

CHRIST COMMUNITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES, COACHES & PARENTS



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Mission, Vision, Values

The Mission of CCLS

CCLS will nurture each child through the Gospel to live the faith and share the Good News of Jesus Christ in an innovative environment of academic excellence.

The Vision for CCLS

Christ Community Lutheran School transforms lives through Christ-centered education.

CCLS Core Values

Christ-Centered • People-Focused • Excellence-Driven • Future-Directed

Athletic Program Philosophy

The Charger athletic program is a ministry of Christ Community Lutheran School and is designed to promote participation in interscholastic sports for both boys and girls. CCLS believes and expects their student-athletes to emulate Jesus Christ in everything they do, including how they compete. Their sportsmanship and gamesmanship should flow from the basic principles of a Christian lifestyle. CCLS believes that parents, coaches, and the athletic director have the responsibility to develop this concept in the student-athlete.

We believe that the opportunity for participation in a wide variety of interscholastic sports is a vital part of the student's educational experience. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the activity, to the student body, to the community, and to the students themselves. These experiences contribute to the development of learning skills and emotional patterns that enable the student to make maximum use of his/her education.

CCLS student activities are considered as co-curricular to the schools program of education, and as such the activities provide experiences that will help to develop each young person physically, mentally, spiritually, socially, and emotionally. The program satisfies several of our schools desired outcomes, namely that “students have confidence in selecting and participating in individual and group activities”; “students have an environment that is safe, challenging, comfortable, and nurturing”; and “students have an environment which nurtures faith and self-discipline, teaches respect for those in authority, and dignity and empathy for their peers”.

Members of the top teams are not guaranteed playing time while we strive for members of the younger teams to get somewhat equal playing time in games. Playing time is discussed more specifically below. This is consistent with the policies of our St. Louis Lutheran Athletic League.

Athletic Program Objectives

1. To provide a superior program of interscholastic sports that includes appropriate sports for those that wish to participate.
2. To provide a Christian environment for athletes to share with the community their God-given abilities.
3. To allow students to witness their Christian faith through the athletic experience.
4. To provide opportunity for a student to desire and experience success in a sport that he/she selects, at a level appropriate to their skills and God-given ability
5. To instill strong Christian character in all student athletes.
6. To encourage and promote school spirit and good sportsmanship.

7. To practice self-discipline and emotional maturity in learning to make decisions under pressure.
8. To be socially competent and to operate within a set of rules, thus gaining a respect for the rights of others.
9. To develop an understanding of the value of athletics in a balanced educational process.

Team Information

It is our goal at CCLS to have faculty and staff members as the head coach in each sport. Any vacancies will be filled with other qualified individuals who are willing to serve in this ministry. All head coaches are at least 19 years of age.

Any student at CCLS that wishes to participate in one of our sports programs is welcome to attempt to do so. It is our intent that students participate at a skill level similar to their own. This is achieved usually by having the youngest teams (B teams) play at their grade level and our upper grades' teams being composed of older athletes and those who show by their ability the necessary skills to play at that level. CCLS plays competitively at the top level in each sport. This team is referred to as the A1 team. There is no guarantee of playing time on this team, meaning it is possible that some team members may not play in a given game. However, coaches will strive to find meaningful playing time over the course of the season for all team members when it is possible to do so. The philosophy of the A2 team shifts more towards development and participation. All members of the team should play in every game, receiving a comparable amount of playing time. On the B levels, athletes will also receive similar playing time.

Playing time on all teams is based on the athlete being in good standing. This means that the athlete is following team rules and guidelines as communicated by the coach. This concept of game competitiveness and participation is consistent with

the policies of our St. Louis Lutheran Athletic League. Team positions for A1 and A2 teams are determined through tryouts conducted by the head coach of the team. The selection of team members is made by the head coach. The final decision is left to the head coach but he/she may involve assistant coaches and the athletic director in the decisions. B1 (6th grade) and B2 (5th grade) teams are generally grade specific teams, however, there are circumstances where the coaches and administration may need to mix grade levels. These athletes have the ability to play up and may be invited to try out for the A1 or A2 teams. If such an athlete makes the team, he/she would fall under the same playing time guidelines as other members of that team. The decision by the coach and the athletic director to move players up is made considering the best interests of the player, the teams involved, and the athletic program.

We operate under the philosophy that, ideally, all student-athletes who wish to participate will have an opportunity to play with a team at an appropriate level for them. However, there are times when there are more interested athletes than the maximum number of spots available on a team (the maximum will fluctuate depending on the sport and the level). In these cases, the head coach may need to communicate a plan to deal with playing time. If feasible, additional teams will be formed so that more athletes may participate.

