



Athletic Handbook

2023-2024

Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Grace Lutheran School is to provide its students and their families with a strong spiritual and academic foundation so that they know and understand God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ and are also able to live lives appropriate to their positions in their families, churches, community, and country.

Dear Friends:

This handbook has been written for all coaches, parents, and students to clarify the philosophy, goals, policies, and procedures of Grace Lutheran School's Athletic Department with respect to intramural and interscholastic sports.

It is our sincere desire that the reading of this handbook and the subsequent following of the policies and procedures outlined herein will lead to a deepened and enthusiastic cooperation among all. This exemplary cooperative effort in turn will permit us to *Develop Disciples*.

Yours in Christian Love and Service,

Chris Miller, Athletic Director

PHILOSOPHY

Grace Lutheran School exists to assist parents of the congregation and community in the Christian education of their children. In order to enhance the emotional, intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual growth of its students, Grace Lutheran School provides a Christ-centered athletic program, which, with the Spirit's guidance, will help our student-athletes to:

1. Reflect the love of Christ in all their actions.
2. Grow in body, mind, and spirit through their enthusiastic participation in sports.
3. Serve as ministers of God's love to others in victory and in defeat.
4. Draw their families and the school community closer together in Christian love and partnership.

GOALS

Grace Lutheran School's intramural and interscholastic sports program is primarily designed for students in grades five through eight. During their participation on various competitive or developmental teams student athletes are expected to:

1. Exemplify Christian sportsmanship through fair play
2. Use their God-given talents to the best of their ability
3. Further a cooperative spirit among athletes, parents, and the school family
4. Realize their dependence on and display cooperation with their teammates
5. Accept criticism graciously
6. Make the best possible choices in stressful situations
7. Make sound choices with regard to keeping their bodies in good physical condition
8. Realize they are creating the foundations for a lifelong enjoyment of sports
9. Consider the success of the team above their own desires
10. Recognize that their actions as team members also help to establish a more personal relationship with their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

The athletic director, the coaches, and the administration of Grace Lutheran School are united in their efforts to help all student athletes achieve the aforementioned goals. Their efforts, with the Spirit's guidance, will assure a setting in which the student athletes' talents will be recognized, developed, and utilized in a Christian manner which will serve to enrich the lives of both spectators and participants.

THE PARENTAL ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STUDENT-ATHLETE

Although Grace Lutheran School personnel lovingly provides guidance and instruction to the young student-athletes, their parents are encouraged to support the coaches and administration by:

1. Assisting their child in establishing proper priorities with respect to church, family, peers, study, and play.
2. Encouraging by personal participation, if possible, the development of the student-athlete's abilities, but not to push for sports for which the child is not suited.
3. Supporting the student-athlete's commitment to groups and teams.
4. Helping the student-athlete early on to accept responsibility for his or her actions.
5. Instilling in the student-athlete good health habits toward sleep, food, and exercise.
6. Making a commitment to attend sporting events.
7. Helping and encouraging the coaches. If possible, help coach interscholastic, intramural, or developmental teams.
8. Assisting in the concession stand during sports events.
9. Assisting in the clean-up inside and outside the gym area after sports events.
10. Welcoming visitors to our school and/or playing facility.
11. Being an active participant in and member of the Athletic Booster Association, if possible.
12. Enthusiastically supporting teams at athletic events without being overly zealous or critical of coaches, officials, or the opponents' supporters.
13. Exemplifying everything a Christian parent would want to see in his or her student-athlete.
14. Attend a meeting with the AD/coaches prior to the tryout/selection process (Cheerleading, volleyball, soccer, basketball, flag football, etc.) which will provide information, policies, and procedures.

All parties, coaches, players, parents, the athletic director, and the administration, share the awesome responsibility they have to display the love of Christ in every aspect of a sports event. Players are always encouraged by their coaches to practice to win, to play to win, and to come home like winners regardless of the score as long as they have done their best. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that their children also hear the same message from them.

INTRAMURAL/DEVELOPMENTAL SPORTS

Students in grades 4-8 may participate in our intramural/developmental program. This program runs after school or Saturdays depending on the sport being offered. Sports may include basketball, volleyball, and soccer. If interest is high for another sport, it may be offered.

