

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL



ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

In order to provide students with a complete, well-rounded program, Immanuel Lutheran School believes extracurricular activities are an important tool in teaching students to make use of their God-given talents and skills. We define extracurricular activities as any activity that takes place in whole or in part outside the normal classroom setting. Considering the resources of time, facilities, and coaches, we strive to provide the opportunity for as many students as possible within our guidelines, to pursue activities of interest in the area of athletics. We strive for full utilization and development of a student's God-given talents through our extracurricular program.

CREDO

We believe each of us has a unique package of gifts, talents, and abilities from God's grace. Some of these are physical, some intellectual, some emotional, and some attitudinal.

We believe that the maturation rate of each student is different, and the accurate early identification of gifts is difficult. Therefore, we should encourage each student to develop their talents and gifts as they grow.

We believe that participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right, and that it is contingent on students maintaining satisfactory academic progress and attitudes while following the guidelines in the Eligibility Policy.

We believe that participating in extracurricular events should maintain the highest Christian standards in word and deed during competition, practice, and general school life.

We believe that competition is important, however, the primary purpose of the extracurricular activities is that God be glorified as participants use their God-given gifts, talents, and abilities.

Goals and Objectives

1. To provide a means by which our church and school may give witness of Jesus Christ to the community and to individuals.
2. To provide for Christian fellowship.
3. To develop loyalty to church and school through sports.
4. To develop the highest Christian standards of sportsmanship.
5. To develop proper attitudes towards one's body and its care and development.
6. To develop a lifelong interest in physical activity and exercise.
7. To develop skills for all participants.
8. To provide an opportunity for all to participate in sports on a regular basis.

Role of the Board of Christian Education The Board Shall:

1. appoint an Athletic Director
2. yearly review the athletic policy with the Athletic Director, make changes as needed, and approve the policy with a majority vote.
3. give approval to the coaching staff on a seasonal basis, as presented by the Athletic Director.
4. reserve the right to approve or disapprove any sport and approve or dismiss any coach or Athletic Director with a unanimous vote.
5. reserve the right to override any decision(s) of the Athletic Director with a majority vote.

Role of the Athletic Director

The Athletic Director Shall:

1. approve all extracurricular sports.
2. appoint a coach or coaches for each sport using proper forms and following proper policies.
3. have a coaches' meeting, as needed, to set up practices and games and to go over any rule changes.
4. approve practices, games, and tournaments with each coach before they begin.
5. approve all announcements and permission slips sent home.
6. attend all meetings of the Lakeshore Lutheran League or send a representative of Immanuel.
7. reserve the right to make decisions together with the principal as needed on items covered or not covered in this policy.
8. make sure that W.I.A.A. officials are engaged for all sports requiring them.
9. make sure of adequate equipment and first aid supplies before the school year begins.
10. have a meeting at the beginning of each season with the parents and the athletes to discuss rules, eligibility guidelines, schedules, signing up, getting equipment, etc.

Qualifications and Expectations of Coaches

1. Only persons approved by the Board of Education may serve as coaches.
2. A head coach must be a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church or a sister congregation, be a minimum of 19 years of age, and must be a positive Christian example through active church attendance and fellowship.
3. Assistant coaches will be appointed by the Athletic Director and be approved by the Board of Christian Education.
4. All coaches should meet with the Athletic Director before beginning practices or games. Minor changes in the schedule need to be approved by the Athletic Director in advance.
5. Coaches using the gym should see to it that the floors are swept at the end of each practice session.
6. Coaches are to remain at school until all the players have been picked up. When all players have left, the coaches need to make sure all the doors are locked securely before leaving.
7. Coaches are encouraged to lead a team prayer before all games.

