

2019 – 2020 Athletic Handbook  
(Revised July 2019)



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## ***Section I***

### **GOALS OF OUR ATHLETIC PROGRAMS**

The Word of God is also the Word of Life and a Christian philosophy of life should govern and encompass every aspect and dimension of our school programs which certainly includes the athletic activities of our school. As such, the goals of our athletic program are:

1. To help children to recognize and appreciate in themselves and others the gifts they have received from God.
2. To develop character traits such as self-discipline, self-esteem, responsibility, leadership, team-work, and self control under pressure, defeat, and failure, as well as proper acceptance of success and victory.
3. To develop to a greater degree the fundamental skills and knowledge of the rules appropriate to each grade level.
4. To help prepare our students for participation in advanced levels of athletics.
5. To provide a Christian witness to all our members and to our community and to demonstrate by example the fruits of Christian faith in athletic competition.

**“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him”**

**– Colossians 3:17**

## ***Section II***

### **PHILOSOPHY OF OUR ATHLETIC PROGRAMS**

Good Shepherd’s Lutheran School has an athletic program to allow students in grades 3-8 to use their God given gifts to His glory. However, interscholastic athletics are not a requirement of the curriculum as physical education is. Therefore, it is understood that this level of participation requires discipline and dedication on the part of the student and parents.

Competitiveness at the various levels of interscholastic sports is different. The goal at C and B team level is to introduce the athletes to the basic skills and rules of the sport and develop those skills and understanding over the course of the season. Players who faithfully attend practice; work hard and listen will play in all games with nearly equal playing time. *During tournaments, the coach’s directive is to advance in the tournament. Every player will get in, but playing time may not be equal.*

The A team level is the most competitive for our conference. Therefore, we strive to be as competitive as possible with our A teams. With that in mind, not all players may be played in the game. The coaches will seek to play all players, but in a closely contested game, that may not be possible.

When it comes to what grade can play at what level, the conference rules govern some of those participation requirements. For conference, the team splits can be as follows:

- A teams: Grades 7 and 8
- B teams: Grades 5 and 6
- C teams: Grades 3 and 4

It is the goal of Good Shepherd's to keep the grades together. Therefore, Good Shepherd's will not move up an individual(s) based on their talent. When the participating class sizes are large, A2 or B2 teams may be created to accommodate.

Good Shepherd's as a general rule does not "cut" players from the team although this may be necessary in a year with a large number of interested participants in a given class. Generally, anyone who is interested in the sport will be able to participate as long as they meet the handbook requirements. However, we want to keep our team sizes at a manageable level for both the coaches and the athletes to best instruct and participate. To that end, in a given year where team sizes are large, we would first try to split the grade between two teams before having to cut.

Good Shepherd's may at times pull students up from the next lowest grade to complete a team with the agreement of the coach, parents and the athletic director.

### ***Section III***

#### **ATHELTE GUIDELINES**

1. All necessary forms are signed and returned to the athletic director before the first week of practices. An athlete may not participate in any practices or games until this is accomplished.
2. The Board of Education will approve the fees for each sport. Each athlete is required to pay the sport's uniform fee, for all uniforms issued by Good Shepherd's, before uniforms are issued. An athlete may not participate in a game until this is accomplished. (A fee of \$5 per sport, not to exceed \$25 per family per school year.)

3. Players should not use the telephones at school to arrange transportation after practice or games. Transportation arrangements should be made prior to the event.
4. Parents/Guardians, together with the athlete, are responsible for transportation of the athlete to and from all games and practices.
5. Generally teams will have two practices per week per sport. There are no practices conducted on Saturday or Sunday in any season, or Wednesdays during Lent and Advent seasons. No practices are scheduled over school vacations. However, *optional* open gym times may be scheduled over school vacations.
6. While some seasons have to overlap due to the nature of the sports every effort will be made to not overlap other sports when it is not necessary.
7. To encourage responsibility, leadership, and teamwork, members of Good Shepherd's athletic teams must make it a priority of attending their school teams' athletic events, whether games or practices, before any athletic activity outside of school. A violation of this will be considered an unexcused absence.
8. Any uniforms sent home will be the care of the athlete. Any uniform not returned, or returned in an unusable state will be replaced at the athlete's expense.
9. Any incidents involving drugs, alcohol, or weapons will follow the directions as printed on page 11 of the School Handbook.

