Golden Belt Arrows Athletic By-Laws 

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, soarethechildrenofone’s youth.

Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed,

But shall speak with their enemies in the gate. Psalm 127:4-5

Golden Belt Arrows Athletics offers a variety of extra-curricular athletic activities for members of the Golden Belt Home Educators community. The GB Arrows athletics program has been developed and continues to grow with the purpose to promote student development spiritually, mentally, socially and physically through Christ-centered athletic competition. All athletic endeavors are to be done “For God’s Glory,” not for the glory of individual participants and/or teams.

**1.0 Purpose and Philosophy**

1.1 Purpose: Golden Belt Arrows Athletics believes that God has entrusted to parents the great responsibility and authority to see that our children are educated and trained according to his unique design for each child. As an independent educational organization, GB Arrows is dedicated to assisting Christian families who have chosen to train their children at home by providing a structure of accountability, support, and encouragement. A variety of group activities and enriching options are available which are intended to educate and train young men and women to work in and minister to the world with the character and love of Christ.

*And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. Luke 2:52*

1.2 Purpose: GB Arrows Athletics program has been developed with the purpose to promote student development spiritually, mentally, socially, and physically through Christ-centered athletic competition. All athletic endeavors are to be done “For God’s Glory”, not for the glory of individual participants and/or teams.

1.3 Philosophy of Competition: In general, the degree of competitiveness increases from the junior high to varsity level. At the junior high level, the overall and potential talent level are more developmental in nature. While effort will be made to win the game, providing opportunities for athletes to grow and develop will also be stressed at practice and games. At the varsity level, the degree of competitiveness increases. Teams will focus on the goal of being victorious in their endeavors—bearing in mind the overriding importance of developing character and exemplifying a positive Christian attitude at practices and in game situations.

**2.0 Leadership**

2.1 Leadership shall consist of an athletic director, secretary, treasurer, and parent volunteer. The leadership shall meet as needed to discuss finances, scheduling, insurance, fund-raising, and other issues. This group will be responsible for recruiting committees. Committees might include: fund-raising, concession stand, tournament, publicity, etc.

2.2 Coaches shall meet together with the board as needed to discuss any problems, and assure continuity between high school and junior high teams.

2.3 All of the above must be members or alumni of GBHE. All must agree to GBHE Statement of Faith and GBHE Sports Mission Statement, Guidelines, & Code of Conducts.

2.4 Leadership will be a part of all team decisions, including uniforms, tryouts, appointing coaches, building use, games, and practices as the board sees fit.

**3.0 Adult Volunteers**

3.1 **Head Coaches** shall represent GB Arrows and serve for the benefit of the players and parents of team members, and be subject to the general direction of the GB Arrows Athletics Board.

Head coaches shall:

● Be a professing follower of Christ and shall without reservation sign the GBHE Statement of Faith. ● Be at least 18 years of age and have graduated from high school.

● Pray regularly for the athletes, families, and leaders.

● Promote the spiritual development of athletes with prayer, devotions, scripture memory, and application of precepts to situations during athletic practices and games.

● Determine the team roster size.

● Make all game and team decisions in consultation with the GB Arrows Athletic Board.

● Adhere to the Code of Conduct.

● Delegate responsibilities needed according to their sport to assistant coaches, and parents according to their gifts.

● If a coach is temporarily unable to perform coaching duties, then the coach may appoint a substitute in consultation with the GB Arrows Athletic Board.

3.2 **Assistant Coaches** shall serve at the direction of the head coach.

Assistant Coaches shall:

● Be at least 18 years of age and have graduated from high school.

● Be a professing follower of Christ and shall without reservation sign the GBHE Statement of Faith. ● Pray regularly for the athletes, families, and leaders.

● Assist with practices.

● Attend games.

● Adhere to the Code of Conduct.

**4.0 Eligibility**

4.1 Golden Belt Arrows Athletics does not discriminate against any participating member due to race, color, religion, birth gender, disability, or other reason.

4.2 All eligibility requirements including age, name, and gender will go on how it is recorded on the players original birth certificate.

