

St. Paul Lutheran Ministries
Sports Handbook
2024-2025



“Dedicated to Providing a Christ-Centered Education”

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St. Paul Lutheran Ministries Sports Club

Mission of St. Paul Lutheran Ministries Sports Club

- To help children discover and develop their God-given talents and use those talents to His glory.
 - “Each should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10
- To promote physical fitness and good health habits
 - “No one has ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does for His Church.” Ephesians 5:26
 - “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.” 1 Cor 6:19
- To teach good sportsmanship and teamwork
 - “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.” Ephesians 6:1

There is a \$25 fee per student per sport per year due before the first practice.

Goals & Objectives

St. Paul Lutheran Ministries Sports Club is committed to creating student athletes in a competitive culture.

We believe the key to accomplishing this goal is:

- Encouraging and developing student athletes and providing sufficient opportunities for students to develop individual abilities.
- Encouraging the development of team spirit among all members of our teams and their coaches.
- Developing good attitudes of pride, sportsmanship, and Christian behavior in students, participants and spectators.
- Developing and maintaining good relationships between athletic teams and student bodies, faculties, administrators and the community of other Lutheran schools.
- Teaching the fundamentals and techniques of each sport in a progressive sequence.

Membership

Membership to the St. Paul Lutheran Ministries Sports Club is open to all students currently enrolled in St. Paul Lutheran School, West Point, Nebraska. Membership is also open to students that are members of any Lutheran Church Missouri-Synod (LCMS) congregation.

- St. Paul Lutheran Ministries Sports Club is recognized as a club team in all sporting activities. This allows students to participate while following (Nebraska Dept of Education) NDE Rule 14.
- Having a “Club” Team status benefits students by allowing them to play more games.
- An added benefit of “Club” Team status is that it provides our day school students the opportunity to get to know future classmates which will help to ease the transition of changing schools after the 8th grade.
- Welcoming non-day school students and families to participate provides a chance to share our ministry as Christians and to market our school as a great place to learn and grow.
- St Paul Lutheran School officially began it’s “Club” Team status in 2014, but the co-operation of Jr High (7th & 8th grade) extracurricular activities has been going on for over thirty years, since the 1990s, if not earlier. We value our long history of working together with the local community schools.

Sports Participation Policy

St. Paul students who participate in sports will adhere to the following rules. These rules have been set forth by administration and are also in accordance with the NDE (Nebraska Department of Education) and NSAA (Nebraska Schools Activities Association) bylaws to meet with compliance of West Point - Beemer Public Schools and Guardian Angels Central Catholic School. Both West Point - Beemer Public Schools and Guardian Angels Central Catholic School are in agreement with the St. Paul Ministries Sports Club participation rules and guidelines.

Programs Offered

St. Paul Lutheran Ministries Sports Club offers the following sports activities:

- Volleyball (August-October)
- Boys Basketball (December-February)
- Girls Basketball (December-February)
- Cheerleading (December-February)

We (St Paul Lutheran School) allow our students in the 7th and 8th Grade to participate in any sports activities, clubs, or programs offered at West Point - Beemer Public Schools and/or Guardian Angels Central Catholic School, so long as the following policy is adhered to:

- If two **different** sports or if two of the **same sports** coincide with the above sports and dates mentioned above, it is understood that the student will be allowed to participate. It is understood that if a student is participating in two different sports simultaneously that St. Paul games and/or practices will take precedence over non-St. Paul games and/or practices. The student and their parents/guardians must make any and all arrangements needed to get to and from each practice/game. If a player cannot adhere to the following rules, a player may be subject to loss of playing time. This will be determined at the coach's discretion. **Students participating in sports at another school or club understand that St. Paul is the priority team.**

Extra-Curricular Activities and Academics

This Code of Conduct and participation policy rules shall apply to all students who participate in activities at St. Paul Lutheran School or any other school offering activities to St. Paul's Students. Parents will be notified if a student is ineligible. Students with special needs will have those needs taken into consideration when implementing this policy. In order to participate in any sports or other activities considered extra-curricular, students must meet the following rules and academic requirements:

