

## **GOOD SHEPHERD EV. LUTHERAN SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM**

Good Shepherd Ev. Lutheran School is pleased to offer our students the opportunity to participate in various sports throughout the year. While our school is a member of the Kettle Moraine Lutheran Grade School Athletic League, we also participate in various events available through the other West Bend schools.

At the present time, Good Shepherd provides opportunities for participation the following sports:

|            |              |          |          |
|------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| soccer     | volleyball   | softball | pom pons |
| basketball | cheerleading | track    |          |

### **ATHLETIC PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY**

The interscholastic athletic program at Good Shepherd Lutheran School is an integral part of the educational curriculum. It provides opportunities for learning experiences inherent in athletics which 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. These opportunities and experiences will aid our students in 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. Participants are encouraged to develop their God-given talents and abilities to their fullest.

Participation in the athletic program at Good Shepherd Lutheran School is entirely voluntary and a privilege. The opportunity to participate is extended to all students who are willing to assume the responsibilities outlined in the athletic handbook.

### **ATHLETIC PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of Good Shepherd's athletic program are as follows.

- To provide a positive image of Good Shepherd Lutheran School, its students, coaches, teachers, and parents.
- To practice Christian sportsmanship in all situations.

- To teach the participants respect for teammates, opponents, coaches, fans, officials, and property.
- To have participants develop their God-given talents and abilities to their fullest.
- To strive always for playing excellence keeping in mind the overall health and well-being of the athlete.
- To teach the athletes the skills needed to participate in future activities to the glory of God.
- To provide those activities which offer the greatest benefits for the greatest number of students.
- To provide appropriate activities for each participant with the opportunity to experience success.
- To provide coaches who are recruited and evaluated based on the philosophy and objectives of the athletic program.
- To emphasize participation in the athletic program of Good Shepherd Lutheran School. While competition and winning attitudes are important parts of the program, participation of team members is more important.

### **PARTICIPATION**

Since participation is one of the main objectives of Good Shepherd's athletic program, all students indicating an interest in participating will be on a team. This eliminates the possibility of cuts.

When the number of students interested in participating in a given sport (such as basketball) becomes too great to be practical or effective, the athletic director and the Board of Lutheran Schools will investigate the feasibility of forming additional teams. Determination for forming additional teams will be based on availability of coaches, games, uniforms, and the costs involved.

### **ATHLETIC FEES**

Each student participating in Good Shepherd's athletic program will pay an annual athletic fee for each sport in which the student participates. This fee will help to cover the cost of uniforms, equipment, and officials. Concession stand revenue will also assist in defraying these expenses.

The amount of the athletic fee will be determined each year and will be set on the basis of need.

## WHAT DO WE EXPECT FROM OUR ATHLETES AT GOOD SHEPHERD?

Our athletes are encouraged and expected to:

1. possess and display a love for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
2. display appropriate Christian attitudes at practices and during games.
3. respect their coaches, the officials, their teammates, and all others connected with Good Shepherd's athletic program.
4. respect our school's property as well as the property of others.
5. meet the eligibility standards as stated in the eligibility policy.
6. attend practices and games as scheduled and inform the coaches when attendance is impossible.
7. provide an acceptable excuse when absent from practices or games.
8. remain on school's property before and after practices and games until released to parental care.
9. be positive ambassadors for Good Shepherd at all times.

### Eligibility Policy

Scholastic performance will determine a student's eligibility in extra-curricular activities. Extra-curricular activities are those non-scholastic activities offered at school in which the student represents Good Shepherd Lutheran School. Included in these extra-curricular activities are all athletics, cheerleading, pom-poms, and hot shot contests. It is a privilege and an honor to be included in these activities and to represent our school in these areas.

Any student whose grade point average for any quarter is below 1.67 will be ineligible for all extra-curricular activities listed above from the time the report cards are distributed until mid-quarter reports are distributed. If the grade point average at mid-quarter is still below 1.67, the student will remain ineligible through the next report card distribution.

Grade point averages are figured using the following scale:

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| A = 4.0 points   | C = 2.0 points   |
| A- = 3.67 points | C- = 1.67 points |
| B+ = 3.34 points | D+ = 1.34 points |
| B = 3.0 points   | D = 1.0 points   |
| B- = 2.67 points | D- = 0.67 points |

C+ = 2.34 points

F = 0.00 points

Any students who receives a grade of “F” at the end of a quarter in any subject will be ineligible for all extra-curricular activities listed above from the time the report cards are distributed until mid-quarter reports are distributed. If a student who received an “F” as a report card grade is doing “F”

work in any subject at the following mid-quarter, the student will remain ineligible until the next report card distribution.

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.

Parents whose children are developing habits or patterns which may lead to ineligibility will be notified prior to ineligibility being declared for those students. This notification may be through written communication or personal contact and will be given in time to avoid ineligibility if at all possible. However, this may not be possible with grades affected by major tests or projects given or due near the end of a quarter.

A student who does not meet the grade point or grade requirements may remain eligible as a result of an individual variance granted by the faculty members involved.

This policy includes all four grading periods with fourth quarter affecting eligibility for the first quarter of the following year.

