

First German Lutheran School 22-23' Athletic Handbook



First German Lutheran School

1025 S. 8th Street
Manitowoc, WI 54220

Principal: Peter Buege
Athletic Director: Philip Miller

Revised July 2022

Athletic Philosophy

First German Lutheran School (FGLS) outwardly applies biblical principles to all programs including athletics. 1 Corinthians 10:31 clearly states, “Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the Glory of God.”

Participation in athletics at FGLS is a privilege. All families must keep in mind that as sinners bought by Christ, all individuals connected to FGLS are to reflect the love of their Savior in all that they do and say both on and off the court/field.

Athletics contribute to the basic educational objective of developing the child **spiritually, mentally, socially, and physically**. Our philosophy is to strive to develop Christian students who will use their God-given talents to the best of their ability and grow to become dedicated, active, and faithful workers of Christ

It is our intent to develop each student **spiritually** by reinforcing the aspects of Christianity learned in the classroom and having them applied to a spirit of competition, sportsmanship, and fair play. Understanding the concepts of sports and sportsmanship will challenge the athletes **mentally** and **socially** by applying those concepts in a team-oriented environment. Our students, while developing **physically**, will recognize and understand the science of human movement and the importance of life-long wellness. These objectives will help to equip the students for issues they will face on a daily basis in their futures.

Athletic Program and Purpose

Our athletic program has two different functions, physical education and interscholastic sports. Physical Education is to meet the needs of every individual of the school. Interscholastic sports try to meet the needs of students who have a desire to learn and participate in a particular sport.

The purpose of this handbook is to clearly define the standards of FGLS in regard to co-curricular activities. It has been developed to assist coaches, staff members, parents/caregivers, and athletes involved in FGLS athletics. The staff at FGLS asks for the fullest cooperation of all involved in the athletic department, as all parties involved are working to train the next generation of Christian leaders.

Goals and Objectives:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law (Galatians 5: 22-23).”

In keeping with scripture and to provide a means by which our church and school may give witness to Jesus Christ to the community and to individuals, it is the goal of FGLS athletics to:

- To provide Christian Fellowship.
- To develop the highest Christian Standards of sportsmanship.
- To develop proper attitudes towards one’s body and its care and development.
- To develop a lifelong interest in physical activity and exercise.
- To develop all participants skills.
- To provide an opportunity for all to participate in sports on a regular basis.

Physical Education Classes

These classes are for every child in the school. They are to provide a wide range of physical activities giving every child the opportunity to develop attitudes, knowledge, and skills considered important to physical education, sports, and lifelong fitness. Physical Education classes are held during the school day.

Uniforms

First German provides all of the uniforms for the athletic teams. These uniforms are logged and recorded upon distribution and return. If a uniform is returned in an unacceptable condition (unwashed, ripped, numbers falling off, etc.) there may be an additional cost for the responsible family. It has been recognized that the uniforms age at the same rate if we utilize parent volunteers to help wash the uniforms. Washing instructions are handed out at the beginning of these seasons.

Interscholastic Sports

These sports exist to provide students who have a special interest in participating in a team sport. The practice sessions are designed to develop the athletic talents of those involved as well as teach the concept of team play. Interscholastic games provide a high level of competition against other grade school teams in the Lakeshore Lutheran League. If a student wishes to participate in an interscholastic sport, First German's "school teams" should take precedent over all other sporting activities. Games and practices are offered after school hours to those who desire to participate.

Role of the Board for Lutheran Schools

The responsibilities of the BLS include:

- Appoint an Athletic Director (AD)
- Yearly review of the Athletic Policies with the Athletic Director, make changes as needed, and approve the policy with a majority vote.
- Give approval to the coaching staff on a seasonal basis, as presented by the AD.
- Reserve the right to approve or disapprove any sport and approve or disapprove any coach or AD with a unanimous vote.
- Reserve the right to override any decision(s) of the AD with a majority vote.

