

## ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL ATHLETIC MANUAL (updated 6-8-09)

Zion offers an extracurricular athletic program to students in grades 5-8. These grades participate in two divisional levels: junior varsity and varsity. Participation is on a voluntary basis. Zion is a member and participates in T.A.L.L.S. (Texas Athletic League of Lutheran Schools). The TALLS League was formed in 1979 out of a need to organize the area Lutheran Schools to provide quality competition within a Christian atmosphere. The League is organized for participation in Flag Football (boys), Volleyball (girls), Basketball, Coed Soccer and Coed Softball.

### STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETICS

A Christian athletic program is strongly connected with our relationship to our Triune God. We all have special talents and abilities which are given to us from God. Through athletic competition, we strive to use these talents for and to the glory of God our Father. We teach not only sportsmanship, but a sincere commitment to being a living witness to Jesus Christ through athletic competition as well as in our daily lives.

### GOALS OF ZION'S ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Not only do we strive to develop our God-given abilities as mentioned above, we also work to instill a "winning" attitude in each player along with the cooperative skills needed to work together as a team. Other goals include: respect for authority, fellowship, perseverance, sportsmanship, improvement of individual player ability, increased endurance, fitness and physical coordination.

### EXPECTATIONS OF OUR ATHLETES AT ZION

While it is our objective to pursue all aspects of school life with the exuberance given each player through our God-given talents and abilities, a major priority as athletes has to be academics. It is our prayer at Zion that each student athlete realize the importance of their classroom work and its ultimate importance in the true future of each player. We must emphasize to each athlete that class work comes FIRST in relationship to all other extracurricular activities.

### EXPECTATIONS OF COACHES

Coaches also represent their church and school and are to be a model for the highest standard of Christian sportsmanship. They must reflect the reputation and good name of Zion Lutheran Church and School. Coaches of Zion's athletic program will emphasize Christian values during practices and games and are expected to act in a manner appropriate for a program dedicated to living the Christian Faith we profess.

## PARENTAL EXPECTATIONS

Parental support and encouragement concerning the priority of academics is not only requested, but hopefully strongly enforced in the home environment. In order to ensure that academics be given the proper priority, it may become necessary to disallow participation in a given sport for a determined length of time. Eligibility requirements are discussed in more detail later in this manual. Also, the best example of Christian Sportsmanship can be set by YOUR attitude and behavior as parents and spectators. YOUR respect for the officials, coaches, other team members and their facilities is one of the best ways we can teach our children to do the same. Family and friends who attend games will be expected to act in a manner appropriate for a program dedicated to living the Christian Faith we profess. Such spectators must also realize that inappropriate behavior on their part could result in their son/daughter's suspension from playing. Any family member or friend that continues such behavior may be asked to leave the gym or playing field. The game may not continue until the person or persons leave and could result in the forfeiture of the game. Any family member or friend that consistently violates these regulations shall not be allowed to attend games until such time as determined by the principal or athletic director. Inappropriate behavior may include use of abusive language i.e. criticizing officials, coaches or players during or after the games. **At NO time should a parent/guardian approach a referee, opposing team coach or player to give**

**NEGATIVE feedback. Those kinds of concerns must be addressed via Zion's coaches or Athletic Director.** Family and friends are reminded that their action affect the reputation and good name of Zion Lutheran Church and School. What if my child does not get to play as much as parents or player think they should?? The amount of playing time is up to the coach's discretion. Usually it is during every regular season game (excluding final tournaments) as long as practice and player contract requirements are met.

Should a parent or guardian have a question, problem or complaint concerning Zion's athletic program, we follow the example set forth by Christ Jesus in Matthew 18. First contact the coach directly on a one-on-one basis. If a joint understanding is not reached, involve the Athletic Director. If the issue still can not be resolved, then include the Principal. The final step would be to contact Zion's Board for Christian Education.

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## BEHAVIOR OF OUR ATHLETES

One of the more important reasons for designing the TALLS League was to give the players, coaches, faculty, staff and parents a chance to gather in fellowship with one another while enjoying the opportunity to be a part of this competitive action. We want to instill this quality of Christian Sportsmanship (as stated in our Philosophy) IN ALL our athletes both on and off the field of play. We have established for ourselves at Zion this

high standard and will continue to do so as we teach our players the importance of Christian Sportsmanship (LIVING THEIR FAITH) no matter what the immediate circumstance. All students involved in extracurricular activities at Zion MUST AGREE TO AND SIGN A CONTRACT listing behavioral expectations and eligibility requirements. This is to ensure that players and parents know the privileges and responsibilities of participating in extracurricular activities at Zion. Players MUST realize that they represent Zion Lutheran School whether competing at home or away, whether on or off the field.

#### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The TALLS League has incorporated eligibility rules that when instituted in the individual schools, serve many purposes. The requirements are given to allow flexibility within each school's particular grading system while still maintaining the main purpose of eligibility requirements...an emphasis on academics. These requirements are designed to help students prepare for public UIL rulings which mandate good standing academically for extracurricular participants. Eligibility requirements for Zion Lutheran School as passed by Zion's Board of Christian Education are:

"In order to participate in Extracurricular Activities (volleyball, football, basketball, soccer, softball or cheerleading) at Zion, a student MUST have a 70 or above average in every subject at the end of each NINE WEEKS grading period during the course of that activity. Students NOT meeting this requirement will be declared INELIGIBLE for a period of three weeks following the NINE WEEKS grading period. Ineligible means not being at after-school practice or competing in games OR scrimmages. After this three week period, a student MUST have an average of 70 or above in THAT subject in order to regain sports eligibility." It is our hope that these requirements will be both helpful and are carried out in a manner that reflects the importance of academics and doing one's best on and off the field of play.

#### TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Transportation will be by SCHOOL BUS and car pooling. Car pooling will be used for some away games that involve fewer players. THEREFORE, ALL PARENTS THAT TRANSPORT PLAYERS MUST FILL OUT AND RETURN THE "ZION DRIVER INFORMATION SHEET" SENT HOME ON DAY ONE ! Each parent/guardian will also be signing release/permission forms for both school and athletics thereby giving your child permission to ride with another adult and releasing those drivers from liability. Written notices concerning transportation to "AWAY GAMES" will be sent home informing parents of a need for assistance in car pooling players. THESE NOTICES MUST BE RETURNED ON TIME OTHERWISE THE PLAYER WILL HAVE TO FIND THEIR OWN RIDE TO THE AWAY GAME AND INFORM

**THEIR COACH BEFORE DEPARTURE.** This is the only way the coaches can plan properly to assure that all players are transported and that parents know with whom their child is riding before the day of the game !!! Please plan ahead at home and at work so that we have an adequate number of drivers for each away game.

#### GAME AND PICK UP TIMES

It is the policy of TALLS that no athletic contest during the week shall begin before 2:00 p.m. This time does not include Saturday games. Departure and arrival times of all away games will be estimated to the best of the athletic director's ability and communicated to parents. Your understanding that these times are estimations is appreciated. It is very difficult to predict when a series of athletic competitions will end. It is REQUIRED that parents who are not transporting players make arrangements to have their child(ren) picked up upon arrival. On practice days, players must be picked up at the conclusion of practice. Coaches have numerous responsibilities and duties to complete after practice and are **NOT** available to supervise players when practice is over.

#### ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

An Athletic Booster Club (ABC) was organized at Zion during the 94-95 school year. Parents whose children participate in athletics ARE members of the ABC. An executive committee composed of two parents from each grade (5-8) will be chosen at the annual athletic banquet. This committee will meet in May to plan for the next school year. Two of the main functions of the ABC is to see that sufficient funds are available for Zion's athletic programs and to administer these funds. Concession stands are maintained during home games by members of the ABC. THIS INCLUDES BOTH BOYS & GIRLS DURING TOURNAMENTS!! Information concerning your assistance at the concession stand including a schedule will be sent home with players.

#### SPORTS FEE

Realizing that Zion's sports program could not survive on concession stand profits alone, the Athletic Booster Club petitioned Zion's Board of Christian Education to allow it (the ABC) to assess a sports fee to each player participating in volleyball, football and basketball. THESE FEES ARE NONREFUNDABLE AFTER THE FIRST LEAGUE GAME!! The consensus from player parents (ABC members) was that a sports fee is preferred over additional fund raising events by ABC members. Therefore, funding for the athletic program also comes from **a sports fee of \$50.00 per player** ONLY in volleyball, football and basketball. Scholarships will be provided for families who are unable to manage the fee amount for any of the sports. Please do NOT let the sports fee be a reason for NOT playing sports!!

GAME & PRACTICE ABSENTEE POLICY

Players who are absent for games or practices (some or all) for any reason deemed unacceptable by their coach will not participate in part or all of the next scheduled game. As a general rule, players will miss at least one quarter of playing time for every practice missed since the last game. However, the total amount of time missed will be up to the coach's discretion. **AN ATHLETE WHO HAS A FULL DAY ABSENCE AT SCHOOL MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN A GAME OR PRACTICE THAT DAY.**

SPORT'S DIRECTORY

Athletic Director: Mr. Roy M. Capdeville  
5951 FM 1105  
Georgetown, TX 78626  
512-869-1956

Boy's Coach: Mr. Steve Menke  
1801 Palm Valley Blvd. Apt. 215  
Round Rock, TX 78664  
512-244-598

Girl's Coach: Mrs. Nova Wright  
1170 FM 1105  
Georgetown, TX 78626  
512-635-4406

Assistant Girl's Coach: Miss. Stephanie Sauls  
3001 Bandy Lane  
Georgetown, TX 78628  
512-699-9050