

Immanuel Lutheran School Athletics Program Handbook

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Rationale

Interscholastic athletics at Immanuel are an important part of educating the total child. Our program exposes students to team activities and provides opportunities for them to learn and gain from the experience of competition that are found on the field and court. It is here and under these conditions that an athlete can put into practice the Christian values and ethics taught in our classrooms and in their church.

I Corinthians 10:31 tells us, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

Immanuel, in partnership with the parents, seeks to minister to the student athlete by teaching Christian sportsmanship and instilling the attitude that one can both win and lose with dignity, and without boasting or excuse. Young athletes on the playing field use their God given talents to bring Him glory and honor. By practicing good sportsmanship, an attitude of wanting to do their very best, cooperation and teamwork with fellow team members, self-discipline and dedication, the Immanuel athlete makes the statement to everyone watching that they are ultimately on God's team and they play to win praise for God.

The athlete will develop the fundamental skills at the Start Up Pee Wee and Pee Wee level through active participation. It is our goal to give all members at these levels a chance for meaningful participation in all games and practices.

Those who desire to continue to use their skills at a more competitive level will have the opportunity to do so on our Junior Varsity and the Varsity Team.

Since the teams our children compete against are schools that have the same general attitude toward interscholastic athletics, we look forward to enjoyable, competitive contests. We expect our players, coaches, and spectators to conduct themselves in a Christian manner at these contests.

Student/Parent Christian Sports Pledge

It is the goal of the coaches, teachers, and administration to assist all students in their spiritual, physical, and mental growth. They desire that each student grow to be more like Christ and **"increase in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."** -- Luke 2:52 With this goal set before you, we ask you to carefully read and sign the following pledge in order that we may put God first.

We the undersigned are dedicated to Immanuel Lutheran School's athletic program as representatives of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We realize we will be expected to behave in a Christian fashion throughout the season.

We agree to follow Matthew 18 in addressing any concerns we have with the coaches by going first to the coach, then the Athletic Director, Principal, and finally to the school board if we have not reached resolution to our concerns.

We understand that family and friends that come to the games will be expected to behave in a manner appropriate for a program dedicated to living the faith we profess.

We also realize that athletes on the team will be expected to attend worship together once during the season and to participate in a team service project.

We realize inappropriate behavior on the part of any athlete could result in a suspension or removal from the roster.

We will abide by the decisions made by the school concerning the athletic program of Immanuel Lutheran School.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Student Signature

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Parent Signature

Objectives of Program

Immanuel Athletes will:

- Recognize their talents as a blessing from God and will develop and use them in God pleasing ways
- Be given the opportunity to play as a child, not as an adult
- Learn the skills and strategies associated with each sport they participate in
- Unselfishly recognize and respect the talents and abilities of others on their team and in the competing teams
- Display the values of Christian sportsmanship
- Develop the understanding and attitude that trophies do not make the team a winner, instead everyone is a winner when they have done their best on the playing field or court
- Accept the responsibility for the hard work and commitment necessary for being part of a team
- Have fun through physical activity

Sports Offered (Grade level may change due to number of students available in each class)

JV Volleyball	Grades 4 – 7
Varsity Volleyball	Grades 4 – 8
Baseball	Grades 5 – 8
Start up Pee Wee	Grades 1 – 2
Pee Wee Basketball	Grades 3 – 5
JV Basketball	Grades 5 – 7
Varsity Basketball	Grades 5 – 8
Track	Grades 4 – 8

Expectations of Teams

Start Up Pee Wee & Pee Wee – This is the entry level, the learning stage, for this sport. The main purpose for this level is to learn the fundamentals and skills of the game. Provided that they meet eligibility requirements, all students at this level play in every game. However, they will not necessarily get equal playing time. Although winning the game is a goal, participation and experience are the main goals.

JV and Varsity – These teams apply all of their experience and ability to winning the game. Teaching of skills will continue to be stressed. Although everyone will have an opportunity to play, it is possible that not every athlete will have the chance to play in every game. The game is played with the intention of bringing home an honorable victory. Players wishing to compete at the Varsity Team level are encouraged to develop their skills more fully through summer leagues, camps, etc.