Role of the Athletic Director (AD)

The Athletic Director shall:

- Approve all extracurricular activities.
- Appoint a coach or coaches for each sport following proper policy procedures.
- Hold a coach's meeting, as needed, to set up practices, games, and cover any rule change.
- Approve practices, games, and tournaments with each coach before they begin.
- Approve all announcements and permission slips sent home.
- Reserve the right to make decisions, together with the principal, as needed on items covered or not covered in this policy.
- Make sure that W.I.A.A. officials are engaged for all sports requiring them.
- Make sure athletic and first-aid equipment are stocked before the school year begins.
- Have a meeting with the parents and the athletes to discuss rules, eligibility guidelines, schedules, sign-ups, getting equipment, etc.

Criteria for Coaches

All of First German's coaches are volunteers. God bless them for giving their time, talents, and dedication in educating our children. Please support them in every way possible to make their work most enjoyable.

Coaches/Assistant Coaches at First German will:

- Be a role model of Christian athletic behavior.
- Be selected by the athletic director and approved by the BLS.
- Be WELS/ELS members in good standing and attend worship frequently and regularly and be a minimum of 19 years old.
- All coaches, assistants, or helpers must have a background check prior to serving.
- All coaches should meet with the AD before beginning practices or games. Minor changes in the schedule need to be approved by the AD in advance.
- Coaches using the gym should see to it that the floors are swept at the end of each practice session and equipment is put away.
- Coaches are to remain at school until all the players have been picked up. When all players have left, the coaches need to make sure all the doors are locked securely and the lights are off before leaving.
- Coaches are encouraged to lead a team prayer before all games.
- Coaches will complete the volunteer form for a background check.
- Be knowledgeable in the sport.
- Be well prepared for practice. A practice plan should be scheduled in order for an organized practice where athletes learn basic skills and prepare for games.
- Be respectful to all athletes and parents. Coaches will show respect to athletes by avoiding the use of physical force, negative speech, and actions that may demoralize.
- Uphold the authority of the officials who are assigned to the games/tournaments.
- Work with the AD to enforce the rules and regulations of the sport. Report any irregularities that violate sound competitive practices.
- Be able to commit the time needed to coach.
- Encourage all athletes to participate, work together, and to support one another as members of a team.
- Strive to have each team perform to the best of its abilities and to accept winning or losing graciously.
- Communicate to the players and parents the responsibilities of individuals on the team.
- Protect the health and safety of the players.

First Aid Kits

A kit will be developed for each sports team (i.e. Boys B Team, Girls B Team, Boys A Team, Girls A Team). Medical information and contact information for all players is to be included in each athletic first aid kit. The athletic director is responsible for sharing these kits with the coaches and informing them about the information inside.

Athlete's Responsibilities

The responsibilities of First German's athletes are to:

- Represent our Savior, Jesus Christ in their words and actions.
- Regularly worship their Savior.
- Display a Christian attitude during practices and games that reflect their love for Christ.
- Respect all coaches, officials, players, and others in authority.
- Respect our school's property as well as the property of other schools.
- Be prompt in attending games and practices. Athletes are required to attend all practices unless excused by their coach.
- Be Christian ambassadors for First German and for Christ at all times.
- Return equipment issued to an athlete at the close of the season. The athlete is financially responsible for any lost, misplaced, or abused equipment.
- Follow additional rules set by the individual coaches of each sport.
- Players are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities outside of team practices to develop their skills: summer camps, working with parents, open gyms, and the like.
- Dress according to the school dress code when attending a school function.
- Use language befitting a Christian.

Any infraction of the above expectations will result in disciplinary action(s) including but not limited to loss of playing time. The action(s) taken will be decided in cooperation of the Principal, AD, and the coach.

Athletic Conduct Policy

Our goal for the First German athletics is to teach the students how to play various sports and learn how to stay active and live a healthy lifestyle. It is also our goal to teach the students to be respectful and have good sportsmanship on and off the court. All students are expected to respect and listen to the coach of any sporting team. If the student refuses to be respectful or refuses to comply with what the coach is trying to do in practice, the following steps will be taken:

First Infraction: A warning to the player will be given during practice.

Second Infraction: The player will be asked to sit out of practice/game and the parents will be informed of the situation.

Third Infraction: The coach will meet with the parents at a separate time other than practice/game.

