



GENEVA SCHOOL OF BOERNE  
**ATHLETICS**

2019-2020 STUDENT HANDBOOK





## 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

**2019-2020 ATHLETICS HANDBOOK  
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**2019-2020 ATHLETICS HANDBOOK  
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**PREFACE**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Our Program Profile	2
Our Philosophy of Athletics	2
Our Athletics' Mission	3
Our Approach to Athletics . . .	4

**POLICIES AND GUIDELINES**

Academic Probation	5
Accounting and Budgeting	6
Activities	6
Adding Sports and Activities	6
Age and Grade Eligibility	7
Annual Athletics Meeting	7
Athletic Uniform and Dress Code	7
Awards and Banquets	7
Behavioral Probation	7
Coaches	8
Code of Conduct	9
Communications	9
Conflict of Interest	9
Departure from Team	10
Dual Sports	10
Entrance Fees	10
Fundraising	10
Gambling	11
Grammar School and Grade 6 Sports	11
Hazing	11
Locker Rooms	11
Cell Phone Use	12
Injuries	12
Misconduct	12

Out-of-Season Expectations	13
Overnight Trips	14
Parents	14
Participation	16
Participation Fees	17
Resolving Conflicts	18
Scheduling of Games, Events and Practices	18
Severe/Inclement Weather	19
Sportsmanship	19
Sports Physicals	19
Substance Abuse	19
Supervision	20
Team Selections, Size and Number	20
Team Uniforms and Logos	21
Time Commitments	21
Transportation	21
Varsity Letters	22
Weight Room	23
Appendix A	24
Appendix B	25
Appendix C	27
Appendix D	29

**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 on the Sports Registration Form) each school year to the athletics office. **This form must be on file before a student-athlete can participate in school athletics.**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### OUR PROGRAM PROFILE

Mascot – Eagles

Primary Colors – Navy (Pantone Blue – 282), gold (Pantone Metallic Gold – 871) and (Pantone Flat Gold – 465) and white. Also, will use silver and black when appropriate as outlined in the Brand Manual.

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 and Field, Baseball, Softball

*Grades 7-8* – Football, Volleyball, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Basketball, Soccer, Golf, Tennis, Track and Field, 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:

*Geneva School of Boerne exists to provide a classical education from a biblical 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 only 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). Our program at Geneva has determined to conduct itself knowing that a program is neither about just winning trophies and championships nor is it just about building self-esteem and sheltering athletes from disappointments. Instead, we seek to pursue success with full commitment to understanding that it is not the championships or trophies themselves that enhance our character, but the all-out pursuit of those things where God teaches us to manage the successes and failures that come as a result of the pursuit.

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 athletics program for Logic and Rhetoric students (grades 7-12), PE classes are taught in grades K-8 with an emphasis on developing conditioning and skills suitable for various sports. Support is also available to parents and coaches of students below seventh grade.

***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 of season 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 neuromuscular development 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 extracurricular 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 seventh grade and trains students in both the fundamental skills and strategy of each sport.

During grades 7-8, 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 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 toward authority. While all athletes are expected to respect the authority and philosophy of the coach, they are also encouraged to engage in respectful dialogue in the right time and place with coaches regarding any athlete concerns. A student-athlete should first approach the coach or staff before involving their parents. In doing so they exhibit respect for authority and respect for the defined chain of command regarding conflict resolution.

## POLICIES AND GUIDELINES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

### 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 at mid-quarter or an "F" in any one subject in a quarter or at mid-quarter.

- *Students on academic probation are not allowed to participate in any Geneva extracurricular activities (including sports practices or games) for a minimum of half a quarterly grading period and remain on probation until grades are brought to a passing level. If a student fails a course for the year, the student will be on probation until at least the midpoint of the following quarter (quarter one).*

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 At-Risk Grade Reports (mid-quarter) as well as the report card 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 At-Risk Grade Reports in early October). Coaches have the authority to conduct random "grade" checks at any point and may choose to hold a team standard that exceeds the school standard.

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.

**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 fundraising activities.

All monies used in funding GSB athletic programs come through the school’s budget and are deposited into the school’s checking account. Funds are dispersed from the same 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’s 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. All athletics related purchases must come from and be approved by the athletics department, items purchased through donation are considered property of the athletics department.

