

Grace Ev. Lutheran Warriors^{Warriors}



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2022-2023 Athletic Handbook

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INTRODUCTION

Students who desire to be a member of an athletic team at Grace Ev. Lutheran School should understand that it is a privilege to participate in team sports. All athletes should do all things to the glory of God.

PURPOSE

The purpose of athletics at Grace Ev. Lutheran School is to teach students how to live their Christian faith both on and off the field. Coaches will model positive behaviors such as self-discipline, commitment, motivation, honesty, humility, loyalty, cooperation, fair-play, and good sportsmanship to give their students an increased understanding of what it means to lead a sanctified life, especially regarding the following:

- Reflecting the Christ-centered mission of Grace Ev. Lutheran School, all athletes will be held accountable for their actions during sports events as well as during the school day.
- As a responsible athlete, students must maintain high academic standards. An athlete becomes ineligible to participate if he/she receives one F or two D's on a report card.
- Student athletes should, at all times, show respect for their teammates and the authority of both coaches and game officials.

PHILOSOPHY

Grace's Athletic Program develops the students' athletic skills while reinforcing the students' walk of faith. ***I can do all things through him who gives me strength. – Philippians 4:13***

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God's Word is the vital force and determining standard of all instruction. Athletics is one part of the total educational experience. Grace's students will learn to conduct themselves in a manner worthy and pleasing to God in all they do on and off the sports fields. ***So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. – 1 Corinthians 10:31***

SCHEDULING

Games will be scheduled on a sport-by-sport basis. Grace's Athletic Director will submit team information to the secretary of the Black Canyon Athletic League to be included in the schedule. All coaches must provide a schedule of practices and games to Grace's Athletic Director as well as to the students who are participating in each sport and to their parents. Please be aware that parents and coaches may need to be flexible in the event of any unforeseen date/game changes.

SPORTS OFFERED

Fall Sports (September-December)

- A & B Volleyball – 5th-8th Grade Girls
- Soccer – 5th-8th Grade Boys & Girls
(There is no B Team in soccer, so try outs will be held if the number of students desiring to play soccer exceeds 20.)

Winter & Spring Sports (January-April)

- A & B Basketball – 5th-8th Grade Boys
- A & B Basketball – 5th-8th Grade Girls
(Trips to the San Diego Basketball Tournament at the end of January will only be made in even numbered years when there is no Washington, D.C. trip.)
- Track and Field – 3rd-8th Grade Boys & Girls

If the number of participants in the above-designated grade levels is not enough to form a team, coaches may draw athletes from lower grades. See the Participation Requirements section for details.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

A sport will be offered as long as there are enough participants to field a team plus one. If the minimum number of participants is not met or a sport has no coach, the Athletic Director and Principal will determine whether or not the sport will be offered.

- No cuts will be made at the A or B levels except in soccer as previously stated.
- Fifth grade is the lowest grade from which participants will be drawn for an A Team sport.
- Fourth grade is the lowest grade from which participants will be drawn for a B Team sport.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Athletic Director will report to the Principal and the School Board. She will be in charge of supervising the coaches, referees, guests on campus, and the campus grounds. She will maintain a continuing correspondence with the Principal.

Position Statement:

- The Athletic Director should demonstrate a Christian attitude at all times and be the spiritual example for the coaches and the parents.
- The Athletic Director is in full agreement with the policies as reflected in the *Grace Ev. Lutheran Athletic Handbook* (rev. August, 2018) and the *Black Canyon Lutheran Athletic League Handbook* (rev. 2013). She will adhere to the guidelines as stated in the above listed handbooks.
- The Athletic Director is the representative of the school when available at both home and away games. As the face of Grace's athletics program, she should be welcoming to visitors and be flexible when dealing with any problems that may occur. She should be aware of any possible liability issues.

