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The Man in the Arena

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

Theodore Roosevelt
PREFACE

The Geneva School of Boerne Athletics Handbook provides the policies, guidelines and expectations necessary for the proper administration of the school’s athletics program. This handbook is provided to Geneva’s student-athletes, coaches, parents and administrators with the expectation that all the information contained herein is understood and followed by all involved in athletics. This handbook does not contractually bind Geneva School of Boerne and is subject to change without notice by decision of the school’s Board of Trustees.

A shared understanding of the rules and regulations that govern the school’s athletics program will alleviate many concerns and problems. However, it is inevitable that situations or issues will arise that are not addressed in this handbook. The school administration will address these issues on a case-by-case basis and will add to or modify this handbook as needed.

The school requires that all student-athletes, parents of students participating in athletics, and coaches read this handbook carefully and indicate completion of doing so by signing and returning the Acknowledgement Form (located at the end of the handbook) each school year to the athletics office. This form must be on file before a student-athlete or coach can participate in school athletics.
GENERAL INFORMATION

OUR PROGRAM PROFILE

Mascot – Eagles

Primary Colors – Navy (PMS BLUE – 2766), white and gold (PMS Metallic Gold – 871); Secondary Color – Light blue

Leagues - Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) for grades 9-12 and Independent Schools Athletics League (ISAL) for grades 7 & 8 (except football and soccer).

Varsity Classification - TAPPS 4A

Sports Offerings:

Grades 9-12 - Football, Volleyball, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Basketball, Soccer, Swimming, Golf, Tennis, Track, Baseball, Softball

Grades 7 & 8 - Football, Volleyball, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Basketball, Soccer, Golf, Tennis, Track, Baseball, Softball

OUR PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS

Athletic competition is an artificial endeavor. It mimics real life without being real. This is evidenced by the terms we use: we “play” a sport and competitions are called “games.” The exception is for those who derive or wish to derive their livelihood from athletic performance. While we welcome student-athletes of such high ability, our program is not intended to develop them to that level. Instead, we wish to use our athletics program to further the mission of the school:

The Geneva School of Boerne exists to provide a classical education from a Christian worldview, to equip students for a lifetime of learning, service, and leadership to the glory of Jesus Christ.

That athletics is artificial is not to say it is without value. Just the opposite is true. It is because of athletics’ artificiality that it holds great value to a school such as Geneva that seeks to develop not just academically astute students but well-rounded young men and women who demonstrate qualities such as humility and selflessness coupled with confidence and poise. Within athletic competition, student-athletes encounter many positive and transforming experiences.

With its roaring crowds, intense competition, exhausted bodies, chaotic activity and immediate feedback, the athletic arena is a place unlike any other in a school. In athletics, the better team or player (better in the sense of greater talent or preparation) is often, but not always, rewarded with victory. Athletics reinforces the notion that harder work reaps greater rewards while also allowing for the vagaries that occur when imperfect people square off in an attempt to defeat one another. Such lessons and experiences may be had only within the heat of competition.
The positive role of athletics is on display when students’ interest in competition and sport is used for the greater good. Many students grow up loving sports and look forward to representing their school in competition. Sadly, such interest is not often found with academics. Students don’t typically dream of learning advanced biology or ancient history in high school. This results from a lack of emphasis on learning in our culture and homes. On the other hand, sports are often given too much attention as athletes serve as modern gods for young men and women. While we may not change the culture, we are given a great opportunity to capitalize on this interest by using it to change and develop our students into mature and godly men and women who are equipped for service and leadership to the glory of God.

For athletics to serve our students in the best possible way, the school must have a vision for what it wants to accomplish. Without such a vision, we are at risk of succumbing to the default positions often taken by sports advocates: either that competition is only about victories, trophies and championships (and therefore requires much time, practice and money) or it is a tool for building the self-esteem of the students (and therefore must be conducted in such a way that students are shielded from unpleasant outcomes such as humiliating defeats).

A well-run competitive sports program (well-funded, led, and supported) should provide the student-athlete:

- An appreciation for and development of one’s body.
- An ability to handle pressure with confidence and poise.
- A healthy perspective on victory and defeat.
- Knowledge in how to interact with others through team sports.
- Experience in being a leader as well as a follower.
- The will to do one’s best, no matter the circumstance.
- Satisfaction that comes from the exercise of creativity within recreation.
- A sense of belonging to something greater than oneself, be it a team or a community.
- A test of one’s ability as well as the encouragement to reach beyond perceived limits.
- The discipline that requires one to set a goal, work toward it and see it to completion.

When we lose sight of the fact that athletics is artificial, we risk misleading our student-athletes. When athletics is “real”, too much emphasis is placed on the outcome. The desire for victory can become so great that we lose sight of any benefit our student-athletes may gain in defeat. When athletics is “real”, sinful behavior is easily justified. The poor call by a referee or cheating by an opponent may be seen as a wrong that in the name of justice must be addressed, often boorishly. To counter these tendencies, we must train not only the student-athletes but the parents, coaches and administrators in a healthy perspective on competition and give each clear expectations for conduct on the field, court, sideline and stand.

This is not to say that we want our students to enjoy defeat or become passive doormats after every blown call or incident of cheating. Such a response is to replace one set of weaknesses
(blown temper, profanity or ugly remark) with another (giving up, quitting or resignation with defeat). Both responses, while typical, are overcome through mature coaching and parenting that seeks to move student-athletes toward strength of spirit, body and mind.

**OUR ATHLETICS’ MISSION**

At Geneva School of Boerne, we seek to conduct our athletics program in the same way we conduct our academic and arts programming - with excellence. We compete to win and make victory in each contest a goal while also keeping in mind higher goals. Geneva’s competitive sports program is designed to help fulfill the school’s mission with excellence by:

**Organizing and programming sports.** The program seeks to provide a Christ-centered, quality sports experience for students in grades 7 and above, P.E. classes for students in grades K-8 with an emphasis on developing conditioning and skills suitable for various sports, and support to parents and coaches of students below grade 7.

**Encouraging a balanced approach to sports and life.** The program supports the Christian’s priority of faith and family first as well as the school’s priority of academics over athletics by scheduling practices and games (when under the school’s control and as facilities and coach’s schedules permit) in such a way as to have the least possible disruption on the student’s ability to attend church, be with family and study while also competing with excellence.

**Providing training for Kingdom service.** Through mature and godly coaches, the program seeks to challenge student-athletes to train and compete in such a way as to develop qualities of perseverance, strength, compassion, boldness, and humility with an eye toward serving the Kingdom of Christ as godly men and women. In team sports, this includes taking an “others first” approach.

**Instilling discipline necessary for excellence in athletics.** The program seeks to develop student-athletes’ skills, endurance and physical strength through qualified and competent coaching and training programs designed to minimize injuries. Discipline in the form of positive correction, assistance, improvement and prevention is emphasized. Each student-athlete is expected to commit her or himself to practice and conditioning in season and out in order to compete to the best of her or his ability.

