal.)

- Fighting with an opponent and/or teammate
- Insubordination to any coach/official/teacher
- Unsportsman-like conduct
- Throwing equipment that causes game disruption
- Ridiculing any coach, teammate or official
- Use of abusive/ profane language
- Any conduct that is disruptive to the continuation of the athletic contest
- Any conduct that might endanger a student or teammate
- Excessive technical fouls/warnings in any sports season
- Ejection from an athletic contest.(End of season ejection – if ejected in/from the last game of the season the penalty shall be enforced at the beginning of the subsequent season of competition (one game suspension).

The following will result in discipline from the school principal based on the Student Handbook. Discipline can range from warning to expulsion from school:

- Violation of bus rules during team trip.
- Hazing
- Possession of a weapon of any kind
- Bullying

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The following will result in discipline from the coach based on team standards and guidelines.

- Violation of travel rules during team trip.
- Disruption of team morale
- Abusive/ Profane language
- Late for scheduled practices
- Late for team trips
- Insubordination
- Disruptions that interfere with practice sessions, Team trips, and or specific written team rules

Due Process – Everyone has the right to tell their side of the story before discipline is applied. It is always the goal that any disputes are resolved at the lowest level possible. Learning to clean up our own messes is part of growing and becoming better people.

Parents will be notified as soon as possible as to any change in their child's eligibility or status.

A. Level One – Coach

1. Coach/ Player Conference
2. Coach/ Parent Conference
3. Coach/ Parent/ Player Conference

B. Level Two - Principal /Athletic Director

1. Principal/ AD/Player/ Coach Conference
2. Principal/ AD/Coach/ Parent Conference
3. Principal/ AD/Parent/ Player Conference
4. Principal/AD/Coach/ Player/ Parent Conference

C. Level Three – Athletic Council

1. Principal
2. AD
3. Coach
4. Faculty Member selected by the student

D. Functions

1. Resolves problems with students/ coaches/ parents in the following areas: Eligibility, behavior and discipline, and makes recommendations on same to Superintendent. Its purpose is to hear appeals.
2. Athletic Council shall follow adopted policies of the Grand Canyon Unified School District Governing Board and Arizona Interscholastic Association.

E. Procedures

1. Request an Athletic Council meeting in writing to the Principal by the affected student, coach and/or parent/guardian.
2. Principal will send written notification of the time, date, place and the purpose of the meeting to the affected student, coach and/or parent/ guardian and the athletic council members.
3. Athletic council meeting will be held within two (2) school days after receipt of written request, with consideration for special circumstances.
4. The student will be temporarily suspended from practice and interscholastic competition pending resolution of the matter.

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F. Level Four – Superintendent

1. Superintendent/ Parent/ Player
2. Due process, as outlined in the student handbook, will be followed.

Parents

We certainly want to invite and encourage you to attend both home and away games. You are a role model for your child and they look up to you for guidance on their behavior. Please keep in mind that AIA sets forth guidelines for spectator behavior. Please conduct yourselves responsibly and with respect.

AWARDS – RECOGNITION

A Varsity letter may be earned when the athlete is eligible for state competition, which begins in 9th grade. To earn a letter in a sport, the following standards must be met. An athlete must:

- attend practice and games on a consistent basis
- have a cooperative attitude with the coach, teammates and opponents
- show respect for others on and off the field
- observe all rules and regulations as outlined in this handbook
- play on the varsity team 75% of the sport's scheduled competition

Participants involved in special situations during the season may receive recognition appropriate to his/her level of participation based on the coaches' recommendation and athletic director's approval. Varsity managers are eligible to letter in the sport they manage.

YEARLY AWARDS

A. Sportsmanship Award

This award is intended for a student athlete who exemplifies an attitude of fairness, ethics, respect, and enjoying the game simply for the sake of playing. Being a “good sport” involves being a “good winner” as well as being a “good loser.” Fair play refers to all participants having an equitable chance to pursue victory with honor and acting toward others in an honest and dignified manner even when others do not play fairly. It includes respect for others including team members, coaches, opponents, fans, and officials.

B. Female and Male Athlete of the Year

The Athlete of the Year recipient is the athlete who:

1. Excels as an athlete, showing outstanding athletic ability in multiple sports. (Season stats, varsity letters, and/or conference and state recognition demonstrates said ability.)
2. Maintains an excellent attitude throughout each athletic season in which they participate. (Demonstrates appropriate and respectful behavior and language on the field, the court, the classroom, and in all other capacities representing GCHS.)
3. Attends practice on a consistent basis. (Shows dedication in achieving individual and team goals.)
4. Demonstrates leadership. (Examples of this trait include: sacrifice own stats for the good of the team, encourage team/teammate morale, help when help is needed (teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, etc).)
5. Maintains eligibility throughout the season.

**Coaches will meet in April to nominate athletes, discuss, and determine, Male and Female Athlete of the Year.*

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C. Debbie Clancy Award

The female **scholar athlete** is intended for a junior or senior who excels in both athletics and academics, as well as sportsmanship, attitude and over-all behavior.

1. The student is a scholar athlete with a minimum GPA of 3.25
2. The athlete is involved in a minimum of two sports
3. The athlete may be in grades 11 or 12
4. The athlete is expected to be a role model who excels in athletics and other extracurricular activities.

Criteria to be considered:

- High athletic skill level (Varsity team athlete who is on the playing field)
- Outstanding attitude regarding language, effort, attendance, and relationships to other team members. Models the core values of Grand Canyon Athletics
- The athlete is always eligible
- 100% dedication to the sport in season
- The athlete is a team player and positive influence
- The athlete has no discipline referrals or athletic code violations
- Regional and state recognition
- Record holder of school record

D. Hugh Shevlin Award

The male **scholar athlete** is intended for a junior or senior who excels in both athletics and academics, as well as sportsmanship, attitude and over-all behavior.

1. The student is a scholar athlete with a minimum GPA of 3.25
2. The athlete is involved in a minimum of two sports
3. The athlete may be in grades 11 or 12
4. The athlete is expected to be a role model who excels in athletics and other extracurricular activities.

Criteria to be considered:

- High athletic skill level (Varsity team athlete who is on the playing field)
- Outstanding attitude regarding language, effort, attendance, and relationships to other team members. Models the core values of Grand Canyon Athletics
- The athlete is always eligible
- 100% dedication to the sport in season
- The athlete is a team player and positive influence
- The athlete has no discipline referrals or athletic code violations
- Regional and state recognition
- Record holder of school records

None of the above listed awards have to be given each and every year. If no eligible candidates are identified, awards will not be given. If an athlete has had an infraction as listed in handbook he or she will be disqualified and not eligible for these awards.

State and Regional Awards will be designated by the coaches of the 1A division.

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Resources:

1. Athletic Schedules - Grand Canyon School Website – grandcanyonschool.org and AIA365.com
2. National Federation of State High School Associations - nfhs.org

The National Federation of State High School Associations is the body that writes the rules of competition for most high school sports and activities in the United States.

3. Max Preps - maxpreps.com

MaxPreps is America's source for high school sports. Find rankings, stat leaderboards, schedules and scores of your high school teams and players.

4. Arizona Interscholastic Association: aiaonline.org

(The AIA by-laws, rules and regulations for all sports as well as power ratings, state tournament info, articles on high school sports, and AIA programs offered)