

Good Shepherd Lutheran Grade School



Athletic Handbook

**"Reaching out with God's Word,
Good Shepherd Lutheran School
assists families with educating,
encouraging, and equipping children
for life and for eternity."**

Foreword

The administrative staff believes the actions of all those involved in the athletic program should be based on Scripture, what is best for the student-athletes, and consistent with the objectives and Mission Statement of Good Shepherd Lutheran Grade School. To that end, we ask for the fullest cooperation of all involved in this department as we are about the vital business of equipping the next generation.

May God richly bless our efforts!

Dan Schultz - Principal

Christine Rau - Director of Athletics

Athletic Handbook Committee – Barb Beck, Randy Hughes, Kelly Krause, Joan Kulow, Ken Mantz, Lisa Mantz, Craig Weiss, and James Wilke

**"Committed to CHRIST
while in
Pursuit of Excellence"**

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas regarding the Good Shepherd Lutheran Grade School Athletic Department. We look forward to working with you in support of our program. To God be the Glory!

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Director of Athletics

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Good Shepherd Lutheran Grade School Athletic Handbook

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1 Purpose

This handbook has been prepared to assist parents, athletes, coaches, and staff members involved in the Good Shepherd athletic program by communicating the program content, policies, and responsibilities of participants.

2 Athletic Program

2.1 Philosophy

Good Shepherd Lutheran Elementary School applies Christian attitudes to athletics. The Bible supports glorifying God through the use of our body and talents He has given to us.

I Corinthians 6:20 tells us, **“You were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”**

I Corinthians 3:16-17 and 10:31 speak these words, **“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple. Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”**

The interscholastic athletic program at Good Shepherd is an integral part of the educational curriculum. It provides opportunities for learning experiences inherent in athletics that are difficult to duplicate in other activities and will help boys and girls develop physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually.

The goal of our athletic program is to provide a wealth of opportunities and experiences that will aid our students in fully developing Christian maturity, Christian sportsmanship, and an appreciation of their God-given abilities.

Involvement in the athletic program provides opportunities to learn the benefits of responsible team play and cooperation. It provides a vehicle for learning mental and physical self-discipline, loyalty, personal pride, pride in the school, respect for the rights of others, and the will to win. It proves that hard work and dedication produce results. All of this is experienced in a Christ-centered atmosphere.

A child will develop the fundamental skills at the B Team (5th and 6th Grade) level through active participation. It is our goal to give all members at the B Team level a chance for meaningful participation in games and practices. Athletes will continue to develop skills at a more competitive level on the A Team (7th and 8th Grade). Therefore, playing time in the game may vary more according to the player’s ability level and effort in practice.

Participating in athletics is entirely voluntary and a privilege. We must remember that as God’s children (parents, students, and coaches), we will use these opportunities to reflect

the love of our Savior. The opportunity to participate is extended to all students who are willing to assume the responsibilities outlined in this handbook.

2.2 Objectives

The objectives of Good Shepherd Athletics are:

- To provide and show a positive Christian image of Good Shepherd, its students, coaches, staff, and parents.
- To teach Christian sportsmanship with respect for God, athletes, teammates, opponents, coaches, fans, officials, and property.
- To develop an athlete's talents, skills, and abilities by striving for excellence through teamwork all to the glory of God.
- To provide program administrators and coaches who understand and teach these philosophies and objectives.
- To see a positive Christian attitude displayed by coaches, athletes, and parents whether in a winning or losing game.

2.3 Conference Association

Good Shepherd is a member of the Kettle Moraine Lutheran Grade School Athletic League KMLGSAL, which includes the following members:

Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls	Crown of Life, Hubertus
Bethany, Hustisford	Peace, Hartford
Christ Alone, Thiensville	Salem, Milwaukee
David's Star, Jackson	St. John's, Lannon
Good Shepherd, West Bend	St. John's, Newburg
Morning Star, Jackson	St. Lucas, Kewaskum
Our Savior, Grafton	Trinity, Pleasant Valley Road

Good Shepherd Athletics will be primarily focused on the KMLGSAL, but other games and tournaments may be scheduled with local teams. The website is helpful-
www.kmlgsal.org

2.4 Sports Offered

Fall Athletics

- **Soccer** Athletes in grades 5-8 have the opportunity to play soccer. The soccer team plays approximately 11 regular season games and will participate in the KMLGSAL tournament.

