

Trinity Lutheran School
Athletic Handbook
2015-2016 School Year



“I believe that God made me and every creature, and has given me my body and soul, my mind and all my abilities.”

Mission Statement

In partnership with the family, Trinity Lutheran School and its students will mature in their faith, demonstrate Christian character, develop their God-given talents, and be academically, intellectually, and spiritually prepared to engage the world and impact generations to the glory of God.

I. Philosophy

1. The purpose of interscholastic athletics is for the child to grow in his/her skills and abilities, and to have the opportunity to use those skills in meaningful competition against other teams.
2. The child will develop the fundamental skills at the B and C team level through active participation. It is our goal to give all team members at the B and C team level a chance for meaningful participation in all games and practices.
3. Those who desire to continue to develop their skills at a more competitive level will have the opportunity to do so on the A team. Since competition is more of the focus on the A team, playing time will not be equal among all the players.
4. Since the teams our children compete against have the same general attitude toward interscholastic athletics, we look forward to enjoyable competitive games. **We expect our players, coaches, and spectators to conduct themselves in a Christian manner at the games.**

II. Description of an Athlete

Athletes are first and foremost Christians on and off the court. Athletes need to reflect the love of their Savior and be representatives of Him at all times with good sportsmanship. All athletes should always respect the other team, coaches, officials, fans, and speak well of them at all times whether winning or losing.

Trinity's athletes are dedicated to the sport they are participating in. No matter the sport the athlete participates in, or the skill level, coaches can expect 100% effort from each individual.

Coaches are looking for athletes who are willing to learn and to work hard to improve their individual skills. Team players are an expectation of all coaches.

Coaches are working hard and taking time to teach athletes the proper techniques for use in the future. The more athletes practice, the easier these skills come to them. The less effort that is put into performing the proper skills hurts the individual as well as the team. This means that athletes cannot be selfish, lazy, unable to take constructive criticism, or be at practices just to be with or talk to friends.

Athletes should be able to work with teammates, not getting frustrated and taking it out on team members by yelling or arguing with them. Rather, they should be willing to take the time to help improve their individual or team skills.

III. Expectations Athletes

1. All athletes are expected to maintain their homework during the season.
2. All athletes are expected to come to practice with a work mentality to improve their individual and team skills.
3. All athletes are expected to be at all scheduled practices and games.
4. All athletes are expected to talk to their coach before missing a practice or game.

5. All athletes are expected to listen to their coach and do as he/she asks, when he/she asks.
6. All athletes are expected to be prompt for games to properly warm-up and stretch.
7. All athletes are expected to sit in the bleachers and watch the other games as long as they are there.
8. All athletes are expected to display proper sportsmanship at all times whether on the court or in the stands. This includes no booing, complaining to officials, or about the other team.
9. All athletes are expected to have the proper equipment to participate in a sport.
10. Uniforms are to be properly tucked in before the athlete leaves the locker room and field.
11. All athletes are expected to show respect toward the facilities of the schools that we visit and follow all posted rules.

Parents

1. Parents are expected to use the proper channels of communication when unsatisfied in certain circumstances. First, parents' concerns regarding coaching philosophy and expectations should be expressed to the coach during a scheduled appointment in private. Please plan to speak to the coach as soon as the issue arises. Parents should not speak to the coach in front of other parents or athletes. If a resolution is not reached, parents should then contact the Athletic Director to schedule an appointment. If the situation still continues to remain unresolved, the parent should contact the Education Chairman. Parents are not to talk to the issue with other parents or team members.
2. Parents should immediately notify the coach of any scheduling conflicts.
3. Parents should notify the coach of any injuries of an athlete.

4. Appropriate topics for parents to discuss with coaches.
 - a. Treatment of the child, mentally and physically
 - b. Ways for the child to improve
 - c. Concerns about the child's behavior

5. Inappropriate issues for parents to discuss with the coach.
 - a. Playing time
 - b. Team strategy
 - c. Play calling
 - d. Other student athletes

IV. Conduct

1. All athletes should reflect their Christian faith at all times, whether at practices or games.
2. The atmosphere should be that of work rather than an opportunity to socialize.
3. Any negative attitude toward the coach or a team member will not be tolerated.
4. When possible, leave constructive criticism for the coach.
5. Do not be afraid to ask your coach to review the proper techniques if necessary.
6. Work with every member of the team. Do not always pair up with the same person. It is hard to improve when you are always working with the same person.
7. Arguing, yelling, or complaining is not allowed. These disrupt teamwork.
8. Do not be concerned with your appearance. If you are practicing hard, you will sweat and your hair will get messed up.