The intramural/developmental program is dependent upon parent volunteers.

The athletic department will publish and circulate notices of the dates and times of these intramural/developmental sports events as warranted.

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

Junior Varsity and Varsity Girls: Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, and Track

Junior Varsity and Varsity Boys: Soccer, Basketball, and Track

Varsity Boys: Flag Football

DURATION OF SPORT SEASONS

(The exact start and finish dates are TBD at the beginning of each school year by the athletic director. The below is just a preliminary schedule).

Volleyball and Boys Soccer: As soon as school begins in August through the third week of October.

Basketball: The last week of October through the end of February

Track: Month of March

Girls Soccer: Mid-February to Mid-April

Intramurals: Can be held at various times of the school year when coaches, teachers, or parents are available. These can include volleyball, basketball, softball, badminton, floor hockey, lacrosse, etc.

CHEERLEADING

Cheerleading has almost become an athletic discipline in the interscholastic sports programs of schools. At GLS it is one way to represent our Lutheran school to others. For cheerleaders it is not only an opportunity to lead their fans in cheers but also to promote enthusiasm and school spirit in their fans and players for both girls and boys teams.

The cheerleading squad learns the importance of teamwork and discipline incorporated in a God-pleasing competitive spirit.

The cheerleading advisors provide a list of cheerleading rules dealing with practices, uniforms, attendance, and responsibilities. Many of the requirements for cheerleaders are the same as if they were playing a sport. Demerits are given when a cheerleader fails to meet certain requirements.

Cheerleaders are not allowed to participate on basketball teams.

Uniforms are to be purchased by the parents of the participants. Some financial assistance is received from Booster Club through its fundraising activities.

GENERAL PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Students participating in any sport program must first get a physical.
2. Grace Lutheran School does not provide individual insurance coverage for those students involved in interscholastic or intramural programs.
3. Seventh and Eighth grade students may play on varsity teams only. Sixth grade students may play on the Varsity level only if there is an insufficient number of older students on the varsity teams due to illness or injury. Fifth grade students might be asked to try out only if there are not enough sixth grade students available. This may only be a temporary measure on a game by game basis.
4. It must be emphasized, to be part of a Grace team or squad is a privilege and should be a priority. If a child is sick from school, all or part of the school day, the child is excused from a practice or game and will not participate. A child is excused if a pre-approved excuse of good cause (medical) or extenuating circumstance is granted by the coach, advisor, or administration (in that order).
5. When a student tries out for an interscholastic team, the athletic director must verify his/her academic eligibility. This verification also takes place after the mid-quarter and end of the quarter grading periods.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SPORTS AND CHEERLEADING

Students desiring to participate in athletics and cheerleading must meet the following requirements:

1. Maintain at least an over-all C grade average
2. Not be involved in any disciplinary actions
3. Have no letter grade of F
4. Students who have received a D will be placed on a two-week probation, during which time they must show improvement in the subject. Any student who

receives 2 D's will be disqualified from team sports until the next grading period when his or her grades will be verified anew.

To qualify for participation at the beginning of the school year, grades earned during the last grading period of the year will be the determining factor.

ATHLETIC FEES

The athletic fee is \$100.00 per sport, per child. Athletic fees are to be paid before the first game is to be played.

TEAM SELECTION AND TRY-OUT

All 6th – 8th Grade students that are academically and free from serious disciplinary action, are eligible to try out for any of the school's teams. The 6th graders make up the Junior Varsity teams while the students in grades 7 and 8 make up the Varsity teams. Tryouts for each sport are held on at least two to four different days. Times and place are announced in advance.

No parents are allowed to view the tryouts.

Although some students frequently participate in sports camps (volleyball, soccer, basketball) during summer months, attendance in these camps are not mandatory and are not used as a determining factor of a student's making or not making a particular sports team.

The coach and athletic director will determine the final number on a team. If the number of students trying out exceeds the number allowed on the team, the coach will make the evaluation of who makes the team. Coaches are encouraged to keep as many as is feasibly possible. We encourage students not chosen to participate in other leagues (city/community sports programs for a child's unlimited participation) and to take advantage of intramural/developmental sports.

