

GRAY COLLEGIATE ACADEMY ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2025-2026



#WAREAGLE

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Message to Parents and Student-Athletes

This handbook has been given to you because your son or daughter has expressed interest in competing in interscholastic athletics at Gray Collegiate Academy and you have expressed your willingness to support and permit him/her to compete. We are pleased with your interest in the athletics program and believe that athletics participation can be a beneficial supplement to their academic experience.

It is a privilege to compete on an athletic team at Gray Collegiate Academy. We have high expectations for all our students and even higher expectations for our student athletes in the classroom, in competition, and in the community. Each student should take tremendous pride when wearing the “Black & Gray” and representing Gray Collegiate Academy.

As the parent or guardian of a student who is participating in athletics, you and your son or daughter may have many questions. This handbook was created to help answer many of those questions and serve as a guide to make athletic participation a positive and rewarding experience.

Athletic Directors Welcome

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2025-2026 Gray Collegiate Academy War Eagle Athletics. The GCA family looks forward to our many athletics contests during our fall, winter and spring sport seasons. Our War Eagle student-athletes will compete in exciting sports contests against the best interscholastic competition in the Midlands and across the state of South Carolina.

We are honored to have the opportunity to provide education-based athletics, as a co-curricular school activity along with the South Carolina High School League. We will work diligently to ensure that all members of the War Eagle Athletics family will conduct themselves with exceptional character, sportsmanship and a commitment to the highest level of academic achievement and athletics performance.

Keeping the principles of character and sportsmanship in mind, we want to remind members of the War Eagle family to adhere to these values to help provide the best experience for our student athletes. How we act in the field of competition and as fans reflects on our entire Gray Collegiate Academy community.

Please be sure to introduce yourself at the next home athletics event that you attend! I look forward to seeing you soon and sincerely appreciate your support of our student athletes.

#WAREAGLE

Kevin Heise
Athletic Director
Gray Collegiate Academy

Mission Statement

At Gray Collegiate Academy we encourage all students interested in sports to participate in our athletics program. We believe that participation in athletics develops a well-rounded student, builds positive character, teaches teamwork, sportsmanship, respect and creates servant leaders. Our goal is to help students learn to develop and enhance these and other characteristics through sports. We want to mold our students into individuals who will be successful academically and athletically. Through the dedication of our coaching staff, counselors, teachers, administrators and families, we are confident that our students will be prepared for life after high school.

Vision Statement

The Gray Collegiate Academy Athletics Department aims to be an all-inclusive program providing access and opportunity for every student athlete. The Athletic Department serves to produce well-rounded academic and social-emotional development for our students. Through active engagement with the student body, faculty, administrators and community partners, the Athletic Department promotes sportsmanship, lifelong personal/community wellness, and productive citizens.

Gray Collegiate Academy Athletics Philosophy

The Gray Collegiate Academy Athletic Department strives to offer a wide variety of sport offerings to assist in the physical, social and mental development of well-rounded students who are committed to academic and athletic success.

Athletic Department Core Values

1. **Leadership.** Model and display the characteristics of leaders, both on and off the field/court, especially in school. This is an integral component to the enhancement of school culture and cultivating model citizens in society.
2. **Sportsmanship.** Win or lose, we always display sportsmanship in all facets/components/participants of a sporting event (opposing teams, officials, teammates, coaches, spectators, etc.)
3. **Pursuit of Excellence.** Challenge yourselves and each other to excel in all endeavors through dedication, determination, and maximum effort in all facets (practice, game, etc.)
4. **Pride.** Display War Eagle Pride, both in school and community. Be proud of the school's history and tradition that you are creating and don the War Eagle logo ("G-Eagle") with honor.
5. **Accountability.** Fulfill your responsibilities to the team, take ownership of your actions, and make no excuses for yourself or your teammates.
6. **Beyond X's and O's.** The foundation of team culture will be relationships-driven, not results driven. Show genuine care and concern and teach life lessons through a positive atmosphere and the results you want will come.
7. **Respect.** Respect yourselves, teammates, peers, coaches, opponents, officials, authority figures, and the facilities and equipment provided.

