

Wisconsin Lutheran School Athletic Handbook
Lake Lutheran Athletic Conference Member

2014-2015 Athletic Committee

Mr. Jerry Marowsky, Athletic Director Mr. Robin Jacobsen, IPSC Representative
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Foreword

The purpose of this handbook is to convey information to you about our Athletic Program. We trust that this handbook will help all interested people to get a better understanding of the policies and practices for this program in our school.

Please see the Wisconsin Lutheran School Parent Handbook for additional policies that may not be covered here.

Mission Statement

Wisconsin Lutheran School equips Jesus' little lambs with life-skills that glorify God.

Statement of Philosophy

Christ's love compels Wisconsin Lutheran School to partner with parents by providing an exceptional Christ-centered education to equip students for lives of service to Christ and their community.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Wisconsin Lutheran School has been established and is supported primarily by the members of First Evangelical and Epiphany Lutheran Churches for the Christian education and training of the children enrolled. In keeping with the Lord's directive to let the little children come unto Him, our school has opened its doors to children whose parents are not members of the two churches. Students of any race, color, nationality, and/or ethnic origin are admitted to all of the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally available at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality, and/or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, and athletic and other school administered programs.

Athletic Committee

This committee is the governing body for all of Wisconsin Lutheran School's athletic teams, coaches, fees, uniforms, events, and policies. The Athletic Committee is also responsible for adhering to the regulations set forth by the Lake Lutheran Athletic Conference. The Athletic Committee is made up of an Athletic Director, an IPSC representative, and parents of Wisconsin Lutheran School.

The Athletic Committee is responsible for maintaining the WLS Athletic Fund account. All financial transactions involving the athletic program will be processed through the account. Uniform and equipment requests for purchase should be made in advance to allow time for approval, purchase, and delivery. Any WLS sponsored fundraising via tournaments, clinics, and the like will be deposited in the Athletic Fund.

The Athletic Fund account is audited by an outside agency twice a year.

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Philosophy of Athletics

All school life, curricular and extracurricular, is planned to be a workshop for our Lord. All children are special creations of God, with varying talents and abilities. They should be encouraged to develop all of these God-given talents to the best of their abilities and to become active participants. Through participation, they should learn dedication, cooperation, and commitment to goals. Participants should learn to function as part of a group, realizing that God has given each person certain talents and abilities, and that each is able to contribute to the group goal which is always to succeed. Regardless of the outcome however, we must keep achievement or lack of achievement in perspective. There is only one race in which winning is essential. God sponsors it!

Athletic activities include the following sports for the grades indicated:

Fall: Cross Country: Boys & Girls (4 – 8) Soccer: Boys (5 – 8) Volleyball: Girls (5 – 8)

Winter: Basketball: Boys & Girls (5 – 8) Cheerleading: Girls (5 – 8) Yell Leading: Boys (7 & 8)

Spring: Softball: Boys & Girls (6 – 8) Track & Field: Boys & Girls (5 – 8) Soccer: Girls (5-8)

Exceptions may be made to the grade levels listed when there is a lack of participation for a particular athletic activity.

Coaches and advisors should teach the basic rules, skills, and strategies of the activity, good sportsmanship, Christian life in actions toward others, teamwork and cooperation, and foster individual participation as much as possible to ensure team goals are met.

As a guide in extracurricular activities, specifically in the area of sports, all participants and parents would be well served to follow the criteria and guidelines of participation in the WLS sports program. These responsibilities apply to the designation of “A” Teams, “B” Teams, and Coaches as listed.

“A” Teams

- Winning is more of a priority
- Playing time of a team member plays in a given match or game is based on competition level provided by the opponent as well as regular and active participation in practices and games
- Coaches are not compelled to use all team members in a given competition but will make every effort to include all team members whenever possible
- An “A” Team member’s attitude in school, at practices and games, and personal level of commitment are all factors coaches take into consideration when giving team members playing time
- Parents, coaches, and team members need to realize that the Lord gives varying levels of talent to each individual and that those talents will be used towards the success of the team as a whole

“B” Teams

- Winning is less of a priority
- Competition level is instructional in nature
- Playing time of a team member plays in a given match or game is based on competition level provided by the opponent as well as regular and active participation in practices and games
- Parents, coaches, and team members need to realize that the Lord gives varying levels of talent to each individual

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Coaches

- All head coaches at all team levels will be active members of a WELS church
- Coaches must apply for the desired position through the use of the WLS Coach's Form
- Coach (new or returning) requests must be reviewed and approved by the Athletic Committee each new season
- Coaches will encourage church attendance for players and coaches of their team
- Coaches are volunteers who spend many hours in coaching and associated practices making the sports program possible; without them, it would not exist
- Coaches should be respected and thanked by parents and team members for their efforts
- Coaches are the authority during practices and games
- Only coaches can truly understand the rapidity with which a contest can pass and must often make decisions quickly, and therefore should be respected for the decision made during the course of a competition
- Coaches are responsible to ensure athletes are being adequately prepared with the necessary skill sets required for the next level of competition; "B" team to "A" team, and "A" team to High School

Any parent and/or participant who cannot abide by any part of this guide should not participate in the sports program at WLS. Alternately, participation in the sports program of WLS indicates an agreement with this guide of participation.

