



Grace Lutheran School Athletics Ministry

12200 McCormick Rd. Jacksonville, FL 32225
Phone: 904-928-9136 Ext. 37 Fax: 904-928-0181
Cell: 904-254-3135 michael_popp@gracelutheraneagles.org

Grace Lutheran School Athletic Guidelines 2012-2013

We believe that Christian education ministers not just to the academic needs of the child, but also the spiritual, social, emotional and physical needs. We further believe, therefore, that to meet these diverse needs, an athletic program of both interscholastic and intramural sports is beneficial.

We believe that through Grace's athletic program students have opportunities to grow in their faith and then demonstrate Christ-like behavior and attitudes as a result of that faith.

We believe that through proper training, guidance, and healthy competition students learn the value of Christian love, sportsmanship, and self-discipline, as well as lifelong routines that provide for healthy mind, body, and spirit.

Program Purpose

- To establish an attitude of glorifying Jesus Christ in all that is done on and off the playing field/court
- To help the athlete establish a firmer and more personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- To provide the athlete with a Christian role model to lead, guide, and instruct them in their athletic and emotional development
- To help the athlete realize the value of others and the importance of working cooperatively with them.
- To encourage the athletes to recognize the need for self-discipline, dedication, and perseverance as lifelong qualities
- To instill self-worth and esteem within each athlete through the development of a proper understanding of their unique creation by a loving God
- To teach and model athletics in its proper perspective in the development of the whole child
- To provide leadership opportunities for upper grade students through coaching intramural sports
- To provide a healthful, wholesome and enjoyable way for students to use their leisure time
- To promote school spirit

The Program

Opportunities for students to participate in school athletic activities are provided through both an intramural program and the interscholastic program.

Intramural Sports Program

Through the intramural program opportunities are provided to those who have an interest in utilizing, in organized competition with their peers, the knowledge and skills acquired in the required physical education programs. Soccer, Volleyball, Kickball, Ultimate Frisbee, Floor Hockey, and Basketball are all offered throughout the year for the Pre-K through 4th graders.

Interscholastic Sports Program

Opportunities are provided through our interscholastic program to those who have a desire to more fully develop and utilize their athletic abilities and enjoy more competition and traveling. It also allows us to interact with other student-athletes from other schools, public and private. These opportunities are for our 5th-8th graders, but occasionally offered to 4th grade if the need arises.

Soccer (co-educational)

5th to 8th graders (One team with additional 5/6 games)

Season begins the first week of school and culminates with the Jacksonville Christian Athletic League Conference (JCAL) Tournament and the Central Florida Lutheran Athletic Association (CFLAA) Tournament in October. The Varsity team also has the opportunity to qualify for the Lutheran State Tournament.

Volleyball (girls)

5th to 8th graders (Two teams- JV and Varsity)

Practice begins the first week of school and culminates with the JCAL & CFLAA Conference Tournaments in October. The Varsity team also has the opportunity to qualify for the Lutheran State Tournament.

Cross Country (co-educational)

Practice begins the first week of school and culminates with the Parsons Relays in late October.

Basketball (boys and girls)

5th – 8th grade boys (Two teams- JV and Varsity)

5th – 8th grade girls (Two teams- JV and Varsity)

Season begins the last week of October and concludes with the JCAL and CFLAA Conference Tournaments in February. The Varsity teams also have the opportunity to qualify for the State and National Tournaments.

Cheerleading (girls)

5th-8th graders (one or two teams, depending on numbers)

Cheerleading begins in the fall, preparing for the basketball season and will continue practicing and competing at select games and tournaments until the basketball season is over. They also make some guest appearances in the spring at certain school events.

Flag Football (co-ed)

6th through 8th graders (one team)

Flag Football starts in late February (after basketball) and competes in the JCAL conference on Saturdays and culminates with the JCAL & CFLAA Tournaments the first weekend in May.

Baseball (co-ed)

5th-8th graders (one team)

Baseball starts in late February (after basketball) and competes locally in the JCAL conference and culminates with the JCAL Tournament. All practices and games are on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

Golf (co-ed)

5th through 8th graders (one team)

Golf starts practicing in late February and competes in both the JCAL & CFLAA Tournaments, as well as a couple dual events.