**Expecting student-athletes, coaches and parents to act with honor.** Student-athletes, coaches and parents are expected to act honorably toward their opponent, their opponents’ supporters, and the game or contest officials, regardless of how the other acts. The program seeks to represent the school community and the cause of Christ well in all its activities. All are expected to act with modesty and graciousness in victory and defeat. All are expected to abide by the letter as well as the spirit of league rules.
OUR APPROACH TO ATHLETICS . . .

In Grammar School

Geneva’s Grammar School is focused on teaching students the foundational elements in each area of study. Accordingly, athletics instruction in kindergarten through fifth grade is centered on the foundational skills necessary for any sport. Students are taught hand-eye coordination exercises, basic throwing, catching, hitting, kicking and footwork techniques and other elements of muscle memory required for athletic accomplishment. Students begin to understand basic rules of games and rudimentary team working skills. Students also receive instruction in sportsmanship.

Grammar School students are encouraged to explore and obtain basic mastery of a wide variety of physical exercises. They are not encouraged to specialize. The Grammar School years are to be characterized by experimentation, exploration and systematic development of fundamental athletic skills. Geneva does not field formal, competitive teams during these years. Instead, the Geneva Youth Sports League (GYSL) was established by parents to facilitate the formation of teams comprised exclusively of Geneva students, and to find or create leagues in which these teams can compete. Geneva supports the mission and philosophy of the GYSL. The school’s athletic department supports the GYSL by helping with coaching ideas and philosophy, and providing use of the schools facilities when scheduling does not conflict with Logic School and Rhetoric School extra-curricular activities.

In Logic School

Geneva’s Logic School is a training ground for the development of logical thought and analysis. Students are introduced to both formal and informal logic and taught to apply these to factual content. Logic School athletics encourages students to apply strategy and theory to the basic physical skills, discipline and rules introduced in Grammar School. Logic School students are taught to understand the implications of the rules and how to leverage their bodies and interact with their teammates to achieve the objectives of formal sports. Geneva offers formal sports teams starting in 7th grade and trains students in both the fundamental skills and strategy of each sport.

During 7th and 8th grades, students are encouraged by coaches, faculty and parents to find a balance between the continued exploration of new sports and the pursuit of excellence achievable only through commitment and hard work. Coaches train all students equally while striking a balance between allowing all to experience the demands of competition and maximizing the team’s chances of winning. Asking students to train hard while handicapping a team’s ability to win by requiring that all students, regardless of ability or effort, be allowed to play equally is unjust and potentially damaging to the motivation of committed students.

Likewise, preventing students who are less talented from participating meaningfully in competition would force specialization at an earlier, inappropriate age. A student should still be able to explore a new sport in the Logic School grades. This requires coaches to use great discretion and wisdom in motivating both the individual students, even those that may not be highly skilled, as well as the team. This discretion may include placing a less skilled player in a crucial situation in a contest. Such moments can serve as a catalyst for developing a player’s
confidence and establishing a team orientation as the attention is drawn away from the more talented players. As with the school’s academic program, the goal here is to use the Logic School program to prepare students and teams for success at the next level of competition, Rhetoric School athletics.

In Rhetoric School

Geneva’s Rhetoric School provides training designed to allow students to express themselves to the best of their ability and to the glory of God. Athletics is a form of expression through physical effort and achievement. Physical discipline, coordination and teamwork are the highest expression of competition. Rhetoric School athletic teams therefore strive to perform at their highest possible level. Having developed basic knowledge and skills in Grammar School and strategy and theory in Logic School, Rhetoric students focus on becoming the most competitive and successful student-athletes they can be. In part, this is accomplished by competing with one another for placement on a team or playing time, both usually earned by those of greater ability and determination.

Athletics provide a unique opportunity for student-athletes to pursue excellence corporately as well as individually. In obedience to Scriptural principles, Rhetoric School student-athletes are taught to strive for excellence while valuing the people around them more than themselves. Thus, student-athletes in the Rhetoric School seek victory but do so with humility and never sacrifice honor or sportsmanship in its pursuit.

It is an imperative that Logic and Rhetoric School students are taught proper etiquette and sportsmanship in all sports so that they might represent Geneva, and far more importantly, Christ well. The concepts of honor, self-control, individual sacrifice for the greater goals of the whole, courage and humility are emphasized to all student-athletes. To that end, an action such as benching a player, no matter the effect on the outcome of a game, is necessary if that player displays poor sportsmanship or disrespect towards authority.

OUR PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

Geneva’s Portrait of a Graduate is a brief statement that helps the school to stay focused on our overall goals while recognizing that no one will ever perfectly fulfill the portrait.

A Geneva graduate is a disciple of Jesus Christ, exhibiting excellence, passion, and integrity as he leads for Christ’s cause in the world. He is a critical, logical thinker, able to discern absolute truth from cultural trends and philosophies. As one who loves the Lord with all his mind, the Geneva graduate will be a lover of learning, and have the ability to grasp new ideas throughout his lifetime in pursuit of truth. These qualities, clothed in humility, create a foundation that will enable him to present engagingly articulate and persuasively winsome arguments. A Geneva graduate honors God’s image within himself and thus, is interested in all people because of God’s interest and image in them. The classical education and Biblical worldview gained at Geneva will equip the graduate to exhibit vocational excellence to the glory of God.
POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

ACADEMIC PROBATION

Academic probation is a means of warning students of their seriously inadequate performance in the classroom. It is intended to convey to students that unless significant improvement occurs, they will fall behind their grade level and be unable to continue at Geneva. A student is placed on academic probation if he or she earns a “D” in any two subjects in a quarter or an “F” in any one subject in a quarter.

Students on academic probation are not allowed to participate in any Geneva extracurricular activities (including sports) for a minimum of half a quarterly grading period and remain on probation until grades are brought to a passing level.

Once the failing grades are brought to a passing level and no other grades or combination of grades warrant probation, the student is removed from academic probation, at which time eligibility for extracurricular activities is regained. Evaluation of eligibility will take place at the scheduled reporting dates – the Unsatisfactory/Failing Report dates (mid-quarter) as well as the Report Cards dates (end of quarter) as listed on the school calendar. Students who are placed on academic probation at the end of the school year are not allowed to participate in extracurricular activities at the start of the following school year, including practices and games that take place before the academic year begins. Under such circumstances, the earliest the student may regain eligibility is the midpoint of the first quarter (the Unsatisfactory/Failing Report date in early October).

The Athletic Director and the school administration inform coaches of the academic standing of their players at the designated reporting dates. When it is deemed helpful to the student-athlete, the coach is called upon to assist the parent and faculty in addressing the academic situation. Those who coach fall sports are informed before practices begin of any student-athletes entering the season on probation.

Geneva’s policy for academic probation exceeds the requirements for academic eligibility within TAPPS.

ACCOUNTING AND BUDGETING

All sources of revenue for school-sponsored athletics are accounted for in accordance with the financial guidelines of the school and subject to review by the Head of School who has overall authority and oversight for such funds. This includes funds raised by the booster club, participation fees, ticket, concession and apparel sales, gifts and other funding raising activities.

All monies used in funding GSB athletic programs come through the school’s budget and are deposited into the school checking account. Funds are dispersed through the same school account. All expenditures for team equipment, uniforms, practice facilities, game facilities and any other expenses are paid through the school funds. Coaches may pay for limited expenses out of pocket for convenience reasons, but are reimbursed through the school financial systems. Any
funds donated to the athletic program are deposited into the school’s checking account and a receipt is given to donors for tax deduction purposes.

