

# **Athletic Handbook**

## **Trinity - St. Luke's Lutheran School**

### **Purpose of Athletics**

The athletic department exists to glorify God through hard work, cooperation, and competition. It serves the school and the TSL families by fostering growth in these areas, and functions as an extracurricular department of the school. As such, the TSL athletic department operates under the auspices of the school and the congregations. All who participate in the athletic programs, then, are subject to the mission and direction of authorities of the school and athletic department.

*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. - 1 Corinthians 9:24-25*

### **Philosophy of Athletics**

As TSL offers different sports and different levels of competition in those sports, the philosophy of the athletic department centers around growth not only spiritually, but athletically as well. Each level of competition is meant to prepare the student-athlete for the next level. With this in mind, each level of competition will have a slightly different SECONDARY emphasis. The primary emphasis will always be focused on the spiritual integrity of the student-athletes and collective teams, giving glory to God through effort and behavior. However, the secondary emphasis depends on the level of competition, involvement of playing time, and the intensity of practices.

C-Team: The goal of the C-Team is to provide a safe and fun environment for the introduction of team sports to the individual, with winning being a last priority. Each player will receive playing time during each game, so as to provide experience and inclusion at every opportunity. In doing so,

student-athletes will grow in their appreciation and experience of the game. This is the best time for a student-athlete to decide

B-Team: At this level, teams will still prioritize playing time for each student, but playing time may not be provided to every student-athlete at every contest, and is . Winning is more of a priority, but should not supersede the inclusion and involvement of the players, and should be sacrificed in the goal of having each player receive some playing time during the game. In this way, student-athletes will value hard work during practices and game time, and grow in their skills to prepare themselves for higher levels of competition.

A-Team: At the A-Team level, all playing time is earned during practices (and off-season work). Student-athletes may not receive playing time during the games if they have not earned it. However, coaches will try to get playing time to each student during the individual games. Winning is still secondary to Christian behavior during games.

## Team Structure

| Team Level    | Grade Composition            |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| A Team        | 7th & 8th graders            |
| B Team        | 5th & 6th graders            |
| Special Cases | Younger students (3rd – 6th) |

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## Fall Sports

| Sport               | Team    | Grades  |
|---------------------|---------|---------|
| Girls Volleyball    | A       | 7th–8th |
| Girls Volleyball    | B       | 5th–6th |
| Co-ed Cross Country | Unified | 4th–8th |

Co-ed Soccer      Unified      5th–8th

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## Winter Sports

| Sport      | Team               | Grades      |
|------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Dance      | Girls              | 3rd–8th     |
| Basketball | A Boys & Girls     | 7th–8th     |
| Basketball | B Boys & Girls     | 5th–6th     |
| Basketball | C Teams (optional) | 4th graders |

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## Spring Sports

| Sport    | Team  | Grades  |
|----------|-------|---------|
| Track    | Co-ed | 5th–8th |
| Softball | Co-ed | 8th     |

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## Eligibility & Participation

### Requirement

#### Academic Standing

- Ineligibility means that the player cannot participate at any level (practices, scrimmages, games, tournaments, etc..) with their team until they are deemed “eligible” by the Athletic Director.
- All cases of ineligibility will be handled at the individual level by the Athletic Director and Administration, which may include the Joint Board.
- Each student athlete must be passing in all classes, and an overall F in any class will result in ineligibility.
- Eligibility will be assessed on the first of each month.
  - The Tiger Code of Athletics still requires students to academically perform to their full potential.

Teachers will have full discretion to determine the academic efforts given by student-athletes to determine eligibility.

- Students with an unexcused absence the day of a contest will not be eligible to play in that contest.
  - In the cases of weekend games and tournaments, cases will be handled individually by the Athletic Director.

#### Conduct

- Students removed from any class on the day of a contest will not be able to compete on that day, or twice removed from any class through the week of the contest.
- Students may also be subject to ineligibility if the administration finds that their behavior does not reflect characteristics which are in line with TSL's mission.

#### Playing Up

- B-Team players may be brought up to the corresponding A team only if there are not enough players to form a complete A team.
- Players will only be moved up at the request of the A Team coach, with approval from the player, the parent(s), and the Athletic Director.
  - Players will not split time between B team and A team. Once a player is brought up to A team, that player is a full-time A team player.
  - At the conclusion of a season (B or C team), coaches may pull additional players up to the next level if the player and the player's parents agree.

