

GLOBAL OUTREACH CHARTER ACADEMY



**TEAM PARENT HANDBOOK
2022-2023**

Revised 7/27/2022

Thank You!

For taking your support of Global Outreach Charter Academy Athletics and our Student-Athletes to the next level. Volunteers like you help to facilitate the best performances from our coaches and athletes alike. Even if they are full-time staffers at GOCA, coaching is only a small part of our coaches' daily responsibilities. Your assistance helps everything to run more efficiently and allows our coaches to focus on our top priority; preparing GOCA Student-Athletes for success in whatever comes next!

What Is A Team Parent?

While it may seem a bit ambiguous at this point, I'm sure you already know what a Team Parent is, though you may know it under a different name. Traditionally, the Team Parent role has been filled by a mother whose child is part of a larger group, but, being a progressive, cutting-edge, Athletic Department, GOCA wants to be sure and include volunteer opportunities for dads as well as moms. You've seen Team Parents in scouting, as the den mother, in school as the class mom, in church as the Sunday School teacher, and in many club and travel athletic teams as the team mom. In truth, the Team Parent is best described as a New Millennium Pony Express rider. While many of the details will be documented in this handbook, generally, the Team Parent's role is to make sure everyone knows everything they need to know. In most cases, one Team parent per team will suffice, but you have the authority to bring on an Assistant Team Parent and are encouraged to enlist the participation of a Team Parent Apprentice who can take over upon graduation of your GOCA Student-Athlete.

Where Do I Go For Help?

Certainly, the coaches, and especially the GOCA Athletic Staff is here to help. If you're not sure...give someone a call.

Gene Baker, Athletic Director

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Team Parent Overview

- Act as liaison between the Athletic Department/Coaches and the parents of your GOCA athletic team members.
- Relay pertinent information to parents about upcoming team events, activities, and needs.
- Gather and maintain a directory of all team parents – email and mobile phone numbers.
- Create a team email and/or text group for parent information distribution.
- You may want to open a dedicated team email that can be passed on to future Team Parents (ex. gocaboyssoccerparents@gmail.com).
- Coordinate volunteers for a variety of team activities depending on your sport.
- Take advertising banner orders from parents and forward them to the Athletic Director, once we take on some more intentional fund raising activities.
- Coordinate Senior Banner payments (when we, eventually, begin to display senior banners) by team deadline and forward to the Athletic Director.
- With the assistance of a designated coach, organize the end-of-season celebration.
- Assist with collecting uniforms and equipment at the end of the season.
- Recruit Assistant Team Parents as necessary.
- Recruit an Apprentice Team Parent to take over once your “Bear” has graduated or when you plan to relinquish your Team Parent role.
- Have fun making friends with other team parents and take pride in knowing you have played a major role in everything your team has accomplished during the season.

Information you will need

As Team Parent, you will be the first that other parents call for information, but you are not necessarily the source for all of this information, nor are you the policy-setter for your team, nor are you a sounding board for any issues and concerns that may develop. Some information is standard and is provided below. Other times you may need to check with the coach, and yet others, you may need to defer to the Athletic Director. Importantly, you're not expected to take on any responsibilities of decision-making for the team nor policy-setting for the Athletic Department. If it seems outside the realm of what a Team Parent should do, please feel free to "pass the buck." We don't want you in an awkward position between team/department personnel and parents/students.

Athletic Handbook

- This is a single document for all (elementary thru High School) GOCA Athletics
- Answers to many parent questions can be found in this document
- Available on the Global Outreach Charter Academy Athletic Website or an email attachment may be requested via gbaker@gocacademy.com

Athletic Website

- While a work in progress, this will become a source for all information in GOCA Athletics.
- The front door of our Athletic Department, we will be developing policies and procedures for Team Parents to submit information for publication on the site including pictures, scores, and news, making GOCA Athletics the most attractive Charter School athletic program in the state.

Athletic Fees

- \$100 per high school student for their first sport.
- \$75 per high school student for each subsequent sport.
- \$80 per middle school student for their first sport (even if it's a high school team).
- \$60 per middle school student for each subsequent sport.
- At the beginning of each team's season, fees will be collected at the Team Parent meeting.
- Refunds of the athletic fee will be issued only in the event of extreme hardship.

Annual Passes

- Once roster spots have been assigned, links two Digital Passes, allowing admission for one person each to all GOCA home regular season events (All Sports), will be issued to the parents of the student-athlete at the preseason team parent meeting.
- In the future, additional All Sports Passes will be available for purchase in the Athletic Office.

- Parents may elect to pay the Athletic Fee in advance in order to obtain Annual Passes at the beginning of the school year. Refunds will not be issued if the student decides not to participate or is not selected to the team roster.