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in Athletics for Gray Collegiate Academy a student must meet the following eligibility requirements.

1. Must be eligible to participate via SCHSL rules and regulations.
 - a. Academic Requirements – GCA student-athletes must meet all academic requirements set forth by the South Carolina High School League and Gray Collegiate Academy.
 - b. Enrollment – A student will become ineligible for interscholastic competition at the end of the fourth school year from the time that he/she first entered the ninth grade.
 - c. SCHSL Communication – All communication between Gray Collegiate Academy and the SCHSL will be conducted by the GCA Athletic Department. Parents/Guardians are not contacting the SCHSL directly.
2. Each student is required to attend the pre-season meeting for their sport (Fall, Winter, Spring) held prior to the first day of official practice for the season. This meeting will cover in detail the information contained in this handbook as well as pertinent information for that sport.
3. The current year SCHSL physical must be completed and on file in BigTeams.com (information on next page) before any athletic participation is permitted. No student will be allowed to practice or take part in any sport related activities until the physical is on file. These must be dated on/after April 1st. You must complete the Pre-Participation Medical History form and Consent form from the SCHSL, both signed and dated by student and parent. You can locate these forms online at <https://schsl.org/archives/2353>.
4. Each student must provide a complete Parent/Guardian Permission form information sheet along with emergency contact information prior to their first practice of the season.
5. All parents and students must register for participation in athletics via [BigTeams.com](https://www.graycollegiateacademy.org/payments). Athletic Participation fees (Equipment, Uniforms, Transportation, etc.) for the sport season must be paid in full prior to the first preseason scrimmage of the season - <https://www.graycollegiateacademy.org/payments>



BigTeams Student Central Parents – Create Your Student Account Help Guide

1. Go to <https://studentcentral.bigteams.com/>
2. Click Sign Up to Create New Account and complete the four-step account creation
 - o Who is this account for? Select Parent/Guardian
 - o What School are you registering for? Input the name of the school that your oldest participating student attends
 - o Input your Personal Information for your Parent/Guardian account
 - o Input Username (Email) and Password
3. From the Linked Accounts page in **My Profile**, click "+ Link Student Account"
4. Search for your Student to see if they have already created an account.
 - o NOTE: Check out the Self-Help menu for "Account Linking Guide"
5. If your student does not have an account, click the hyperlink for "If your student does NOT have an account OR is not yet 13 years old, click HERE" and complete the five steps for creating the student account
6. Once created, be sure to input your **EMERGENCY CONTACT** information (Left Navigation under My Profile), and then complete the form requirements by going to **ATHLETIC FORMS**
7. After signing the forms as a Parent, navigate back to My Profile followed by Linked Accounts, and have your student(s) use the Sign In As button to complete any "Awaiting Athlete Signature" requirements
 - o NOTE: Check out the Self-Help menu for "(Returning) Student/Parent "Sign In As" Feature" help guide
8. Once your forms are approved, a notification will be sent to your listed email address and/or mobile number. Notification settings can be adjusted by going to **My Profile** followed by **Notifications**

Anti-Bullying, Harassment, Intimidation and Hazing Policy

Gray Collegiate Academy Athletics defines bullying, harassment, intimidation and hazing as an intentional written, verbal, physical or cyber act shown to be motivated by color, race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, mental disability, physical disability or other distinguishing characteristics. The behavior of physiological or physical harm to the other student(s) is so persistent, severe and pervasive that it creates an abusive, threatening, hostile, intimidating, unwelcoming environment for the other student(s).

Athletics policy for Illegal Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

Any substance as defined by the federal government which no person may sell, offer to sell, exchange, give, possess, use, distribute or purchase. This definition will also include any prescription drug obtained without a prescription, and any prescribed over the counter drugs that are being used in any way other than for medical purposes. This policy includes alcohol, nicotine, tobacco products, and vaping.