Eligibility

Although Immanuel Lutheran is primarily an academic institution, the school seeks to provide any interested student the opportunity of joining one or more of our athletic teams. Students may participate in our athletic programs if they continue to meet the academic requirements as set out in the employee handbook.

See the Student Handbook for Academic Eligibility Requirements.

Where completion of assignments, quality effort, and conduct become a problem the teacher will notify the student, parent and Athletic Director. In these cases the following guidelines will apply:

Temporary Suspension

Students who become ineligible due to academic reasons, will be eligible to participate in practices and games immediately once they have become eligible. Students ineligible for other reasons may be subject to further disciplinary action as seen fit by their coach and the athletic director.

Any student who has failed to obey team rules established by the coach may also be suspended for up to one game. The Coach in conjunction with the Athletic Director and/or the Principal will determine these suspensions.

Students exhibiting improper / unsportsmanlike behavior may be subject to disciplinary action.

Removal from the roster

Repeated violations or serious inappropriate conduct may result in a student's removal from a team roster. The Athletic Director and/or the Principal will determine the removal.

Absences

Any student absent for more than ½ a day on the day of a game or practice may not participate in that game or practice.

The Athletic Director and/or the Principal may grant an absent student permission to play based on extenuating circumstances.

Expectations of Student Athletes

Team players are representing their Lord and school. They will do this in a Christ-like manner.

Participation in school athletics will take priority over non-school sports / activities. Permission to miss a practice or game must be obtained from the coach in advance.

Players will show respect for property when visiting other schools.

Players will try their best, but not make winning their most important goal, but rather that they display Christian action.

Players will win with humility, and lose with grace.

Players are not to question the decisions of referees, but accept that the referees are doing their best and abide by their decisions graciously.

Players will play within the rules and keep a fair sense of play.

Players may never use crude, vulgar, or un-Christian Language.

Players are to be polite to opposing coaches and teams.

Players will never belittle or make fun of the other players.

Players will respect their coaches as their parents' representative.

Failure to follow any of the above could result in a suspension from the team.

Expectations of Parents & Families

Parents should deliver and pick up their student athletes to games / practices at prescribed times

Spectators at games should at all times behave in a Christian manner.

Cheering should always be positive.

Fans who are parents should give a Christian witness to their children on the team.

Fans at all times should show respect for the referees.

Spectators should encourage one another to behave in a Christian manner.

Fans should respect others property when visiting other schools.

Spectators should be kind and polite to opposing teams, coaches, and fans.

Parents of players should instruct their children that their Christian witness and fair play are more important than winning.

Fans should be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.

Rude, vulgar, and un-Christian language by spectators will not be tolerated.

Parents should maintain close supervision of younger siblings. Any child seen running in the hallways behaving in an inappropriate manner will be told to go sit with their parents.

Expectations of Athletic Director and Coaches

Coaches represent our Lord, the school, parents, and teachers when with players.

Therefore coaches will:

- The Athletic Director will work with the coaches to set up schedules
- The Athletic Director will arrange for the use of facilities for practices
- Coaches need to submit requested practice times to the Athletic Director 1 month prior to the first practice. This will allow the Athletic Director time to schedule the use of the gym for all teams.
- Coaches are responsible for submitting game information for press release
- Emphasize as their main goal the development of Christian attitudes toward athletics
- Represent their Lord in appearance, attitude, and action
- Question referees decisions only in a God pleasing manner
- Coaches by their speech and action demonstrate a proper game behavior to their players and fans
- Rude and Vulgar language are never to be used.
- Coaches should discipline athletes who are not demonstrating Christian behavior by removing them from the competition.
- Coaches should instruct players about the proper respect of property when visiting other schools.
- Coaches will check the locker rooms before players are allowed to leave.
- Coaches will not leave a practice or game until all players have been picked up

Chain of Command

Since we are all working together for the benefit of our children let us make good use of the encouragement we get from God in **Matthew 18. If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.**

We understand that not every concern that parents or coaches have will deal with sin. However, we believe that Matthew 18 shows a clear chain of command to be followed. In order for steps to be taken in an orderly way, this chain of command has been developed and may be helpful in situations that may arise.