There are no guarantees of making a team just because one participated on a team the previous year.

We ask that any student who plays for Grace give our sports program priority over any other they may be involved in. Since we are forced to have a limited number, we feel it is unfair to the team and the students who did not make the team, not to participate in our practices and games 100% of the time.

Selection of rosters would be predicted on the following factors:

1. Tryout attendance
2. Commitment
3. Attitude
4. Physical abilities
5. Grades

6. Disciplinary actions

Team rosters will be posted on the main school doors on Friday evening the week of tryouts after 6:30 PM.

STUDENT MANAGERS

Managers can play a very important role in a sports program. The individual coach will choose the manager as the need arises. The manager will be expected to be at all games and practices and follow the same eligibility requirements as the players.

The team manager's duties will include:

1. Keeping attendance
2. Running errands
3. Taking care of water bottles
4. Having equipment available and/or properly stored
5. Keeping score and statistics

PLAYING TIME

Each student athlete on a team should earn some playing time in regular season games, but not in a tournament. The amount of playing time for the individual is dictated somewhat by the quality of the opponent and is determined solely at the discretion of the coach.

If a student is absent from a practice or a game without an excuse or without properly notifying the coach of the absence, the player may lose the privilege of playing part or all of the next game.

PRACTICES

The athletic director makes up practice schedules with input from the coaches. Students are to be picked up at the time practice is scheduled to end. If a child is not picked up at this time, they will be sent to aftercare and charged.

Practice is needed for the improvement of the players' skills and for the success of the team. Being aware of the following will help parents and players to make the most of practice times.

1. Coaches will provide parents with a practice schedule. Coaches will also remind parents of practice times and inform them of any schedule change.
2. Of necessity gym time at Grace is limited due to the use of the gym by a variety of organizations; some coaches may call Saturday practices or during days off from school.

3. Some practice times may be adjusted due to unforeseen circumstances.
4. Teams usually practice anywhere from one to three times per week.
5. Practice time will not exceed 2 hours in length on any particular day.
6. If a player is doing schoolwork with a teacher or serving a detention prior to and during practice, that player must come to the remaining of portion of that practice as soon as possible.
7. Illness or injury, a home emergency, a doctor appointment, or unusual academic requirements may lead to an excused absence from practices.
8. Every effort should be made to keep absences to an absolute minimum.

PRACTICE RULES

1. Be prompt
2. Eyes on the coach when he/she is speaking. Keep equipment still.
3. Keep a positive and enthusiastic attitude.
4. Manage your temper at all times
5. Waste no time – make every minute count.
6. Work hard to make yourself the best possible player.
7. Accept referee and coach decision. If clarification is needed, ask for it tactfully.
8. Know your weaknesses and work on them.
9. Never criticize or ridicule anyone.
10. Always conduct yourself in a Christian manner.

SCHEDULING

The athletic director must approve all intramural games, practices, scrimmages, and interscholastic games. The athletic director sets all intramural and interscholastic games.

The number of athletic contests is usually determined by the availability of other teams willing to play us in that sport. When possible, our teams will finalize their season with a tournament. No team from Grace will ever participate in a game outside of the state.

The majority of our games are played against schools in the CFLAA (Central Florida Lutheran Athletic Association). However, we also play a number of other non-public schools that are located in the Winter Haven/Lakeland area that are part of the Polk County Parochial School Athletic Association (PCPSAA).

TRANSPORTATION

1. Personal cars, trucks, or mini-vans will provide transportation. On occasion when special arrangements and a driver can be obtained, the church bus could be used.
2. The athletic director or the coaches making arrangements for “away games” send information home in a timely fashion.
3. When traveling to “away games” the coach will have the responsibility for the team’s department, equipment, etc. Also, the coach will take full responsibility for his/her team from departure to the conclusion of the trip. It is necessary that the coach remain at school until all team members have left the school premises. Parents are responsible for picking up the students upon their return to school.
4. Prior to travel, the coach shall secure the original or a copy of each student-athlete’s emergency card. Originals must be returned to the school office as soon as possible.
5. Parents themselves must make the decision whether or not they wish to help transport other students.
6. The church provides an umbrella insurance policy to cover the transporting of students.
7. The athletic director or coach provides maps to all parent-drivers.
8. If participating in a tournament, the coach shall provide all necessary information, schedules, and maps.
9. Open communication between the coach and parents is a must so both the parent and the coach are aware as to who are going with whom, and the correct timetables.