- The Athletic Director will exhibit a sense of pride in her school through marketing ventures and public relations.
- The Athletic Director will approach any issue in the light of Matthew 18:15-17: *¹⁵“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. ¹⁶But 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.’ ¹⁷If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.*

Summer Duties: The Athletic Director will do the following:

- Attend the Black Canyon Lutheran Athletic League (BCLAL) athletic director’s league meeting in June.
- Plan coaches meeting for Grace coaches to inform them of any changes of which they need to be aware for the upcoming sports season.
- Order any equipment that needs to be replaced or updated.
- Order and approve all uniform purchases when needed.
- Coordinate the volunteer coaches.
- Arrange the use of fields necessary for soccer.
- Coordinate referees for game days.

COACH DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The coaches report to the Athletic Director. They will supervise the students on their teams and maintain a working relationship with the Athletic Director and other coaches referring to Matthew 18:15-17 for guidance.

The coaches will:

- Follow all guidelines outlined in the *Grace Ev. Lutheran Athletic Handbook*.
- Make sure that all sports participants feel they are part of the team.
- Help and encourage sports participants to hone their skills and grow spiritually as it applies to teamwork and athletic competition.
- Adjust coaching techniques based on the strengths and weaknesses of the athletes.
- Be aware of changing rules, techniques, and philosophies as they apply to their sport and program.
- Monitor athletes’ use of equipment in order to ensure safe and proper use.
- Have a medical kit available at all games and practices.
- Model Christian values for the sports participants and fans at all times.

STUDENT ATHLETE RESPONSIBILITIES

Athletic participation is a privilege offered to all students who meet team requirements and are willing to assume the responsibilities of team membership. As redeemed children of God and as an expression of their faith, student athletes will strive to do the following:

- Display respect for rules, officials, coaches, and all in authority
- Display a spirit of cooperation and teamwork
- Use his/her God-given gifts and talents to the best of his/her ability

PARENTAL SUPPORT OF ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Parental support of the athletic program at Grace Ev. Lutheran School is an important part of its success. Parents are encouraged to support all members of the team as they work toward a common goal and purpose.

Parental support may come in any or all of the following forms:

- prayers for God-pleasing use of all talents showered on athletes and coaches
- volunteer help throughout the season
- words of encouragement to players and coaches
- God-pleasing procedures in dealing with problems

Parents can also support their athlete's commitment to the team in the following ways:

- Encourage your athlete to demonstrate a team loyalty in all they do.
- Show respect to the coaching staff in all circumstances. If disagreements or concerns arise, deal with them quickly and in a God-pleasing manner (*see above*)
- Look for ways to support your athlete, other team members, other parents, and the coaches throughout the season.
- Accept responsibility by helping to support the sports program if called upon, through officiating, working the scoreboards, or even helping with concessions.

INJURIES

In the case of injury, the coach should be notified immediately. If the athlete's parents are not present, they will be notified by the coach or Athletic Director regarding the details of the injury.

All coaches will have CPR and First Aid training and will use any available resources to the best of their ability.

Coaches must have First Aid Kits available at all sport practices and games. They will be supplied with these by the Athletic Director well in advance of the first practice.

INSURANCE

Grace Ev. Lutheran School has accident insurance that covers all students while involved in school-related activities on and off campus. However, this coverage is secondary to any health/accident coverage a parent or guardian has for his family. If an accident occurs, the claim for coverage should first be made against the family accident coverage that applies. Any balance that remains can be claimed against the school coverage.

Forms will be distributed on Registration Day for parents to sign waivers stating that they are aware that athletes will be transported to sporting events by volunteer parent drivers.

PLAYING TIME

The **ideal situation** in team sports would be to have all the team members participate the same amount of time in every contest. **This may not always happen.** Coaches will have to balance their responsibility to teach the fundamentals and to field a competitive team. The talents and abilities of athletes will differ, and consequently, so will the amount of time they will participate **especially** during tournament play.

Every effort will be made to give all student-athletes as much participation as possible, but the athletes must be willing to sacrifice their own goals in favor of the goals of the team.

At the B Team (5th-6th Grade*) level, the primary goal is to teach the athletes the fundamentals of the game. Teaching is to be the coaches' primary objective.