**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:

<u>Fall and Winter</u>	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Cheerleading	Volleyball	Basketball	Track and Field
	Cross Country	Soccer	Baseball
	Football		Softball
			Golf
			Tennis

Rhetoric School (grades 9-12) school-sponsored sports and activities:

<u>Fall and Winter</u>	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Cheerleading	Volleyball	Basketball	Track and Field
	Cross Country	Soccer	Baseball
	Football	Swimming	Softball
			Golf
			Tennis

**ADDING SPORTS OR ACTIVITIES**

Geneva School of Boerne supports and allows a variety of school-sponsored athletic activities in varying degrees as long as each is aligned with the purpose and mission of the program. Because there are a number of ways to satisfy the purpose and mission of the school, the leadership of the school seeks to align the whole collection of activities in accordance with 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. Any approved addition to the athletics programming must prove viable as a “club sport” at no cost to the athletics department for a minimum of two years with evidence sustained interest at the feeder level. Geneva will not add a new team if there is reason to believe that its addition will be to the detriment of another established Geneva sponsored program or to the overall health of the athletics program as a whole.

**AGE AND GRADE ELIGIBILITY**

For participation in Logic School athletics, students must be in the grades 7 or 8. When necessary for the development of a Logic School team, sixth grade students of high academic standing may be invited to participate with a seventh/eighth team.

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

**ANNUAL ATHLETICS MEETING**

Each year the Geneva Athletics Program will hold an all sports meeting to discuss policy changes and updates and to convey points of interest regarding the mission and execution of the athletics program. This meeting will be held in the spring prior to the coming sport season. Attendance by all athletes and parents is highly encouraged. The Annual Athletics Meeting is for all current student-athletes in grades 6-11 and parents.

**ATHLETIC TRAINING POLICIES**

See Appendix A

**ATHLETIC UNIFORM AND DRESS CODE**

Student-athletes are issued team uniforms and are expected to take great care of the uniforms. Athletes will be issued a uniform and other necessary equipment and is responsible for the care and return of those items throughout the season. 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 may be 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 cost for a uniform will be set at the rate at which it costs the school to replace. Student-athletes **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED** to participate in their next sport season games 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. For spring sports, transcripts will be held until payment or uniform is received.

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 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 on 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. Any appointment of volunteer coaches must also be submitted by the coach to the Athletic Director and Head of School for approval and must complete all TAPPS, Ministry Safe and school related paperwork before being considered.

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 Geneva participates.

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 deciding whether to listen to the coach or his or her 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 instruct and the player to perform without distraction from the stands. Distraction only yields poor results.

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

Coaches must communicate with student-athletes and parents on a regular basis. At the start of the season, coaches are expected to communicate season commitment expectations 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 be made available 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, words and deeds, and student-athletes must abide by the school's stated rules and any other rules stipulated by athletic department staff members.

Athletes and parents are asked to be particularly mindful in signing their respective codes of conduct seen in Appendix C and D of this handbook

### **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 under the "Athletics" tab. In addition, coaches will communicate directly to athletes and athletes should a conduit of communication from the coach to the parent. Athletes should be attentive to the instructions of the coach.

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, 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.

### **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* – **A Rhetoric School player who quits a sport after the season has started is not eligible to participate in a sport the next season and is not eligible to earn a letter in the sport they quit.** An exception exists if a coach and player agree ahead of time that a Rhetoric School student-athlete may try a sport for a week to see if he/she would like to play it. If the student-athlete quits within the agreed upon time, this would not render him/her ineligible for the next season's sport.
3. *Being dismissed from a team* – regardless of the reason, any player who is dismissed from a team for conduct, rule infractions or disciplinary reasons cannot earn a letter in the sport (grade 9-12) 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. While Geneva **supports and encourages** the interest and activity of athletes to engage in multiple sports throughout the year, the school and programs have grown in a manner that make multiple sport participation during the same season difficult. Multiple sports participation during the same season is not highly encouraged. Athletes who do choose to participate in multiple sports during the same season may be subject to the discretion of each particular coach regarding varsity team selection or a reduction of playing opportunities based on of commitment, availability and team needs. This also applies to individual sports which are often limited in their district, region or state entry options. Athletes who choose to participate in multiple sports at the same time may be setting themselves and their team up to struggle in both. 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 (Logic or Rhetoric) in accordance with league rules. Entrance fees for Rhetoric home contests during the 2018-19 season will be \$4 for students and \$6 for adults; \$5 and \$8 for varsity football. Logic school entrance fees are set at \$1 and \$3. The entrance fee is waived for Geneva Booster Club members for pre-season and regular season home events, with the exception of tournaments organized and hosted by Geneva.