4.3 Homeschool Qualifications

“Homeschooled” means that at least 80% of the courses that are taken by a player during the school year are: a) courses that are taught in the home/studio of the player’s parent(s), grandparent(s), sibling (age 18 or older), legal guardian, or another homeschool parent or tutor, provided the instruction by a non-parent is done under the direction and supervision of the child's parent(s) or

b) courses that are taught at a central location (e.g. homeschool support group “co-op” classes, such as chemistry, speech, or calculus) by a parent or tutor, or

c) are correspondence/virtual/distance learning courses provided by a private kindergarten through grade 12 program or school.

With the exception of c) under the definition of “homeschooled” above, courses taught or otherwise provided by a public or private school, where the player is counted in that school’s enrollment, are not considered “homeschooled”.

College or vocational/technical school courses are permitted to be taken by a player, but are not considered “homeschooled”.

The percentage of courses considered to be homeschooled is determined by dividing the number of courses considered “homeschooled” by the total number (“homeschooled” + “not homeschooled”) courses taken. 4.4 Per KASHAA regulations, student athletes are only eligible to participate in one KASHAA approved organization at a time. Student athletes are prohibited from playing for two teams of the same sport, at the same time.

4.5 Each participating player shall maintain at least a 2.0 (or "C") average during the active season. Methods for academic monitoring shall be left to each player's parents. We just ask that if a student is not achieving his or her academic responsibilities that the parent speaks with the Athletic Director and appropriate disciplinary actions can be taken.

4.6 We offer sports for students 11-18 years old. 11-14 year olds (August 1st) participate in the Junior High program, 15-18 year olds participate in the High School program. 4.7 High school students cannot be 19 years of age before Aug. 1st of year participating. 4.8 Once a student has played on the high school team, he or she can only play 4 consecutive years as a high school student. 4.9 The board can approve an exception to the age rule if a high school or middle school team does not have enough participants to field a team.

4.10 Once a student has passed through the graduation ceremonies of GBHE or any other high school graduation ceremonies he or she will not be eligible to participate in GB Arrows Sports.

**5.0 Conduct**

5.1 General Conduct

*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Colossians 3:17*

*When a man’s ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. Proverbs 16:7*

Athletic competition can bring out the best, and the worst in all of us. Officials are like all judges – imperfect human observers. Opposing players, coaches and fans, likewise, may not always act in ways that please us, or perhaps the Lord. Participants with GB athletics – players, coaches, fans – have to remember that they are only responsible for their own responses and witnessing, not those of others. All associated with GB athletics should refrain from confronting or calling out officials, any players, coaches or fans. Instead, serious problems should be brought to the attention of the GB athletic director.

As representatives of GB Athletics and as ambassadors for Christ, it is necessary that the behavior of the players, coaches, and all spectators demonstrate loyalty to Christ and a servant’s heart. It is said that an individual Christian may be the only “Bible” that some nonbelievers ever read. Likewise, misbehavior of professing Christians could be a hindrance to faith for unbelieving observers.

● It is the responsibility of the coaches to encourage compliance to the conduct guidelines during and after games by dealing with team violations.

● Each GB family is responsible for the conduct of their own members. Conduct and

responsibilities for players, coaches, and spectators are as follows:

5.1.1 Player’s conduct shall be marked by the following:

● Faithful attendance at practices and games.

● Show deference with referee calls.

● Edifying remarks to others – teammates and opponents.

● Helping own and opposing team players when they have fallen.

● Thanking referees at the end of the game.

● Congratulating opposing team at the end of the game.

● Praying for and with opposing teams before.

● Leaving visiting school’s facility in as good or better condition than when you came.

* Player code of Conduct must be signed and agreed upon prior to first practice.

5.1.2 Coaches conduct shall be marked by the following

● Preparation for and attendance at practices and games.

● More emphasis on spiritual training than athletic accomplishment.

● Promote, encourage, and demonstrate Christian fellowship with other schools. ● Consistently discourage divisive rivalries.

● Support academic standards set by parents.

● Promote safety at all times.

● Be a spiritual leader, no matter what the cost.

● Teach and train student athletes.

● Respond to rather than react towards players.

● Coaches who are not the same gender as their team should assure that a parent or coach of the same gender is available in all locker room situations.

* Coaches code of conduct must be signed and agreed upon prior to first practice.