At the A Team (7th-8th Grade) level, coaches will continue to emphasize the objectives (self-discipline, honesty, humility, etc.) taught at the B Team levels and to provide additional opportunities for those athletes whom the Lord has uniquely gifted and have demonstrated dedication, desire, and discipline to be successful in athletic competition. ***Whenever possible, the coaches should give precedence to 8th graders regardless of ability level. This is also contingent on the effort exhibited by the 8th grader and his/her ability to follow the rules. This will be left to each coach's discretion, but this should be considered especially during the regular season.***

Disclaimer:

Playing time will automatically be affected by the following, but each case may vary:

- Missing or skipping classes
- Unexcused absences
- Getting a detention
- Being continually late for practices
- Questioning authority
- Not following the rules before, during, or after practices
- Lack of effort or use of God-given talents

ATHLETIC FEES

All students participating in a sport are required to pay an athletic fee. This fee is to be paid prior to the first scheduled event. Participation may be withheld if payment is not made. The cost is as follows:

- **\$ 10.00 per sport**
- **\$ 30.00 individual maximum**
- **\$ 50.00 family maximum**

ATTENDANCE

A student-athlete must be in school **all day** in order to practice or participate in athletic contests on any given day of school. A medical appointment, attendance at a funeral, or a family emergency are excuses acceptable for not being at school the entire day and still being permitted to participate. Other excuses must be approved by the school administration and the coach or advisor. **All excuses must be given to the coaches in writing or by phone.**

ELIGIBILITY & CONDUCT

In order to carry out the conduct code of eligibility, the following procedures must and will be followed:

- 1st Offense** may result in a ½ game suspension (quarter)
- 2nd Offense** may result in a 1 game (1/2 game) suspension
- 3rd Offense** may result in the participant being suspended from the sport
- 4th Offense** may result in the participant no longer being eligible for participation in any sport.

The above are suggested consequences and are applied at the coaches' discretion. All offenses and recommended consequences must be presented to the Athletic Director as well as the principal. More severe misconduct may result in consequences at the level of a 3rd or 4th offense.

Disclaimers:

- Athletes will remain part of the team and must practice while under the athletic discipline of a 1st or 2nd Offense. If disciplined for any reason, unless the athlete is told otherwise, he/she must still sit with the team at games. He/she will not be allowed to dress for the game but can cheer on his/her teammates.
- Post-season tournament games or matches may be part of the suspension.

Eligibility – Detentions

Athletes **will be declared ineligible** for accumulating **two detentions** during the sport season.

PARENTAL PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE & STUDENT ATHLETE CONSENT

Parental permission to participate in and travel for a sport is required each year. Both student/parent consent forms will be available from the Athletic Director on school Registration Day. It must be completed, signed, and filed with the athletic director before any participation will be permitted.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation for Practices:

Parents should **pick their child up no later than 15 minutes after** practice ends. If you are not able to pick up your child by then, please speak with the child's coach. **If you have not spoken to the coach, at the allotted time your child will be sent to Aftercare.**

Transportation for Games:

Transportation will be arranged for student athletes by their coaches to all off-campus contests if needed. Note that Grace Lutheran athletic rules require riding to and from games with volunteer drivers. All drivers must have copies of their **driver's license**, **vehicle insurance**, and **vehicle registration** on file in the school office. Please make sure all documents have **not expired**.

If you are unable to meet your child at the game, you and your child must make arrangements to be picked up at school. Children are encouraged to call parents with a cell phone once the game is over.

UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT

The following guidelines should be followed regarding the handling of uniforms and sports equipment.

- The student athlete is responsible for the care, safekeeping, and return of all uniforms and equipment assigned to him or her.
- Students will be responsible for the full replacement cost of school equipment or uniforms that are not returned or are returned damaged.
- At the conclusion of the season **each coach** will expect all uniforms to be washed before they are returned.
- Parents of athletes who have not turned in uniforms or equipment within one week of the season's end will be sent a letter requesting either the return of the uniform/equipment or payment for replacements.



- Athletes will not be allowed to participate in their next season until all uniforms and equipment are returned or payment has been made.
- Uniforms **are not** to be used as personal wearing apparel. Uniform tops may be worn on game days.

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