TOURNAMENTS

Either by invitation of other schools or as a member of CFLAA/FLAA, teams participate in tournaments or track meets, which are usually held at the end of a particular sport season. Usually schools charge an admission or participation fee. If a tournament is held over a weekend, the tournament should never be an excuse for not attending church. Attendance at church should always come first. Families are encouraged to continue their worship patterns at their own church if tournaments are in town. If the teams is playing out of town, adults and students are to attend church where the tournament is being played.

TEAM UNIFORMS/APPEARANCE

“If you look good, you feel good.” Team members and coaches are encouraged not to dress down or look sloppy on game days. Coaches will need to model the above for the students to “follow suit.”

At times the coach may instruct the players to wear their uniform to the game due to lack of locker room at the opposing team’s facilities. Grace also does not have a true locker room area where both teams can change into uniforms.

An athlete-parent is financially responsible for all equipment and uniforms issued to him/her. Uniforms should never be worn by anyone other than the athlete to whom the uniform was issued. It is imperative that each athlete be properly and safely uniformed. Please read the tags when laundering uniforms. Uniforms are never to be put in a dryer nor bleached.

It will be the coach's responsibility to issue uniforms and record identification numbers. This inventory should be filed with the athletic director. The coach is to make arrangements as to who cleans the uniforms and that it is done correctly. Collecting the cleaned uniforms at the end of the season will be the coach's responsibility. Storing the uniform is the athletic director's responsibility.

Uniform shirts should be tucked in and shorts worn at the waistline.

EQUIPMENT

The use and care of the equipment and supplies will be the coach's and athletes' mutual responsibility.

EQUIPMENT ROOMS

Equipment rooms are to be locked, cleaned, and organized at all times. Only managers, coaches, and/or designated persons are to be allowed in these rooms.

GYM PREPARATION

It is the responsibility of the athletic director to see that the gym is ready for practice and games. He can designate coaches, managers, students, or parents to assist him. Such preparation for athletic events includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Setting up scorers' table and chairs
2. Turning on the scoreboard apparatus
3. Setting up chairs for coaches and players
4. Pulling out bleachers for spectators
5. Making sure there are two lined trash cans on the gym floor at each end of the bleachers.

BATHROOMS

The student-athlete, when using these facilities, is to help be responsible to see that these rooms are kept clean and in order. Personal items, clothing, uniforms, and valuables should never be left in the bathrooms whether in our gym or at away games. The parent or a designated person should keep valuables.

BLEACHERS

No one is ever allowed to sit on the top level of the bleachers when they are closed as this damages the opening and closing mechanism.

GYM LIGHTS/AIR-CONDITIONERS

The athletic director, coaches, or custodians are the individuals responsible for seeing that the lights and A/C's of the gym are on or off at the appropriate times before, during, or after games or practices. It is very important that neither the lights nor the A/C is left on unnecessarily.

CLOTHING

Any clothing that is left in the gym or bathrooms after a practice or game will be taken to lost and found.

JEWELRY

Jewelry is never to be worn by an athlete when practicing or playing in a game. It must be taken off and given to an adult for safekeeping.

POST-ACTIVITY CLEAN-UP

The coach of the team that has participated in a practice or game is responsible to provide for the pick-up of player/fan areas, locker rooms, and bathrooms. Equipment should be put back in its proper place, trash in the trash containers, and lost – and – found articles put in the lost and found. After games, this includes but is not limited to all of the following:

1. Putting away scoreboard apparatus
2. Turing off scoreboard
3. Putting away scorer's table
4. Taking down chairs and returning them to the proper closet area

5. Pushing in the bleachers after cleaning them
6. Making sure all trash is in trash containers. Taking the trash to the dumpster.

The athletic director is to make sure brooms, dustpans, large dry mop, and wet mop are available to clean the gym floor, concession stand floor, and the bleachers. If there are any major spills on the floor or bleachers, coaches are to make sure these are cleaned up. They are to inform the custodian of any special cleaning needs. Also, the bathrooms in the gym and the bathrooms by the office hallway are to be free of trash or clothing items left behind.