**“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.”**

**– I Corinthians 9:24-25**

#### ***Section IV***

#### **ELEGIBILITY GUIDELINES**

*It is a privilege to participate on an athletic team at Good Shepherd's Lutheran School. Our students are expected to use their God-given talents to their fullest in extracurricular activities, but their first responsibility is academics. Therefore the following standards have been established by the school in order for students to participate in athletics:*

1. A student having 3 'D's or 1 'F' at midterm or quarter grading periods would render a student ineligible to participate in any games.
2. A student declared ineligible to participate in games may practice with the team, however.
3. If a student continues to remain ineligible for games through the end of the second quarter report card, the student will be ineligible to practice or play for the rest of the season (basketball and cheerleading only).
4. A student's eligibility status will be reviewed at each mid-term and end of the quarter by the Athletic Director, Teacher, and Principal.
5. A student declared ineligible after the 4th quarter report card would be ineligible for the 1st quarter of the next school year. If the student continues to be ineligible for the first half of the first quarter of the next school year (up until the first mid-term), the student would be ineligible to practice or play for the rest of the season (soccer, cross country, and volleyball only).
6. In cases where lack of academic ability, not lack of academic effort is the cause of the poor grades, the teacher, athletic director, and school administrator will make the final decision regarding the student's eligibility.

## ***Section V***

### **UNEXCUSED ABSENCES**

As an athlete you are responsible to a team. A team cannot improve as a unit unless all athletes are present and on time for every practice and game. If you are unable to attend practice or will be tardy, the athlete must notify the coach at least one day before the absence (illness the exception). Excused absences would include dentist and doctor appointments, emergency situations, etc. Please communicate with the coaches!

Unexcused absences from practice(s) or games(s) will result in the following penalties:

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: A verbal warning and words of encouragement from the coach to attend practice and/or games.
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Player will receive limited playing time in the following game as decided by the coach and athletic director.
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Suspension from the following game. The player may NOT suit up or sit on the bench with the team.
4. 4<sup>th</sup> Offense: Removal from the team for the remainder of the season.

If a child is absent from school due to sickness, he/she may not participate in practice or at a game that night even if they are feeling better. Students must be

present all day to participate in practice or game that day. If they miss any part of the day (dentist/doctor appointment) the coach will approve and be the final say on participation in the practice or game. For clarification, if a child is sick all day Friday and has a game(s) on Saturday and/or Sunday, they are cleared to play.

### ***Section VI***

#### **COACHING GUIDELINES**

1. Coaches are representatives of Good Shepherd's Ev. Lutheran School and of Christ. They are approved by the school administrator and athletic director. They are informed of the goals and expectations of Good Shepherd's athletic program. There is a high expectation for modeling Christian living placed upon our coaches.
2. Coaches...
  - a. Will submit forms for a background check.
  - b. Will have knowledge of this handbook and the School handbook, and be in agreement with it.
  - c. Should have a general knowledge of the sport they are coaching.
  - d. Will encourage all athletes at all levels.
  - e. Will demonstrate organization and responsibility for his/her team at all practices and games.
  - f. Will encourage prayer before all athletic events.
  - g. Should make sure that all members of the team get appropriate playing time in regular season games.
  - h. Will be a member of a WELS Church that is regular in church attendance and the Lord's Supper.
  - i. Be informed about the handling of bloodborne pathogens, and concussion symptoms.

### ***Section VII***

#### **PARENT/ GUARDIAN GUIDELINES**

1. All parents/guardians should give the Lord top priority in their lives.
2. It will be the responsibility of the parents to watch, care for, and discipline their children before and after all home and away games. If the child's own parent/guardian is not able to attend the athletic contest, the parent/guardian will be responsible for finding a "care-giver" when the child is not under the direct control of the coach.
3. Parents/Guardians together with the athlete are responsible for transportation of the athlete to and from all games and practices.