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### **In-Game Student-Athlete Conduct**

**As stated under the Purpose of Athletics, TSL offers its different sports to primarily glorify God through athletic competition. Secondary roles of the athletic department include fostering character growth, team building skills and athletic development. As such, TSL student athletes are held to the highest standard of sportsmanship and behavior.**

1. Students who receive a technical foul or yellow card will be immediately taken out for the remainder of that game and serve a 1 half suspension in the following game, regardless of tournament or regular season.

2. Students who are ejected from a contest due to multiple technical fouls, a red card, or other behavioral issues, will be suspended for the following game, with a review of their place on the team by the administration of the school.
    - a. Students will also follow all commonplace "unwritten rules of games" (participating in the handshake line, absolutely no trash-talking, etc.)
  3. Students who miss more than half of the practices, without reasonable cause, in a given week can be subject to less playing time during the following contest.
  4. Students who are found to be using, or in possession of illegal substances will automatically be suspended for the remainder of that season. A review of the incident involving the student and substance(s) will take place at the following Joint Board meeting to determine subsequent action.
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## **Expectations for Coaches**

**"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." (Luke 12:48)**

The TSL coaches will be asked to do many things, but above all, to be spiritual leaders to the student-athletes, demonstrating the values of the school and church at all times, especially in communication to parents, student-athletes, officials, and other coaches. They will be responsible for setting practice times, leading practices at those pre-determined times, and leading the student-athletes publicly in the contests. They will be the main communicators to parents, including necessary meeting times with parents, and may ask the Athletic Director OR Principal to assist in any and all matters. Coaches will be approved by the Joint Board at the beginning of each season, and will sign the coach's contract before the first practice/meeting of the season. Failure to do so will result in a review of the position of the coach by the Joint Board, including the administration.

- Coaches retain the right to sit or not play student-athletes based on behavior during school hours, practices, or games. However, if a student-athlete's behavior affects that individual's playing time, the coaches must communicate the reason to the student-athlete's parents or guardian(s).
- Coaches who receive a technical foul will be suspended for the following game.
- Coaches who receive more than one technical foul in the course of 3 games will be asked to step down from their coaching position for the remainder of the season, with the final decision to be approved by the Joint Board.
- Coaches are encouraged to outline player and parent expectations at the beginning of each season at an in-person meeting. This meeting is also meant to establish a clear line of communication between parents and coaches.

- Coaches who are interested in coaching the same sport in the same season, and are not willing to work together, will have their positions decided by the Joint Board, including school administration at the beginning of the athletic season.
    - **Regarding disagreements with coaches of competing teams: TSL coaches will never engage with opposing coaches directly following the end of a contest. If issues with opposing coaches arise, TSL coaches will contact the Athletic Director to voice their concerns or problems. The TSL Athletic Director will then contact the Athletic Director of the opposing school to voice the concerns of the coaches.**
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## Parent & Guardian Responsibilities

The primary role of TSL parents is to foster Christian faith in their children. Parents, then, must be responsible for their own children and monitor their behavior before, during, and after athletic contests. If a parent cannot attend an athletic contest in which their child(ren) is present, they must contact another parent who will be present to fill their role. This also means that parents must be responsible for transporting their own child(ren) to and from athletic practices and contests. Likewise, if parents are not able to transport their own child(ren), it is their responsibility to arrange transportation with another parent.

School sports seasons should take priority over other, non-school related, sports activities. Representing TSL in the area of public competition is a privilege for the students, and takes precedence over other teams that the student-athlete may be involved in. (ie, club or travelling teams)

Parents will also model Christian behavior for their own children and for all involved in TSL athletics, including service to others. Parents will do this by taking on the responsibility of volunteering their time and energy with opportunities in the athletic program. These opportunities are, but are not limited to:

1. Working at the concession stand during basketball and volleyball games and the Tiger Classic Girl's B Team Basketball Tournament.
  2. Working the score board at home events.
  3. Working the score book at home events.
  4. Cleaning up in the gym or cafeteria after home events.
  5. Parents with children involved in a specific sport must also volunteer in that season.
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## Expectations for all Spectators

**“Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky...” (Philippians 2:14-15)**

All TSL spectators, regardless of age, will uphold the values and principles of the school, namely, to behave in a way that gives glory to God, and encourages the student-athletes who are competing at every level.

Spectators will be positive in their cheers, not complaining or arguing with referees or coaches, but lifting up and supporting the decisions made by those who are serving teams.

Spectators are not to bring in any food or drinks (except water) into the gymnasium. If food or drinks are brought in, they will be asked to relocate to the cafeteria to finish their food before returning to the gymnasium.

Repeatedly going against these rules may result in being removed from the gymnasium for the remainder of the contest.