Fourth Infraction: The Principal/Athletic Director, Coach, and parents will meet to discuss what is going on in practice/game and suitable consequences.

Some examples of being disrespectful or not complying are: talking back, refusing to participate, intentionally ruining a drill, or any act that hinders the practice of the other players or shows disrespect for the coach. It is our hope that the children will all learn to respect those in authority over them as God's representatives.

Parent Responsibilities

Our athletic program cannot exist without the active support of our parents. When you give your child permission to participate in athletics, you take the responsibility of certain duties. Please remember the benefits we experience when our parents work together for our school.

Parents involved with the athletic program are expected to:

- Possess and display a love for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- Respect our opponents and officials with a Christian attitude and with Christian sportsmanship. Denouncing players, officials, and coaches in the stands is not acceptable, nor is it God pleasing.
- Be responsible for transportation to and from all practices and games.
- Be prompt in picking your child up after practices.
- Support the athletic program by assisting with the concession stand, hall monitor, and scorer's table.
- Maintain regular worship of our Savior as a priority over sports.
- Support your Child's entire team. Parents are to be supportive of all of the players on the team regardless of their skill level.
- Support your child. Children are learners and part of that process is making mistakes.
- Show your child by example that mistakes are opportunities for learning. Be positive and look for those things that your child does right. Use constructive feedback.
- Show support for the opposing team. Appreciate the other team's skill level especially if it is greater than ours. Show respect to the opposing team whether we win or lose.

Issues/Concerns/Communication:

It is hoped that healthy relationships are maintained by all those involved in our sports programs. Communication is key for this to work. Any problems which do arise should be worked out in a God-pleasing way. Parents are asked to resolve conflicts using the following order as laid out for us by Matthew 18:

- Discuss the matter in private with the coach.
- If the concern is unresolved, the next step would be to involve the Athletic Director.
- In the event the concern still remains unresolved, the parent should contact the principal.

Please consider giving yourself time to settle before presenting an issue to the coaches or AD. Emotions run high during games/tournaments. A solution will be better achieved if all parties are rational in discussions.

Academic Probation Policy

We are aware that participating in extracurricular activities is a privilege. Academics are our priority and our students must be held accountable for their performances in the classroom. Students who are in danger of going on academic probation will be notified by the Athletic Director or the Principal.

The following guidelines will be used to determine a student's eligibility:

- If a student has any late work, it must be completed before attending practice or a game.
- A student with grades below a C on a report card or progress report will be ineligible until the letter grade improves. The student will need to show improvement in the class to become eligible for extracurricular activities. If the student does not improve, the student will continue to be ineligible until improvement is shown. It will be the responsibility of the teacher to inform the Principal and Athletic Director of the failing grades. In cases where lack of academic ability, and not lack of academic effort, is the cause for poor grades the Teacher, Athletic Director, and Principal will make a decision regarding eligibility.
- Second quarter eligibility will be designated by first quarter grades and so on.

Ineligibility means that a student will not be allowed to practice or play in games with the team. The student will still attend the games and sit on the bench, because they are a part of the team and have made a commitment to the team.

Sickness

If a student is sick on the day of a practice or game and does not come to school, the student cannot play or practice that day. They must be in attendance at school to participate in any extra-curricular activities for that day.

Injuries

Coaches who have lay coaches working under them will inform them of this policy and its execution. However, the head coach is ultimately responsible for its execution.

- a. No oral medication of any kind should be given to a child by a coach unless written directions have been received from the parents or legal guardians
- b. Do not send the child home alone.
- c. The coach should stay with the injured child and send a child for help.

Level of Play

The opportunity may arise at First German to play on a team that is above the grade level of a student. If this opportunity presents itself, the student must be a part of the team that they are eligible for by their grade level. They may then, if needed, play on an additional team.

Lakeshore Lutheran League

The Lakeshore Lutheran League (LLL) controls the interscholastic sports that are offered at First German. The LLL is a group of 15 Lutheran schools which plan and coordinate interscholastic sports activities for the students of these lakeshore area schools. More information about the LLL can be found at <https://www.lakeshorelutheranschools.net/lll>.