- Students must maintain an overall C average or above in all core subjects.
- Students who do not meet this requirement may participate in activities or practices, but may not participate in games. Core subjects are: Religion, Memory, Catechism, Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. A grade lower than C- in any of the core subject areas, but not failing does not make a student ineligible unless the overall average is below C-.
- Students may not have an F in any subject. Students who do not meet this requirement may not participate in activities, practice or participate in games until the grade is above an F.
- Students exhibiting behavioral issues at school may be asked to not participate in activities, practices or games until further notice by the teacher, athletic director, coach, or principal.
- Students may not have incomplete work in any subject. Students who do not meet this requirement may not participate in activities, practice or participate in games until all incomplete work is finished to the teacher's satisfaction.

- Grade averages will be calculated at the end of each week. Students, who are ineligible due to a grade average of an F in any subject, will be ineligible until the incomplete work is finished or the grade average is brought up to the teacher's satisfaction.
- Students who are ineligible because of incomplete work will remain ineligible until the work has been completed to the teacher's satisfaction.
- Any student who is under disciplinary action (i.e. detention or suspension) will not be eligible to participate in games or practice until such disciplinary action has ended.
- Participation with other club teams, YMCA, etc., does not affect a student's eligibility for participation in St. Paul Lutheran Ministries Club sports. A student who is absent for any more than a 1/2 day of school (before or after 11:00 a.m.) due to illness may not participate in that day's activity, game or practice.

Concession/Admission/Clean-Up Duty Workers

As a parent of a student that participates on a St. Paul Lutheran Ministries Sports Club team you will be expected to work a shift(s) in either the concession/admission/clean-up duty on home game days. This includes the LCMS Church families that participate. Depending on the season, volunteers will be asked or parents may be assigned to work. If assigned, parents will be notified of their assigned work shift in advance. It will be the responsibility of the parent to find their own replacement if they are unavailable to work their assigned shift. Parent Participation Program (PPP) hours will be counted, it is your responsibility to sign the binder for your PPP hours.

Concussion Policy

St. Paul Lutheran Ministries considers the protection of young athletes their highest priority. Each head and assistant coach, regardless of sport, is required to complete the CDC Concussion Awareness training prior to beginning practice. This certification is required every year. In addition, athletes will also complete the CDC Concussion Awareness training as part of the Health curriculum at the beginning of the school year.

Online courses for coaches and athletes can be found and taken at:

[http:// www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/index.html)

Nebraska law also requires immediate removal of an athlete from physical participation in an athletic activity who is suspected of sustaining a concussion. The student athlete must then receive written clearance from an appropriate health professional (non- family member) before he or she can return to physical activity. St. Paul Lutheran Ministries Sports Club will follow these steps in accordance with NSAA concussion guidelines when a player is suspected of a concussion.

When a player shows ANY sign or symptom of a concussion:

1. Perform an on-field mental status evaluation.
2. The player should not be allowed to return to play in the current game or practice.
3. The player should not be left alone; and regular monitoring for deterioration is essential over the initial few hours following injury.
4. The player should be medically evaluated (by an appropriate health care provider) following the injury.
5. "Return to Play" should follow a medically supervised stepwise process.
6. A player should never return to play while symptomatic. "When in doubt, sit them out!"

Following a Concussion - The "Return to Play" stepwise process:

1. No activity, complete rest. Once asymptomatic, proceed to step 2.
2. Light aerobic exercise such as walking or stationary cycling, no resistance training.
3. Sport specific exercise (e.g.: running), progressive addition of resistance training at steps 3 or 4.

4. Non-contact training drills.
5. Full contact training after medical clearance.
6. Game play.

Promoting Sportsmanship with Positive Sports Parenting

A parent's "Coaching Job" is the toughest one of all and takes a lot of effort.

Sometimes in a desire to help your child, best intentions can end up being counterproductive. Applying the rules of Positive Sports Parenting can go a long way toward promoting sportsmanship and fostering an environment where your child can enjoy and excel in sports.

