

ST. JOHNS/WORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN COACHES HANDBOOK
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St. John's/Word of Life Lutheran School's Coaches' Handbook

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The purposes of interscholastic athletics are for the child to grow in his/her God-given skills and abilities and to allow the child to have the opportunity to use those skills in competition against other teams. It is our goal to give all team members at the B-team and C-team levels a chance for meaningful participation in all games and practices.

Those who desire to continue to use their skills at a more competitive level will have the opportunity to try out for the A-team. While the primary focus of the B-team is on participation, the primary focus on the A-team will be on competition. A-team coaches will make every effort to give all team members playing time during games; however it will vary according to the player's ability level and his/her attitude and effort in practices. Players wishing to compete at the A-team level should develop their skills more fully through individual off-season practices, summer leagues, camps, etc.

As Lutheran elementary schools, St. John's and Word of Life will expect a Christian attitude to be the foundation of the athletic program. Colossians 3:17 tells us, "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." We must never forget that this includes athletic events. As children of God, parents, students, and coaches will use these opportunities to demonstrate their love for their Savior.

We believe that a "winner" is one who is humble in victory and gracious in defeat. As representatives of our Lord and Savior, and of our school, Christian behavior is expected at all times. It is the most important element of our program. Disrespect toward coaches, officials, other players, or fans will not be tolerated.

St. John's and Word of Life schools expect our players, coaches, and spectators to conduct themselves in a Christian manner at these contests.

OBJECTIVES

St. Johns/Word of Life has the following objectives for its sports program:

- 1) The development of good, Christian sportsmanship;
- 2) The development of an attitude toward sports that recognizes the joy of participation as well as the effort and hard work such participation requires;
- 3) The teaching and learning of the fundamentals of the individual sports and working for improvement in the performance skills;
- 4) The development of a sound body;
- 5) The development of an appropriate attitude toward both winning and losing;
- 6) The attitude that students perform to the best of their abilities.

ATHLETIC POLICY The Athletic Policy and Attitudes are located in the Athletic Handbook and should be reviewed by each coach.

CRITERIA FOR COACHES

At St. Johns/Word of Life we will use the following criteria when selecting lay coaches. They must...

- a) Be a Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod member;
- b) Possess faith which resembles strong Christian characteristics;
- c) Be able to discipline athletes with proper use of Law and Gospel;
- d) Abide by policies that have been set up by the faculty, athletic director, and school boards;
- e) Have the necessary skills to coach a specific sport;
- f) Have an ability to coach and teach their team members positively, so as to bring out and improve their performance skills;
- g) Have a facility to deal with all criticism, both positive and negative, in a Christian manner and spirit;
- h) Have a practice of making sure that all members of the team(s) they coach get appropriate playing time in regular season games;
- i) Strive for worshiping the Lord at church on a regular basis.

HANDLING DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS

In all cases the coach is responsible for the actions of the children under the supervision at the time of a game or practice. Thus it is your judgment along with the mission of the school that guides the course of action that you take during an event of misconduct.

If you are dealing with general misconduct, please remove the child from the practice or game and discuss it with him/her.

If it continues the coach will notify the parent(s) and meet to plan a course of action. If it still continues, the coach, athletic director, and parent(s) will meet further to discuss the situation and to join in a united effort in disciplining the child.

All acts of gross misconduct will be reported to and handled by the principal.

Such as:

- 1) Fighting;
- 2) Stealing;
- 3) Open defiance or disrespect to coaches;
- 4) Vandalism of property.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

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. (Matthew 18) If that source is the coach, then steps should be taken in order to resolve the problem. It is suggested that the parent or coach make an appointment with each other to discuss the problem.

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

COACHING CODE OF ETHICS

Focus on Christ- The coach must recognize and portray a Christian attitude.

Integrity- The coach must act with integrity in performing all duties owed to athletes and the sport.

Competence- The coach must strive to be well prepared and current.

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 spirit of the rules that define and govern a sport.

Respect for the Officials- The coach must accept the role of officials in providing judgment to ensure that competitions are conducted fairly and according to 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 and support the principles of fair play.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Athletic Director is in charge of the entire sports program at St. Johns/Word of Life School. He shall be responsible for:

- 1) The selection of coaches;
- 2) Making sure the coaches know and understand the rules of the sports they are coaching;
- 3) The scheduling of practices, games, and sites for the individual sports;
- 4) The selection of referees and umpires;
- 5) In consultation with the coaches, the establishing of rules for proper dress and necessary equipment for participating players;
- 6) The establishing of a school athletic budget;
- 7) In consultation with the appropriate parties, the suspension of a player for disciplinary reasons;
- 8) The establishment of a good rapport between himself and all involved in the sports program—coaches, players, and parents—so that the objectives of the St. Johns/Word of Life sports program may be carried out in a God-pleasing manner and spirit.

COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES

He/she shall be responsible for:

- 1) Keeping a roster of players and attendance at practices and games;
- 2) Informing the athletic director of issues that arise;
- 3) Securing equipment at practices and games;
- 4) Supervision of children until the parents pick them up;
- 5) Return keys after the season;
- 6) Report facility or equipment damage to the athletic director;
- 7) Report any theft or vandalism to facilities or with players to the athletic director;
- 8) Return any uniforms given to the athletic director.

PARENTAL COMMUNICATION/CONFRONTATIONS

The following are ideas that may help you as coaches deal with confrontations with parents as they may arise. The ideas offered here are from a plan by Greensboro Day School of North Carolina. It will give you an idea of what your parents need to know and what you should expect from them. However these hints may not be the golden answer to cure all situations, since all people are different.

What the coach should communicate to the parent...

- Philosophy of coaching
- Expectation of 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 parent...

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

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
- Other student athletes

PRACTICE RESPONSIBILITIES

When using the gym of another school, make sure that all lights are turned off and that the doors are locked. Make sure that all balls, practice jerseys, and other equipment are put away in the athletic closet after use. Loss of equipment means additional fees.

UNIFORM USE

Uniforms will be distributed at the beginning of the season to each player. Each player is responsible for the care and condition of the uniforms. If a uniform is damaged or lost, the parents of the player will assume the responsibility for the cost of repairing or replacing the uniform.

Distribution and Return - All uniforms will be distributed and collected by the athletic director. If an athlete has more than one sport in a school year they will not get the uniform for the next sport until the previous uniform has been returned.

Care - The individual athlete is responsible for the care of his/her uniform. Uniforms are to be washed in cold water and air-dried. Machine drying will damage the material and numbers. Do not use fabric softener when washing a uniform.

Damaged Materials - If a child loses or damages a uniform, he/she will be required to pay for the lost or damaged uniform before another uniform will be issued.

Forgotten Uniforms - Students are expected to bring uniforms to games. Both home and away jerseys are expected to be brought to each game for the Boys and Girl's Basketball A-team. Extra uniforms will not be taken to away games. If a student forgets his/her uniform, he/she may not, depending on the sport, be allowed to play.

Return of Uniforms - Uniforms are to be returned upon the completion of that sport's season. Students must return the uniforms to the school office or athletic director in a timely manner.