Lakeshore Lutheran Schools

Trinity Lutheran School
601 E. National Ave
Brillion, WI 54110
(920) 756-3738

St. Paul's Lutheran School
1115 Division Street
Algoma, WI 54201
(920) 487-5712

St. John's Lutheran School
7531 English Lake Road
Manitowoc, WI 54220
(920) 758-2633

Trinity Lutheran School
387 Cemetery Road
Kiel, WI 53042
(920) 894-3012

First German Lutheran School
1025 South 8th Street
Manitowoc, WI 54220
(920) 682-7021

St. John's Lutheran School
14323 S. Maribel Road
Maribel, WI 54227
(920) 863-2850

Immanuel Lutheran School
916 Pine Street
Manitowoc, WI 54220
(920) 684-6172

St. John's Lutheran School
3607 45th Streets
Two River, WI 54241
(920) 794-7300

St. Paul's Lutheran School
411 Millersville Ave
Howards Grove, WI 53083
(920) 565-3780

St. Peter's Lutheran School
108 W. Maple Street
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
(920) 743-4332

Zion Lutheran School (Morrison)
7373 Highway W
Greenleaf, WI 54126
(920) 864-2349

Zion Lutheran School
8374 County Road W
Greenleaf, WI 54126
(920) 864-2468

Bethany Lutheran School
3209 Meadow Lane
Manitowoc, WI 54220
(920) 684-9777

Trinity Lutheran School (Rantoul)
N6081 W River Road
Hilbert, WI 54129
(920) 853-3134

St. Johns-St. James Lutheran School
223 Manitowoc Road
Reedsville, WI 54230
(920) 754-4568

St. Paul's- Luxemburg
N4118 Co. RD AB
Luxemburg, WI 54217
(920)-845-2095

Athletic Fee

The athletic fee(s) for participation in school sports are paid in the student fees with the tuition at registration. Parents will be notified about other fees by note or email.

Volunteers

There is a large amount of work that goes into every home athletic event. Scoreboard operator, scorebook keeper, canteen workers, hallway supervisors, and clean-up are the major areas that are always in great need of volunteers. We ask that parents of our athletes sign up and help. This is our way to keep costs down for our families and pay bills associated with our athletics.

Scheduling Guidelines

The schedule will be made to avoid conflict with other previously scheduled school/church events. Cancellation of scheduled games for any reason will be made by the AD and the principal in consultation with the opposing school's AD and/or principal. Any changes or additions in the set schedule need to be approved by the Athletic Director in advance.

Practice and Game Schedules can be found on First German's School website at www.firstgerman.org

Athletic Opportunities

Fall:

Soccer (K-8)
Girls Volleyball (5-8)
Jr. Lancer Cross Country (5-8)
Jr. Lancer Flag Football (5-8)
Cross Country (a one day event/race at MLHS) (4-8)

Winter:

Boys Basketball (5-8)
Girls Basketball (5-8)
Girls Cheerleading (5-8)
Girls Poms Camp (K-8)
Jr. Lancer Basketball (age varies)

Spring:

Lake to Lake Soccer (K-8)
Jr. Lancer Baseball (age varies)
Track and Field Day (5-8)

Concussion Form

Wisconsin Concussion Law Act 172-Statute 118.293 (2012) Summary: At the beginning of a season for a youth athletic activity, the person operating the activity shall distribute a concussion and head injury information sheet to each person who will be coaching. The law was amended in 2013 and the concussion information and acknowledgement must only be distributed and collected to the participant once per school year. No person may participate in a youth athletic activity unless the person returns the information sheet signed by the person and, if he/she is under the age of 19, by his or her parent/guardian. These forms are distributed at the athletic meeting held at the beginning of each school year.

Information on Concussion Safety is available at:
<https://tinyurl.com/yfp4ys79>

Athletic Policies and Procedures Agreement

Any child wishing to participate in any of the extracurricular activities must sign an agreement complying to First German Lutheran School's Athletic Policies and Procedures as laid out in this handbook. The parent/guardian of the child wishing to participate must also sign this agreement complying to the same. These forms are handed out at the Athletic Meeting at the beginning of the school year along with the current Athletic Handbook for review.