**ACTIVITIES**

Athletics programming for grades 7-12 are executed under the direct supervision of the Athletic Director and are for sports in which Geneva has voluntarily aligned with a governing body such as ISAL or TAPPS.

Logic School (grades 7 & 8) school-sponsored sports and activities:

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<tr>
<th>Fall and Winter</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cheerleading</td>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Track</td>
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<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>Softball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Football</td>
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<td>Golf</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
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Rhetoric School (grades 9-12) school-sponsored sports and activities:

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<th>Fall and Winter</th>
<th>Fall</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
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**ADDING SPORTS OR ACTIVITIES**

Geneva School of Boerne supports and allows a variety of school-sponsored athletics activities in varying degrees as long as each is aligned with the purpose and mission of the program. Because there are a manifold number of ways to possibly satisfy the purpose and mission of the school, the leadership of the school seeks to align the whole collection of activities in accordance to the current and expected future resources that God has provided Geneva. Resources in this context include but are not limited to items such as students, teachers, parents, time, money, facilities and leagues. A new team sport is established when there is reasonable evidence for a team to be fielded consistently over a number of seasons.

**AGE AND GRADE ELIGIBILITY**

For participation in Logic School athletics, students must be in the 7th or 8th grades.

For participation in TAPPS, students must be less than 19 years old on September 1st preceding the TAPPS contest. Eighth grade students are not eligible to participate on high school teams.
ATHLETIC UNIFORM AND DRESS CODE

Student-athletes are issued team uniforms and are expected to take great care of the uniforms. If a student-athlete is missing a uniform or uniform-piece the day of a game, another uniform may not be issued. If a uniform is lost and cannot be found, another uniform is issued out (if available) once the lost uniform has been paid for in full. Damaged uniform pieces must be replaced at the expense of the student-athlete. The replacement costs for uniforms will be set at the rate at which it was purchased. Student athletes will not be allowed to participate in their next sport season until all issued uniforms and equipment are turned in to their respective coach. Additionally, if the uniform has not been received two weeks after the conclusion of the season the family will be billed at the full replacement cost.

Teams may design their own t-shirt or sweatshirt at the start of each season. To ensure consistency, all such designs must be submitted for approval with the Athletic Director before ordering. Team shirt expenses may be accounted for within the team budget or paid by the student-athletes through a separate fee. Shirts for coaches should be paid through the team budget. Students in athletics are permitted to wear a team uniform or team-issued t-shirt or sweatshirt to classes as determined by the Athletic Director and the school administration.

Each coach determines the team dress code when traveling to an away game. All practice gear is also determined by the coach. All student-athletes are expected to be good stewards of all equipment, facilities and uniforms entrusted to them.

AWARDS BANQUETS

Each year the athletic department may plan and produce an athletic banquet to honor the year's Rhetoric School level athletic accomplishments.

Each team may plan and produce their own individual banquet and celebration at the end of their season. At these team banquets, coaches may give awards of their choosing to their student-athletes.

BEHAVIORAL PROBATION

Behavioral probation is a means of warning students of their seriously inappropriate actions. It is intended to convey to students that unless significant improvement occurs, they will be unable to continue at Geneva. Students at all grade levels are placed on Behavioral Probation upon their second office visit in a school year. And students in Logic and Rhetoric Schools are placed on Behavioral Probation if they reach 5 demerits during any quarter. Behavioral Probation lasts a minimum of four weeks and for a longer period of time depending on the severity or repetitive frequency of the behavior. The length of probation is determined by the administration in consultation with the faculty.

Logic and Rhetoric students on Behavioral Probation are not allowed to participate in any Geneva extracurricular activities, including sports.

At the end of the probationary period, the student is released from probation if he or she has not earned additional office visits, has clearly demonstrated a desire to change, and receives a good
report from each of her or his teachers. If the above are not met, the probation is extended for four more weeks and remains in effect until the conditions are met. Students on probation face suspension or expulsion for additional office visits.

COACHES

Successful athletic programs start with quality coaches. We believe coaches are one of the most significant components to the athletic program and therefore seek to hire Christian role models who are committed to fulfilling the mission of the school, desire to disciple our student-athletes and serve their families, and who are knowledgeable in their sport.

School athletics are an integral part of each student’s overall education and development and coaches are to assist each student-athlete with developing his or her full potential. Mentoring, development, care and safety of our student-athletes are the most important responsibilities of our coaches.

All hiring or appointing of coaches must be submitted by the Athletic Director to the Head of School for approval. Requirements for a coach shall be: adherence to the school’s Personnel Policies and Guidelines, a desire to disciple athletes, a working knowledge of the sport which he/she desires to coach, an understanding of Geneva’s mission and philosophy of education, and agreement with the school’s Statement of Faith. The Head of School has final say of all coaching hires and dismissals.

All hiring or appointing of assistant coaches must be submitted by the coach of the team for approval by the Athletic Director and Head of School. The Head of School has final say of all assistant coaching hires and dismissals.

Because the behavior of a team can reflect the coach’s own manner, attitudes, temperament and approach to athletics, coaches must conduct themselves in a way, both on and off the field of play, that brings positive recognition to God, the school, the team, the sport and themselves. Instruction and correction, while demanding and critical, should be positive. Coaches should never embarrass or demean student-athletes.

The same high standards of preparation, organization, dedication, hard work, self-discipline, sacrifice and godly behavior that coaches expect of players should be the same that is expected of coaches. Coaches shall model good sportsmanship and respectful attitudes toward officials and opposing teams in victory and defeat.

All coaches are expected to know the rules of the game and the rules/policies of the leagues in which we participate.

Each coach is prayerfully and thoughtfully considered, recruited, interviewed and hired and therefore has the authority over the student-athletes in each given sport. Parents and student-athletes must trust that coaches try to make the best decisions for the team as well as the individuals that make up the team. Coaches are with the team on a daily basis in practice and in competition, evaluating character and performance, and therefore make judgment decisions based on what they feel is in the best interest of the team. Playing time, players’ positions, and strategy should be left to the discretion of the coach. Parents should help their student
understand that being a team member means accepting the coach’s decisions even when he or she does not agree with them.

It is also important to remember that neither coaches nor parents are infallible evaluators of talent, nor are either perfect play-callers. A team does not function well with non-coaches trying to coach. Parents should not place a child in a tough spot of having to decide whether he is going to listen to his coach or his parent. Yielding to authority is a biblical lesson that students benefit from for years to come.

The coach’s classroom is the court or field, usually with undefined walls, making it easy for parents to naturally move close to the action. Parents should be interested, supportive observers from a distance. The coach needs room to be able to instruct and the player to perform without distraction from the stands. Distraction only yields poor results.

All coaches are expected to read carefully the Athletic Handbook, the Geneva Guide, the Student Handbook and understand the information contained in each. Coaches should also be familiar with the schools philosophy of education and school culture and understand how athletics fits within each. Coaches are provided with opportunities for growth via clinics, workshops, seminars, and coaching books and videos.