Suspension From School

Any Student-Athlete who receives disciplinary action that leads to their suspension from school will immediately become ineligible to participate in athletic competition for the duration of the suspension including all practices, contests, and team related activities. This applies to any in school or out of school suspension.

Athletic Lettering Policy & Awards

Athletic letters are earned in recognition of outstanding achievement and service to the school, not as compensation for participation. On the coach's recommendation, athletes will qualify for an athletic letter at the end of his/her first year in a varsity sport sanctioned by the S.C. High School League.

1. First Year Letter - A pin (symbol of the sport) will be given to the athlete. ****Letter jackets and the letters may be purchased at Threads (601 12th St, West Columbia 29169)*
2. Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth Year – A bar will be given to the athlete.
3. Other Sport – An athlete who letters in another varsity sport will be given the pin for their first year and follow the same protocol as explained in #2.
4. Any athlete who is a senior and has yet to receive a letter will do so if he/she meets the first criteria.

The head coach reserves the right to issue a letter for extenuating circumstances. These may include early season injury, value to team, team or league violations, etc. In all cases, the student must complete the season as a member of the team to letter. A season is defined as the period from the first practice until the last contest is played. It will be the coach's discretion as to who has earned a letter for their team.

Individual Varsity Awards

Each sport may offer four individual athletic awards such as, but not limited to:

1. Most Valuable/Outstanding Player Award (Offense/Defense/Special Teams)
2. War Eagle Award
3. Most Improved Player Award
4. Newcomer Award
5. Sport specific individual award
6. Scholar Athlete Award (Team-best GPA)
7. Other awards are as determined by the Athletics Director and Head Coach.

Individual Scholar Athlete Awards

Each year the senior boy and girl with the highest cumulative GPA will be awarded the War Eagle Scholar Athlete award for academic excellence

Individual Athlete of the Year Award

Each year based on a vote by head coaches and the Athletic Director, one male student-athlete and one female student-athlete will be selected for the "Student-Athlete of the Year" honors. To be eligible for nomination by a head coach, the student athlete must have:

1. Demonstrated athletic excellence in their sport
2. Exhibited exemplary sportsmanship and character
3. Remained eligible for competition for their entire sport season

Parent/Guardian Expectations

Support from parents and guardians is essential to a Student-Athlete having a positive and rewarding experience while participating in athletics at Gray Collegiate Academy. The values we want to instill in our students start at home and carry over to practice and competition. We believe that when parents/guardians support coaches and reinforce the values of character, sportsmanship and respect, student-athletes will do the small things that make for a successful team and positive experience. Working hard every day in the classroom and at practice, respecting their teammates and coaches, always exhibiting appropriate behavior and conducting themselves as a young person with good character helps sustain and create a winning culture. Specific expectations for parents/guardians with a student-athlete(s) competing in athletics at Gray Collegiate Academy are:

1. Emphasize the importance of academic achievement before athletics.
2. Demonstrate good sportsmanship win or lose so that your student-athlete and others see this. Our hope is that students will model your behavior!
3. Reinforce healthy habits (nutrition, exercise, proper rest, etc.) and a lifestyle conducive to being a successful student-athlete.
4. Encourage the team over the individual.
5. Show respect for our teams as well as other teams, coaches, fans and especially officials regardless of the outcome of a contest. How others remember us is just as important as how we compete.
6. Respect officials and their calls.
7. Cheer for our team, never against our opponent.
8. Support and cheer all student-athletes regardless of ability or playing time.