FIRST AID AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

The initial application of First Aid is the most important step to the rapid healing of any injury. Coaches are to make sure proper latex gloves are used when treating an open wound. The attending coach for all injuries regardless of how minor and sent to the school office should complete an injury report. All serious injuries (those requiring hospitalization or immediate physician's attention) should be reported immediately to the school office and athletic director.

Minor sprains, muscle pulls, cramps, etc. can be avoided by doing a series of stretches and exercises. Coaches should insist that all players warm up before practices, scrimmages, or games.

SMOKE FREE FACILITY

Grace Lutheran School is a "Smoke Free Facility" in accordance with the Florida Clean Air Act of 1992. There is to be no smoking inside the building and for public relations purposes and the welfare of the children, it is encouraged that smoking not take place in or around our campus.

AWAY GAMES – FEES

When going to another school to play a game, be advised that each school determines how their referees or use of a gym is paid for. Therefore, sometimes you will be charged an admission fee to help them defray expenses. Most tournaments are extra and admissions are usually charged.

ATHLETIC AWARDS

All awards earned throughout the sports seasons are presented at athletic awards ceremonies held at various times during the school year.

THE “WINNING ATTITUDE”

Commitment is a desirable life-long characteristic. Students learn this when they sign up for sports and stick it out for the season. Coaches and athletes will practice good stewardship of time and talents. They will display good sportsmanship and give their best effort at all times. With such an attitude, and commitment, winning comes easily. We will be winners in the sense of knowing that the spiritual, emotional, and physical benefits derived from participation in sports truly justify the need for them.

Statistics of games won and lost are of little significance to the focus and scope of our program.

CONCERNS – PARENTAL

Each coach will willingly receive and respond to any parental grievance or concern in a Christian manner. Parents and coaches should first speak with the parties involved. If a difficulty is not resolved, then it should be referred to the athletic director. The coach should feel free to discuss any situation with the athletic director and fellow coaches for additional input in order that the most satisfactory answer to a problem or parental concern may be found.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE STUDENT-ATHLETE

A student-athlete must:

1. Know and adhere to the Christian philosophy and goals of Grace Lutheran School and its athletic department.
2. Meet all attendance and academic requirements as practical evidence of his or her loyalty to school and team.
3. Observe completely all policies regarding conduct, doing so as a duty to God, school, team and self.
4. Counsel with the athletic director over questions of eligibility.
5. Practice and play fairly, giving complete effort in all circumstances, and then give credit in victory to teammates and to opponents in defeat.
6. Accept favorable and unfavorable decisions, as well as victory and defeat with equal grace.
7. Demonstrate respect for opponents and officials before, during and after contests.
8. Know that participation in any physical activity requires an acceptance of risk or injury.

Student-Athletes also do the following:

1. *Keep things in perspective!* In our sports-crazy society we are tempted to believe that winning games is amongst the noblest ambitions we can have. As a participant in our sports program we hope you experience enjoyment, exercise,

and lessons in Christian living, but understand that sports competition has very little importance when measured against the things that have real meaning and lasting value: accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and living life in service to God and fellow man.

2. *Understand the importance of all team members!* Every player on a team is equally important. Some may have more sports skills than others, some may try harder than others, some may score more points than others; but together, you and your teammates are a team, and together you share the wins, losses, and the enjoyments of being part of a team.
3. *Let your light shine!* As a team member you will be in a very public position. You will have golden opportunities to demonstrate publicly the meaning of the words from scripture: “*Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*” Try hard to improve your skills of relating in Christian love to teammates, opponents, coaches, other students, referees, and fans. Ask God to help you let your light shine.
4. *Exhibit good sportsmanship!* Try your hardest to win, but always play by the rules. Control your mouth and temper. Do not dispute the referee’s decisions. Do not speak or act in a way that would show your disagreement with officials or opponents. Of course, referees will make mistakes; but always abide by their decisions and work hard to exhibit good sportsmanship.
5. *Have fun!* Sports are meant to be enjoyed. Have a good time, as a member of a team, and help your teammates, coaches, opponents, and officials have fun also.
6. *Win Graciously!* Enjoy the victory; be happy. You were fortunate enough and you worked hard enough, to achieve the win and you ought to enjoy it. But the other team may have tried and worked just as hard – or harder – than you did. Be thankful you won; but always remember that winning a game doesn’t make you a better human being than the members of a losing team. Never put down other teams or players in any way. Never humiliate or degrade any player on a team. Compete vigorously, but always respect your opponent as fellow human beings and friends.
7. *Lose graciously!* Lose with dignity and give your opponents credit for winning. That does not mean you like to lose. But don’t react to defeat with anger, complaint, or excuses. Exhibit graciousness, self-control, good sportsmanship, and Christian love for others, whether you are on the winning or losing side of the score.

