



# COACH'S HANDBOOK

## MISSION STATEMENT

Good Shepherd Catholic School is a community dedicated to excellence in education which nurtures and motivates students to become intellectually curious moral leaders with a love of learning and faith in the future.

## PHILOSOPHY

Good Shepherd Catholic School fosters an environment where each student is given the opportunity to understand that he/she is created, loved and redeemed by God. The staff acknowledges the uniqueness of each child. We focus our collective concern on the entire life of the student: intellectual, spiritual, moral, social, psychological, and physical.

We support families, the first educators of children, as they encourage students to become involved, responsible and contributing members of the Church and the world. Through our Christ-centered curriculum, we guide students of varied abilities toward lifelong learning, academic excellence and responsible moral decision-making.

## OBJECTIVE

The Good Shepherd Catholic School Athletic Program was established to offer the students in grades 5 through 8 the opportunity to explore and improve their abilities in a variety of sports; the opportunity to compete in athletics while maintaining a code of good sportsmanship and Catholic values; and the opportunity to better understand and practice the concept of team spirit.

## STRUCTURE

### PRINCIPAL

The Good Shepherd Catholic School Athletic Program is administered by the Principal, who has the final authority regarding eligibility of students and coaches, schedules, use of school property and equipment, use of funds, and all policies regarding the program.

### ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

- The Athletics Director (AD) will implement the program and enforce all policies under the direction of the Principal.
- The AD will be responsible for schedules, equipment, qualifications of students and coaches, and ensuring all forms are properly filled out/signed/returned.
- A model of the school's Mission and Philosophy, the AD will serve as an example of respect and good sportsmanship. Any disagreement with school coaches, competing coaches, and/or game officials, will be handled professionally and respectfully. In the event of a difference of opinion between the AD and a member of the coaching/parent staff, the AD will discuss the matter in private, away from students. The only exception is a situation that could compromise the health/safety of students.
- The AD will always put the health/safety/welfare of the students first.

## PROCEDURES

- Students who are not picked up immediately after a practice or game at school will be accompanied by the coach to the School Extension Program. Parent/guardians will be financially responsible for any SEP fees, outside of practice time.
- In the event that a practice or game is canceled and the team coach is unavailable, students will be signed into SEP. Every effort will be made to avoid cancellations and students will be allowed appropriate opportunity and time to contact parents.
- Students who have missed one-half day (3 hours) or more of school because of illness or for an unexcused reason may not participate in practices and/or games occurring on that same day.
- All students in good standing will participate appropriately in each game. Students in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade should be appropriated equal playing time as is reasonable.

### COACHES/ASSISTANT COACHES

The Good Shepherd Athletic Program is dependent upon volunteers, and is appreciative of the time and effort expended by the coaching staff. Even though these are volunteer positions, the following guidelines must be adhered to for the welfare of the students involved in the program.

- Coaches will implement the program and its rules under the guidance of the Athletic Director. Any disagreements or difference of opinions will be taken up in private with the AD first, and then the Principal if no satisfactory solution is found.
- Coaches will not permit an ineligible participant(s) to participate in a game.
- Coaches will control their fans. Remember, as a coach you're responsible for your team; a fan's reaction often follows in step with your reactions.
- Coaches will have a complete First Aid Kit and Emergency Cards/Information immediately available at all practices and games.
- Coaches, it is mandatory that you stay after practice until all your players have been picked up by parents. Student-athletes must be supervised at all times.
- Coaches should attend in-service workshops, when able, that involve safety training and/or coaching methods.
- Coaches must have all volunteer paperwork completed and on file with the school office.