

SPORTS

Our school is a member of the Lutheran School Athletic Association (LSAA), comprised of several Lutheran schools in Northeast Indiana. Girls of grades 5-8 may participate in basketball, volleyball, soccer, and track. Cheerleading is also available for girls in grades 7 & 8. Boys in grades 5-8 may participate in soccer, basketball, wrestling, and track. Boys in 4th grade are permitted to participate in wrestling. A Lutheran sponsored football program is available to 6 – 8 graders through Holy Cross Lutheran School.

PHILOSOPHY

There is great value in having children participate in sports. The benefits of sports competition include reaping the rewards of hard work and self-discipline, accomplishing a goal, learning to work with others to develop a team concept, improving one's own self-esteem and learning a God-pleasing attitude toward success and failure in an emotional setting.

We strive for excellence at Concordia Lutheran School. We expect our student athletes to use their athletic abilities for God's glory. A student athlete must demonstrate self-discipline in and out of the classroom and remember that classroom work comes first.

PARTICIPATE

At Concordia Lutheran School we strive to provide varied activities for students to attempt and explore. To accomplish this goal we encourage each student to participate in sports activities as well as music and other extra-curricular activities.

Fifth and sixth grade athletics is purposely designed to be less competitive and more instructional. **We expect every child to play in every game.** Coaches are given greater discretion in assigning playing time at tournament time. All interested students who are willing to work hard and be responsible are automatically on the team.

Seventh and eighth grade athletics will place greater emphasis on competition. Concordia Lutheran School reserves the right to select a team from among the students desiring to participate. Selections will be made by coaches objectively and according to predetermined standards. Students may participate in more than one sport while the sports are running simultaneously during the year.

Once games have begun, students are expected to complete the season. If a student quits, the parent must contact the coach directly. Athletic fees will not be refunded.

ATTITUDE

Concordia expects adults and students to show their Christian beliefs in all activities in which they participate. Adults and students will conduct themselves in the finest spirit of Christian sportsmanship possible.

A student who participates in a sport will be expected to show respect to his or her coach and will attend all practices and games. In order to be excused from a practice, the student must let the coach know ahead of time. If the coach is not notified, this will affect his game participation for the next scheduled game.

SPORTS PHYSICAL

Concordia requires a physical to be on file with the Athletic Director **before the student athlete practices or competes.**

ATHLETIC FEE

An athletic fee is charged to each athlete on a team. Payment of this fee is required before the athlete can participate in practices or games. The fees are announced each school year. Payment of the user fee will not result in guaranteed playing time for the student athlete. The Athletic Director may waive the fee in situations where payment of the fee creates a financial hardship for a family and would prevent a student from being able to participate in sports

AFTER SCHOOL PRACTICES AND GAMES

When there is practice, only students participating in practice or a school authorized study table may remain at school. Extended Care will be available until 6:00 P.M. with appropriate assessment for athletes who have a late practice or game. Athletes who stay for games must remain in the gym area or by the playing field. All students are restricted to school property during school hours and practice times. Students are expected at all times to exhibit a Christian attitude toward their teachers and fellow students as well as to all adults.

Student trips off of school grounds in between the end of school and the beginning of an event are not permitted without written parent permission because the law holds Concordia Lutheran School responsible for the safety of children until he or she is handed over to the parent.

Concordia Lutheran Grade School Athletic Eligibility Policy

Academic Expectations for Athletes:

At Concordia Lutheran School, we strive to develop the student athlete over the course of the athlete's academic career. With that as our foundation, we have established the following policy regarding Athletic Eligibility.

Policy Terminology:

- a) Athletic Academic Eligibility Goal or AG: No "F" or failing grade in any academic subject and a grade point average at a "C-" or better level.
- b) Marking Period: Every 4-5 weeks at each posted Mid-Quarter or Quarter Report.

Beginning in grade 4, all student athletes/potential athletes will be monitored by the Athletic Director to ensure all athletes take their academics seriously and are able to reach and maintain the AG. Students who are not able to reach the AG will enter a cumulative year to year process where "out of season" grades and "in season grades" are considered equally important to remaining eligible and allow participation in team sports at Concordia.

The cumulative process is outlined as follows:

Any student in grades 4-8 who, at the end of a marking period, does not meet the AG will enter a series of steps or stages to encourage a student to strive to improve their academic effort.

Step 1: Academic Warning: (First "F")

An Academic Warning will be issued to any student the first time they fall below the AG at a Marking Period. The Academic Warning will be in effect for one full Semester. (A semester is four consecutive Marking Periods.) While on Academic Warning, the student athlete will be able to continue to

practice with their team and participate in games. It is expected that the athlete & their parent communicate with the teacher of the "failing" grade or homeroom teacher if below expected GPA to create a plan for improvement. If the student completes a full Semester of meeting the AG, they return to full eligibility and have a clean Academic record and start the process over.

Step 2: Academic Probation: (Second "F")

A student will be placed on Academic Probation if when actively serving an Academic Warning, they again fail to maintain the AG at a Marking Period. During Academic Probation, athletes remain part of the team, continue to practice with the team, but must sit out any games until the next Marking Period. (Whether the athlete sits out of uniform on the bench at games will be determined by agreement of the coach & parent) If the student on Academic Probation reaches the AG at the next Marking Period, they may play games again, but remain at the Academic Probation Level until they complete a full Semester maintaining the AG. At that point, the athlete will return to full eligibility and have a clean Academic record and start the process over.

Step 3: "At Risk", Athletic Eligible Status: (Third "F")

If a student on Academic Probation again fails to maintain the AG at a Marking Period they become Athletically "At Risk". This means that the athlete will be removed from any team currently in season and will not be able to participate in that sport during the current school year. They may be reinstated and join other teams in the following sport seasons only if they return to and maintain the AG. If a student at step 3 is able to maintain the AG for an entire calendar school year, they will be reinstated to a clean Academic record and start the process over.

Step 4: Athletically Ineligible:

If a student who during their year of Athletically "At Risk" Status again fails to maintain the AG, they will be placed on an Athletically Ineligible list. This student is showing extreme academic issues. Participating on school sport teams would take time away that this student needs to spend improving their academic effort. When listed as Athletically Ineligible, a student will not be allowed to participate on any school sport team until the AG is reached and maintained for one entire school year. If able to achieve that, the student would be reinstated to full eligibility and start the process over.

Athletic Behavior Expectations:

As a Concordia Athlete, a student should be working toward God-pleasing behavior while in or out of their sport season.

With this in mind, any student can be declared, "Behaviorally Ineligible", if engaging in negative, destructive, or habitual disrespectful behaviors. When Behaviorally Ineligible, the student may not participate in any practices or games of any Concordia sport team. (Whether the athlete sits out of uniform on the bench at games will be determined by agreement of the coach & parent.) This continues until the student is removed from ineligible status by the Athletic Director.

The principal, along with grade level teachers, will determine an appropriate ineligible time period after receiving parental input. The time period may vary based on the severity of the student's level of misconduct. The Athletic Director will be informed of the length of ineligibility and will inform the appropriate team coach(es).

If correction of behavior does not improve during the ineligible period, then removal from a team may occur.

If a student has to be removed from a team more than one time, they risk their athletic eligibility for an extended period of time.

In order to participate in an athletic event or practice, a student must have attended school that day and arrived by noon. Teachers, school administration, and coaches have the right to determine a student's participation.

QUESTIONS

Questions and concerns about teams, practices, games, and related issues should be directed first to the coach in charge. Issues relative to the athletic program as a whole or athletic policy should be directed to the athletic director.