A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE GAME

1. The official’s judgement will be accepted at all times – you play the game and they do the officiating. Let the coach handle any questionable situations or allow the team captain to intercede.
2. Enter the game as ladies/gentlemen and leave the same way. Actions speak louder than words.

3. Our bench should have lots of spirit, but no demonstrations against officials or insults against opponents’.
4. Keep poised and use your head; don’t get rattled in critical situations.
5. Be a big enough person to put team success ahead of your own.
6. Keep in mind that only five, six, or eleven people (depending on the sport) can start a game and that is all we will be able to use at one time. Be ready when you are called upon to give your best.
7. No profanity, unsportsmanlike actions, etc. will be tolerated. These types of actions give the church and school a bad reputation and make it hard for us to win.
8. When replaced in a game, don’t come to the bench pouting or complaining about being replaced. Remember other team members think they are capable of playing, too.
9. When replaced, watch and listen to any coaching information and/or instruction.
10. During time-outs, listen to constructive criticism and the game plan. Speak when asked to speak.
11. During the game, don’t let a mistake upset you. Disappointments on the court/field are to be accepted without demonstration.
12. Encourage each other; help each other; don’t criticize.
13. Acknowledge your teammate’s efforts; give a nod: “give five”, vocally tell him or her. This encourages good teamwork. Do your share to keep team spirit up, whether on the bench or on the field or court.
14. Shake hands with your opponents after the game – win or lose. Never show you are better or worse than they are. All are equal in God’s eyes.
15. No one should be able to tell by your appearance after a game whether your team scored more points than the opponents did.
16. If you think the officials called a good game, tell them so. If you think otherwise, don’t say anything!
17. After the game, be able to honestly say “I did my best”
18. 100% together all the time – win or lose!

Before and after the game, team members are expected to help the athletic director or coaches in the preparation of cleaning up of the field or gym. None of them are allowed on the balcony or second floors during games. No team members or cheerleaders are to be roaming around the school, playing outside on sidewalks, playgrounds, the grass areas, picnic table area, or parking lots. Players and cheerleaders should be watching games when not actively participating in them.

STANDARDS FOR COACHES

Coaches are secured by the athletic director and approved by the administration. Coaches may be faculty members, members of the staff, or volunteers.

As a Christian role model for all students, each coach at Grace Lutheran will:

1. Dress professionally and appropriately for games.
2. Provide a Christian role model for athletes, families, colleagues, and the congregation/community.
3. Encourage optimum performance towards excellence.
4. Communicate effectively with athletes, commanding and reinforcing good conduct and achievement.
5. Be effective and fair in control/management.
6. Use adequate procedures to evaluate athlete performance and use motivational techniques.
7. Counsel with an athlete as is necessary.
8. Use Christian disciplinary methods, including Law and Gospel appropriately.
9. Relate all instructions to concur with the Christian philosophy and objectives of the school.
10. Inform players as to when their attendance is required for practices and games.
11. Be responsible for supervising their players while on the premises for games and practices until the player is picked up after a game and/or practice.
12. Be responsible for equipment, uniforms, and facilities of the school as used in their particular sport.
13. Inform the athletic director if there are any problems so they can be rectified to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Because each individual student's welfare is a most important aspect in all team sports and has precedence over any other consideration, the coach should:

1. Have a well-rounded sense of personal honor, integrity, and courage.
2. Develop a strong sense of ethical relationship both toward the school he/she represents and the opponent. Be willing to accept personal responsibility for his/her actions and for the reputation of the team and school, realizing the importance of setting a Christian example to others.
3. Follow the rules of the game to the letter.
4. Instill in the athletes an active concern and respect for excellence in academic learning as well as in the particular sport or activity.
5. Always remember that an activity, sports, or athletic contest is only a game and not a matter of life or death for the players, the school, the officials, the fans, or the community.