Coaches must communicate with student-athletes and parents on a regular basis. Coaches must communicate to parents at the start of the season the expected commitment by those on the team as well as the practice and game schedule. This communication must be in writing.

Weekly communication from the coach to parents regarding scheduling for the coming week is also a minimum requirement. In the case of Rhetoric School athletics, each coach’s weekly communication should also be made to the student-athletes.

Varsity Head Coaches are the Program Directors for their respective sport. Program Directors, in partnership with the Athletic Director, oversee all teams and all levels in their sport. This provides a firm foundation for program development. The Varsity Head Coach serves to motivate and assist athletes, both in-season and out-of-season, to achieve their full potential as players.

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

Being a Geneva Athlete is a privilege. Student-athletes shall conduct themselves in a way that brings positive recognition to God, the school, the team, the sport and themselves. A Geneva student-athlete reflects the mission and identity of the school, no matter where he or she is. Student-athletes are expected to behave at all times with consideration for others in thoughts, word, and deed and student-athletes must abide by the school’s stated rules and any others stipulated by athletic department staff members.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The athletics department makes regular use of email for communicating important information regarding schedules, deadlines and such. Parents without access to email should contact the
Athletic Director’s assistant to determine the best way to obtain the information. Game and event times and locations are also placed on the school’s web site.

The school seeks to regularly promote the athletics program in the local media. All press releases must be approved by the Athletic Director or his/her appointed contact person within the athletic department. Parents and coaches are asked not to damage the relationship the school is developing with local media by harassing them for lack of press coverage of our athletic events. Also, parents and coaches should never contact opposing schools, officials or the TAPPS office to voice complaints over athletic contests, opposing players, coaches or fans, or officials. All concerns and/or opinions should be communicated directly with Geneva’s Athletic Director who will make the determination as to how to proceed, if at all.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Coaches are placed in a position of authority and have the responsibility to make important decisions regarding team selections, playing positions and playing time. In addition, parents often wish to give their student-athlete every advantage to make a team and secure a playing position and playing time. One possible conflict of interest can arise when school coaches provide private lessons for pay to current players or prospective players to their team. To avoid such conflict, Geneva coaches are barred from giving private lessons for pay to current players on their team or students who could play for them within two years. Also, to help avoid any appearance of impropriety, all Geneva coaches who provide private lessons for pay to any Geneva student must have the arrangement approved in advance by the Athletic Director.

DEPARTURE FROM TEAM

There are three types of departure from a team. No participation fee refunds are given for any departure.

1. **Leaving a team** – season-ending injury, poor health status, family emergency or academic performance all may lead to permissible departure from the team only after being discussed between parents, the coach and/or Athletic Director. A student-athlete may still be eligible for a varsity letter in this circumstance, and he/she is still eligible to participate in a sport in the following season (e.g., a student leaving volleyball may participate in basketball).

2. **Quitting a team** – Rhetoric School player who quits a sport after he has started the sport is not eligible to participate in a sport the next season. Ninth through twelfth graders cannot earn a letter in that sport. There are two exceptions to this rule is if the student-athlete and coach have clearly communicated up front that a “quit” might be in play. As an example, if the coach has agreed to let a Rhetoric School student-athlete try a sport out for a week to see if he’d like to play it and the student-athlete then quits within the agreed upon time, that would not render him ineligible for the next season’s sport.

3. **Being dismissed from a team** – regardless of reason, any player who is dismissed from a team for conduct, rules infractions or disciplinary reasons cannot earn a letter in the sport (for a 9th-12th grader) or be eligible to play in a sport in the following season.
DUAL SPORTS

We encourage athletes to be well rounded, participating in different activities both athletically and otherwise, especially early in their athletic careers. Different sports challenge athletes in different ways, and the skills developed through the training methods used in one sport often help the athlete in another sport. Regarding multiple sport participation, student-athletes may not participate in multiple team sports at the same time. Student-athletes may, however, participate in an individual sport (golf, swimming, tennis) or cheerleading and a team sport at the same time if agreed upon by coaches of both sports. Good, open communication between the student-athlete, his/her parents, and the two coaches involved are tantamount and a priority must be declared in case of scheduling conflicts and agreed upon by the coaches.

ENTRANCE FEES

Entrance fees are charged at each home event (LS or RS) in accordance with league rules. The entrance fee is waived for Geneva Booster Club members for pre-season and regular season home events. For varsity playoff events at home, all in attendance must pay the entrance fee authorized by TAPPS, as Geneva must share the gate with the visiting team, minus expenses. Entrance fees are not assessed to Geneva administrators and coaches. In accordance with TAPPS rules, those showing a current Administrator Pass along with a photo ID are admitted to varsity contests without cost as well as the individual’s spouse and minor children. Coaches, assistants, players and referees participating in the scheduled games are also admitted without cost.

FUNDRAISING

Geneva’s Athletics Department raises funds annually through gate fees, concession sales, spirit wear sales, and athletic facility rentals. The Geneva Booster Club raises additional funds through membership fees and annual events, such as the skeet/trap shoot, a golf tournament, or a gala. The Athletic Department receives a portion of the funds raised by the Booster Club.

These fundraising activities are conducted to meet two specific objectives. The first is to provide financial assistance to those athletes who cannot afford the fees required for team sports. The second objective is to provide enhancements to our sports programs including new uniforms, equipment, and supplies.

The participation fees are designed to cover the essential costs for each sport – facility rentals, coaching stipends, and officials’ fees. For most sports, the participation fees are subsidized by additional dollars from the school’s tuition revenue. The enhancements purchased through fundraising are for necessary items that are too costly for the school’s operating budget. The wish list of items needed for athletics and the arts is generated by the Athletic Director, the Arts Director and the Head of School. This list is submitted to the school’s Booster Club each fall for consideration.

GAMBLING

Gambling is not tolerated. Violation subjects the person(s) involved to disciplinary action.
GRAMMAR SCHOOL AND GRADE 6 SPORTS

Geneva does not officially sponsor a sports program for students in grades K-6 but does permit the athletics department to identify and promote area leagues that meet the following criteria:

1. The league does not require a binding agreement with Geneva School of Boerne,
2. The league provides game facilities, league governance and insurance,
3. The league allows the parents of Geneva to designate the child’s team either by specifying “Geneva” or the name of the parent who volunteers to coach,
4. The league certifies volunteers to coach or provides background checks on all, and
5. The league offers sports that are either currently offered or desired to be offered in grades 7-12.

This is supported because Geneva recognizes that K-6 sports leagues are an opportunity to develop a sense of identity and community among the parents and players.

The number of teams in each sport and grade is wholly dependent upon the willingness of the parents to lead as volunteer coaches and to register their children. The school’s athletics department does not set goals for the number of children or teams to register.

The school recognizes and appreciates the valuable opportunities that local organizations and leagues provide to the area youth and families. Therefore, Geneva may allow, at the discretion of the Head of School, local organizations to provide promotional materials to Geneva families by placing the materials in a designated location in the school office.

HAZING

Hazing is defined as subjecting someone to an indignity, fright, abuse or threat and is not tolerated. Violation subjects the person(s) to disciplinary action.