For varsity playoff events at home, everyone 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 charged 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 the 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 fine arts is generated by the Athletic Director, the Fine 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 results in 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
5. The league offers sports that are either currently offered or desired to be offered in grades 7-12

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 results in disciplinary action.

### **LOCKER ROOMS**

Locker rooms must be maintained and cared for by the student-athletes. Coaches will work with their teams to maintain and care for the locker room spaces.

The following are mandatory locker room expectations:

- The doors should not be tampered with in a way to keep them from locking or closing all the way
- No horseplay is allowed in the locker room, i.e. pushing, shoving, wrestling, or throwing of objects
- Music selection, language and actions should seek to be in line with the discipline and expectations of young Christ-followers

- Access to the locker room is limited to before school and after school. Outside of normal scholastic team use the locker room is off limits during the school day
- Coaches will take a weekly sweep of the locker rooms and discard all dirty towels. Unclaimed clothing will be turned in to the lost and found
- Locker preference is given first to sports in season
- Interior locker “cage” locations are designated for sport teams who utilize the gymnasium

Failure to adhere to these expectations could result in individual or team disciplinary actions.

### **CELL PHONE USE**

**For both Rhetoric and Logic School athletes, cell phones should NEVER be used inside the locker rooms or restrooms at any time. Violation of this policy is a serious offense.** Coaches will confiscate cell phones if they are used in the locker rooms. A student-athlete who possesses a cell phone is responsible for its care.

### **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.

If a Geneva athlete has possibly sustained a concussion, coaches are required to follow the Geneva Concussion Management Protocol which is also in accordance with the TAPPS 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 is an emotionally charged endeavor. A coach, player or parent who exhibits poor behavior to the point that the individual must be removed from the event will face 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. 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 re-enrollment 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 students in grades 9-12 from their own school on a non-school team, with the exception of the coach's own adopted or birth children.
2. Students in grades 9-12 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 deadline or elimination from state playoff or after play-offs for germane sport).

**EXCEPTION:** Zero hour rules allow out-of-season activity in place of a scheduled PE period. This activity can take place one hour prior to or following the school day and can be conducted by a coach.

During the summer, athletes in grades 9-12 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 it is 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.
4. Geneva does not cover food, or lodging expenses for athletes with exception for costs incurred through State playoff travel.

## **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, concessions, 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.

Most young people participate in sports for the following reasons: have fun, develop that natural desire to play, make new friends or be with their friends, be part of a team and 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.

### **Parent/Coach Relationship**

Many issues can be resolved or altogether avoided through clear and consistent communication. It is important that coaches and parents respectfully communicate the expectations and philosophies they hold for one another.

#### **Communication you should expect from the coach:**

1. Coach's philosophy of coaching
2. Coach's expectations for team members and parents

3. Discipline or protocol for unmet expectations and the effect on playing time, etc.
4. The location and times of all games and practices (may be tentative)
5. Approximate leave and return times for all away games
6. Team requirements (i.e. additional fees, special equipment, off-season expectations)
7. Procedures to follow for injuries

**Communication the coach should expect from the parents:**

1. Notification well in advance of any scheduling conflicts
2. Any specific concerns regarding a coach's philosophy or expectations
3. A respectful conversation regarding any concerns not specifically covered

**Appropriate issues to discuss with a coach:**

1. Concerns regarding your child
2. Concerns about your child's behavior

**Issues not appropriate to discuss with a coach:**

1. Team strategy
2. Play calling
3. Playing time
4. Other athletes

**In the event of a conflict, the following protocol should be observed:**

1. Questions or concerns your student-athlete may have with a coach, teammate or program culture should first be brought to the attention of the coach or teammate directly by the athlete. If the athlete is not sure how to respectfully approach the coach or teammate, he or she can come to the Athletic Director or other staff for advice. It is our desire that athletes are disciplined in the biblical model for reconciliation and learn to confront their issues responsibly (Matthew 18).
2. If the issue cannot be resolved or adequately addressed, then an appointment may be made with the parent, athlete and coach 24 hours after the incident of concern and with much prayer and thought.
3. If the issue is still not resolved, then a meeting should be held between the parent, athlete and coach with the Athletic Director facilitating the discussion.