Player Eligibility

By Advisor or Coach: A student participating in the athletic program may be placed on probation, suspended, or dropped by the advisor or coach for not adhering to the expectations of the athletic program. Some examples would be excessive tardiness or absenteeism from practices and/or games, unwillingness to listen or work properly, disrespect, unsportsmanlike conduct, actions endangering others, etc.

By The Administration: Responsible for determining a student's academic eligibility. Also reserves the right to immediately place on probation or suspend from all activities any student found guilty of serious offenses.

An athlete that is ineligible is **not** allowed to wear his or her uniform or any portion of it for any activities that would otherwise require them to wear it (i.e. games, assemblies, etc.).

School Attendance

Students who are absent on a school day will not be allowed to participate in a practice, meet, or game on the same day that the absence occurs. Students will be allowed to participate in weekend events. This does not include medical or dental appointments.

Attendance Policy for Practices

When a student participates in a sport, they are making a commitment to the coach and his/her fellow players. The head coach of the team will determine the attendance policy for practices. The policy will be communicated to the parents. The policy will have been reviewed by the Athletic Committee prior to distribution. The policy will be enforced on a consistent basis for all members of the team. Athletes are expected to be at all practices. Practices scheduled on days when there is no school as per the school calendar are considered non-mandatory practices.

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Attendance Policy for Games

When a student participates in a sport, they are making a commitment to the coach and his/her fellow players. Athletes are expected to participate in all meets and/or games.

The purpose of cheerleaders is to convey school spirit while supporting the competitive sporting events of the school. Cheerleaders act as liaisons between the spectators and the playing team by incorporating cheers, dances, and other crowd involvement techniques. Cheerleaders will be present and cheering at all basketball games, including away games. The exception to this rule could be a conflict at a tournament when a cheerleader has to play in a girls' basketball game while the boys' team is playing elsewhere.

Parental Discipline

Since an athlete has made a commitment to the team, parents are asked to strongly consider other discipline options besides pulling their son or daughter off of a team. If you do decide this form of discipline for your son or daughter, you need to communicate your decision to the Athletic Director, School Principal, and Team Coach.

Conflict Resolution / Parental Concerns

Please direct any parental concerns to the head coach of the team first. If you still have concerns after you've addressed them with the coach, then contact the Athletic Director. Please consider contacting the coach at a time other than immediately after a game or event. Discussion with other parents does not address your parental concerns with the appropriate people. A phone call, email, and text message are an acceptable means to request a meeting with the coach and Athletic Director. They are **NOT** an acceptable means to discuss your concerns. Use of social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.) is **NOT** an acceptable means to address your parental concerns. Parents choosing to use social media to address parental concerns may result in the dismissal of your student athlete from their team.

Uniforms

Players and cheerleaders must remember that their behavior while wearing the uniform represents their team and WLS. Therefore, the uniform will not be displayed while acting as a spectator for another team's game. No basketball player is allowed to display his/her uniform at any time other than immediately before, during, or immediately after his/her game.

The Athletic Committee will approve the purchasing of new uniforms. This will help ensure our athletes of wearing quality and proper fitting uniforms. Each athlete is responsible for the care of his/her uniform. Please take extreme care when washing a uniform. We will charge the cost for replacing a damaged, ruined, or lost uniform (this could exceed \$100 in some cases). Uniforms are never to be worn to or during school. They are only to be worn at games, or at designated special events (i.e., pep rallies, etc.).

At the end of each sport season, the head coach will designate the method in which uniforms must be returned to the athletic department. The head coach will inspect the uniforms for any damage including stains. An invoice for the price of a replacement uniform will be issued to the parents of a player that does not return the uniform within five school days of the designated due date.

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Tryouts

In certain situations, tryouts and cuts may occur in a sport. While the athletic department encourages all students to participate, keeping everyone who tries out for a team may not always be possible. In such cases, the athlete and parents will be made aware of the circumstances before the tryout period.

Quitting a Team

Taking “teamwork and dedication” into consideration, quitting a team is unacceptable. The only exceptions are for medical or emergency situations or parental disciplinary reasons.

Training Rules

Any athlete who is caught or observed violating the law (smoking, drinking, using drugs, etc.) will be banned from all athletics for the current and following sports seasons.

Sports Service Hours

Parents of a student in sports are required to serve four additional service hours per family at sporting events, and one four hour shift at the Lancer Invitational Tournament held at the end of the basketball season. Parents are allowed and encouraged to serve more than the minimum time required.

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