INJURIES

When available, an athletic trainer is responsible for the treatment and rehabilitation of injured athletes. The trainer should be notified in the event of any injury requiring treatment. If a trainer is not available, the coach must be informed of any injury requiring treatment. Injured athletes must be seen by a certified athletic trainer or doctor for evaluation before being released for participation, and no treatment and/or rehabilitation program may be discontinued unless authorized by the certified athletic trainer or doctor.

Injured athletes, regardless of grade, are still required to attend practice unless treating and/or rehabilitating an injury, or as approved by the coach. Athletes missing a practice or a game for treatment must first get permission from their coach.

In the case a Geneva athlete has possibly sustained a concussion, coaches are required to follow the Geneva Concussion Management Protocol. This document assists coaches in identifying signs and symptoms which may indicate that an athlete may have suffered a concussion, and how
to manage the situation when an athlete shows any signs or symptoms of a concussion. If it is
determined by a medical doctor that an athlete has sustained a concussion, the athlete must
follow the “return to play” criteria before being cleared to continue play. The Geneva
Concussion Management Protocol is included at the end of this Handbook.

MISCONDUCT

Competition is by its very nature an emotionally charged endeavor. A coach, player or parent
who exhibits poor behavior to the point that the individual has to be removed from the event
faces further penalty. The following guidelines are in place to address such ejections:

Student-Athlete

Geneva follows the policy of our varsity league, TAPPS, for all school-sponsored sports
programs by suspending a student-athlete who is ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike
conduct from the next scheduled contest. As an ejection is an official’s decision, it may not be
appealed to the league or school. In addition to the automatic suspension, the coach is to confer
with the Athletic Director to determine the need for further disciplinary action. Such action may
include but is not limited to suspension from multiple contests or removal from the team. The
goal for any such action is to correct the behavior and return the player to good standing with the
team, school and league.

Varsity athletes participating in TAPPS who are ejected from a contest must have the incident
reported to the league office by noon the next day. In addition to the mandatory one game
suspension, the school is assessed a $50 fee for the first offense with an increase of $50 for each
subsequent occurrence of ejection by the student-athlete. For those ejected in the state
semifinals or finals, the school is fined $150. The Athletic Director will review each incident
resulting in a suspension and fine. Normally, the fine will be passed along to the student/parent
for payment.

Coaches

Geneva follows the policy of our varsity league, TAPPS, for all school-sponsored sports
programs by suspending a coach who is ejected from a contest for misconduct from the next
scheduled contest. As an ejection is an official’s decision, it may not be appealed to the league or
school. In addition to the suspension, the school administration may execute further disciplinary
actions included but not limited to suspension from multiple contests or removal from the position.

Those who coach at the varsity level within TAPPS are required to notify the league office by
noon the following day of any ejection from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct or in the case
of a football coach, for three or more 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalties during a contest. Such
coaches also face further disciplinary actions from TAPPS including private or public reprimands,
fines, mandatory training, and appearance before the TAPPS Executive Board.

All GSB coaches participating in TAPPS must be familiar with the league rules and attend
preseason rules meetings as well as any other training required by the league.
Parents

Any Geneva parent removed from an athletics event by an official due to unsportsmanlike conduct is barred from attending the next contest in which the parent’s student-athlete is participating. Further incidents of misconduct by the parent may lead to the parent’s student(s) being denied reenrollment to the school or having their enrollment in the school terminated.

OUT-OF-SEASON EXPECTATIONS

During the school year, student-athletes are expected to give the in-season sport in which they are participating their full attention and commitment. Any organized training for another sport or team during the season in which an athlete is participating (such as an open facility or league) must be discussed with the current in-season coach at the start of the season.

TAPPS rules dictate the following for out-of-season sports during the school year at the high school level:

1. School coaches may not coach 9th-12th grade students from their own school on a non-school team, with the exception of the coach’s own adopted or birth children.
2. 9th-12th grade students may not play for a school coach on a non-school team from the beginning of TAPPS activities, as indicated on the TAPPS calendar until the end of the school year.
3. School equipment, name or identity, shall only be used for non-school teams/leagues if approved by TAPPS and the Athletic Director.
4. No TAPPS school team may participate in pre-season (before starting date for germane activity), or post-season activity (after district certification dead-line or elimination from state playoff or after play-offs for germane sport). With exception to the zero hour rules which allows pre-season activity in place of a scheduled PE period. This activity can take place 1 hour prior to or following the school day.

During the summer, all 9th-12th grade athletes are expected to work on and develop their athletic abilities. Geneva will offer a full array of athletic camps and clinics, strength and conditioning programs, and sport-specific training. Understanding that family and personal time take first priority during the summer, there are various opportunities for student-athletes to train when they can. If a student-athlete is in town and not committed to a family activity, it is assumed that he/she is engaged in some sort of personal strength and speed development program on his/her own or through a skills camp.

OVERNIGHT TRIPS

The school recognizes that there may be occasions when teams are required to plan an overnight trip. While we wish to minimize time away from class and home, there are times such as away games in the playoffs when such extended time away is necessary. This is especially true with the smaller school groupings in TAPPS where is it possible, even likely, that away games will be scheduled at locations that are hours away from Boerne. In such situations, the Athletic Director and the coach are to plan the trip with a mind toward student safety and success balanced with
minimizing the time away from the classroom.

The following guidelines for overnight trips shall be used:

1. There should always be at least two adults or one adult and that adult’s child(ren) of the same gender in the car or room where other students are present. This is for both the protection of the chaperones and the students. The situation of an adult alone with a student must be avoided.

2. Administration and the Athletic Director shall determine the number of chaperones required for all day and overnight school trips.

3. Fees for trips may include travel expenses as needed for the drivers and/or chaperones. This may include gas for each vehicle, admission fees, meals and lodging.

PARENTS

Parent participation is integral to the Geneva athletics program. The school’s athletic department depends upon parents to come alongside all sports teams to serve in one or more of a variety of volunteer positions throughout the year. Team moms, travel coordinators, drivers, overnight chaperones, statisticians, videographers, admissions, field/gym preparation or close down are just a few of the opportunities that provide much needed help and good community time between parents. Serving the athletic department also sets a good example for our student-athletes.

Hosting home games can take considerable resources. Home events have to be properly staffed with score keepers, clock operators, gate keepers and concessions. Each sport has specific needs to cover for a smooth and successful operation (i.e. line judges, chain crew, video, stats). Coaches will work with team moms and parents to organize these responsibilities please be open and available to support our teams.

Most young people participate in sports for the following reasons: to have fun, to develop that natural desire to play, to make new friends or be with their friends, to be part of a team, and to compete. “To win” or “to be a champion” is certainly the goal of most teams; however, placing value primarily in victories and individual success cuts against the true reason Geneva offers athletics. Athletes must hear from parents and coaches that value in athletics is found in the process of competing to the best of one’s ability and competing in a manner that honors God.

Tryouts and practices, which are considered valuable instructional and evaluation time, are closed to all non-team or program personnel, unless previously approved by the coach. Invited guests are expected to refrain from disrupting tryout or practice sessions, and from interacting with players and/or coaches.