- Make sure your child knows win or lose, that you love them, you appreciate their efforts and you are not disappointed in them.
- Try your best to be completely honest about your child's athletic capability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level.
- Be helpful but don't "coach" on the way to the track, diamond or court; on the way home; at breakfast or dinner and so on.
- Teach your child to enjoy the thrills of competition, trying, working to improve their skills and attitudes, taking the bumps and then coming back for more.
- Try not to relive your athletic life through your child in a way that creates pressure. Remember, you fumbled, too; you lost as well; you were frightened; and you were not always heroic. Don't pressure your child because of your pride.
- Don't compete with the coach. Young athletes often come home and chatter about "coach says this" or "coach says that." This is often hard, especially for parents who have had some sports experience.
- Don't compare your child's skill, courage or attitudes with that of other members of the squad or team.
- Get to know the coach so that you can be assured his or her philosophy, attitudes, ethics and knowledge are a good influence on your child.
- Always remember children tend to exaggerate both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reactions to their tales of woe or heroics.
- Make a point of understanding courage. Explain that courage does not mean an absence of fear but means doing something in spite of fear or discomfort.
- Never approach a coach before, during or after a contest to talk about your child.

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Code of Conduct

- Students, players or spectators, who display unsportsmanlike conduct involving either the students of their own team, members of other teams, the coaches or officials will be removed from the game and be subject to further disciplinary action.
- Children who come to games are expected to be spectators and sit down and should be supervised by parents.

Grievance Policy

Should any conflict arise during the course of the sports season, we encourage you to reach out to the coaches first and begin a conversation. Please keep in mind that our sports program is committed to creating student athletes in a competitive culture. Our goal is to encourage the development of team spirit among all members of our teams and their coaches. Furthermore, it is vital to develop and maintain good relationships

between athletic teams and student bodies, faculties, administrators and the community of other Lutheran schools. We are all on God's team, and work together to achieve victory in Him.

Should problems arise, the procedure to follow is: (Matt. 18)

1. Parent addresses the grievance with the coach involved; if not resolved...
2. Parent concerns are addressed with the coach and athletic director
3. Parent addresses the grievance with the coach, athletic director, and head teacher
4. If still not resolved, parents can file a grievance letter with the Board of Education.

At this level, the decision of the board is binding.

Communication

Open communication is important to the success of our program. If you have any questions, concerns or ideas, please contact the following:

Athletic Director: TBD

Principal: Mrs. Susan Quick 402-372-2355

St Paul Ministries Athletic Parent Agreement

Parents are to be supportive of the entire team at all times. Parents are not to engage in any behavior that would reflect negatively on St Paul Lutheran School or the team. Guidelines for parents are no different from the student athletes in this regard.

Equal playing time is not a guarantee. Coaches are given the flexibility to evaluate athletes during practices on a weekly basis. Playing time is determined by the coach's discretion. Parents are not to "coach" their children during games and tournaments. The athletes should be focused on what their coaches have to say with respect to the team and their play.

If you have questions about playing time or any coaching decision, please set up a time to discuss the situation with your Athletic Director and he/she will help answer your questions, and/or set up a meeting with the Coach. Parents should not approach, call, text, or email the AD until 24 hours after an activity has concluded. This gives you time to reflect and think of the best way to voice your concerns.

Un-sportsman-like behavior will not be tolerated at any Sports Club function/event. This includes but is not limited to behaviors such as the use of foul language, angry outbursts, and rude gestures towards other athletes, parents, coaches, officials or opponents. Consequences of such negative actions could result in removal from the game and be subject to further action as stated in our handbook. Parents are encouraged to be supportive of all parties involved during games.

***** As a parent, I have read and agree with the guidelines set forth in this handbook.**

I will also support the team by taking my turn and helping at athletic events. I agree to pay the \$25 fee per child per sport.

PARENT SIGNATURE _____

Cell Phone: _____

Printed Name _____

Student Player Name(s): _____

Date _____