Expectations of Student-Athletes

A Student-Athlete is expected to adhere to the same rules that apply to all students at Gray Collegiate Academy. Each Student-Athlete is expected to exhibit good sportsmanship and respect for his/her teachers, administrators, coaches and teammates always. Student-Athletes who demonstrate inappropriate behavior may jeopardize their athletic participation. Expectations for Student-Athletes include:

1. Being coachable.
2. Accepting constructive criticism.
3. Being on time.
4. Leaving opposing locker rooms better than we found them.
5. Caring for uniforms, equipment, and facilities/fields as our own property.
6. Respect officials and their calls.
7. Treat teammates and opponents with respect.
8. Appreciate the gifts and talents of others.
9. Be gracious in victory and show class in defeat.
10. Place a high priority on academics as well as athletics.
11. Communicate with your coach.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Student athletes are expected to show respect and courtesy to all opposing players, coaches, officials and spectators. At Gray Collegiate Academy good sportsmanship is the rule, not the exception. At the discretion of the Athletic Director, the penalty for unsportsmanlike behavior during a practice or contest could range from missing a practice to a one game or more suspension. In severe cases where a student-athlete has been ejected from a contest for fighting or similar offense, punishment up to dismissal from the team may be applied at the discretion of the principal.

Affiliation

Gray Collegiate Academy competes in Region IV-AAAA of the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL).

Sport Offerings

Gray Collegiate Academy fields teams in 18 sports and compete at various levels, including Varsity, Junior Varsity, B-Team, and Middle School. Our current athletic offerings include:

Fall Sports:

1. Competitive Cheerleading
2. Cross Country (Boys)
3. Cross Country (Girls)
4. Football
5. Golf (Girls)
6. Tennis (Girls)
7. Volleyball (Girls)

Winter Sports:

1. Basketball (Boys)
2. Basketball (Girls)
3. Wrestling

Spring Sports:

1. Baseball
2. Golf (Boys)
3. Soccer (Boys)
4. Soccer (Girls)
5. Softball
6. Tennis (Boys) - Spring 2026
7. Track & Field (Boys)
8. Track & Field (Girls)

Dress code for Student Athletes

All students participating in athletics for Gray Collegiate Academy must adhere to all SCHSL rules and policies regarding equipment and uniforms for practices and contests.

1. All student-Athletes must adhere to the school dress code.
2. All Student-Athletes must wear the appropriate sport specific uniform for practice and contests.
3. Shirts must always be worn on campus.

Tryout Policy

Tryouts for all teams are held prior to the regular season. Parents/guardians and students will be notified via school announcements (i.e. - *SportsYou*, *Wednesday Blast*, *PA announcements*, etc.) with information regarding tryouts during the Spring/Summer for Fall sports and during the school year for Winter/Spring sports. Any student interested in trying out for a winter or spring sport should contact the head coach for that sport or the Athletic Director. Student-Athletes are strongly encouraged to try out for various athletic teams when tryouts are posted. Tryouts may only begin during the first week of the official start of the defined sport season.

Dismissal & No Quit Policy

Athletic participation is a privilege and any student who makes any of the teams at Gray Collegiate Academy should be prepared to honor their commitment to their academics, their sport, their teammates, and coaches. The dedication, discipline and commitment needed to succeed as a student-athlete should not be taken lightly. We strongly discourage any student from quitting a team after being selected to participate on a team. Any student athlete quitting a team should understand that the decision will be taken into consideration by coaches of any subsequent team in which the student may try to join. A player who is dismissed from a team or who quits an athletic team may not participate in workouts of any kind with any other team until the initial team's season has been fully completed.

Transportation

Transportation is provided for all student-athletes in all sports. A shuttle bus will run from the Irmo campus to West Columbia daily. Student-athletes must use school-provided transportation to all athletic contests and scrimmages unless arrangements have been made with the administration. Varsity team members are required to travel to and from all away contests when transportation is provided. Under certain circumstances it may be permitted for a student-athlete to be released to a parent or guardian at the conclusion of an athletic contest. This is at the discretion of the head coach. A student athlete may be released to another adult only with written consent from the student-athlete's parent or guardian and must be arranged in advance.