- **Girls' Volleyball** Girls in grades 5-8 are given the opportunity to play volleyball. The girls are divided into A and B teams. The teams each play approximately 11 regular season league games. The teams typically participate in two tournaments. Good Shepherd typically hosts one of the A team tournaments.
- **Cross Country** The boys and girls in grades 3-8 will have the opportunity to participate in one cross-country meet sponsored by our KMLGSAL in October, as well as three or four meets that fit on Wednesdays in September and October.

Winter Athletics

- **Basketball** Boys and girls in grades 5-8 have the opportunity to play basketball. Boys are divided into A and B teams, and Girls are divided into A and B teams. The B teams play 11 regular season games and participate in two tournaments. Good Shepherd hosts each of the B level team tournaments. The A teams play 11 regular season games and compete in our own Kick-Off Tournament, another local tournament, and the season ending KMLGSAL tournament. We also have C teams for boys and girls in grades 3-4. They play Saturday mornings in Jan and Feb at Living Word Lutheran High School and have a tournament here.
- **Cheerleading or dance** Girls in grades 5-8 have the opportunity to cheerlead for our boys' basketball teams during the basketball season. Girls in grades 7 and 8 will have the opportunity to participate on the dance team.

Spring Athletics

- **Softball** Boys and girls in grades 6-8 have the opportunity to play co-ed softball. They will have about 5 games and will participate in the KMLGSAL Tournament typically held May.
- **Track and Field Meet** Athletes in grades 5-8 have the opportunity to participate on the track team. There is a one-day instructional meet and a one-day KMLGSAL track meet. Athletes are able to compete in running and field events. The track events are typically held in May.

*A teams- usually 7th and 8th graders. B teams- usually 5th and 6th graders

3 Athletic Policies

3.1 Eligibility

Although participation in athletics is important, academic excellence is a priority at Good Shepherd. Student-athletes must meet these requirements to be eligible for extra-curricular activities:

- **Maintain a C- composite grade average.**
- **Attain a passing grade in all classes.**
- **Must complete all class work.**

After two weeks each quarter, an eligibility report will be created by the office on the 2nd and 4th Monday each month. Teachers have until Wednesday to change the status of the eligibility report. The final report will be emailed to homeroom teachers, the principal, and the Athletic Director on Thursday morning. Homeroom teachers will notify the student and parent concerning the ineligibility on Thursday. Should the parent have questions, the notification email to the parent will direct the parent to contact the child's teacher(s) to answer specific questions. Ineligibility begins Thursday when announced until a new report is issued on the 2nd or 4th Monday.

Students may also be declared ineligible due to their conduct at school. Habitual refusal to listen, persistent disrespect, lack of cooperation, repeated referrals to the principal, or repeated offenses on the bus may all result in a student being declared ineligible. Students may also be declared ineligible for habitual truancy and/or tardiness.

If there is a disciplinary action with an athlete, a minimum of three days suspension may also be assessed at any time. Any student who has been suspended from school for disciplinary or other reasons will not be allowed to participate in sports during that suspension period. If at any time a student athlete is in possession of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or other questionable paraphernalia and/or involved in any kind of sexual misbehavior on or off school property, the student(s) will be suspended from participation in athletics immediately and referred to the principal for proper disciplinary action. Although the school has established these minimal guidelines for eligibility, parents may wish to establish a higher standard for their student's eligibility taking into account the gifts God has given.

Eligibility for students with special needs or circumstances will be determined in consultation with the classroom teacher, principal and the student's parents on a case-by-case basis.

Any families that do not pay athletic or service fees in full before the start of one season may not participate until all bills are paid.

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contact the child's teacher(s) to answer specific questions. Ineligibility begins Thursday when announced until a new report is issued on the 2nd or 4th Monday.

3.2 Attendance and Cancellation

Athletes and parents who choose to participate in athletics have made a commitment to Good Shepherd's teams and coaches. It is important that athletes and parents honor their commitments through attendance.

Athletes must:

- Attend all practices and games unless excused by a parent or coaches prior to the event, either verbally or by a written request.
- Provide an acceptable excuse when absent from practices or games and, if possible, inform coaches prior to practices or games, either verbally or in writing.
- Attend a minimum of 75% of games and practices to receive recognition.

Athletes are ineligible for practices and games if they have an unexcused absence during that school day. An athlete must attend two thirds of the school day to participate. If an athlete is ill, he/she should go home. Please do not attempt to stay two-thirds of the day if you are ill. It is not good for anyone's health.

Emergency weather conditions that result in early dismissal or cancellation of school will also cancel athletic events and practices.