Team Photos & Senior Banner and Photos (FUTURE PROJECT)

- Team pictures will be scheduled departmentally by the Assistant to the Athletic Director, coaches, and photographers. Information will be provided for distribution once available.
- Dates to be announced each season, **WE WON'T FORGET!**
- GOCA will contract for team pictures so any payments from budget or fund accounts must be for services from our contracted provider.
- We strongly suggest that Senior Banner pictures be scheduled on team picture day through the Athletic Director and funded through each team's fund-raising account. Given the nature of senior pictures, parents may choose to employ their own, non-GOCA-contracted photographer. Any such agreement will be at the expense and liability of the individual family. Design must gain prior approval from the Athletic Director.
- Due to the nature of activities in the middle school gymnasium, GOCA does not support the display of 8th grade banners. Parents may choose to fund and display them, but GOCA is not liable for damage nor appearance due to said activities. Design must gain prior approval from the Athletic Director.
- Students wishing to wear their team uniform for school senior pictures should contact their coach to secure the uniform, and return it immediately following the photo shoot.

Fund Raising Banners

- Order forms and information will be made available for distribution to parents.
- Proceeds from banners directly benefit the chosen sport of the banner sponsor and may be displayed at the GOCA home athletic venue of the sponsor's choice (ie. a banner may benefit one sport while being displayed at another).

Parent Spirit Wear

- Spirit shirts will be made available via online store. Details to be announced at a later date.
- Once rosters are finalized, coaches will advise the date for team-specific online stores.

Ticket Gate for Home Games

- For high school games, we plan to mobilize our enrollment as primary ticket sellers and ticket takers, however they will need at least one adult supervisor per game. The actual need will be communicated prior to each sport season.
- For middle school games, one adult is needed for each game. Having team parents exchange games with other teams has worked well in the past (ie. jv parents work varsity games and vice versa).
- Think of High School/Middle School doubleheaders as high school events.

Concessions

- For high school games, again, we plan to mobilize our enrollment as primary concessionaires. I'm confident the students can handle the counter; however, you will need an adult to manage inventory through the Athletic Director. All concessions profits go to the competing team's fund account (in some cases, like boy's and girls' basketball, it's shared), so it's each team's call whether to open concessions or not. We will attempt to contract a soft drink provider, so those purchases must be made through the Athletic Department. Other items may be purchased and submitted for reimbursement by your designee. If students are not available you will be notified prior to the purchase of any concessions supplies that will require additional adult involvement.

Game Operations

- Coaches may ask the Team Parent to reach out to others for volunteer clock operators, scoreboard operators, PA announcers, scorebook keepers, etc.

Sport Requests – How does my team make a request?

- All requests for additional funding, equipment, etc. must be submitted by the coach to the Athletic Director. The AD will determine if need is valid, and if funds are available or would need to be raised.
- If a parent identifies a need or desire for your team or the general athletic program, please direct them to the appropriate coach or Athletic Director.

Year End Team Function

- The GOCA Athletic Department provides initial funding of season end celebrations for high school and middle school teams. This is not meant to limit what a team may do, simply to standardize the commitment to each team. Teams are not limited in what they would like to provide, but funding beyond the initial amount from the department must come from the team fund account at the direction of the coach or, most commonly, by per person commitment from other attendees.
- On-Campus venues are available but must be reserved through the Athletic Director.

Team Awards

- Each high school and middle school team is allotted 3 Athletic Department-funded team awards (ex. Most Valuable, Most Improved, Bear Award).
- Team awards are not mandatory. Some coaches feel they are counterproductive to team chemistry. Coaches decide if awards will be given.
- Method-of-selection of award winners is at the discretion of the team's coaching staff.
- Requests for additional awards will be discussed between the Head Coach and the Athletic Director and, if permitted, must be funded by team fund accounts.

Letter Awards and Jackets

- Generally, student-athletes earn a varsity letter by successfully completing a given season with their team. Exceptions are allowed for seasons not completed due to injury, or consideration of personal or family hardship.
- Letter Awards are presented as a framed letter with accompanying sport pin and annual service bars on each student-athlete's senior night, in each of their sports.
- Students must participate during their senior year to receive the award. Again, exceptions are allowed for seasons not completed due to injury, or consideration of personal or family hardship.
- GOCA letter jackets may be purchased by individuals at Baker's Sporting Goods, 3600 Beachwood Ct. BSG is licensed to provide appropriate decoration for letter jackets of GOCA award winners.
- GCA does not award JV nor Middle School letters.

Fund Raising

- Many improvements to our facilities and programs must be funded outside the GCA budget.
- All fund-raising activities and ideas must be presented to the Athletic Director for approval from the GOCA Executive Committee.
- Additional team fund-raising opportunities may be presented throughout the year.

Booster Club

- Throughout the 2022-23 school year you may see opportunities to begin formation of the GOCA Bears Athletic Booster Club.
- Team Parents will be expected to attend monthly BABC meetings or send a delegate from your team.
- Distribution of Booster Club information will be the responsibility of the Team Parent.

Social Media Information @ Your Fingertips



<https://www.goca.us/athletics/>



<https://www.facebook.com/GOCA.US>



https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=global+outreach+charter+academy



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/global-outreach-charter-academy/>