5.1.3 Parents/Spectators conduct shall be marked by the following

● Pray regularly for the families, athletes, and leaders.

● Encourage your child and the other athletes to love and serve the Lord in all they do. ● Be a faithful and loyal supporter of teams both home and away.

● Always be encouraging with expressions, comments, and attitudes toward players, coaches, officials, and other spectators.

● Greet and get to know opposing team members’ parents and spectators.

● Help clean up the facility at the end of each game.

● Promote safety and act responsibly.

● Transport or make arrangements for transportation to practices and games for your child. ● Students should not drive to sporting events out-of-town unless prior arrangements have been made with the coach.

● Seat belt use is required by all riders.

● Show support for the coaches and Athletics Committee members who volunteer their time and gifts.

● Assume volunteer duties and responsibilities as opportunities arise.

● Resolve matters of dispute or grievances with coaches or others at a place and time other than on a game day, and follow the biblical instruction found in Matthew 18:15.

● Pay fees or submit a payment plan by the due date.

* Parent Code of Conduct must be signed and agreed upon prior to first practice.

5.2 Appearance: All players, coaches, and fans shall dress in a manner that honors God, and not drawing attention to oneself.

● Uniforms: Players or athletic participants will wear the uniforms as issued. If any sport does not issue a uniform, athletes will abide by the athletic directors dress code guidelines. All uniforms are to be turned in at the end of the season to be cleaned and stored for the next season.

* Practice Attire: 4.5” shorts or longer are required at practice. Female athletes should wear a shirt at all times, no mid drift style shirts are allowed. Sports bras are to be covered by a shirt and not showing.

**6.0 Conflict**

• Pray & Seek God first.

• Consider these Scriptures: John 13: 34-35; James 4: 1-3; Matthew 7: 1-6; Galatians 6: 1; Matthew 6: 14-15; Phil 2: 3-4; Proverbs 16: 32

• Go directly to the coach or person involved to solve differences.

• If the problem is still unresolved, then at this time, it should be taken to the GB athletic director. The athletic director will take another coach or GB Athletics board member with him or her to help you confront that person.

• If a problem remains unresolved, we may have a meeting with all the parents on that particular team to deal with the issue.

• GBHE board members are separate from GB Athletics board. GBHE board members are not to be involved with sports conflicts unless the GB athletics board decides the matter needs outside attention.

**7.0 Participation Costs**

7.1 Costs are calculated according to projected fees for practice and game facilities, referee and equipment expenses, league and tournament fees, liability insurance, and athletic fund overhead. The cost for each sport will be determined and announced by the Athletic Director as the total Participation Fee per student.

7.2 Payment of a non-refundable fee of $50 shall be made by the registration day.

7.3 The balance of the Participation Fee shall be paid prior to the first game of each season, unless other arrangements have been made in advance with the athletic director.

7.4 Athletes and their immediate families receive free admission to home games for the sports in which they are participating.

7.5 GBHE has purchased liability insurance. However, this is secondary insurance to a family’s own medical insurance coverage.

**8.0 Scheduling**

8.1 The coordinator or coach shall consider limiting player event contests as follows:

No player shall compete in more than:

Basketball Junior High Girls Twenty- five games, including tournaments, this is prior to the NDII tournament, but does not include the NDII tournament

games.

Junior High Boys Same as above

Varsity Girls Same as above

Junior Varsity Girls Same as above

Varsity Boys Same as above

Junior Varsity Boys Same as above

Volleyball Junior High Girls Fifteen days of competition

Junior Varsity Girls Same as above

Varsity Girls Twenty-five days of competition

Each team limits their practice to an average of two or less per week. If a practice is missed due to

 Weather, game, or scheduled holiday break, and additional practice may be added to a week. There is to be

 No scheduled practices on Wednesdays or Sundays.

 8.3 A practice shall be defined as any organized activity which includes either 50% of team members or 3 or

 More regular starting players in which a coach is providing direct or indirect instruction. Indirect would include

 A pre-determined plan provided to players related to drills, plays or other instruction for their sport.

 Basketball Practice Cap-36 practices after November 1st

 Volleyball Practice Cap-26 practices after August 1st