

# Faith Lutheran School's Athletic Handbook

## Introduction/Philosophy

The purpose of interscholastic athletics is to allow a child to learn teamwork, sportsmanship, and to grow in his/her abilities in a sport. The child will have the opportunity to use these skills in competition against other teams.

Many life lessons can be learned through athletics, and Faith Lutheran School believes that learning these lessons with fellow Christian teammates and coaches is a great blessing from our Lord. Christian athletes can learn from the words of 1 Timothy 4:8, "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."

The child at Faith Lutheran School will develop the fundamental skills at the 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> team level through active participation. It is our goal to give all team members at the 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> team level a chance for meaningful participation in games and practices.

Those who desire to continue to use their skills at a more competitive level will have the opportunity to do so on the 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams. Because the focus of the 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade team is skill development and competition, playing time in games will vary according to the player's ability level and his/her effort in practices.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade team level, the coaches may feel the need to change their philosophy of coaching during a tournament. Participation is the emphasis during the season, but competition will be allowed as the emphasis during a tournament.

Faith Lutheran School applies Christian attitudes in all of its athletic activities. I Corinthians 10:31 gives us the direction, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." We should always remember that this includes athletic events, and that as children of God, parents, students, and coaches will use these opportunities to reflect our Savior's love.

As we apply this Christian principle, we look forward to enjoyable, competitive contests against other teams. We expect everyone involved, including players, coaches, and spectators to conduct themselves in a Christian manner at the contests.

## FLS Athletic Policy

The following guidelines have been established for our athletic program. These have been established so all things may be done in a decent and orderly way and so all of our actions may bring glory to our Almighty God.

### 1. Eligibility Policy

As stated in the Faith Handbook for parents," Students who wish to participate in co-curricular activities must demonstrate that these additional activities will not become a burden to them and not detract from their academic work. If a teacher and the parents determine that co-curricular activities are beginning to have an obviously detrimental effect on a student's work, then

the parents and school together may decide to limit participation.”

Final say in all of these matters will be determined by the athletic director and principal.

The student needs:

- a. to be working up to full ability in class as determined by the classroom teacher
  - b. to be demonstrating Christian conduct in and outside the classroom
2. Students that receive a detention during the school day will miss a portion of the following game or meet.
  3. **All practices and games should be attended unless excused by a parent prior to the event, either verbally or by a note given to the coach.** If sick during the school day, the individual should not attend games or practices. The coach does not need to be contacted if the child leaves school because of illness.
  4. One unexcused absence from a game or practice will result in suspension from the next game. If the unexcused absence occurs at the end of the season the suspension will carry over to the next season.
  5. On the third unexcused absence the individual may no longer be on the team for the sport in session. Three unexcused absences would seem to show lack of interest and/or commitment.
  6. To show the desire to learn the skills of any extra-curricular activity the student must be willing to cooperate with the coach(es)
    - a. To practice willingly

- b. To show respect to those in authority, based on the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment
  1. No talking back
  2. No grumbling or complaining
  3. Willingness to follow directions
7. We should portray Christian sportsmanship at all times toward:
  - a. each other and opposing team players
  - b. coaches and assistants
  - c. fans and referee
  - d. If an individual fails to display cooperation or Christian conduct, he/she will receive one warning. After the second occurrence, he/she will be placed out of the practice session or game, but within the supervision of the persons in authority. This will result in an unexcused absence.
  - e. All major disciplinary actions will be reported to the principal.
8. As Christians, we should always respect the property and facilities of others,  
For example...
  - a. personal property of others
  - b. gyms
  - c. locker rooms
9. Students that possess or use illegal drugs or substances will be suspended for the entire season of the sport.
10. Uniforms should be kept in the best condition possible. In order to help prolong the use of our uniforms students and parents can use the following guidelines:
  - a. students should wear a tee-shirt underneath the game uniform
  - b. the uniform should be washed according to the washing instructions

- c. the uniforms should be air dried
- d. if a uniform is not returned or is returned in non-satisfactory condition the student will be charged the cost of the uniform
- e. if students lose a uniform they will pay for it

## Chain of Command

Our Lord Jesus Christ has established an orderly guideline to follow when dealing with conflict between Christians. In order to follow the guidelines established in Matthew 18:15-17, a chain of command has been developed for our use.

Order from top to bottom

- 1. Principal
- 2. Athletic Director
- 3. Coach
- 4. Parent

In all cases, if a parent has a concern that needs to be discussed, he or she should go to the source of that concern. If that source is the coach, then steps should be taken in order to resolve the problem. The parent and coach should then make an appointment with each other to discuss the problem.

If no resolution can be made at that time there will then be a need to involve the Athletic Director. If no resolution is made with the Athletic Director, then the Principal will also become involved. The parent should not come immediately to the Athletic Director or Principal if there is a concern with the coach. If the parent would happen to contact the Athletic Director or Principal about a coaching issue, they would be directed back to the coach to resolve the matter.

If a coach has difficulties with a child or coaching issues, it is recommended to address the matter with the Athletic Director. In all cases, coaches should be in regular communication with the Athletic Director so he is aware of all matters. Minor issues are left up to the judgment of the individual coach. Major issues and discipline will include the coach, Athletic Director, and Principal if needed.

## Coaching Code of Ethics

A Coaching Code of Ethics has been made as a guide to follow as a coach at FLS. This Code of Ethics is used in a number of schools and is adopted by FLS.

**Focus on Christ** - The coach must recognize and portray a Christian attitude in light of I Corinthians 10: 31, “ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God.”

**Integrity** – The coach must act with integrity in performing all duties owed to athletes, the sport, other members of the coaching profession, and the public.

**Competence** – The coach must strive to be well prepared and current in order that all duties in the respective discipline are fulfilled in accordance with the mission of FLS.

**Athlete’s Interest** – The coach must act in the best interest of the athlete’s development as a whole person.

**Respect for the Rules** – The coach must accept both the letter and the spirit of the rules that define and govern the sport.

**Respect for Officials** – The coach must accept the role of officials in providing judgment to ensure that competitions are conducted fairly and according to the established rules.

**Responsibility to Other Coaches** – The coach's conduct toward other coaches must be characterized by courtesy, good faith, and respect.

**Personal Conduct** – The coach must maintain the highest standards of personal conduct on and off the playing field and support the principles of fair play.

### **Parental Communication/Confrontations**

The following ideas offered here are from a plan used by Greensboro Day School of North Carolina. These will give coaches an idea of what parents need to know, also these will allow coaches to know what to expect from parents.

#### **What the coach should communicate to the parent...**

- Philosophy of Coaching
- Expectation of the players
- Location and time of all practices and games
- Team requirements, i.e. practices, special equipment, out-of-season conditioning
- Event of injury
- Discipline

#### **What to expect from parents...**

- Concerns regarding coaching philosophy and expectations should be expressed to the coach during a scheduled appointment
- Immediate notification of any scheduling conflicts

- Support in decisions on and off the court

#### **Appropriate topics for parents to discuss with coaches...**

- Treatment of the child mentally and physically
- Ways for the child to improve
- Concerns about the child's behavior

#### **Inappropriate issues for parents to discuss with the coach...**

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling

Many of the ideas and policies used here were developed by a plan written by St. Matthew's Lutheran School of Oconomowoc.