**Parent Volunteerism**

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

The inability to secure volunteer help from parents can hinder the opportunities for our athletes to participate. All parents are expected to assist in the operations of games and in the transportation of students, especially at the Logic

School level where school sponsored transportation is less available. If coaches are unable to secure the assistance of parent help they may be required to cancel upcoming games or significantly reduce game opportunities.

## **PARTICIPATION**

Athletic activities may not take priority over the academic programs of Geneva. These activities must conform to Geneva's philosophy and standards, except those leagues and organizations that Geneva has agreed to participate in and where Geneva does not have unilateral authority.

### **Student-Athletes**

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

1. Acknowledgment of having read and understood the Athletics Handbook
2. Agreement and signature to comply with Athlete 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)
5. Signature of any individual sport programs handbook if provided
6. All Required TAPPS documents such as Medical History, Sudden Cardiac, Concussion Awareness and Steroid Use Agreement

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.

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

1. Good academic and behavioral standing. (See Academic Probation and Behavioral Probation sections for more information on requirements)
2. Clearance from previous sports. Student-athletes cannot join a sport if they have an outstanding balance for participation fees or uniform/equipment not returned from a previous sport.
3. Student-athletes must attend at least three 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 three consecutive academic periods the previous school day.
4. When class is in session student-athletes are expected to be in class and on time following away games from the previous night. Student-athletes are also not excused to leave class earlier than the communicated dismissal times for away games.
5. Attain medical clearance if injured and wanting to be able to rejoin the team in full participation.

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

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

Commitment to practice and games is a significant factor in determining athletic contest participation and playing time. Each coach will have discretion to define participation expectations and the consequences of missing practices or games for any excused or unexcused purposes. The parents and athletes understand that missing practices or games, for any reason, can affect a coach's decision to play, start or utilize an athlete in a game, meet or match.

### **Parents**

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

1. Parents must sign the Athletics handbook and agree to the Athletics Code of Conduct
2. Parents must ensure that all athletic fees have been paid
3. Parents must adhere to the Parent Code of Conduct and display courtesy and sportsmanship to fellow participants (Geneva staff, volunteers, fans, coaches, opposing teams, etc.) and officials befitting a Christian
4. Parents agree to resolve issues with coaches and activity leaders in a Christ-like manner as is done with teachers, following the chain of command
5. Parents must turn in the athletics registration form indicating permission to participate in school sponsored athletics

Geneva has the right to deny re-enrollment, terminate enrollment or dismiss 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 the coach 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 our Lord and school well. 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. Athletes will not be allowed to continue in the sport if participation fees are past due. Due dates for sports participation are set by the Geneva Business Office. Families will be invoiced and notified of the past due date.

## RESOLVING CONFLICTS

In the event of conflicts, concerns or miscommunication between coaches and athletes, athletes should engage in conversation directly with coaches. Geneva coaches are professionals and have a sincere desire to excel in their job. Athletes should also communicate directly with coaches regarding concerns about team dynamics, locker-room issues, team philosophy and team culture. Direct communication between the coach and athlete must take place before involving the parents.

If the conflict is not resolved by communication between the coach and athlete, a meeting should be set up with the student-athlete, a parent and the coach. Please call or email 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 a 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, coach and the athlete to resolve the issue. If issues cannot be resolved after meeting with the Athletic Director, then a meeting involving the Head of School, along with the Athletic Director, coach and parent should take place. Any unresolved or escalated issues should then be taken to the Head of School.

When contacting a coach regarding conflict resolution, parents and athletes must use the coaches Geneva issued email address (@genevaschooltx.org). It is never appropriate to contact a coach on his personal email or phone device. Special care and attention should be applied to respect the coach's private and personal time. Parents should never approach a coach during or immediately following a game and should respect the designated coaching spaces at all times. It is never appropriate to yell instructions or voice disagreements to a coach during or immediately following a game or in the open public.

## 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 Jogathon 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 athletic 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, as well as 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 will inevitably occur.