8. Coaches will submit forms for a background check.

Code of Ethics for Coaches

1. I will treat each player, opposing coach, official, parent, and administrator with respect, Christian love, and dignity.
2. I will do my best to learn and teach the fundamental skills and strategies of my sport.
3. I will become thoroughly familiar with the rules of my sport.
4. I will become familiar with the objectives of the athletic program at Immanuel Lutheran School. I will strive to achieve these objectives and communicate them to my players and their parents.
5. I will uphold the authority of the officials who are assigned to the contests in which I coach, and I will assist them in every way to conduct fair and impartial competitive contests.
6. I will learn the strengths and weaknesses of my players so that I might place them in situations where they have a maximum opportunity to achieve success.
7. I will conduct my practices and games so that all players have an opportunity to improve their skill level.
8. I will communicate to my players and their parents the responsibilities of individuals on our team.
9. I will cooperate with the Athletic Director in the enforcement of rules and regulations, and I will report any irregularities that violate sound competitive practices.
10. I will protect the health and safety of my players by insisting that all of the activities under my control are conducted for their welfare.

Student-Athlete Responsibilities

Participating in Immanuel's athletic programs is a privilege. Participation will depend on the student's ability to assume certain responsibilities. The greatest of these responsibilities is to their Lord and Savior. They are also expected to represent their parents, church, school, and community in a proper manner.

All student-athletes shall:

1. always give glory to God, not to themselves, by doing the best with the gifts God has given them.
2. display proper respect for those in authority, including administration, teachers, coaches, officials, and also other school personnel.
3. display a genuine spirit of cooperation and sportsmanship.
4. make a commitment to the team.
5. excuse himself/ herself to the coach either in person or by note or phone call when not able to attend a practice or game.
6. be on time for all practices and 15 minutes prior to game time. If a player misses a game or practice and has not excused himself/herself before hand with the coach, their playing time may be shortened in the next scheduled game. (If a player missed due to an illness or family emergency, it would be considered an excused absence and will not be penalized for missing the game.)

7. dress according to the school dress code when attending a school function.
8. use language befitting a Christian
9. not smoke, drink alcoholic beverages, or take drugs that are not prescribed by a physician for illness.
10. avoid doing anything that would embarrass themselves, their Lord, their parents, their team, or the school.

Any infraction of the above expectations will result in disciplinary action(s). Loss of playing time may occur. The action(s) taken will be decided in cooperation of the Principal, Athletic Director, and the coach.

Parents' Code of Conduct

As a parent whose child or children are participants in Immanuel Lutheran Interscholastic sports program, I will:

1. Support My Child

Children are learners and part of learning is making mistakes. Show your child by example that mistakes are opportunities for learning. Be positive and look for those things that your child does right. If you feel that something should be pointed out to your child, use complete feedback:

- + tell them what they did right
- + tell them constructively what they did incorrectly
- + tell them what they should do next

2. Support My Child's Coach

The coach is your child's teacher. Coaches are volunteers, and frequently they are parents too. Show your child that you support the coach and your child will listen better and learn more. A coach is just like you: friendliness will make you more receptive than unfriendliness. Let the coach know that you appreciate the effort being given and the time he or she is putting in to help your child. Look for good things that are done, not the mistakes that are sometimes made. If you criticize your child's coach, your child may become negative also. Be positive in your role model.

Due process: it is hoped that healthy relationships are maintained by all those involved in our sports programs. Communication is the key. Any problems which do arise should be worked out in a God-pleasing way. Parents are asked to resolve conflicts using the following order:

- a. Discuss the matter in private with the coach. (Matthew 18:15)
- b. Contact/meet with the athletic director along with the coach.
- c. The athletic director along with the coach(es) will involve the principal.

It is also wise to use a "cooling off" period before bringing a problem to a coach. If a problem arises in a game, a 24 hour "cooling off" time frame should be observed before bringing the matter to the coach.

3. Support My Child's Team

No matter who plays well and who doesn't, or whether your child's team wins or loses, please support ALL the players on the team and your child will have a much better relationship with teammates. In turn, he or she will learn

to support them and will also make many new friends. Be positive rather than negative.

4. **Support My Child's Opponents**

This is sometimes the hardest one to master. Your child will learn more if your opponents are well prepared and give your team a good game. And, believe it or not, your child may learn more in defeat than in victory. Performance seems to be a bigger issue when a team loses. But, parents and children have a tendency to be critical of opponents when they lose the game. A child that sees parents appreciate another team and the players on that team learn about respect. Respect wins friends and, in turn, your child will earn respect as a good sport. Show positive support for the other team.