Geneva strives to create an atmosphere of modesty and good stewardship. To this end, parents are not allowed to give coaches expensive or extravagant gifts. At the end of the athletic season, team parents may organize a gift for the coach. Throughout the year, simple gifts or acts of kindness are also acceptable. Such gifts, if purchased, should not exceed $10.
PARTICIPATION

Athletics activities may not take priority over the academic program of Geneva. The purpose of all such activities must conform to Geneva’s philosophy and standards, excepting those leagues and organizations that Geneva has agreed to participate with and wherein Geneva does not have unilateral authority.

Student-Athletes

Each student must agree and meet the following before the first day of participation in any given sport:

1. Acknowledgment of having read and understood the Athletics Handbook
2. Agreement to comply with Geneva’s Code of Conduct
3. A current (within the last 12 months) Sports Physical Examination from a physician
4. TAPPS Acknowledgement of Rules (for those at the Rhetoric School level)

Student-athletes cannot participate in an athletics practice or competition until all of the necessary forms are completed, signed and on file in the athletics office.

All student-athletes must adhere to the school’s code of conduct. Any violation will result in a period of probation or suspension, the length of which is determined by the school administration, with possible dismissal from the athletic program.

Any dismissal will result in the student-athlete being withheld from any and all practices and games for the remainder of the season. Reinstatement may be considered for the following season and all decisions regarding reinstatement of student-athletes are determined by the school administration.

When at any school-sanctioned event (defined as those events organized by the school, approved by the administration, and encouraged in school communications), exemplary Christian behavior of all involved is expected so that we may reflect well our Lord and school. This involves modeling the school’s code of conduct and abstaining from drinking, drugs, smoking, profanity, immodesty and gossip.

Student-athletes do not incur repercussions if they choose not to participate in practices for a sport out of that sport’s season. Students do incur repercussions for not participating in practices for a sport while in season.

In addition, students must abide by the following to participate in athletics:

1. Good academic and behavioral standing. (See “Academic Probation” and “Behavioral Probation” for more information on requirements)
2. Clearance from previous sports. Student-athletes cannot join a sport if he or she has an outstanding balance for participation fees or uniform/equipment not returned from a previous sport.
3. Student-athletes must attend at least 3 consecutive academic periods the day of a practice or game in order to play. The only exception to this rule is if the absence is caused due to a school event (field trip, college visit, etc.). For athletic events requiring the student-athlete to miss a whole day of school, the student must attend at least 3 consecutive academic periods the previous school day.

Teachers are notified by the administration as soon as possible of any upcoming absences due to game schedules. Individual teacher's policies for make up work apply.

In addition to the guidelines established here for participation, Geneva coaches are also encouraged to contract with their players, establishing a mutual understanding before the first practices begin of expectations with regard to attendance at practices and games and commitment to the team and season. Game and practice times and dates should be shared with student-athletes and parents, including possible time commitments over school holidays. With such timely information, parents and student-athletes should enter into such contracts with a willingness to modify family plans to fulfill the commitment. All contracts must be approved in advance by the Athletic Director.

**Parents**

Each parent must agree to the following in order for their student to participate in school sponsored athletics:

1. Parents agree to positively encourage the development of their children’s skills.
2. Parents agree to remain committed to the priority of the academic program.
3. Parents agree to display courtesy and sportsmanship to fellow participants (Geneva staff, volunteers, fans, coaches, opposing teams, etc) and officials that is befitting a Christian.
4. Parents agree to resolve issues with coaches and activity leaders in like manner as is done with teachers.
5. Parents must provide a signed permission form allowing for participation in school sponsored athletics
6. Parents must be willing to pay participation fees. Financial assistance might be provided at the discretion of the Head of School provided that the Booster Club has resources available.

Geneva has the right to deny reenrollment, terminate enrollment, or dismiss their students from school sponsored athletics based on parental behavior.

**Coaches**

All coaches and assistant coaches must adhere to and require their players to adhere to the Geneva’s code of conduct. Any violation by coaches will result in a period of probation or suspension, the length of which will be determined by the school administration, with possible dismissal from the athletic program.

Any dismissal will result in the coach being withheld from any and all practices and games for the
remainder of the season. Reinstatement may be considered for the following season and all decisions regarding reinstatement of student-athletes are determined by the school administration.

When at any school-sanctioned event (defined as those events organized by the school, approved by the administration, and encouraged in school communications), exemplary Christian behavior of all involved is expected so that we may reflect well our Lord and school. This involves modeling the school’s code of conduct and abstaining from drinking, drugs, smoking, profanity, immodesty and gossip.

**PARTICIPATION FEES**

Participation fees are charged for school-sponsored athletics teams to help cover the cost of the facility rentals, officiating fees, league membership, entry fees and basic equipment costs. The school’s Booster Club also makes available financial aid to help cover the participation fees for those in need. Such financial aid is based solely on need and is handled by the school administration. Those in need of financial aid for participation fees should contact the athletics office.

**RESOLVING CONFLICTS**

Direct communication between the coach and players and parents is very important, and is usually the best way for any questions to be answered or conflicts to be worked through. The first line of communication for conflict resolution should be between the student-athlete and the coach. If the conflict is not resolved by communication between the coach and player, a meeting should be set up with the student-athlete, a parent, and the coach. Please call or e-mail the coach to arrange a convenient time for a phone conversation or meeting. Parents should exercise the 24-hour rule – wait 24 hours before placing that call or sending an email. Too often our emotions get the best of us. And remember, before or after practices or games is never an appropriate time to approach a coach with a complaint or criticism. Coaches are happy to meet with you, but it may be a few days before a convenient time can be arranged.

A meeting with the coach is an opportunity to exchange information and respectfully discuss any concerns or questions that you may have. The meeting should promote better understanding and communication, but should not be a forum for trying to convince the coach that your student-athlete should be playing more, playing a different position, or that the coach should be employing a different strategy.

If there is a significant issue that a parent believes requires additional discussion, then the Athletic Director should be contacted to meet with the parents and the coach to resolve the issue. If issues cannot be resolved after meeting with the Director of Athletics, then a meeting involving the Head of School, along with the Director of Athletics, coach and parent should take place. Any unresolved or escalated issues should then be taken to the Board of Directors.

**SCHEDULING OF GAMES, EVENTS AND PRACTICES**

All scheduling of athletic games and events takes place through the Athletic Director’s office and requires coordination with the school calendar. Careful attention is given to major school events.
on the calendar such as the Jog-a-thon or periods of heavy testing such as the final week of the first semester. The school administration identifies and communicates periods during the school year (days or even weeks) in which athletics competitions may not occur and practice times may be curtailed or shortened to allow students to succeed in their studies. The school recognizes that scheduling is more an art than a science, requiring the coordination with the other schools in the leagues. Geneva is committed to attending all league meetings with the necessary information to allow for the best possible outcome for our students. The athletic department will cancel games and events only as a last resort as such changes reflect poorly on our school.

