

# Buffalo Baseball

The purpose of this manual is to familiarize both parents and players with the details of this program. We hope that this will answer many of your questions that you may encounter during the course of the season. While this document is meant to summarize pertinent issues, it is impossible to cover all items that may arise during the season. This manual represents the philosophies and concepts by which this program will be managed. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact myself or any of our coaching staff.

Players in this program are expected to conduct themselves in a professional, courteous, and respectful manner at all times. We as a coaching staff will provide quality physical and psychological training and competition during their time with this program. This competitive athletic experience can enhance social development, contribute to mental and physical health, and teach the values of teamwork, responsibility, self-discipline and self-motivation.

## Philosophy

This program will provide the opportunity to develop the necessary skills through experienced coaching, practice opportunities, and game situations that will allow our players to excel at the high school level. Although individual skills are important our primary focus will be on team development.

## Goals

1. To enhance each players development through reinforcement and mastery of fundamentals.
2. To assist each player in developing a sense of teamwork, pride, self-discipline, and integrity.
3. To provide coaches who care about the development of both the team and player.
4. To establish an attitude in our players of respect to administration, parents, teachers and our competition.

## KSHSAA / NCAA Rules

The KSHSAA rules and regulations will be followed at all times and is our governing body. Any questions concerning these rules and regulations can be reviewed through the KSHSAA website or by contacting our athletic director.

The NCAA governs eligibility for incoming student athletes. It is important for the prospective student athlete and family to be aware of initial eligibility and the rules for recruiting.

## Practice times and procedures

Practices are valuable you can't afford to miss them

Practices will begin at 3:45 each day with the exception of weekends or holidays

Players will be ready at 3:45 with all equipment needed out and near the dugouts

Practice schedules will be posted each day in the dugouts

We will begin each practice with stretching (led by seniors) rundowns, long catch

Players are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner going to and leaving our practice facility.

Cell phones, ipods, and any other electronic device should be turned off

Cold weather is part of Kansas baseball especially early be prepared

## Spring Break Schedule

We will not practice the Friday the last day of regular school before spring break.

We will resume regular practices the Wednesday of spring break at a time TBA

Players need to inform their respective coaches if they will be gone longer than

Our normal time off for spring break.

## Practice dress code

Hats will be worn at all practices and worn properly

Proper shirts must be worn. No cut off sleeves and shirts will be tucked in

Jewelry is against NF rules and will not be worn on the practice field.

Hair will be worn at a proper length as determined by the coaching staff

No facial hair

## Eligibility

Student/athletes must have passed at least five new subjects (those not previously passed), of unit weight, or it's equivalence, the previous semester or the last semester. The student shall be enrolled in an attending a minimum of five new subjects (those not previously passed) of unit weight, or it's equivalence, during the present semester at GCHS.

Student/athletes shall not compete in outside competition in the same sport while they are a member of a school squad.

## Lettering requirements

A student/athlete needs to compete in at least 50% of regular season games at the varsity level to letter in baseball. Defined; compete means any of the following, pinch running or hitting, relief pitching, an offensive or defensive replacement or as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher.

### **Travel**

Student/athletes are highly encouraged to travel to and from games on the bus with their teammates. Athletes who do need to travel back from games with their parents must make arrangements in advance by filling out a form on the school athletic web site from the athletic director's office. As a program and coaching staff we feel that it is essential that players travel back from contests with their teammates to build relationships and team unity. GCHS baseball players are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner at all times towards bus drivers and any others involved in the transport of our athletes to and from athletic contests. Dress requirements and other travel procedures and rules will be addressed prior to our first road game.

### **Discipline policy**

Our discipline policy is listed on the following pages and although it encompasses the majority of issues that arise during a season it is not an all encompassing policy. Those issues that do arise that are not specifically covered in this policy will be reviewed and assigned a point value in alignment with similar violations already listed.

### **Grooming policy**

Facial hair- No facial hair will be allowed during the regular season of baseball. This includes mustaches, beards, long sideburns and other types of facial hair. Also hair that in the coach's opinion is too long and detracts from the appearance of our baseball hats will not be allowed.

### **Equipment and uniforms**

Most equipment and apparel associated with our uniforms will be provided by the baseball team. Players such as catchers who wish to purchase their own bats or catchers gear may do so as long as it meets KSHSAA rules and is of a similar color as our other equipment. Uniforms which include, hats, socks, pants, tops will be provided by the school district. There may be a small fee for the cost of hats since this and their t-shirts the athletes keeps at the end of the season. Parents please read and follow washing instructions when cleaning our uniforms. These uniforms are very expensive to replace one at a time if damage occurs from not following washing instructions. All apparel including, uniform tops and bottoms, jackets, socks, and belts will be turned in after our last game of the year. Please help us with this we have had a very difficult time in getting uniforms and jackets back to us each year.

## DISCIPLINE POLICY GCHS BASEBALL POINT SYSTEM

This is a point system borrowed from our Buffalo football team and will be used to address issues such attendance concerns, tardiness, referrals, and team rules. Listed below is a sample of what some of the issues that will be covered by this point system. This is not an all encompassing system; consequently some concerns might not be listed in the list below. Those issues which are not listed will be dealt with by the staff in reference to the seriousness of the offense. Some offenses such as drinking, drug use, or police issues will be an automatic 2 game suspension. Subsequent offenses of this nature will result in dismissal from the team. This system will go into affect beginning the second semester of each school year in January.

Some issues that will be addressed by this policy are:

1. Attendance- at school, practices, and team related functions
2. Tardiness- At school, practices, pre-game workouts, meetings
3. Referrals- Such as disrespect, excessive tardiness, dishonesty, not wearing ID, and other violations of school rules.
4. Team rules

Points:      Attendance- Tardiness - $\frac{1}{2}$  point  
                  Unexcused absences- 1 point  
                  Cell phone referrals- 1 point  
                  Referrals- 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  points  
                  Referrals- for being dishonest or disrespectful 2 points  
                  Unexcused absence from practice- 3 points  
                  Profanity- 1 point  
                  Curfew violation 1 point

Game suspensions:

Accumulation of 5 points will equal a one game suspension, and 10 points will require a two game suspension. After 10 points are reached a meeting with the player, parents and the coaching staff will be required to discuss solutions to this problem.