5. **Understand I May Be Called Upon**

There are times when parents are called to work during a sport. This is especially true during basketball season when canteen, scorebook, and scoreboard help is needed. It can also happen when Immanuel is in charge of running all or part of a tournament at MLHS.

Scheduling Guidelines

1. The schedule will be made to avoid conflict with other previously scheduled school/church events.
2. Cancellation of scheduled games due to any reason will be made by the Athletic Director and the principal in consultation with the opposing school's Athletic Director and/or Principal.
3. Girls' and boys' "A Team" basketball may participate in a maximum of three tournaments.
4. Girls' and boys' "B Team" basketball may participate in a maximum of one tournament.
5. Girls' and boys' "C Team" basketball may participate in a maximum of one tournament.
6. Any changes or additions in the set schedule need to be approved by the Athletic Director in advance.

Transportation

Parents are responsible for transportation of their children to and from all games, scrimmages, and practices.

Athletic Opportunities

Fall:

- Jr. Lancer Flag Football—boys in grades 4-6
- Coed Soccer grades 1-8
- Girls' volleyball grades 7-8 (Grades 4-6 participate in practice and possibly some games)
- Cross Country (a one day event/race at MLHS)—grades 3-8
- Jr. Lancer Cross Country

- Winter: Boys' Basketball grades 3-8
Girls' Basketball grades 3-8
Girls' Dance grades 3-8
If we are short in numbers to field a team we will bring up all the players from the next grade level down.
Jr. Lancer Basketball
- Spring: Boys' Wrestling grades K-8 Jr. Lancer Program
Boys' Track grades 5-8
Girls' Track grades 5-8
Jr. Lancer Baseball

Athletic Academic Eligibility Policy

The eligibility policy has been written so that all interested individuals will have the same understanding of the rules.

1. Incomplete Work

Incomplete work is any assignment that is not finished when the teacher is ready to collect it. Teachers will use their discretion, based on individual needs of students, to determine if work is legitimately attempted. All incomplete work must be finished before the student may participate in any interscholastic activities or practices.

2. Academic Status

Students need to remember that academics are an important part of their school life. Any student with an "F" in any subject on a report card will be declared ineligible for participation in the next week's activities. The student will also be given a two-week period to show improvement. If there is no sign of an effort to improve, ineligibility for the remainder of the season would be the next step.

- * A teacher has the right to waive this rule if he/she feels that the student is putting forth an excellent effort or is showing improvement in the areas that have been weak.

Playing Time

Immanuel's Board of Education does not want to tie the hands of its coaches. However, we feel there are certain levels of playing time that must be achieved. All players will at least be able to have playing time in every game at that child's level. Exceptions to this include the following

- a. When a child is sick or not able to play because of grades
- b. When a child is intimidated and does not want to play
- c. When a child's parent does not want the child to play
- d. When a child misses or skips that week's practices
- e. When a child is a B-team player, suiting up for an A-team game

Coaches are encouraged to try to have each child play at least one fourth of any game. This may be difficult if there are many children out for the sport. However, our goals still remain in the order listed above.

There may be times when players miss practice or a portion of practice. If practice is fully or partially missed due to a student serving a detention that resulted from incomplete work or a disciplinary issue, game playing time will be taken away at the coach's and athletic director's discretion.

Immanuel Athletic Association (IAA)

- Purpose: The purpose of the IAA is to supervise all extracurricular athletic activities held at Immanuel. It is also to operate and maintain the canteen used for those events.
- Members: Members of the IAA include the officers, the Principal, the Athletic Director, and ALL parents of students grades 4-8 who have children involved in sports and cheerleading. It is very important that all members of this group attend the scheduled meetings throughout the school year to help make decisions that may affect each student involved in athletics at Immanuel.
- Funds Raised: The funds that are raised by this group are used to purchase athletic equipment, uniforms, cover referee fees, pay mileage for coaches, and help maintain the gym.

Please show your interest in your school's athletic program by participating and attending these group meetings. Involvement in this group can be fun while working together for the benefit of our students and school.