Order for parents to seek answers to questions.

1. Coach (Individual Sport Coach)
2. Athletic Director
3. Principal
4. Board of Education

Coaches Communication to Parents

The following are ideas that may help you, as parents know what to expect from our coaches. Coaches should:

1. Share expectations of athletes
2. Communicate location and time of all practices and games
3. Communicate team requirements, i.e. practices, special equipment, out-of-season conditioning, etc.
4. Injury – if an injury takes place that the coach is aware of they should bring it to the attention of the parents
5. Discipline – if an athlete is being disciplined, by the coach, for any serious offense the coach should make sure the parents are aware the offense and disciplinary measures to take place.

Parents Communication to Coaches

1. Concerns regarding coaching practices and expectations should be expressed to the coach during a scheduled appointment **not at the game.**
2. Immediate notification of any scheduling conflicts

Appropriate topics for parents to discuss with coaches:

1. Treatment of child mentally and physically
2. Ways for child to improve
3. Concerns about child's behavior

Inappropriate topics for parents to discuss with coaches:

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student athletes

Misc. Items

Sports Fee

There is a \$10 sports fee per student for each sport. This must be turned into the office prior to the first scheduled game. Athletes will not be allowed to play in games until this fee has been paid. This fee will be used to help in the purchase of athletic equipment and sports related items, such as -- but not limited to uniforms. The Athletic Director will use the funds in the procurement of these sports related items. The Principal will oversee the use of these funds.

Uniforms

Uniforms are the property of Immanuel Lutheran. Proper care of uniforms is expected. Uniforms should be changed into and out of at the sight of the game (unless student athletes have special permission from the coach or Athletic Director). Washed and cleaned uniforms shall be returned to the school office after the season. Uniforms that are lost or damaged will be the responsibility of the athlete and his/her parents. Parents will be expected to pay the replacement cost of the uniform. If a uniform is damaged during a practice or a game the coach will determine the responsibility.

Transportation

Transportation to and from games is the responsibility of the parents. If a parent is unable to attend a game, please make arrangements for your child. Coaches may assist in helping arrange carpooling when necessary but it is not their responsibility.

Church Attendance

Immanuel Student Athletes are strongly encouraged to attend a weekend worship service. We will try to arrange a ride to Immanuel for any student wishing to attend here. Students will be expected to worship with the team, at Immanuel, one Sunday per sport per season. **Lets us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another... Hebrews 10:25**

Game Attire (2013)

As representatives of Immanuel Lutheran School, athletes are expected to present themselves in a positive manner. This not only includes actions, but also attire. At games, athletes are expected to follow these guidelines:

Boys – Dress pants, polo or dress shirt, or school appropriate clothing

Girls – Dress pants and blouse, or dress, or polo, or school appropriate clothing

Blue jeans are not considered dress pants.

Athletes should follow these guidelines at the site of the game until it is time to change into the uniform.

Cuts

All students desiring to play on a reserve team will be given the opportunity to participate. Every reasonable effort will be made to accept all students on the varsity level. However, if the eligible number of team members is deemed unmanageable, cuts may have to be made. This decision will be made after consultation with the Coach, Athletic Director and Principal.

Practice and Games

Practice is an important part of being a member of a team. Coaches have the right to determine playing time based on practice time put in by the student athlete. Failure to attend practice may result in appropriate discipline including sitting out game time, additional running, etc. This will be determined by the coach. Any game time to be missed will be approved by the Athletic Director.

The coach will hand out a printed schedule of all games and practices as soon as possible.

Oct. 2006

Concussions and Head Injuries Policy in compliance with Illinois House Bill 200 effective July 1, 2011

A student athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from participation or competition at that time.

A student athlete who has been removed from an interscholastic contest for a possible concussion or head injury cannot return to that contest unless cleared to do so by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois or a certified athletic trainer.

If not cleared to return to that contest, a student athlete cannot return to play or practice until the student athlete has provided his or her school with written clearance from a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois or a certified athletic trainer working in conjunction with a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois.

Information concerning Concussion Management may be found on the IHSA Website under "Resources/Sports Medicine/Concussion Management."