



ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

**1337 South 100th Street
West Allis, Wisconsin 53214
414-774-8520
www.goodshepherds.info**

Good Shepherd's Lutheran School

Athletic Handbook

Purpose / Philosophy

1. The foremost guideline that can summarize our entire purpose and philosophy of our athletic program is the Bible passage "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1Corinthians 10:31)
2. To promote Christian fellowship with other schools.
3. To aid Christian students in learning the skills necessary to compete with other young people. It is our sincere desire that the benefits they reap from our Athletic program will prove favorable to their future as Christian young people growing up in a very competitive world.
4. Our athletic programs are designed for all children beginning 3rd grade (depending on the sport) and continuing through their eighth grade year. The decision on the starting grade will be made by the coach/coaches in consultation with the athletic director.
5. Our athletic programs will be run in accordance with the overall purposes and goals of our school.
6. To add to the total educational experience at Good Shepherd Lutheran School.
7. To teach good sportsmanship.
8. To allow all team members to have a positive experience pertaining to interscholastic sports as well as developing the student's self-esteem.
9. To promote fitness and physical development through team sports while developing talent to allow the student to be successful in high school athletics.
10. To provide out of classroom socialization for all involved.
11. To encourage team skills while learning the strategies and disciplines of the games.
12. To develop an attitude toward sports that recognizes the joy of participation as well as the effort and hard work such participating requires.

Interscholastic Teams

Currently Good Shepherds has the following interscholastic teams:

Boys soccer	Girls Volleyball
Girls and Boys Cross Country	Girls and Boys Track
Girls and Boys Basketball	Girls and Boys Softball
Girls Cheerleading	Boys Wrestling

General Guidelines for Sports

1. We do not plan to cut players from our teams at Good Shepherd's. Cutting may become necessary however in the following situations;
 - A) On the A-Team level in a sport where more than 14 try out. In this event, every effort will be made to create another "A2" team. However, if additional competent coaches can not be found we may have to cut.
2. Cutting will not be done on the B-Team level.
3. It is our intention to get everyone into every athletic contest. At the A-Team level, children will be played in a situation where they can succeed. In the B level children will be played in all games. Exceptions to this include medical reasons, discipline, and attitude.
4. In sports that have an opportunity to maintain multiple teams, it should be understood that the B-Team will be considered developmental. Playing time will be distributed as evenly as is reasonable. The A-Team will be considered as competitive and playing time will be established on game situation and the skill of the athlete. The team's head coach will have the responsibility of administering the procedure.
5. If there are not sufficient players in the fifth and sixth grades to form a team, players from the next lowest grade may be allowed to play on the B-Team with the agreement of the coach and the athletic director.

6. If there are enough participants to have two teams, the teams will be divided by ability, with those of greater ability forming the A1 team, and those of lesser ability forming the A2 team.
7. Tournaments are competitive in nature and, as such, playing time in tournament games is determined by the coach and based on the athlete's ability and the game situations.
8. If there are not sufficient players in the seventh and eighth grades to form a team, players from the next lowest grade may be allowed to play on the A-Team with the agreement of the coach and the athletic director.
9. Our athletic programs will be funded with an athletic fee charged at registration. This fee will be reviewed on an annual basis. There will be a fee charged per sport for uniforms in the sports of soccer, basketball, softball, and cheerleading. There will be a limit per family per year regarding this fee. The uniform rental fee will be established each year. Volleyball players will be expected to purchase their own shirt for volleyball.
10. Athletes should present a doctor certified physical form in good standing every two years.
11. Generally teams will have two practices per week per sport.
12. While some seasons have to overlap due to the nature of the sports (cross country, soccer e.g.) every effort will be made to not overlap other sports when it is not necessary.
13. Specific numbers are not set as to the exact number of games for each sport, but every effort will be made to keep each season reasonable and in line with what other WELS schools are doing. The athletic directors, principal, and board of education may review this on an annual basis.
14. The athletic directors will be responsible for scheduling games, practices, referees, and securing fields and the like when necessary.
15. The athletic directors will be responsible for securing adequate coaches for each sport. The athletic directors should make sure each coach is qualified to coach in their particular sport.
16. If school is cancelled any scheduled game will also be cancelled unless it is a tournament put on by another school.