Practice days and times are scheduled through the Athletic Director’s office. In establishing the practice schedule, care and consideration is given to matters concerning the student’s academic load and schedule, the availability of facilities, the need for transport to sites off campus or back to school later in the day (often by parents), team preparedness for success and the need for proper training, and the schedule for upcoming games and player need for rest. During periods of intense competition such as the playoffs, players and parents should accept the fact that more time may be needed for practice, including on the weekend or during holidays. At the varsity level, these dates for playoffs are known in advance. Players should only commit themselves to a team that has a reasonable chance at making the playoffs if they are prepared to put in the necessary practice, no matter the impact on holiday trips or other student activities.

The athletic department does its best to schedule games and practices well in advance of the season. Because we cannot control league changes or changes made by an opponent when we travel to their home court/field, changes to schedules inevitably occur.

**SEVERE/INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Any changes to published schedules due to bad weather are updated on our website as soon as an affirmative decision can be made and communicated to players and parents by email or phone when possible.

If lightening is present during an outdoor event, all parties must be moved indoors. The event can only be resumed if 30 minutes has passed since the last visual evidence of lightening.

For outdoor practices, heat and humidity are closely monitored. When possible, practices and training are scheduled for the coolest times of the day. Precautions with outdoor practices and training are to be taken when the Heat Index reaches 95 degrees. These precautions include mandatory water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes duration, removal of helmets and other equipment while not involved in contact, and providing ice-down towels for cooling. Other precautions may include postponing practice and training to later in the day as well as reducing the time of outdoor training and practices. When the Heat Index reaches 95 degrees, it must be re-checked every 30 minutes. If the Heat Index reaches 104 degrees, all outdoor practices and training must stop. At all times, athletes must be watched and monitored closely for heat related illnesses.

**SPORTSMANSHIP**

During home contests, we serve as hosts to the visiting team, its students and spectators, as well as the officials. They are our guests, and they should be treated accordingly. At away contests, we
are expected to act as invited guests. We should treat the home school’s personnel and facilities with care and respect. As participants and spectators, we want to cheer for our team, not against the opponent, being modest in victory and gracious in defeat. Additionally, we should regard the rules of the game as an agreement, the spirit and letter of which we should not evade or break. Officials are to be treated with respect and we should accept absolutely and without quarrel the final decision of any official.

Any member of the Geneva community who is a participant or spectator at an event, who uses profanity, engages in inappropriate behavior such as fighting or similar misconduct will be dismissed from the event and is subject to disciplinary action by the school.

**SPORTS PHYSICALS**

Student-athletes participating in school-sponsored athletics must have a current Sports Physical on file with the athletics office to participate. The Sports Physical must be renewed each year and is good for 12 months. The Sports Physical form, available from the athletics office, must be completed by a licensed physician. **No student athlete will be allowed to step onto a field or court for practice or tryouts until they have a current physical (completed and doctor signed within one year) on file at the Geneva athletic department office.**

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

The school vigorously opposes student use, possession, or distribution of tobacco or alcohol in any form, on campus or off campus. Violation subjects a student-athlete to disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the school administration. Penalties could include multiple-day suspension, permanent removal from the team, or expulsion from school. Students are not permitted to use, possess, purchase or distribute illegal drugs, including athletic performance enhancement drugs. Violation subjects the person(s) involved to disciplinary action and may lead to the involvement of local law enforcement. Athletic performance enhancing drugs are detrimental to the health of the student and are never an acceptable alternative to hard work.

**TEAM SELECTIONS, SIZE AND NUMBER**

Answers to questions about how students are selected for teams, how many teams to field and how many members of a team should be allowed are greatly influenced by enrollment, financial resources available to the school, league restrictions, available competition, available facilities and available coaches. Given the variety of factors that influence and in some cases dictate Geneva's choices, the school has elected to establish guidelines that enable the administration to derive at the best answer for each sport each season. These guidelines vary between the Logic and Rhetoric Schools, but below are the general team size guidelines for Rhetoric School athletics.

**Team Size Guidelines:**

- Eleven-man football - minimum 22 and maximum of 40, preferred 28-34
- Volleyball – minimum of 8 and maximum of 15, preferred 9-15
- Basketball – minimum of 7 and maximum of 15, preferred 10-15
- Soccer 11x11 – minimum of 14 and a maximum of 20, preferred 16-18
- Baseball – minimum of 14 and a maximum of 20
- Softball – minimum of 14 and a maximum of 20
- Golf – minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8, per coach*
- Tennis – minimum of 6 and a maximum of 10, per coach*
- Cross Country – Up to 10 per coach
- Track and Field – Up to 10 per coach

* Golf and tennis minimums and maximums are also often defined by limitations set by Fair Oaks Ranch Country Club regarding the number of students it will allow at their facilities during Geneva’s allotted time.

The Logic School (grades 7 & 8) should field as many teams in the approved sports as is feasible given the constraints our league affiliations, facilities and coaching resources allow. Attempts to create multiple teams should follow grade levels first and then cross grades to complete teams. For example, all 8th graders should fill the A team before including 7th graders on an A team. When a grade remains that has more students than are needed to make a team, the coach will conduct try-outs and select the best players to form his or her team. When there are more students than are needed to make a team, the teams should be sized at the maximum. There are no appeals of try-out selections.

The Rhetoric school should field no more than three teams per gender and as few as one team per gender given the constraints of our league affiliations, facilities and coaching resources. All teams are selected by try-outs by the coaches based upon skill and team composition. Try-outs should be conducted by the coach and supervised by the Athletic Director. There are no appeals of try-out selections. Freshman, sophomores and juniors are eligible for junior varsity or varsity teams as deemed suitable by the coach. Seniors may not compete on junior varsity teams and are not guaranteed a place on a varsity team. A roster spot on any one team in a previous year does not guarantee the same spot on the same team in the current year. For example, a junior basketball player who plays on varsity is not guaranteed to make the varsity basketball roster in his senior year.

TEAM UNIFORMS AND LOGOS

All team uniforms must be submitted to the Athletic Director for approval on color, pricing and use of approved team logos. The team logo (Eagle) to be used on all uniforms must be the official athletic logo approved by the administration. No other logos or colors may be used unless prior written approval is given by the administration.

The official colors are navy, white and metallic gold. Light blue is an acceptable secondary or accent color. Our goal is to remain consistent in all athletic programs with regards to color and quality.
TIME COMMITMENTS

The following time commitments/constraints for practice times apply during the school year. Practices in August (before the school year has begun) may go longer as these practices do not detract from time for study.

School of Logic sports (7th-8th grades) – four day a week commitment with two practices and two games or three practices and one game. Practice length for all sports is 1 hour 30 minutes (an exception to this would be in football, due to equipment apparel and field proximity. In football, the maximum time allowed is 1 hour 45 minutes). Practices and/or games may be held on Saturdays depending on league scheduling. No teams may have mandatory practices over school holidays with one exception - if a game is scheduled on the day immediately following a Monday holiday, practice can be held on Monday evening. Playing a game after several days off can become a safety/health issue for the students.

School of Rhetorics sports (9th-12th grades) – five to six day a week commitment. Practice length for all sports may not exceed 2 hours per day. No games are held on Sundays. Practices and/or games may be held on Saturdays and across some school holidays depending on the sport and season. No games may be played during periods indicated by the school administration such as finals week. No practices or games of any kind may be held during dates designated by TAPPS as “Periods of No Activity.”