Participation Fees

Participation fees are vital to the operation of our athletic program. These funds are used to help fund transportation, insurance, officials, SCHSL fees, equipment, uniforms and other expenses related to supporting specific sports teams. Gray Collegiate Academy's fee structure will be an athletic fee of \$75 per sport and is due before the first scrimmage contest. Payment will not be accepted until after official team rosters are posted after tryouts are completed. Athletic Fees Payment Link - <https://www.graycollegiateacademy.org/payments>. Please keep in mind that the payment of the participation fee does not guarantee playing or participation time on any team. All playing and participation time is based on the coach's assessment of the student-athlete's ability in a particular sport.

Student Code of Conduct

Students will adhere to the policies and guidelines of Gray Collegiate Academy's **Student Code of Conduct (SCC) and Discipline Policy**, as well as Gray Collegiate Academy's **Athletic Code of Conduct (ACC)**.

Coaches Code of Conduct

Coaches will adhere to the policies and guidelines of the Gray Collegiate Academy's **Coaches' Code of Conduct**.

Pre-Season Meeting

The parents or guardians of student-athletes participating in all sports are required to attend a pre-season meeting. This meeting will be conducted by the Head Coach of each sport and will be held before the first contest. In this meeting, parents will receive information on rules for their sport, Gray Collegiate Academy, and the SCHSL.

During each parent meeting, the Head Coach will use this as an opportunity to discuss the role of sportsmanship, parent expectations, and volunteering. Volunteers are vital to the operations of our athletic program and to ensure the success of each team we are asking for volunteers to assist in the following areas:

1. Concessions
2. Ticketing
3. Parking
4. Event management (Contest set up and break down)
5. Scorekeeping & Public Announcers

Chain of Communication

From time to time there will be issues that arise pertaining to a student-athlete and their participation in an athletic team at Gray Collegiate Academy. If a parent finds that there are questions, issues or concerns that need to be addressed, the protocol below is the best way for a resolution. GCA insists on a 24-hour rule of no contact between the parent/student-athlete and coach.

1. The first step to addressing and resolving any question, issue or concern is to contact the head coach or assistant coach of the specific sport and try to resolve the issue at this level first. This is best achieved via email.
2. If after contacting the head coach or assistant coach, the question, issue or concern is still unresolved, the Assistant Athletic Director in charge of that sport should be contacted, preferably via email.
3. If after contacting the head coach/assistant coach, the AAD, and the question, issue or concern is still unresolved the Athletic Director should be contacted.
4. If the question, issue or concern persists, the Assistant Principal and/or Principal should be contacted.

If any step in the chain of communication is not followed, the question, issue or concern will be immediately referred to the first skipped level.

AAD - Sport/Club

- Coach D.Bryant - dbryant@grayca.com - Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, and Track & Field
- Coach B.Wallace - bwallace@grayca.com - Swimming, Volleyball, and Softball
- Coach T.Sullivan - tsullivan@grayca.com - Cheerleading, Wrestling, Baseball, and Boys Tennis
- Coach B.Bethune - bbethune@grayca.com - Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, and Boys Golf
- Coach K.Heise - kheise@grayca.com - Cross Country, Football, Girls Tennis, and Girls Golf
- Coach D.Bethea - dbethea@grayca.com - Sporting Clays, Dance, Pickle Ball, and Archery

Parent Athletic Council

The Gray Collegiate Academy Parent Athletic Council (PAC) is a group of GCA parents whose mission is to support the overall sports experience for our children. This simple mission involves pursuing two objectives:

1. To facilitate two-way communication between the school and parents regarding sports activities
2. To support the school's mission of providing elite athletics to its student athletes.

This mission is accomplished through the volunteer efforts of our GCA parents, working in collaboration with our school administrators and students.

PAC Initiatives:

- To ensure that all sports experiences at GCA are positive and even, regardless of the level of participation (Varsity, JV, B-Team, Middle School, et al)
- To serve as a liaison between the GCA Athletic Department and the parent community, sharing feedback to help strengthen our athletic program
- To provide guidelines and support for all Team Parents
- To encourage school spirit across all teams and sports by sponsoring community War Eagle Spirit Days each season

The GCA PAC is NOT an athletic booster club in the sense of fundraising.