Coaches Responsibilities

1. All coaches should give the Lord top priority in their lives.
2. As leaders, role models, and representatives of their Lord and school, participants must conduct themselves in word and action as Christians.
3. All coaches should be members in good standing of Good Shepherd's or another WELS congregation.
4. All coaches will be required to sign a form stating he or she has not been charged with a felony or sexual misconduct.
5. Coaches should have a willingness to assume every responsibility for the sport they coach
6. Coaches should have knowledge of the sport they coach.
7. Coaches should have an ability to impress upon players the philosophy and objectives of the Good Shepherd's sports program.
8. Coaches should have a willingness to coach and live according to the above objectives.
9. They should have the capacity to assess the skills and aptitudes of the players so as to field the best team possible.
10. They should have an ability to coach and teach their team members positively, so as to bring out and improve their performance skills.
11. Coaches should have a facility to deal with criticism, both positive and negative, in a Christian manner and spirit.
12. Coaches should make sure that all members of the team get appropriate playing time in regular season games.
13. Coaches should have a willingness to work together with the athletic director in a friendly and cooperative way, for the welfare of the entire sports program at Good Shepherd's.

Players Responsibilities and expectations

1. Players must be in school all day in order to participate in an athletic contest or practice on that day. If they miss any part of the day, (doctor/dentist appointments), the coach will approve and be the final say on participation in the practice or athletic contest.

2. Players should faithfully attend practice and excuse themselves to their coach when they are not able to attend a practice. Students with an excused absence from school are automatically excused from practices or games.
3. Players must be present at practices and games at least 75% of the time to be considered part of the team. Any player missing more than that may be dropped from the team.
4. Players are expected to live up to all reasonable expectations of their coaches concerning dress, behavior, etc.
5. Players may participate in other athletic activities outside of Good Shepherds, but players should give priority to the sport at Good Shepherds should a conflict arise with these other athletic activities.
6. All players should have the following attitudes concerning their participation at Good Shepherds:
 - A) Participation in this program is a privilege and should be held and considered an honor.
 - B) Give the Lord top priority in their lives.
 - C) Attend worship services in God's house regularly
 - D) Exhibit regular, consistent school attendance
 - E) Maintain minimum academic standards.
 - F) Show honor and respect for all authorities the Lord has placed over them at home, church, school, and the field of competition.
 - G) Use speech that always honors, and never dishonors the Lord.

Eligibility

1. Only students at Good Shepherd Lutheran School who are in good standing may participate in athletic activities. As leaders, role models, and representatives of their Lord and school, participants must conduct themselves in word and action as Christians. Teachers, coaches, and parents will review each participant's worship attendance for regularity, grades and record on incomplete work and effort, and record of discipline. A student may be declared ineligible to participate or suspend from a team if the teacher, coach, and athletic director agree that participation would be a detriment to Good Shepherd Lutheran School and / or the student. The principal and parents should be informed of such decisions. Suspensions should be for a specific period of time. Ineligible students may be declared eligible for the next sport season or the next grading period if the reason for the restriction has been lifted. Eligibility may be reinstated if the teacher and coach agree that adequate improvement has been made in conduct, attitude, and academic standing
2. Students who are athletically suspended are to attend all practices and games as non-participants.
3. Ineligible students may not attend any game in a bench sitting capacity nor any practice.
4. To be academically eligible students must maintain a C- average and have no D's or F's.
5. Students must attend church regularly.
6. Participation in our program is a privilege. Students must meet their classroom responsibilities before participating in any of our programs.
7. Pertinent teachers should inform coaches at least two weeks before any possible academic eligibility is enforced.

Parent's Responsibilities

1. All parents should give the Lord top priority in their lives.
2. As leaders, role models, and representatives of their Lord and school, participants must conduct themselves in word and action as Christians.
3. It is the responsibility of each parent to provide transportation to and from games and practices for his or her own child. It is the parent's responsibility to line up a ride for their child if they themselves cannot drive.
4. Brothers and/or sisters are not permitted to stay after school for practices, unless special permission is granted. Brothers and/or sisters should not remain after school for games unless there is parental supervision.
5. Parents are expected to attend any information meetings conducted for the sports in which their children are involved.
6. Parents should be punctual in bringing and picking up their children at practices and games
7. Parents should provide appropriate clothing and necessary equipment for their children.

8. Parents will be responsible for any lost or damaged equipment experienced by their child.
9. Parents should see that their child has had a physical exam every two years.
10. It is expected that parents will share equally with other parent's duties such as operating the concession stand, monitoring the hallways during games, cleaning up after games and the like.
11. Parents should support their children by attendance at games as often as possible.
12. Parents should set a good example of Christian sportsmanship.
13. Parents should let coaches coach and referees ref.

Concerns

An issue or grievance should be discussed privately between the two parties involved according to the guidelines set in Matthew 18. If the issue or grievance is not resolved, the individual in charge of the program should be included in the discussion. If the issue or grievance is still not resolved, the principal may become involved. If the issue or grievance is not resolved, the school board will make the final decision.

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