In the event that student athletes return home from an away contest on a school night later than midnight, they will be allowed one grace period for returning to school the next day. Student athletes will receive 1 grace period for coming in past midnight and will receive an additional grace period for every hour additional hour, up to a maximum of three grace periods. For example an athlete returning home at 1:30 AM would be allowed two grace periods.

### **SEVERE/INCLEMENT WEATHER**

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

If lightening is present within a dangerous radius during an outdoor event, all parties must be moved indoors. The event may 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. Athletes must be watched and monitored closely for heat-related illnesses at all times.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP**

During home contests, we serve as hosts to the visiting team, its students, spectators, and officials. They are our guests and 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 or 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 in order to participate. The sports physical must be renewed each year and is valid 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 participate in practice or tryout for a sport until they have a current physical (completed and signed by a doctor 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.

## **SUPERVISION**

It is very important for the safety of athletes and care of our facility that students are supervised at all times by a Geneva coach or employee. Therefore, we have set strict guidelines for the availability and use of the gym or weight room. Under no circumstance is an athlete allowed to utilize the Geneva athletic facilities unsupervised.

### **Before School**

In order for an athlete to partake in before school athletic activities, she must be supervised and under the direction of a sport coach. Students cannot utilize the gym or weight room without specific direction and coaching. The gym lobby doors will be locked in the morning and only opened for students involved in a specific training activity in which their coach is supervising. All students should access the locker rooms from the outside of the facility.

### **During School**

During school athletes are not allowed to be in the locker-rooms, gym facility or weight room unless participating in a sport function under the supervision of the sport coach. Under no circumstances should students be in the gym or weight room during a regularly scheduled class. Students can utilize the athletics facility during off period or study hall periods for working on sport specific training if they have permission from both the coach and study hall teacher and are under the direct supervision of that coach.

### **After School/Practice**

Student-athletes are allowed to utilize the weight room and gym facility after school or after practice if it is available. However, students-athletes must be under the supervision of a Geneva coach. The last coach utilizing any given facility will lock that facility after practice. No students are allowed in the gym unattended.

## **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 availability of 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 make the best decision for each sport each season. These guidelines vary between the Logic and Rhetoric Schools, but the general team size guidelines for Rhetoric School athletics are below:

***Team Size Guidelines (guidelines are only a suggestion and are not binding):***

- Football – minimum 22 athletes and maximum of 40 (preferred 28-34)
- Volleyball – minimum of 8 and maximum of 14 (preferred 9-12)
- Basketball – minimum of 7 and maximum of 15 (preferred 10-12)
- 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 Golf and Country Club regarding the number of students it will allow at their facilities during Geneva's allotted time.

\* Swimming is determined by facility availability

The Logic School (grades 7- 8) should field as many teams in the approved sports as is feasible given the constraints our league affiliations and facilities and as parental help and coaching resources allow. Attempts to create multiple

teams should follow grade levels first and then cross grades to complete teams. For example, all eight graders should fill the A team before including seventh graders on an A team. When a grade remains that has more students than are needed to make a team, the coach will conduct tryouts and select the best players to form his team. Team selection is not based solely on ability but also attitude, effort and commitment. There are no appeals of tryout 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 through tryouts by the coaches based upon skill and team composition. Tryouts should be conducted by the coach and supervised by the Athletic Director. There are no appeals of tryout 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.

Each sports program head will work with the Athletic Director to establish the philosophy from top to bottom. It is the coach's discretion in conjunction with the AD to determine the total number of teams within the previously-mentioned constraints. No sports program is the same, therefore each program's philosophy regarding number of athletes or number of teams may vary depending on facilities, athletic interest, competitiveness of the program and overall coach philosophy. Coaches of fall sports may choose to conduct spring tryouts in an attempt to set their fall teams.

### **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 Communications Director. No other logos or colors may be used unless prior written approval is given by the Communication Director.

The official colors are navy, gold and white. 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.

Logic School sports (grades 7-8) – four days 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 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.

Rhetoric School sports (grades 9-12) – five to six days a week commitment. Practice length for all sports may not exceed two 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 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.

