

St. John Lutheran School



Athletic Handbook

Revised 2014

An Overview of St. John's Athletic Program

St. John Lutheran School is a member of the Badgerland Lutheran Athletic Conference. This is an organization made up of area Lutheran schools for the purpose of organizing athletic events. The league meets three times a year to discuss the progress of athletic programs.

The following is a breakdown of our athletic seasons:

FALL (Late August through mid-October)

Girls:	Volleyball
Girls & Boys:	Cross Country

WINTER (Early November through early March)

Girls:	Basketball Cheerleading
Boys:	Volleyball Tournament (November) Basketball

SPRING (Mid-April through mid-May)

Girls & Boys:	Track Softball
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Specific dates are set at the beginning of the year. Practice days and times are set at the beginning of the season, depending on the coach's schedule.

Tournaments and special games are set up at the beginning of the season. Check your monthly activity calendar and the school newsletter for specific dates.

The athletic program at St. John's is available to all students in grades 5-8 who meet eligibility requirements which are listed later in this handbook. At times, younger students may be allowed to participate in volleyball and basketball if needed due to small numbers of older students. 4th graders may participate in cross country.

Philosophy of St. John's Athletic Program

St. John Lutheran School exists to teach each child God's Word, to teach all other subjects in the light of God's Word, and to train students in their lives as young Christians.

Athletics can supplement this Christian training by leading the student to

- 1) appreciate his/her body as a temple of the Holy Spirit
- 2) build Christian character
- 3) learn teamwork and cooperation
- 4) learn respect for others
- 5) learn to set and work toward goals
- 6) learn skills that can be a benefit in the future
- 7) learn to use time wisely
- 8) further develop the physical abilities that the Lord has given him/her
- 9) be a gracious winner
- 10) accept a loss in a sportsmanlike way
- 11) be self-disciplined with mental readiness
- 12) have emotional control
- 13) have a sense of physical accomplishment and well being
- 14) be grateful for the opportunity to play and compete
- 15) be thankful to God for a wonderful, healthy body

Sportsmanship

We must remember at all times that we are Christians loved by God and eager to show our love for God and for others. Our athletes, coaches, parents, and spectators will strive to demonstrate good sportsmanship as a way of praising God for His love.

Good sportsmanship includes positive, supportive cheering for our athletes; respect for the referees' calls; respect for our own and our hosts' facilities; and respect for our opponents--remember, they are fellow Christians.

Interscholastic Participation

It is the intention of St. John's that all players be given playing time in interscholastic competition. The amount of playing time that a player gets will depend on

- 1) ability
- 2) attending practice or being absent
- 3) cooperation during practice
- 4) the level of ability of opposing players
- 5) eligibility

If a student has been faithful at practice and in the classroom, that student will be allowed the opportunity to play in interscholastic games.

Policy on Eligibility

St. John has no written standards for eligibility (except for church attendance). This was done on purpose. The purpose is to allow as many students as possible to participate while recognizing that each child has been blessed with differing abilities.

We have no minimum grade standard (i.e. the student must have a C or better in all classes). Instead, eligibility will be determined on a case by case basis. The student's parents, teacher(s), coach, and school board all have input into a student's eligibility. Students who are placed on academic probation are not allowed to attend practices, allowing more time for them to focus on their school work. They are encouraged to attend games to support their teammates.

A student may be suspended from athletic participation if the need arises. Such situations could include poor church attendance, falling grades, poor attitude, discipline problems, health, and others. Readmission will be handled on an individual basis.

Remember, St. John's primary purpose is religious instruction, not athletics. Instruction and academics will take priority over athletics.

Attendance at Practices/Games – Players should make every effort to be at every practice. If a player is unable to attend practice, a parent of the player should inform the coach or athletic director as soon as possible.

Unexcused absences will affect a student's eligibility. An unexcused absence is defined as a student missing a practice without the parent's informing the coach - either with a signed note or verbally. A student's verbal excuse will not be accepted.

Unexcused absences will limit the student's playing time, eliminate him/her from a game altogether, or even dismiss him/her from the team.

If a student is absent due to illness on a school day, that student is not allowed to participate in practices or games on that day. If a student is ill in the morning, but comes to school by 12:30 p.m., that student will be allowed to participate in practices or games on that day.

If a student does not feel well enough (during the school day) to participate in a game or practice and intends to miss the event, the parent will be informed before the student will be excused.

If a student is injured and unable to participate, that student is encouraged to attend practices and games to learn and support the team.

Physical Education and Athletics - The policy at St. John states that if a student is in attendance and unable to participate in physical education classes, the student is not eligible to participate in any athletic event or practice on that day.

Church Attendance / Extra Curricular Activities Policy

Christian Education is the main purpose of our school. Because regular church attendance is an important part of the Christian training of our students, 50% church attendance at weekend and mid-week services (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Lent, etc.) is required in order for a student to stay eligible for extra curricular activities.

If a student should fall below 50% attendance in a given grading period (approximately 4 weeks/midterm), the student will become ineligible for the next grading period. During the ineligible grading period, 50% attendance must be obtained to make the student eligible once again. Special circumstances that affect a student's attendance will be handled on an individual basis by the principal and Board of Education.

Discipline Procedures for Athletics

Because of the short amount of time within which the coaches have to work, and because our coaches are fellow Christians who are giving of their time to teach the students the various sports, Christian behavior is expected of all participants.

If a student displays inappropriate behavior, the coach or athletic director may use the following steps:

- 1) The student will be corrected by the coach or athletic director verbally.
- 2) If the misbehavior persists, the student will be removed from the practice or game (sits out until parent comes) and allowed to return to the next practice or game.
- 3) If the misbehavior still persists, the student will be suspended from the team. The student may return to the team if the parent meets with the coach and/or athletic director and the coach agrees to give the student another chance. The school board will also be informed at this point.
- 4) If the misbehavior still persists, the student will be removed from the team, and the student's case referred to the principal and school board for further action.

Misbehavior includes, but is not limited to: disrupting practice, inappropriate language, inappropriate locker room behavior, showing lack of respect for coach and/or players, and other behavior that would have a negative effect on the team.

Our hope is that these procedures will not have to be used, but the procedures are in place to insure that the sport will be enjoyed by all who participate.

Policy Regarding Use of Younger Players on A-teams

Because of a limited number of seventh and eighth grade students, some students in sixth or fifth grades may need to play on the A-team. This policy is for all sports except for cheerleading. The policy will be as follows:

- 1) Sixth or fifth graders may be selected to play on the A-team. This selection will be done by the coaches.
- 2) As the season progresses, the coach may return sixth or fifth grade players to playing only on the B-team or may select additional sixth or fifth grade players to play on the A-team.
- 3) For an afternoon or evening of games, a sixth or fifth grade player may compete only on the B-team, or may have limited playing time on both A-team and B-team. According to league rules, players are limited to a maximum of four games per afternoon for volleyball and six quarters per evening for basketball.