## **WHAT DO WE EXPECT FROM COACHES AT GOOD SHEPHERD?**

### **A. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT**

Coaches at Good Shepherd will:

- have a love for their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- possess the willingness to follow and obey the guidelines set forth by the Philosophy and Objectives of Good Shepherd's athletic program.
- be dedicated to being a positive influence on each athlete.
- avoid such practices as the use of physical force, belittling, degrading, mocking, or making fun of parents, officials, fans, cheerleaders, or any one else connected with the athletic program.
- avoid the use of physical force, negative speech (such as belittling, degrading, mocking, making fun of, etc) and actions that may demoralize individual athletes or destroy their self-confidence.

### **B. KNOWLEDGE OF THE SPORT AND THE ATHLETES**

Coaches at Good Shepherd will:

- recognize that each student athlete is a redeemed child of God who has been given certain gifts and abilities by the Lord.
- have a good understanding of the game which he/she coaches.
- understand that the coach's role is to encourage every athlete to develop the God-given abilities each possesses.
- approach coaching like teaching recognizing that his/her role is to impart knowledge, drill basics, demonstrate strategies, etc.

### **C. TEACHING**

Coaches at Good Shepherd will:

- teach and demonstrate the true meaning of Christian sportsmanship including respect for officials, opponents, fans, and property.
- encourage all athletes to participate, to work together, and to support one another as members of the same team.
- strive to have the athletes participate in game situations as much as possible.
- work to help each individual athlete experience as much success as his/her abilities will allow.
- strive to have each team perform to its best abilities and to accept winning or losing

graciously.

### **WHAT DO WE EXPECT FROM PARENTS INVOLVED WITH THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM?**

Parents involved with the athletic program are encouraged and expected to:

1. possess and display a love for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
2. display a Christian attitude at every event, both at home and away.
3. be positive ambassadors for Good Shepherd at all times.
4. support the athletic director, the Board of Lutheran Schools, the coaches, and the officials in all of their decisions.
5. support the athletic program by assisting with the concession stand, hall monitoring, and the financial needs of the program.
6. participate in supervising their children at athletic events both at home and away. (Games should not be a baby-sitting service provided by Good Shepherd.)
7. assist with the cleaning of the uniforms provided by Good Shepherd by following the cleaning instructions given for each uniform. (This helps prolong the life of the uniforms and keep the costs of the program down.)
8. be prompt in getting their children to and from practices and games.
9. support Good Shepherd's teams by attending the games and by being a positive influence to all.

### **USE OF PRIVATE VEHICLES FOR CHURCH RELATED FUNCTIONS**

At times parents may drive other students to games. This always presents a concern regarding insurance. With specific regard to the use of a private vehicle (one owned by a member and used without compensation to the member), the sequence of insurance is as follows: in the case of an accident, the insurance of the driver would be the primary coverage. Any claims for injury or damage would be filed against that insurance. Should the claims exceed the limits of that coverage, then and only then, would the congregation's insurance come in as secondary coverage. Please note that this coverage is for medical claims only. The church does not carry insurance to cover damage

to the vehicle.

Obviously, the best "insurance" against accidents is safety. If you find yourself driving a group to a church related function (or at any time for that matter), the following safety rules should help prevent serious accidents: have all passengers use seat belts, and use them yourself. Do not put more passengers in your vehicle than it was intended to carry. Enforce proper conduct by the passengers under your care. Use safe driving habits. Maintain a prudent level of insurance coverage. The adherence to these guidelines should help to minimize the risks to you, your passengers, and the congregation.

## **QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS**

If Good Shepherd's athletic program and everyone involved with it were perfect, there would never be a need to address questions or concerns. However, that is not the case. All people involved with the athletic program, from the athletes to the Board of Lutheran Schools, are human beings. All of us make mistakes. We hope and pray that the mistakes will be small in nature and minimum in number, but there will still be mistakes.

If you, as parents, have concerns about the athletic program or the people involved with it, please follow the procedures described here. Basically, this policy tries to follow the guidelines of Matthew 18:15-17.

Please begin by going directly to the person involved. For example, if you have concerns about what a particular coach may be doing, please speak directly to that coach. This may take more than one meeting with the coach.

If the concern is not adequately resolved in meeting with the person directly involved, please speak with the athletic director. He will then have the opportunity to meet with all the people involved to try to reach a satisfactory resolution to the concern.

Perhaps the concern cannot be resolved at the level of the athletic director. The person with the concern should then speak with the principal. Again, there may be discussions with all parties involved. Only through the open exchange of concerns and possible solutions can a satisfactory resolution be found.

In the event that the principal is not able to bring the concern to a satisfactory resolution, the concerned person should speak to the chairman of the Board of Lutheran Schools. When the concern reaches the Board level, a final decision will be made and a course of action determined.

While it may seem that there are a lot of steps and perhaps a great amount of time involved with this procedure, in the long run this is the best way to handle concerns and to solve problems in a God-pleasing manner.

All people involved with the athletic program in any way are encouraged to remember our Lord's command to speak well of others and to take their words and actions in the kindest possible way.