**Practice Driver Policy (when practice may be off campus):**

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 written parental approval from both sets of parents of the student-athletes)
3. Ride with an adult that is not the student-athlete's parent with written parent approval

**Game Driver Policy:**

1. If school transportation is provided athletes **must ride with the team** unless there are exceptional circumstances that would require otherwise
2. With parent and coach permission athletes may ride home with their guardian or another adult. A parent or approved adult must sign out the responsible student from the game site

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 years 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 and Ministry Safe Training conducted by the school
4. Coaches are not allowed to transport athletes in their personal vehicle without written exception from the Head of 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 drivers 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

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 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, 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 patch
2. Second-Fourth year – pin
3. A letter and patch may be awarded to a student manager who fulfills their responsibilities for two entire seasons.
4. 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 (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.

## APPENDIX A

### ATHLETIC TRAINING POLICES

Geneva is in process of finalizing a contracted trainer for the 2018-19 season.

The following information provided is designed to help parents or guardians navigate through all the details when their athlete participates in Geneva athletics or suffers from an injury or illness while participating in athletics throughout the year. This information is also meant to help provide both Geneva and TAPPS with proper documentation and injury reporting protocols.

#### Injury reporting

Any time your athlete is seen by a licensed medical professional other than the athletic trainer during the school year, please secure a **physician written and signed release** for the sport they are participating in and **physician written and signed clearance** once they have been cleared by a medical professional to participate. If your student sees a doctor it is important to let them know that they will have the opportunity to work with an on campus athletic trainer and ask what rehab exercises you can perform under their supervision to improve recovery time. Both the release and clearance forms need to be on file at the school so we can report injuries to TAPPS.

#### Physicals

Student-athletes participating in school-sponsored athletics must have a current sports physical on file with the athletics office in order to participate. The sports physical must be renewed each year and is valid for 12 months. The sports physical form 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 signed by a doctor within one year) on file at the Geneva Athletic Department Office. In addition to a physical each athlete must have all TAPPS mandated paperwork on file before their first competition. TAPPS paperwork includes a Medical History, Concussion, Sudden Cardiac Arrest, Steroid Notification and Student Acknowledgment of Rules. All of these forms are available on the Geneva website or in the Athletic Office.

#### Concussion reporting and Protocol

If an athlete is determined by a physician to have sustained a concussion, he/she cannot receive clearance until symptom free for 24 hours. The athlete must have physician-documented clearance and have completed and turned in to the trainer the **TAPPS CONCUSSION\_RETURN TO PLAY FORM** (on file at the school or with the trainer) before he/she is allowed to enter into the Return to Play Protocol. Once released, the athlete will then complete the five-step Return to Play Protocol before he or she can participate in a game or contest. Each of these steps will take 24-48 hours to complete. The athlete will progress to the next step only if they have remained symptom free. If symptoms return, the athlete will be removed from activity and may return to progression after 24 hours of being symptom free. If symptoms do not resolve the athlete will be referred back to her physician. Athletes must complete this program under the supervision of a certified/licensed athletic trainer and not at home.

An athlete cannot return to play unless:

1. The athlete remains symptom free for seven days
2. The athlete is asymptomatic at rest and with exertion
3. The athlete has successfully completed the Return to Play Protocol
4. The athlete has obtained a written release and filed a TAPPS Concussion Return form with the Athletics Office.

## APPENDIX B

### 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 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

To review, 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 her evaluating physician. Athletes 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 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
3. Non-contact training drills in full uniform. May begin weight lifting, resistance training and other exercises
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.

For additional information about concussions and the new standard of care, visit:  
[www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/youth.html](http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/youth.html).

## APPENDIX C

### ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

An athlete's code of conduct certainly pertains to practice and competitive situations. However, as a representative of the school and most importantly of Christ, athletes are held to a higher standard and should therefore expect to make this code of conduct a part of their everyday lifestyle.

#### Speech

*Luke 6:45 – “For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.”*

- 1. Choose your words and timing wisely.** Unwholesome talk, slang, profanity or trash talking is not allowed.
- 2. Address coaches and officials with respect.** You should address your coach as Coach, Mr., Mrs. or Miss. You should be careful about the message your body language is conveying. Divisive speech or behavior will not be tolerated. You are expected to speak to officials with respect addressing them as Sir or Ma'am. **THANK THE OFFICIALS AFTER A GAME.**
- 3. Do not criticize officials or coaches.** Coaches and officials represent authority figures and obedience to that authority is not an option. If there are disagreements, then there are respectful and tactful means to approach those in authority.

