

Atonement Lutheran School

Athletic Handbook

2008-2009

All athletic programs have the following goals:

- > To glorify God- "Whether we eat, drink, or whatever we do, do it all to the glory of God."
- > To add to the total educational experience at Atonement Lutheran School

This document is intended to cover all current sports under the supervision of Atonement Lutheran School. Its purpose is to glorify God by doing all things decently and in order. This will be accomplished by providing guidelines for the Sport's Program.

Participation

1. To participate in Atonement Lutheran School's Athletic Program the sports fees must be paid **BEFORE** the student is allowed to participate and the medical release form must be turned in.
2. To participate in Atonement Lutheran School's Athletic Program **ALL** athletes and parents/guardians need to attend the sports related meeting that each coach holds before the season begins.

Interscholastic athletic teams must be established with the approval of the school board. Those presently approved and functioning are as follows: girls' basketball (5-8), cross country (**all grades***), cheerleading (5-8), pom poms (5-8), volleyball (5-8), softball (6-8), track (7-8), boys' basketball (3-8), and wrestling (**all grades***).

* Participation will be available primarily to fifth through eighth graders. However, exceptions may be made when league or tournament rules permit and the coaching and teaching staff agrees to make the exception.

3. To participate in Atonement Lutheran School's Athletic Program **ALL** students **MUST MEET** the following criteria:
 - Attend school consistently
 - No incomplete assignments
 - No detentions or suspensions
 - Quality of work comparable to the student's ability

The Athletic Director will communicate to the parents/guardians, through written format, before ineligible status takes affect.

Suspensions

A student may be declared ineligible to participate or may be suspended from a team for an appropriate period of time if the above bulleted list is not being met in the satisfaction of Administration of Atonement Lutheran School. The parents and student will be informed of such decisions in writing. Suspended students due to behavioral problems are to attend all practices and games. Suspended students due to academic problems are to only attend games. The student who is suspended will sit on the team bench during the game. The student will remain in street clothes. Eligibility may be reinstated if the teacher, coach, and/or athletic director agree that adequate improvement has been made in conduct, attitude, and academic standing. Ineligible students may be declared eligible only after the issue has been resolved.

Students are presumed eligible for Atonement sports unless their grades, and/or their parents and teachers show otherwise. If a student has an F average in any report card subject, he or she will be declared ineligible to participate in any sporting activity of Atonement Lutheran School until the next check point. (This includes practices.) At the next checkpoint, all grades will be reviewed again to determine eligibility. If any student is ineligible at three check points during any point of the year they will not be able to participate in sports the rest of the year. Parents will be informed by the athletic director of a student's ineligibility.

Checkpoint Dates

September 22 (Mid-quarter)
October 6
October 20
November 3 (End of Quarter)
November 17
November 26 (Mid-quarter)
December 15
December 24
January 12 (End of Quarter)
January 26
February 9 (Mid-quarter)
February 23
March 16 (End of Quarter)
March 30
April 10 (Mid-quarter)
May 4
May 18

Suspensions apply to all sports. The length of the suspension may vary due to the length of the season. The teachers, coaches and athletic Director will be in constant communication to make sure that all matters are handled fairly.

There will be an automatic ONE game suspension for any detention or suspension that a student receives at school. The child's school work and positive behavior must come first before any extra curricular events are allowed.

Absences

Due to family matters and other issues a player; may be absent from a practice or a game. We ask that you communicate any and all absences **PRIOR** to the practice or game. If a student is absent from school the same day that a game is being played, the student may **NOT** play that night. The student's health and school work are our main concern.

Practices

All athletes are expected and encouraged to participate in all of the team's practices. These practices are very important for the individual athlete's development and the overall team's development.

The practices are for Atonement Lutheran School athletes only. The coaches are responsible for their own team. Siblings may not wait in the gym/school during a practice. It's not fair for the athletes who are practicing to have extra distractions during their practice time. Atonement has an after school child program to fill this need.

If a parent wishes to watch their child practice please make sure you communicate with the coach **BEFORE** the day of the practice. It is up to the coach to allow visitors during the practice.

Athletic Fees

All athletic fees must be paid **BEFORE** the student is allowed to participate in practices or games. The all inclusive athletic fee will **ONLY** be offered during Enrollment Day. After Enrollment Day, you will have to pay for each individual sport separately. The money gained from the fees allows us to purchase uniforms and extra sports related items such as the new gym curtain.

Medical Release

The parents/guardians must sign a medical release form giving permission for their child to participate in the Atonement Athletic Program. This must be completed and turned in **BEFORE** any participation happens. It is strongly suggested that parents/guardians seek a physical examination by a licensed physician prior to being involved in sports. Medical release forms may be picked up at the athletic table on Enrollment Day. You may also receive a form from the Athletic Director. . .

Volunteering

For Atonement to have successful home games that are run in a professional manor, it is necessary for parents/friends of Atonement to help work during these home games. Such duties would include hallway supervision, working in the concession stand, selling tickets, post game clean up (vacuuming carpet runners, cleaning off bleachers and pushing them in, dust mopping the gym floor, cleaning of the bathrooms, locker rooms and hallways). If you are interested in helping out please speak with the Atonement Athletic Director so that you may join the "team." Any help would be much appreciated

Game Day Conduct

Coaches = we expect all of our coaches to coach fairly. We want to give all the athletes opportunities for success. All of the coaches are responsible for their team's behavior on the court. The Athletic Director will aid the coaching staff to have a Christ centered team in which all may be proud to be a part of. All coaches will be required to attend a coaching clinic put on by Atonement Staff to be qualified to coach at Atonement Lutheran School.

Players = we expect all of our players to listen to and respect their coaches. The players are encouraged to play up the ability that God has graciously given to them. Players must show respect to ALL who are involved with the game. The players' only jobs are to listen to their coaches, to respect what they are saying, and to participate in the athletic contest.

Parents/friends of Atonement = we expect all of our fans to cheer respectfully. You may cheer positively and loudly. Please do not shout commands to your child. That is the coach's job. Please do not shout at the referees. We do not want any contest to turn into a negative atmosphere. Please enjoy the game and show respect to all in attendance. Atonement parents are responsible for the conduct of any family members/friends they bring with them to ANY sporting event involving Atonement Lutheran School. Behavior that is contrary to the Atonement Athletic Program Philosophy will not be tolerated. The parent will be asked NOT to attend the next game.

Questions, Concerns or Comments

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please feel free to make an appointment and talk to the coach or athletic Director. We ask that you do NOT approach ANY coach during or right after a game. Emotions run wild during competition. We do not want meetings to get out of hand, nor have things said that are inappropriate. We want all parties to be treated with respect. For this to happen, it is best that the meetings occur within the next day or two. This allows for better communication between all parties involved.

Chain of Command

We have checks and balances established for our athletic programs. All of the coaches are held accountable by the Athletic Director. Together we strive to make all of our extra curricular activities the best that they can be.

You may make an appointment to speak with the coach should you have any questions or concerns. You may also schedule an appointment with the Athletic Director should you need his help.

The Athletic Director is held accountable by the Principal and the Vice Principal.

The School Board and the Pastors are the final rung to this chain of command.