CLOSING REMARKS

Since life in Jesus Christ is not loved apart from physical, emotional, mental, and social stresses, there is indeed a necessity for various ministries including that provided through sports and athletics. This challenging ministry, like others, cannot be carried out perfectly. There will be moments of failure. But when failure is experienced, we have the assurance that GOD's grace in JESUS CHRIST will cover all our shortcomings and mistakes. In that knowledge and in the assurance that the LORD is ever ready to grant forgiveness and give renewed strength to all who seek and serve Him, we can with confidence be involved in the ministry of athletics.

GLS BOOSTER CLUB

Grace Lutheran School (GLS) Athletic Booster Association is made up of parent volunteers, who work with the Athletic Director and school administration under the auspices of Grace's School Board, which is an agency of Grace Lutheran Church.

The main objective is to provide a service to GLS, specifically by financially sponsoring the needs of the intramural and athletic programs.

The GLS Athletic Booster Association meets at least 3 times a year, once prior to the start of the fall season and once prior to the winter season of activities and once in the spring.

What are some of the needs with which the GLS Athletic Booster Association can assist?

1. Promoting positive school spirit at GLS events.
2. Serving as scorekeeper at GLS events (home and away).
3. Serving as scoreboard operators at GLS events (home).
4. Serving as coaches or assistants for intramural or athletic sports teams.
5. Serving as official "welcomes" to visitors at GLS.
6. Assisting with set-up and take-down of equipment at GLS events.
7. Helping with cleaning of the gym, concessions stand, bleachers, bathrooms, and ground keeping of the picnic table area after an athletic event.
8. Assisting with providing hospitality at concession stand or cooking at GLS events.
9. Assisting with fund-raising programs.
10. Assisting with the purchasing of sports equipment, uniforms for teams, scoreboard, banners, advertising, etc.
11. Assisting with planning of major tournaments held at GLS.
12. Assisting with out-of-town tournament arrangements.
13. Assisting with repair and maintenance of such things as concession stand equipment, sports equipment, the gym floor, etc., as needed.
14. Assisting with intramural or sports program with new ideas or policies by sharing them with the athletic director before seeking parent opinion.

BOOSTER CLUB SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP

There will be three sponsorship levels: Individual, Family and Business. Sponsors will be recognized in the Lion's Pride, tournament programs, and banners.

Individual Membership - \$25.00 Bronze per year

Family Membership - \$50.00 Silver/\$100.00 Gold per year

Business Membership - \$150.00 Platinum/\$250.00 Elite/\$500.00 Diamond per year

Other – \$(Amount of your choice)

Any membership is tax deductible. Checks are made out to Grace Lutheran School. Membership forms are available in the school office. If you have any questions, please contact the athletic director.

COACH'S CREED

I believe that the sports sponsored by Grace Lutheran School have an important place in education and therefore pledge myself to cooperate with Grace's faculty and staff to administer sports so that their value will be understood and accepted as an integral component of our students' Christian growth.

I believe that Christian sportsmanship is learned and realize that I am a model to officials, spectators, and players. I believe my actions have a lasting effect on those who observe me. Therefore I will:

1. Accept and support the decision of the officials.
2. Contain and control my emotions and actions in order to be a shining witness to Grace Lutheran School, my church, and my Christian faith.
3. Exercise faith, tolerance, and diplomacy in my relationships with all layers, co-workers, game officials, and spectators.
4. Teach the game for the benefit of all and seek to coach according to the rules, remembering that the feelings of the members of both teams are equally important.
5. Allow for participation by all players during regular season games.
6. Abide by the guidelines for team sports and respect and support the decisions of the athletic director.

I agree to follow the creed and guidelines that are stated above. Failing to do so would result in relinquishing my coaching responsibilities.

Signature: _____

Date: _____