Athletic Teams

Fall Season

Boys Soccer K-8th Aug-Nov

Girls Soccer K-8th Aug-Nov

Girls Volleyball A1, A2, B1, B2 Aug-Nov

Boys & Girls Cross Country K-8th Aug-Oct

Winter Season

Boys & Girls Basketball K-4, A1, A2, B1, B2 Nov-Feb

(K-4) Nov-Feb

(A1/A2) Nov-Feb/Mar

(B1/B2) Dec-Mar

Spring Season

Boys Volleyball 6th-8th March-April

Girls Field Hockey 5th-8th March-May

Boys & Girls Track 5th-8th April-May

Boys & Girls Golf K-8th March-June

Parent Information

The following information is to assist parents as they work with the teachers and coaches in working to make the Charger athletic program the best it can be! These comments are meant to help the process of nurturing our young athletes through what can be some stressful and trying situations.

1. Students will be charged an athletic fee for each sport in which he/she participates to the families' TADS account.
2. Students will be required to sign the Athlete Code of Conduct form. This outlines the basic expectations of every athlete, and represents the commitment they are making as a member of their respective team. A parent signature will also be required.
3. Parents are representing our churches and school. As such, parents are expected to maintain high standards of behavior just as the players are. Any unchristian and/or unsportsmanlike behavior, relative to other fans, the visiting players, officials, or coaches could result in being asked to leave the

building, or in the worst case, asked to not return to campus for any future athletic event.

4. We hold to the 24-hour rule. If you have something to discuss with your child's coach about a game, please do not do it immediately prior to a game or within 24 hours after the game. In this way we can avoid unnecessary heated conflict.
5. Parents are expected to support and respect coaches. Our coaches spend a great deal of time and energy attempting to do what is best for each individual athlete and the team. It is important to understand that the desires of the individual athlete and the team sometimes do not align. Coaches are charged with making decisions in these situations according to their best judgment. If there is a concern, communication should happen with the coach first, adhering to the 24 hour rule. If that does not lead to a resolution, the next appropriate communication would be to the athletic director.
6. Parents are also expected to show respect for opposing school officials when CCLS is visiting for athletic competition. This includes following that school's building procedures and regulations.
7. There's no such thing as a perfectly officiated game, coached game, or played game. Conversations and behavior at games should reflect this. By directing our energy to cheering for our team and supporting all those involved with the athletic contest, we uphold our goal of demonstrating Christian love and sportsmanship and teach our young athletes personal accountability. Please be sure also to keep this in mind as you talk with your son or daughter after games and at home.
8. Parents are responsible for providing transportation to and from games. Unless arrangements have been made with other drivers, parents are to pick up their child at the end of the game at the game site.
9. Sports held in the gym require more supervision than the coach is able to provide during the game. Because of this, all parents need to be in control of siblings that they bring to home games.
10. Players need to attend practices. Parents and or players should inform the coach if a player cannot attend a practice or game due to a conflict. If a player

is absent from school due to illness, notification does not need to be sent. A natural consequence for a player who misses practice may be to lose some playing time in the following game. Injured players should attend practices and games when possible.

11. Students may not leave the campus when staying for co-curricular activities, unless under the direct supervision of their parent or another adult.
12. In order to carry out the various tasks associated with hosting games, parent assistance is needed. This includes volunteering for scoreboard operation, bookkeeping, concession stand duty, and live streaming of games. Needs may vary for different sports. Sign-ups for seasonal needs will be made available.

Athletic Schedules

1. All scheduling will be finalized by the athletic director. Any changes coaches may make in their schedule must be cleared with the athletic director.
2. The athletic director will coordinate and assign practice times and locations. Team practice locations are generally at one of our association churches.
3. CCLS utilizes TeamSnap for all of its teams. TeamSnap is a cloud-based team management tool used to communicate rosters, schedules and any important team news.

Eligibility Policy for Participation

To be eligible (in “good standing”) to participate in co-curricular activities and events, the following requirements must be met:

The student must meet academic eligibility qualifications. A student earning a cumulative quarterly grade in any subject lower than a C- may be suspended from participation in athletic competitions. The administration will review the academic

progress of all students who are involved in athletics on a weekly basis, beginning in the fourth full week of the quarter. Students earning a grade lower than a C- due to missing/incomplete assignments or a lack of effort, as concluded by teacher and administrator, may be declared ineligible for one week. Students may not participate in practices or games. They may attend games and sit with the team on the bench, but they may not dress out in a uniform for the game. Students may regain eligibility the following week when eligibility is checked again, should they correct their academic status. Administration may exercise the right to reinstate eligibility at any given time.

A student who is absent from school (unless it is an approved educational service absence) is ineligible to participate in after-school sports for that day. To be eligible, the student must at least be in attendance prior to lunch.