TRANSPORTATION

Understanding the trust placed in the school by the parents, safety is the prime consideration when the school is transporting students to and from school events. GSB cannot accept responsibility for the transportation of students that is not planned, coordinated, conducted and or supervised by the school.

All athletes must travel in designated vehicles to and from practices and games. The following exceptions are considered on a case-by-case basis and require a written parental consent for student-athletes who:

**Practice Driver Policy**

1. Drive themselves, by themselves;
2. Drive themselves and no more than one other student-athlete who is not a sibling to the driver (this exception requires parental approval from both sets of parents of the student-athletes), or
3. Ride with an adult that is not the student-athlete’s parent.

**Game Drive Policy**

1. If school transportation is provided athletes must ride with the team.
2. With parent permission athletes my ride home with their guardian or another adult.
When long trips are necessary such as for playoffs in TAPPS, commercial transportation may be used to provide the optimum in safety and professionalism.

When commercial transportation is not available or used, the following guidelines apply:

1. All drivers transporting GSB student-athletes must be licensed, at least 23 yrs. old and have on file with the school copies of current driver’s license and current automobile insurance.
2. Drivers are required to comply with all applicable state and local laws, ordinances and rules of the road, including the use of seatbelts by each person in the vehicle.
3. Drivers must submit themselves to a criminal background check conducted by the school.

The school buses are available for use in transporting teams to and from away events. The buses are to be used primarily by Rhetoric School teams. They may be used by Logic School teams if such use does not conflict with Rhetoric School use. All divers of the school buses must meet the above guidelines as well as be approved by the Athletic Director. As the school has multiple teams, the order of priority for use of the buses is as follows when a scheduling conflict occurs:

1. During overlap of seasons, the team with the earlier season has priority;
2. Varsity teams have priority over JV teams, JV teams have priority over LS teams, LS “A” teams have priority over LS “B” teams; etc.

In addition to the order of priority listed above the following guidelines will also dictate how the buses are allocated:

1. Travel to games takes precedence over travel to practices;
2. Team sports take precedence over individual sports;
3. Out of town travel takes precedence over in town travel.

VARSITY LETTERS

Varsity letters are earned for significant contributions to a varsity team (not sub-varsity) either in playing time or servant-leadership. Varsity letters are to be considered a special award and are not given simply because a player was selected for a varsity team.

Student-athletes in grades 9-12 can earn a varsity letter in a sport under these qualifications:

1. **Playing/Participation Time** – varies by sport as agreed upon by the Varsity Head Coach and Athletic Director. These requirements are to be communicated to athletes and their parents at the beginning of each sport season.

2. **Servant-Leadership** – for those team members who do not meet the minimum playing time requirement, they may qualify for a varsity letter under servant-leadership by demonstrating commitment, positive attitude, and enthusiasm and serving the team in a significant way throughout the season, as decided by the Varsity Head Coach.

3. **Completion of season** – a team member must complete the season on the team’s roster. If a player quits a team or is dismissed from a team, he or she may not qualify for a varsity letter. If an injury or season-ending injury impacts the minimum playing/participation time
qualification, then it is up to the discretion of the Varsity Head Coach and Athletic Director to determine whether or not the playing/participation time qualification would have been met based on to-date contribution at the time of the injury.

A student-athlete who misses playing time due to academic probation or who was suspended or subject to serious school or team disciplinary action during the season is ineligible for consideration for a varsity letter for the sport in which the probation or disciplinary action occurred.

Student-athletes may meet the above qualifications for lettering for a sport in more than one year. When this is the case, the following awarding will be followed:

1. First year: Letter and pin

2. Second - Fourth year: Pin

A letter and pin may be awarded to a student manager who fulfills their responsibilities for two entire seasons.

Team captains may be recognized in each sport. Team captains receive a "captain" pin.

The athletic department keeps on-file a list of student-athletes that qualify for varsity letters and notifies student-athletes and their parents upon completion of the sport season in which he/she participates who has qualified for a varsity letter.

**WEIGHT ROOM**

Student-athletes are not permitted in the weight room without proper supervision and permission from their coach or the Athletic Director. Appropriate apparel (T-shirt and athletic shorts) and athletic shoes must be worn at all times. No student-athlete may lift alone and all lifts should be accompanied by a spotter. Focus is critical so no horseplay, socializing or laziness will be tolerated. When finished, all weights must be racked and areas cleaned.
CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL

Effective immediately, the Athletic Department at Geneva School of Boerne is adopting the following concussion management protocol. All Geneva School of Boerne faculty members and coaches will follow this protocol:

RECOGNITION AND MANAGEMENT

If an athlete exhibits any signs, symptoms, or behaviors that cause suspicion that he or she may have a concussion, that athlete must be removed from all physical activity, including sports and recreation. While only a health-care professional is qualified to diagnose a concussion, parents and coaches must be aware of the signs, symptoms, and behaviors of a possible concussion. If the athlete reports any of the following symptoms after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, the athlete may be suffering from a concussion:

• Headache
• Nausea
• Balance problems or dizziness
• Double or fuzzy vision
• Sensitivity to light or noise
• Feeling sluggish
• Feeling groggy or foggy
• Concentration or memory problems
• Confusion

Also, if any of the following signs are observed by parents, friends, teachers, or coaches after a bump, blow, or jolt to an athlete’s head, the athlete may have suffered a concussion:

• Appears dazed or stunned
• Is confused about what to do
• Forgets plays
• Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
• Moves clumsily
• Answers questions slowly
• Loses consciousness
• Shows behavior or personality changes
• Can’t recall events prior to bump, blow, or jolt to the head
• Can’t recall events after bump, blow, or jolt to the head

When an athlete shows any signs or symptoms of a concussion:

1. The athlete must be removed from the contest or practice, and may not return to practice or to the contest from which he or she was removed.
2. The athlete will not be left alone and will be monitored by a Geneva School of Boerne representative until released to the athlete’s parent or a medical professional.
3. The athlete will be medically evaluated by a physician following the injury.
4. The athlete shall not return to play in a practice, a scrimmage, or an athletic contest until cleared to play by his or her evaluating physician. The athlete must be cleared to play in the specific sport to which they seek to return.
5. Once a player is cleared to return to play, coaches must follow the “Return to Play Criteria” set forth below.

RETURN TO PLAY CRITERIA

Once an athlete is asymptomatic for 24 hours AND is cleared to return to activity by a health care professional, he or she will proceed in the following step-wise fashion to allow the brain to re-adjust to exercise.

1. Light aerobic exercise, 5-10 minutes such as walking or stationary biking; NO weight lifting, resistance training or any other exercises.
2. Moderate aerobic exercise, 15-20 minutes of running at moderate intensity in the gym or on field without helmet or other equipment.
4. Full contact practice or training.
5. Full game play.

The athlete will progress one step each day, and will progress to the next step only if there are no post-concussion symptoms such as those listed above. If symptoms of a concussion reoccur, or if concussion signs and/or behaviors are observed at any time during the return to activity program, the athlete must discontinue all activity and be re-evaluated by a health-care professional.

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact our Athletic Director, Eric Boerboom eboerboom@genevaschooltx.org. For additional information about concussions and the new standard of care, visit: www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/youth.html.