3.3 Athletic Fees

Each student participating in athletics will be charged an individual fee for each sport.

Volleyball	\$20.00
Soccer	\$15.00
Basketball	\$35.00
Softball	\$15.00
Track	\$5.00
Cross Country	\$10.00
Cheerleading/Dance	\$10.00

Fees are based on the school's approximate annual expenses. These expenses include referees pay, tournament entry fees, equipment, and other items. Fees can be paid at the beginning of the year and will be applied to family accounts if they fail to pay. These fees are kept low through fund raising at tournaments.

3.4 Equipment

Required reusable uniforms will be provided for team sports, dancers, and cheerleaders. It will be the athlete's responsibility to provide appropriate shoes and clothing in all other situations. Lost or damaged uniforms will be paid for by the family.

Required equipment like balls, bats, pom-poms, etc. will be provided by Good Shepherd.

3.5 Communication

Regular open communication is an essential part of an effective athletic program. Initial communication begins through the annual Athletic Meeting. Additional "kick-off" meetings will be held between coaches, parents, and athletes for individual sports to communicate team policies, equipment requirements, schedules, and contact information.

Coaches are the first point of contact for athletes and parents. Athletes need to feel free to communicate with their coaches. If the player, the coach, or parent has a question or concern they are encouraged to go and talk with the person in question before discussing it with others (Matt 18:15-17). We also hear the encouraging words of James:

"My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires." (James 1:19-20)

The chain of communication is: Coach→Athletic Director→Principal→Board of Lutheran Schools. Please follow this progression when necessary, to reach a peaceful God-pleasing resolution.

3.6 Practice Sessions

Coaches are responsible for scheduling practice sessions that create a minimal amount of daily conflict with normal family / school activities. Coaches will be responsible for the supervision of the athletes during and after practice sessions. Athletes should arrive no more than 15 minutes prior to practice.

Practice sessions will be planned, structured, and reasonable in length. They will be open for parents to observe as long as this does not interfere with the session.

Practices held on vacation days, such as over Christmas, shall be scheduled taking into consideration the family commitments of the team members and considered optional.

Practices and games may be held on days when there is a scheduled early dismissal of school.

3.7 Games and Tournaments

Coaches will establish an arrival time and schedule for games and tournaments. In general, students should arrive a minimum of 30 minutes before the game to dress, stretch, and warm-up. Coaches will supervise athletes from the arrival time communicated until the end of the game or event.

3.8 Outings and Other Athletic Functions

Outings, end of season parties, and other functions may be arranged to promote Christian fellowship and team unity. These events are optional, but participants are encouraged to attend. Please pay attention to yearbook picture dates.

4 Expectations of Participants

4.1 Athletes

To reflect the love for our Lord, each athlete will be a positive Christian image for Good Shepherd and display Christian sportsmanship at all times. This includes teammates, opposing players, coaches, fans, and referees. Matthew 5:16 reminds us what Jesus spoke at the Sermon on the Mount when he said,

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

Athletes at Good Shepherd will:

- Respect the personal property, facilities, and locker rooms of our school property, as well as the property of others.
- To develop the realization that athletic competition, like life, accords privileges and definite responsibilities.
- Meet acceptable academic eligibility standards as stated in the Eligibility Policy.
- Be present at practices and games per the Attendance Policy and communicate when attendance is not possible.
- Remain on school’s property after practices and games until released to a parent, except for those athletes who walk or bike to school. Those athletes may come and leave practices on their own. They must go home before practice begins unless practice begins immediately after school.

- Follow the Good Shepherd dress code with exception of approved athletic attire.
- Keep cell phones out of locker rooms

4.2 Parents

Good Shepherd desires parents who possess and display a love for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and show that love through their support of the athletic program and their actions.

Parents of participants in Good Shepherd athletics will:

- Support the Board of Lutheran Schools, athletic director, coaches and officials in all of their decisions.
- Read and follow the contents of the Good Shepherd Athletics Handbook and review the program, policies, and expectations with athletes.
- Attend the annual Athletic Meeting at the beginning of the school year for parents of athletes. It is **mandatory** that at least one parent attend before athletes can participate in an athletic event. Parents are responsible for making alternate arrangements with the Athletic Director if they cannot attend. Attendance in 2020 will be counted as the video is watched and paperwork returned.
- Supervise their children at athletic events. Children are expected to watch the games during athletic events.
- Be prompt in getting your students to and from practices and games. Athletes must be picked up immediately after the close of practice.
- Support athletes by attending athletic events. Positive support at home by parents and family members is critical to the success of the athletes.
- Support the athletic program by selling concessions, being hall monitors, time-keepers, score-keepers, coaching, refereeing, or umpiring as outlined in the G.O.A.L. section 4.4. **Uniforms will be given to your child when you have signed-up for events.**
- Be responsible for transportation of their athletes to practices, games, and tournaments. If parents are unable to drive their own athletes, they are responsible for arranging other transportation. Parents transporting other students are responsible for their supervision at that event. **Please do not ask coaches to supervise your children who are not participating while they are coaching.**