4. Brothers/Sisters are not permitted to stay after school for practices, unless special permission is granted.
5. Parents/Guardians should provide appropriate clothing and equipment for their children.
6. Parents/Guardians will be responsible for any lost or damaged equipment experience by their child.
7. It is expected that parents/guardians share equally with others the duties set forth by the athletic director.
8. Parents/Guardians should support their children by attendance at games as often as possible.
9. It is hoped that healthy relationships are maintained by all those involved in our sports programs. Communication is the key. Any problems which do arise should be worked out in a God-pleasing way. Parents are asked to resolve conflicts using the following order:
  - a. Discuss the matter in private with the coach (Matthew 18:15), but not immediately before or after a game.
  - b. Contact/Meet with the athletic director along with the coach.
  - c. The athletic director along with the coach will involve the school administrator.
  - d. Meet with the Board of Education.

### *Section VIII*

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

It is expected that all individuals involved with interscholastic athletics will display Christian behavior that reflects a love for our Lord, ideals of sportsmanship, and a sense of fair play at all times. The benefits derived from playing the game fairly should be stressed and any actions, which tend to diminish those values, should be discouraged. Courtesy should be shown toward opponents, officials, supervisors, spectators, and administrators. Efforts must be made to achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and standards of eligibility, as well as to respect the integrity and the judgment of the sport officials. It is important for all to recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of the individual players. **Most of all, it is the duty of all concerned with school athletics to remember that each individual athletics contest is only a game and should be kept in that perspective.**

## **ATHLETES ARE EXPECTED TO:**

1. Understand and abide by the rules and regulations of the game and respect the integrity and judgment of the officials
2. Demonstrate self-control and mutual respect at all times
3. Accept victory with grace and defeat with dignity. Poor winners or losers do a disservice to themselves.
4. Set an example in word and deed, both on and off the playing area.  
Remember that athletes assume a role of leadership and that younger athletes emulate their behavior.

## **PARENTS ARE EXPECTED TO:**

1. Conform to accepted standards of good sportsmanship and behavior.
2. Respect officials, coaches, and players and extend all courtesies to them.
3. Be quiet when players need total concentration. Also to refrain from feet stomping, disrespectful remarks, and the use of noisemakers.
4. Understand that schools are responsible for the conduct of their respective spectators, **whether at home or away.**
5. Refrain from shouting disapproval of calls made by officials.
6. Instruct their children to respect the officials and not to argue, demonstrate or be abusive.

## **COACHES ARE EXPECTED TO:**

1. Approach competition as a healthy and constructive exercise, not as a life and death struggle that requires victory at any price. It should be fun and enjoyable.
2. Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat and instruct your players accordingly.
3. Be sensitive to the feelings and needs of your players, and use Christian judgment when addressing them, avoiding offensive behaviors.
4. Be positive and nurturing.
5. Respect the judgment of the officials. Although it is reasonable for the coach to question an official's decisions or even disagree with decisions, the official's decision must be accepted graciously.
6. Instruct the players to respect the officials and not to argue, demonstrate or be abusive.
7. Avoid behavior in game situations that will incite players, opponent, or spectators.



8. Instruct players in the elements of good sportsmanship and remove players from competition who demonstrate un-sportsmanlike behavior.

**“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”**

**– Proverbs 22:6**

## ***Section IX***

### **INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES**

#### **Wisconsin Lutheran Athletic Association**

The Wisconsin Lutheran Athletic Association (LAA) consists of 30 schools divided into 4 divisions. Good Shepherd’s participates in the Midwest Division along with seven other schools: Christ, Big Bend; Christ the Lord, Brookfield; Holy Trinity, Okauchee; Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls; St. John’s, Mukwonago; St. Paul’s, East Troy; and Zion, Hartland. Fall sports offered are boys’ and girls’ cross country, boys’ soccer, and girls’ volleyball. Winter sports coed softball and boys’ and girls’ track. Good Shepherd’s joins with Lamb of God Lutheran School for all athletic teams.