Track (co-ed)

5th through 8th graders (4 teams- 5/6 girls, 5/6 boys, 7/8 girls, & 7/8 boys)

Track starts after basketball finishes. All grade levels, boys and girls, practice together as a team. The two main meets are the JCAL meet in March and the CFLAA meet in late April.

Eligibility

Academic Standards- During any athletic season, the eligibility policy is intended to help students keep academics a priority during any athletic season. Should a student fall below the acceptable academic standards, the following actions will take place:

If they have 2 D's or an F (core subject or overall average in support subjects) on their Mid-quarter Report or Report Card, they are out for two weeks and will be re-evaluated. Should a student become ineligible, an e-mail, explaining what they are ineligible for, will be sent to the parents with the teacher, the coach, and the principal attached. In extenuating circumstances the Athletic Director and Principal may alter the term of ineligibility.

Waiver, Physical, and Insurance

Every parent must complete the Parental Waiver and Consent Form (attached to the back) as well as an up-to-date sport's physical. A physical card signed by a physician must be turned into the Athletic Director before that child can practice or play. Any special conditions or ailments must be made known to the coach prior to each season.

The Grace athletic program does not purchase insurance for athletes. All participants must have adequate insurance coverage.

Transportation

Transportation to and from games and practices is the responsibility of the athlete. The team and coach aid in this responsibility through frequent communication of the athletes' transportation needs. Often parents and coaches who are driving can transport other players both to and from games and practices. It is very helpful to coaches and other players if transportation plans can be made ahead of time. Players whose parents are not driving should contribute money for gas on longer trips. If a transportation need arises, it is vital that it be communicated to the coach of that team as soon as possible.

Practice

Practice may be held before or after school for various teams. Because each practice is used to develop our athletes' bodies, minds, and spirits, players are required to attend all practices. If a time conflict arises, it is the responsibility of that athlete to notify the coach with a written note from a parent or guardian no later than the day before that scheduled event. Practice is a requirement for participation in games. Players who cannot be at practice with a great deal of regularity will be removed from the team. Students that are absent from school during the day may not play in games/meets/tournaments that day unless there is an excused absence approved by the Principal.

Uniforms

Uniforms are issued at the beginning of each season. Each player is responsible for his/her uniform until the season is completed. Care should be taken in cleaning and repair of the uniform. If the uniform is lost, the player will have to cover the replacement cost.

No uniform may be worn at any time other than during games or under the coach's supervision. At times players may be asked to furnish certain parts of a uniform that are impractical for the school to provide. This might mean the purchase of special items such as socks for soccer.

Parent Involvement

Parental involvement is vital to the success of Grace's athletic ministry. In order to fulfill the purposes of this program, parents must teach and model a Christian attitude toward athletics and sportsmanship. They assist the child to establish proper priorities with respect to church, family, peers, study, and play. They participate in the development of the student's abilities. They love, encourage, and build up the esteem and confidence of their child. There is no substitute for parental support.

Parents also show support for the athletic program through volunteer efforts. Every part of Grace's athletic ministry is made possible through the volunteer efforts of faculty, parents, and supporters. To keep the program in operation many volunteers are needed. Parents are required to assist during each season their child participates with concession stand, admissions, clean-up, and helping with tournaments.

Code of conduct for Coaches and Parents

As a player, coach, or fan I will...

- Consider all opponents as friends and guests and will treat them with courtesy
- Accept all decisions by an official
- Never disrespect a player or official
- Never utter abusive or irritating remarks from the sidelines
- Applaud teammates and opponents who make good plays or reflect good sportsmanship
- Seek to play fairly and according to the rules of the game
- Do unto others as I would have them do unto me
- Win without boasting and lose without excuse
- Celebrate the opportunity to participate and be active
- Praise God for giving me the ability to contribute to a cause

Any parent or fan disregarding these guidelines shall be asked to leave the gym or playing field. If the parent or fan refuses, the game shall not continue until the person or persons leave and could result the forfeiture of the game. Any parent or fan that consistently violates these regulations shall not be allowed to attend games until such time as determined by the principal and/or athletic director.



Iron Sharpens Irons

Proverbs 27:17