- PAC members will not purchase or enter into any financial agreements on behalf of the school or the athletic program that you represent. If you do so, you will be held liable for the purchase of the item.
- PAC may assist in the fundraising effort, but the head coach of each program is ultimately responsible for any procurement or monetary duties.

Collegiate Academic & Athletic Liaison

Gray Collegiate Academy provides a Collegiate Academic & Athletic Liaison for all our student-athletes. All varsity players will have the opportunity to create player profiles to be viewed by collegiate coaches nationwide. Coach Katie Clampitt - kclampitt@grayca.com - is our CAAL and student-athletes should contact her for assistance with the collegiate recruiting process.

Resources for the College Bound Student-Athlete

Gray Collegiate Academy will offer a collegiate recruitment process seminar each year for student-athletes and parents to assist in navigating the collegiate process. We also offer a wealth of information pertaining to this endeavor and encourage you to start early in your quest for post-prep opportunities.


NCAA Eligibility Center

DIVISION I ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

College-bound student-athletes enrolling at an NCAA Division I school need to meet the following academic requirements to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in their first year of full-time enrollment.

Core-Course Requirement
 Complete 16 core courses in the following areas:

ENGLISH	MATH (Algebra I or higher)	NATURAL/ PHYSICAL SCIENCE (Including one year of lab, if offered)	ADDITIONAL (English, math or natural/physical science)	SOCIAL SCIENCE	ADDITIONAL COURSES (Any area listed to the left, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)
4 years	3 years	2 years	1 year	2 years	4 years


ELIGIBILITY CENTER

DIVISION II ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

To study and compete at a [Division II school](#), you must:

- » Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:

ENGLISH	MATH (Algebra I or higher)	SCIENCE (Including one year of lab, if offered)	ADDITIONAL (English, math or science)	SOCIAL SCIENCE	ADDITIONAL COURSES (Any area listed to the left, world language or nontraditional religion/philosophy)
3 years	2 years	2 years	3 years	2 years	4 years

- » Earn a minimum 2.2 core-course GPA.
- » Submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

SAT/ACT/PSAT/AP test registration and information

Free test prep for SAT, ACT, ASVAB and other national tests

<https://uniontestprep.com>

<https://www.prepfactory.com>

SAT information

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register>

ACT Information

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html>

FAFSA

www.fafsa.ed.gov

Common App

<https://www.commonapp.org>

College success education and free college search database for prospective Student-Athletes

www.PrepSearch.net

National Letter of Intent

www.nationalletter.org

NCAA Eligibility center high school portal

<https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>

Core Course GPA Calculator

www.clearinghousecalculator.org

NJCAA

<https://stats.njcaa.org/landing/index>

NJCAA guide for the college bound student-athlete

https://stats.njcaa.org/eligibility/eligibility_rules

NAIA

www.NAIA.org

NAIA Eligibility Center

<https://play.mynaia.org>

NAIA guide for the college bound student-athlete

<https://play.mynaia.org>

SAT Practice test

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice/full-length-practice-tests>

ACT Practice test

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/math-practice-test-questions.html?page=0&chapter=0>

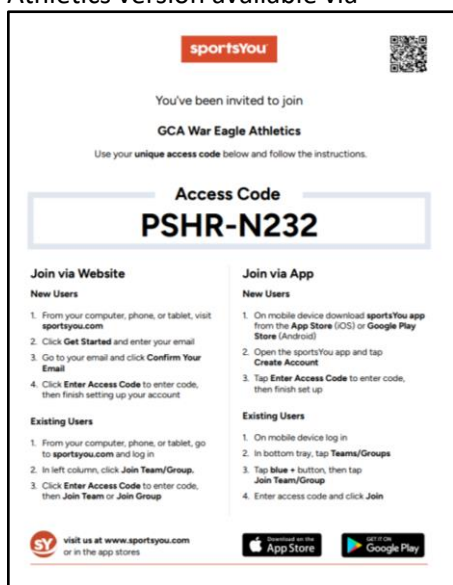
Build a College List

There are approximately 3,685 college options a prospective student-athlete can choose from. Use the free college athletics search engine and database from Prepsearch to help find the right ones for you. We're here to help you no matter what sport you participate in!

www.prepsearch.net

Parent/Coach Communication

All GCA teams should be set up in the SportsYou communication app as well as the general War Eagle Athletics version available via



To improve Parent/Coach communication we have listed some suggested topics we feel are appropriate to discuss with your student-athletes coach and others that are not.