#### **A. Cross Country**

1. Offered to boys and girls in grades 3-8
2. Boys may participate in cross country and soccer at the same time.
3. Girls may participate in cross country and volleyball at the same time.
4. Season is from the beginning of the school year to approximately the middle of October.
5. A practice and game schedule will be sent home the first week of the season.
6. Practices will typically be once a week after school outside. If weather conditions are poor, there will be no practice. All participants should be ready to be outside at all times.

#### **B. Boys’ Soccer**

1. Soccer is offered to boys in grades 4-8.
2. Boys may participate in cross country and soccer at the same time.
3. All players are to have a pair of ALL black shorts to wear with their uniforms for games.
4. Season is from the beginning of the school year to approximately the middle of October.
5. A practice and game schedule will be sent home the first week of the season.

6. Practices will typically be twice a week after school outside. If weather conditions are poor, there will be no practice. All participants should be ready to be outside at all times.

### **C. Girls' Volleyball**

1. Volleyball is offered to girls in grades 4-8.
2. Girls may participate in cross country and volleyball at the same time.
3. Season is from the beginning of the school year to approximately the middle of October.
4. A practice and game schedule will be sent home the first week of the season.
5. Practices will typically be twice a week after school.

### **D. Basketball**

1. Offered to boys and girls in grades 3-8.
2. Girls may participate in basketball and cheerleading at the same time.
3. Season begins roughly the first week of November and concludes by the middle of February.
4. A practice and game schedule will be sent home the first week of the season.
5. Practices will typically be twice a week after school.
6. In the event that school is closed due to weather, all practices and/or games are canceled for that day.

### **E. Cheerleading**

1. Offered to girls in grades 5-8.
2. Girls may participate in basketball and cheerleading at the same time.
3. Season begins roughly the first week of November and concludes by the middle of February.
4. A practice and game schedule will be sent home the first week of the season.
5. They will cheer at all home games and selected tournaments.
6. Cheering at away games will be decided by the coach and parents.
7. Practices will typically be once a week after school.
8. In the event that school is closed due to weather, all practices and/or games are canceled for that day.

## **F. Slow Pitch Softball**

1. Offered to boys and girls in grades 6-8, may go down to 5<sup>th</sup> depending on the numbers.
2. All players are to have a pair a glove for all games and practices.
3. The season will start around the last week of March and go until the middle of May.
4. A practice and game schedule will be sent home the first week of the season.
5. The gym may be used for early season practice and outside practice will begin as soon as weather permits.
6. If weather conditions are poor, practice may be held in the gym, all participants should be ready to be outside at all times.

## **G. Track**

1. All boys and girls in 5-8 are required to participate; however, based on number of students some grades may be excluded.
2. The season begins around the third week of April and runs through the second week of May.
3. A practice and meet schedule will be sent home the first week of the season.
4. Practices will be held during the school day.
5. All participants should be ready to be outside at all times.

**“... I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last.”  
– John 15:16**

## LAA Midwest School Information

### **Christ**

W229S8930 Clark Street  
Big Bend, WI 53103  
(262) 662-3355

<http://www.christbigbend.com>

### **Christ the Lord**

1650 North Brookfield Road  
Brookfield, WI 53005  
(262) 782-3040

[www.christthelordbrookfield.org](http://www.christthelordbrookfield.org)

### **Lamb of God**

2217 South 99<sup>th</sup> Street  
West Allis, WI 53227  
(414) 321-8780

<http://www.logls.org>

### **Holy Trinity**

35181 Wisconsin Avenue  
Okauchee, WI 53069  
(262) 567-0669

[www.htlutheran.net](http://www.htlutheran.net)

### **Pilgrim**

W156N5429 Bette Drive  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53151  
(262) 781-3520

[www.pilgrimcares.org](http://www.pilgrimcares.org)

### **St. John's**

410 Highway NN West  
Mukwonago, WI 53149  
(262) 363-4999

[www.stjohnslutheran-muk.org](http://www.stjohnslutheran-muk.org)

### **St. Paul's**

2665 North Street  
East Troy, WI 53120  
(262) 642-3202

[www.stpaulset.net](http://www.stpaulset.net)

### **Zion**

1023 East Capitol Drive  
Hartland, WI 53029  
(262) 367-3617

[www.zionhartland.org](http://www.zionhartland.org)

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