- Follow laws and safety requirements when transporting athletes. Seat belts, recommended passenger loads, and enforcement of proper passenger conduct are a few examples. Vehicles used for transportation should have adequate private insurance coverage.

Inform coaches of health issues that could put their athlete or teammates at risk.

The sexual responsibility liability law applies when parents, coaches, or others transport athletes. Please be aware of the consequences of your thoughts, words, and deeds when these athletes are in your care. If your child is one being given a ride by another parent or coach, please inform your child that he/she is to be respectful and honest in words and actions towards others.

Plan and talk with your children early to aid athletic department planning. Reinforce with children that commitments are important.

4.3 Coaches

The Good Shepherd Athletic program is structured to provide qualified individuals that can teach Christian sportsmanship, teach fundamental skills, and provide a safe environment for the participants.

Coaches at Good Shepherd:

Are volunteers.

Are members of the WELS or fellowship churches.

Have sufficient knowledge in the sport to teach the rules, fundamental skills and strategies.

Possess a basic knowledge of first aid and the ability to administer basic first aid.

Will have knowledge of Blood Borne Pathogens precautions and procedures.

Are subject to background checks.

Coaches will adhere to and enforce the policies listed in the Good Shepherd Athletic Handbook.

4.4 G.O.A.L.

All parents or guardians of Good Shepherd students are automatically considered members of this organization. The purpose of the club is to promote the development and general welfare for the members of the Good Shepherd family by providing Christian fellowship opportunities. The club also promotes student and family involvement in athletic and other program activities by providing moral, physical, and financial support.

G.O.A.L. raises money through various activities including the concession stand at athletic events and the golf outing, plus other activities.

Parents of athletes are required to support athletics by serving as aids during athletic events. The specific requirements and opportunities will be conveyed at the annual athletic meeting. Parents of winter athletes must assist at the annual preseason basketball tournament. Failure to fulfill your requirements will result in an added charge to the parents. This added charge would be used to hire someone to carry out the task a volunteer failed to cover. We would prefer having your volunteer service rather than your money.

To help service hours go faster, they are now on Sign Up Genius. The link will be provided in an email.

4.5 Safety

Athletes may get injured during contests. Coaches and those on staff will take care of them to the best of their ability, but they are not trained medical personal. Please see your doctor about injuries and follow all his/her instructions.

Concussion sheets must be signed before participating in sports before each season. Emergency cards will also be filled out.

2020- Please abide by COVID safety procedures for each host school. We desire the safety of all participants and spectators. May God Help us all have a safe year.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN
Athletic & Extra-Curricular Permission Slip

Sport	Name of participant(s)	Grade	Total Due	Health Conditions
Volleyball (\$20.00)				
Cross Country (\$5.00)				
Soccer (\$15.00)				
Basketball (\$35.00)				
Cheer/Dance (\$10.00)				
Softball (\$10.00)				
Track (\$5.00)				

Actions To Be Taken For Above Conditions: (If medication is required, will child have medication with them?)

Home phone # _____ - _____ - _____ Work phone # _____ - _____ - _____

Cell phone # of (name) _____, (relationship) _____ is
_____ - _____ - _____

Cell phone # of (name) _____, (relationship) _____ is
_____ - _____ - _____

I give my parental consent for my child(ren) listed above to participate in any athletic or extra-curricular activity I have chosen.

I agree to pay the athletic fees as stated in this handbook before the sport begins. This athletic fee covers normal and miscellaneous costs that arise during the course of the year and must be paid from the athletic fund.

I attended the Good Shepherd Lutheran School athletic meeting. I understand Good Shepherd's Athletic Handbook, athletic philosophy, and the coaching philosophy. I agree to support Good Shepherd Lutheran athletics, the directors, coaches, and athletes as they perform these activities to the Glory of God.

_____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

Parent Signature

Athlete's Signature(s)