



ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

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Introduction:

Zion Lutheran School exists to help its children and parents glorify and praise God. God is not only number one, but a way of life. Everything is to be done to the Glory of God.

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17

Objectives:

We believe the child should grow in their relationship with God, and to that end, the child should:

1. Live in the confidence that God will supply their needs
2. Use God's gifts in a responsible way
3. Thank God and praise the Lord every day.

Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and ever. Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; His greatness is unsearchable.

Psalms 145:2-3

We believe the child should grow into a Christian relationship with others, and to that end, the child should:

1. Work and play harmoniously with others
2. Reach out to others
3. Live their faith in Christian love towards others

Share the good news with everyone you meet.

Matthew 28:19-20

Emphasis is placed on developing Christian students who will use their God-given talents to the best of their ability and grow up to become dedicated, active, and faithful workers of Christ both on and off the court or field.

Expectations of Players:

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

Matthew 5:16

This passage tells us that anyone watching the sporting event should be able to tell these players are young Christian athletes.

When joining a team, the student makes a commitment to which they are expected to follow through. Specific expectations include but are not limited to:

1. Mandatory attendance at practice, team meetings, and games unless ill or otherwise excused.
2. Conducting themselves at practice in a manner so all can learn.
3. Displaying Christ-centered respect and sportsmanship at all times to all players, coaches, officials and spectators.
4. Maintaining an academic level per Zion standards.
5. Respecting all property when playing at home or the opposing teams facility.

Players are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities outside of team practices to develop their skills.

Expectations of Coaches:

Coaches are to follow the example of our Lord as described below:

He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Isaiah 40:11

Coaches should love as Jesus loved us. Skills and fundamentals should be taught while Jesus' love is also modeled. The coach must understand that they are responsible for their behavior at all times and their conduct reflects on our school and our Savior. Coaches should have a general knowledge of the sport they are coaching. They are to develop and encourage athletes at all skill levels.

The coach needs to show organization, a willingness to improve as a coach, and a commitment for teaching the fundamentals skills of that particular sport. The coach is responsible for the care and discipline of the athletes during the practices and games.

Expectations of Parents:

Parents are expected to set a positive Christian example for their children, fellow Christians, and the unchurched. This will follow the following philosophy:

...do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17

It will be the responsibility of the parents to watch, care for, and discipline their children before and after all home and away games. If the child's own parent is not able to attend the athletic event, the parent will be responsible for finding another responsible adult to watch over the child when the child is not under the direct control of the coach.

The parent will be responsible for getting the child to and from practices in a timely fashion. Parents should show respect to the coaches and officials.

Parents (or another designated adult representative) are expected to volunteer 4 hours of time for each of their children playing a sport. These volunteer hours can be met by assisting in one (or more) of the following areas: concession stand, coaching, line judging for soccer or volleyball, keeping the scorebook, or running the clock. Parents are asked to sign up for the area (other than coaching) and times/days that work best for them using the sign up form sent out by the Concessions Coordinator. If needed, training can be provided to help you feel comfortable running the clock or keeping the scorebook. Volunteer hours do NOT need to be completed in the sport season your child is playing in (i.e. parents who only have a child playing soccer may volunteer in volleyball season, etc.)

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace...

1 Peter 4:10

General Policies:

Players are expected to make a concerted commitment to their team. Academics should be a student's first priority, but the team needs to be able to count on each member being present for practices, games and other team functions. This may mean making sacrifices in other areas of their life, but learning to make choices is one of the most valuable life lessons that an athlete can learn from participating in athletics.

A player should notify their coach as soon as they are aware they will be unable to attend a practice or game. This allows the coach to make adjustments, if necessary, to their plan for that practice/game. Players must understand that missing practices or games may result in reduced playing time at the discretion of the coach and Athletic Director.

Players need to be at school by 9am on the day of a scheduled game (unless there is an excused absence) in order to be eligible to play in that day's game. Exceptions need to be approved, as far in advance as possible, by the Athletic Director.

All players are to wear appropriate attire. This includes appropriate clothes and shoes for practice, as well as being prepared with their full uniform and shoes for games.

Players and parents should know the practice and game schedule, and check it often for updates. This will help avoid any unnecessary waiting around after practice or a game for a parent to come pick up a player.

Parents are responsible for the transportation of their children to and from practices and games. Car-pooling is encouraged. If there is an issue with a player needing transportation to a practice or game, that player's parent is encouraged to reach out to parents of the other players or to the coach for assistance.