Issues to discuss with your student-athletes Coach

1. Handling constructive criticism
2. Academic performance
3. Mental and physical treatment of your son or daughter
4. Conditioning and weight training
5. Areas where your son or daughter can improve
6. Your student's ability to compete in their sport in college
7. Behavioral issues

Issues that are not appropriate to discuss with your student-athlete's coach

1. Playing time
2. Performance and behavior of other students
3. Strategy and play calling

Social Media

Student-athletes should understand that Gray Collegiate Academy personnel, third parties, media, colleges, and even future employers can easily access social media profiles and posts. This could include but not be limited to pictures, posts, videos, and memes. Student-athletes should refrain from posting inappropriate material or posting disparaging comments about administrators, teachers, coaches, teammates, or opponents.

Approved social media accounts include:



- Gray Collegiate Academy
- Gray Collegiate Academy Athletics
- Gray Collegiate Academy Soccer



- tba



- GCA War Eagle Athletics - @GCAWarEagles
- Gray Collegiate Academy Football - @GCA_FB
- GCA Soccer - @graycasoccer
- The Talon-Gray Collegiate Academy - @TheTalon_GCA

Athletic Facilities

For safety reasons, student-athletes are only permitted to use athletic facilities, including the weight room and gym, when under the supervision of a member of the coaching staff. Student-athletes are not permitted to work out or practice unsupervised at any time. This includes all indoor and outdoor athletic facilities.

Locker Room

Each student is responsible for securing their equipment, uniforms, valuables and personal possessions. These items should never be left in a locker room unsecured. Student-athletes are advised to keep their lockers locked when they are not in use. At the conclusion of each sport season, all locker rooms and lockers will be cleaned, and any remaining articles will be thrown out. It is the responsibility of each student-athlete to provide their own lock.

Concussion Protocol and Return to Play (Per SCHSL)

Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as a loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health care professional. A concussion is a traumatic brain injury that interferes with normal brain function. An athlete does not have to lose consciousness (be “knocked out”) to have suffered a concussion.

Return to Play

In applying the above rule in South Carolina, it has been determined that only certified athletic trainers, advanced practice nurses (APN), physician’s assistants (PA), and physicians licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in South Carolina can clear an athlete to return to play the day of a contest in which the athlete has been removed from the contest for a possible head injury.

Equal Opportunity - Title IX

Gray Collegiate Academy does not discriminate based on race, national origin, color, religious creed or age (in accordance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964); physical disability (in accordance with the Title IX of the 1971 Education Amendments) in any of our educational programs, activities, or employment policies.

Athletic Contract and Acknowledgement**Gray Collegiate Academy Athletic Contract and Acknowledgement**

Participation in interscholastic athletics for Gray Collegiate Academy is a privilege. All Student-athletes who participate in any sport must follow the rules established by Gray Collegiate Academy and the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL).

I, _____ by signing this contract am acknowledging having received a copy of the Gray Collegiate Academy Athletic Handbook and reading the policies, rules and regulations. I agree to follow all rules outlined in the handbook and understand that failure to adhere to these rules may result in my immediate dismissal from my team. Any dismissal may impact opportunities for future Gray Collegiate Academy sport participation.

Student-Athlete's Signature

Date

My signature signifies that I have received and read a copy of the Gray Collegiate Academy Athletic Handbook on behalf of the student listed above. I understand the rules, policies and regulations listed within.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date