#### Relationships

*John 15:12 – “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”*

- 1. Develop good relationships and a good reputation with teammates and coaches.** You only go through school one time in life. The story of your school days is written by you, and the characters in your story have been placed with a purpose by God. Take the opportunity to build lifelong relationships with those He has placed among you.
- 2. Develop good relationships and a good reputation with classmates.** Don't place yourself up on a pedestal. Live with passion and enthusiasm, but also live with humility and grace.
- 3. Develop good relationships and a good reputation with students from other schools.** Do not view your competitors as mortal enemies but instead as fellow competitors in Christ. Developing a relationship with them will speak a loud testimony regarding Christ.

#### Unity

*1 Corinthians 12:26 – “If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”*

- 1. Develop unity within your team.** Embrace 1 Corinthians 12:26. Truly celebrate other's successes and lift others up in their failures. “It is amazing what can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit.” – John Wooden
- 2. Develop unity within your school family.** Never be jealous or envious of someone else's role but instead be busy fulfilling your role. Be satisfied in the person God created you to be, not wishing that God would have created you to be like someone else.
- 3. Develop unity within the Kingdom.** There are many schools who embrace our vision and mission to glorify God. Pray for your competitors and their schools. Have the vision to see yourself as part of the same ultimate team.

#### Motives

*1 Corinthians 10:31 – “In whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”*

- 1. Strive for victory in order to glorify God.** Athletics is a means to an end and not the end itself. The real value of competition is not the wins and losses but the lessons learned through striving after wins. Perfection is impossible but striving for perfection is not.

**2. Demonstrate Christ by abiding in the rules of the game.** A team that lacks discipline, commitment, enthusiasm, or one that plays the game using unfair or unethical tactics does not glorify God.

**3. Commit to excellence.** “Commit your works to the Lord, and all your ways will be established.” –Proverbs 16:3

### **Behavior**

*1 John 2:6 – “whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.”*

**1. Maintain a good reputation.** As an athlete you are expected to be a student of character and class in the community. This includes your actions and attitude toward administration, faculty and staff. You should refrain from profanity, unwholesome talk and innuendos. You are expected to never be under the influence of, possess or distribute alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs or other contraband. Also, you are not to be involved in any immoral sexual activity or be in possession of any pornography or illicit pictures or literature.

**2. Know and understand all the requirements of participation.** You are to follow all team expectations in action and spirit. Failure to do so will result in consequences laid out by the coach and Athletic Director.

**3. Show respect for all coaches, trainers, and staff.** This includes opponents and opponents’ facilities. Leave every place or situation better off than when you arrived.

**4. Show respect for teammates.** This is practically done by showing up on time for all practices, meetings and games and working together to accomplish a common goal. As an athlete you are also expected to confront teammates and hold them accountable for inappropriate actions.

**5. Maintain self-control at all times.** Unsportsmanlike conduct and technical fouls will not be tolerated and will be penalized accordingly.

**6. Know, understand, and adhere to the philosophy of the athletics program.**

**7. Demonstrate Christ-like behavior.** This is true both on and off the court.

## APPENDIX D

### PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

#### Speech

*James 3:9-10 – “With the tongue we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.”*

1. **Choose your words and your timing wisely.** Be aware of the things you are saying and around whom you are saying them. Other parents, students and the coach’s family members can be hurt by careless comments made around them. Questionable language or any negative and insulting language must be avoided.
2. **Be positive and encouraging.** Your words can be very powerful either for good or for bad. You have the ability to make any situation a positive one by lifting up your child and others. Let them know they are important to you and have an important role on the team.
3. **Never criticize the officials or coaches.** Officials and coaches represent authority for your son or daughter, so athletics allows a great opportunity to model to your child how to respect a person in authority. Hold your child accountable to act with respect toward coaches and officials and model that behavior for them.
4. **Never be involved in negative cheering.** Show sportsmanship and class by only engaging in positive cheering regardless of the opponents cheering method.
5. **Never speak negatively around the students or other parents about:**
  - a. **The School** – Negativity can be contagious, but fortunately so can an attitude of gratitude.
  - b. **Other students or parents** – Speak to parents about only your child and their child unless speaking very highly of others. Be an encouragement to all members of the team. Only speak about other teammates’ parents in a genuinely complimentary manner.
6. **Never criticize your child’s teammates.**
7. **Always resolve differences with your coaches out of sight of other students and parents and with the utmost respect and tact.** Wait 24 hours if tensions are high. Set up an appointment to speak privately with the coach. Pray about your motives, what you will say and for a spirit of unity as you prepare to meet. Show respect for the coach always but especially in the presence of your child, even in disagreement.