V. Policies

1. Eligibility Policy:

The student needs:

- A. the parent's permission.
- B. to be working up to full ability in class.
- C. to be demonstrating Christian conduct in and outside the classroom.
- D. to get above an "F" in every subject and no more than one "D" in any subject.

A student who has repetitive late work and chooses not to keep up with the academic demands will become ineligible and will not be permitted to participate until they rectify the situation and complete their school work on time. A student close to these lines will be informed on every Friday the status of their grades. If they fall below, they are ineligible to participate in upcoming game(s) until **their** grades are raised. Please refer to the student's teacher's classroom expectations. Participation in practice will be determined by the student's teachers and coach.

2. Locker Room Policy:

Just as participating in athletics is a privilege, so is the use of all athletic facilities and equipment. Great care should be taken to be respectful of all facilities, equipment and resources that the Lord has provided. The Athletic Director assigns locker numbers to each participating student. Students will submit their locker combination or an extra key to the Athletic Director. Each student is expected to use their locker and only their assigned locker. Students who choose not to abide by this policy may lose their locker room privileges.

In order to promote a safe, respectful environment students are expected to act and speak in a way that represents their Lord and Savior. Harassment of another individual will not be tolerated.

The Athletic Department reserves the right to open any student athlete's locker for due cause. In addition, the Athletic Department reserves the right to charge any offending student athlete a fee for any abuse of athletic facilities and equipment that may result in financial

loss.

3. Electronics Policy

To protect our student athletes, under no circumstances, unless previously cleared by administration, are electronic recording devices (picture or audio) of any sort (i.e. cell phone, audio players, cameras, etc.) allowed in the locker rooms. No person may use a cell phone to capture, record, or transfer a representation of a nude or partially nude person in the locker room. Electronic devices are not allowed at practice or on the sidelines of games unless it is concealed away. - *Adopted from Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 175.22*

4. Practice and Game Policy

When athletes commit to our sports programs, they are expected to attend all practices and games. Should an athlete miss a practice or game, the parents should personally speak or write an excuse to the coach in advance when possible.

5. Uniform Policy

Although Trinity supplies the uniforms, some sports may require extra equipment to be purchased separately. (eg: kneepads for volleyball) Uniforms will be handed out by coaches or the Athletic Director early in the season and collected once the season is complete. Athletes are responsible for making sure uniforms stay in good condition. **Please wash inside-out only in cold water and hang dry or tumble dry on the “no heat” setting.** Trinity has the right to charge a replacement fee for uniforms that are turned in damaged, or for uniforms that are not returned. The child will not be allowed to participate in another sport until the account is settled.

6. Attitude Policy

The student should decide before the season whether or not they are willing to make the commitment to the sport. Athletes must be willing to participate in the practice the coach has organized and listen to the coach.

7. Quitting Policy

Should a student decide to quit after the season begins, the uniform needs to be cleaned and returned immediately. Once a student chooses to quit, they will not be allowed to return to the team.

8. Jewelry Policy

All jewelry is to be taken off in practices and in games. (Please consider not getting your daughter's ears pierced before the beginning of that sport's season.)

9. Gum Policy

Gum is not allowed at school, and athletes should not have gum during practices and games.

10. Transportation Policy

Parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from the games that are scheduled. Students should not be asking for rides on game days.

11. Discipline Policy

If a player has a negative attitude, he/she will be asked to sit on the bench until ready to display proper Christian conduct and attitude. The second time this happens, the player will be asked to leave practice or game. The parents must meet with the coach.

12. Athletic Agreement Policy

Parents and students are expected to sign the athletic agreement sheet stating that they have read and understood the expectations of the athlete and the parent before the child will be allowed to participate in that sport. In applicable cases, both parent's signatures are required.

13. Concussion Policy

All student-athletes and parents need to sign and date the Concussion Information Sheet before the beginning of each school year. This is a very serious brain injury that can occur during a sport and it is very important that both the student-athlete and the parent(s) are aware of these symptoms and signs of a concussion.

14. Encouragement Policy

Parents are encouraged not to take vacations that may interfere with the sports seasons. We are small in numbers and need all the players that we have.

VI. Procedures

How do athletes participate?

1. Perform in the classroom by using your gifts and talents to learn and prepare for your future.
2. Permission slips and policy slips must be turned in before you practice.
3. Inform your parents of practice and game schedules and have arrangements for travel made ahead of time. No phone calls will be made unless a game is canceled. (See School Handbook)
4. Upon signing up for a sport, you are making a commitment and the coach is counting on the athlete to be at every practice, game and tournament during the season. Make sure you are willing to participate and work hard to remain eligible for that season.
5. Work hard and have fun!

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