Parents have the sole responsibility for the health of their children. Parents allowing their child to participate in sports at Zion is used as confirmation the child is healthy enough to play.

The congregation, coaches and school have no coverage for injuries suffered as a result of participation in sports at Zion.

Parent permission slips need to be signed and turned in to the School Secretary (or completed online) before a player can practice or play in a game.

If a student acquires two D's, one F, or does not function up to their level of ability in the classroom, the student becomes ineligible for athletic participation for a period of at least two weeks. This determination will be made using grades at midterm and quarter ending periods. Special needs and abilities of the students will be taken into consideration.

All players and coaches should follow the expectations listed below while they are at any athletic event.

Basketball:

Basketball may begin on a date determined by the Lakeshore Lutheran League. In the event that a fall sport has not concluded the season, the basketball season may start one week after the conclusion of that season.

We will remain in the Lakeshore Lutheran League and follow their schedule and rules.

Lakeshore Lutheran League basketball games must have at least one WIAA referee.

First quarter report cards will determine eligibility for basketball.

A and B teams may participate in up to 3 (three) tournaments during each season. The end of the season Lakeshore Lutheran League tournament counts as one of those tournaments.

If enough players and parents are interested, and their coaches agree, additional games or tournaments could be played after the Lakeshore Lutheran League end of season tournament is complete. These tournaments and games would be voluntary.

Volleyball:

Volleyball practice may begin on or after the date determined by the Lakeshore Lutheran League.

Coaches may schedule optional open gyms up to three weeks prior to the start of the season. Players will not be punished for missing those open gyms, but they are encouraged to attend if possible.

Conflict Resolution:

If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

Matthew 18: 15-16

If students want to voice a concern, our hope is they would feel comfortable enough to bring that concern directly to the coach, in private with the help of their parents.

If parents want to voice a concern, the concern should first be addressed to the coach privately no sooner than 24 hours after the completion of the event. Parents should refrain from bringing concerns about any player other than their own to the coaches, except in the case of bullying. Please keep in mind that unless you feel the offense is egregious, coaching strategy and playing time are not appropriate subjects for complaint. This discussion should be done in a Christian manner and keeping in mind that the child is the top priority in the conversation.

If the concern is unresolved after talking directly to the coach, the next step would be for the parent to notify the Athletic Director.

In the event the concern still remains unresolved after talking to the Athletic Director, the parent should contact the Principal. This would follow the procedure the Lord sets up for us in Matthew 18.

Parents and athletes should feel confident that there will be no retribution from any coach or player for using the conflict resolution process.

Uniforms:

Uniforms will be handed out at the start of the season on a date decided by the Uniform Manager. The Uniform Manager will be responsible for tracking which player was given each uniform.

Uniforms are to be cleaned and returned to the coach within one week of the end of the season, or at a date as decided by the coach and/or Uniform Manager.

Uniforms may be “borrowed” by Zion students or church members for use at non-school sponsored tournaments (i.e. 3 on 3 tournaments). Players should remember they are a representative of Zion when they wear the uniform and should uphold the behavior expected of Zion athletes. If there are players on the team who are not Zion students or church members, they will need to sign a separate form stating they agree to also follow our player expectations and represent Zion well.

Uniforms are expected to be returned in the same condition they were received in or a fee may be charged to the player in order to replace the damaged or lost items.

Athletic Discipline Code:

Any student whose habits and/or conduct (namely the use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, drugs and profanity) make them unqualified to represent the ideas, principles, and standards of Zion Lutheran School shall be suspended from athletic competition. Furthermore, it is a violation of this code when a student doesn't accept the responsibility for leaving any location or function where alcoholic beverages or drugs are being used or consumed in violation of this code or in violation of applicable state statutes. Certain periods of suspension are defined below:

CONCERNING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, DRUGS OR TOBACCO

1. First Offense: Suspension of 4 games of the sports season. Scrimmages are considered practice days and not games.
2. Second Offense: Suspension of the entire school year season of all sports.

CONCERNING PROFANITY

1. First Offense: Suspension of 2 games.
2. Second Offense: Suspension of 3 games.
3. Third Offense: Suspension of the rest of that sport's season.

If the violation occurs between sports seasons, the suspension will be enforced during the next sports season in which the athlete chooses to compete. If the violation occurs at the end of one sports season and not enough of the season is left, the rest of the suspension period will be mathematically figured out to carry into the next sports season.

Students under suspension are expected to be at practices unless the coach dismisses them.

Players, coaches, and/or fans may be ejected from events for inappropriate behavior. If the violations continue, they may be asked by the Athletic Director to not attend future events.