#### Relationships

*John 15:12 – “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”*

1. **Develop relationships and a good reputation with the team.** God has provided an opportunity through your child to minister to and encourage other students and parents.
2. **Develop relationships and a good reputation with other parents.** Develop a sense of kingdom unity as you join with other parents in a common interest. Use this as an opportunity to pray and support each other.
3. **Develop relationships and a good reputation with parents from other schools.** The relationships you develop outside the school will be a reflection on the entire Geneva community and provide many opportunities to live as a testimony of Christ’s work in you.
4. **Develop relationships and a good reputation with the coaches.** Get to know and pray for your coaches. If they have a spouse, get to know and pray for them too. A coach’s spouse needs more support and encouragement than most realize. You and your coaches are working together for the benefit of your child.

## Unity

*1 Corinthians 12:26 – “If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”*

- 1. Develop unity within the school family.** Support all Geneva students and staff by attending events, both athletic and non-athletic. Everyone at the school has different roles and abilities, so never be jealous or envious of someone else’s role or ability.
- 2. Develop unity outside the school family.** Share Geneva’s athletic philosophy. Help spread the word about the things God is doing at Geneva.

## Motives

*Corinthians 10:31 – “In whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”*

- 1. Be motivated by the love of God.** We love because God first loved us.
- 2. Strive for victory as a tool to teach your students.** Athletics is a means to an end and not the end itself. The real value of competition is not the wins and losses but the lessons learned through the striving after wins. Perfection is impossible but striving for perfection is not. Failure is a means to success when handled correctly. If you can teach this to your child they will realize success in life.
- 3. Teach your child to abide by the spirit and letter of the rules.** Support the idea that unethical tactics and strategy is not an option.
- 4. Use your child’s experience in athletics as an opportunity to be involved in their life.** Your relationship with your child extends well beyond the school years. Have a vision for what you want your child to look like as an adult and start investing in them now in ways that will shape and mold their future. Athletics provides a great medium in which to do that.

## Behavior

*1 John 2:6 – “whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.”*

- 1. Maintain class and character.** You are setting an example for your child. Your actions in all avenues of life will reflect you, your family, Geneva and ultimately your Lord.
- 2. Always insist that your child follows instructions.** Coaches depend on a player’s ability to follow instruction immediately and without question. Questions can be addressed at the appropriate time, such as after the game or in practices.
- 3. Show respect for game officials.** Badgering an official to persuade a call our way comes at a high cost – that being our Christian testimony and the ministry effectiveness of Geneva. (Besides being a very ineffective way of inducing change and often it backfires!) There is never an appropriate instance in which a parent should say anything to an official besides thank you. No one would be able to play the game without officials.
- 4. Remain in the stands.** Never attempt to approach the field, court, bench area, press box, score table or the officials before, during or after a competition. Socially visiting with the coach or staff briefly after the game is encouraged; however, game officials are off limits.
- 5. Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.** Victory is our goal, but discipling tomorrow’s leaders is our purpose. We must keep this in perspective.
- 6. Recognize the success of your opponent.** Recognize the good play of our opponents and congratulate players and coaches from other schools. Shake hands with the opponents’ spectators if appropriate.

- 7. Do no coach your child from the stands.** Doing so is confusing to that athlete and team and may be undermining the objectives and game plans of the coach who has spent considerable time formulating a game plan and team specific roles.
- 8. Teach your child their special purpose from God.** Do not compare or contrast them to others. Help them fulfill their full potential and purpose by supporting them, helping them embrace their strengths and encouraging them to work hard to improve their weaknesses.
- 9. Have fun, touch lives and be yourself.** Being a parent of an athlete is a lot of work and sacrifice but it can also be a great time of fellowship and opportunity. Be diligent and prepared for the opportunities God may bring to invest in others.
- 10. Always demonstrate Christ-like behavior and keep fellow parents accountable to doing the same.** If needed, be willing to lovingly admonish behavior contradictory to this code of conduct. Conduct detrimental to the testimony of the school could result in removal from the athletic arena.