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Athletic Handbook

"For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. For this we labor and strive, that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe."

1 Timothy 4:8-10



Athletic Program Philosophy

The athletics program at Calvary Lutheran School is a Christ-centered program that seeks to honor God and reflect his love in all aspects of athletics. God has gifted His people with many special talents and abilities. To encourage the use of these gifts, Calvary has developed a sports program that offers opportunities for students to discover, develop, and improve their athletic abilities while learning principles of Christian living. We are committed to developing strong Christian leaders who will be an example for Christ and shine His light.

Athletics at Calvary Lutheran is considered an integral part of the educational program of the school. Athletics offers unique opportunities for growth not found in other areas of education. The skills, discipline, attitudes, and values developed through participation in an athletic program become a foundation for a person's life. Under a Christ-centered program, it is our priority to nurture athletes, not only in athletic ability, but in these principles and values as well.

Our purpose is to provide a program of competitive sports for our students by which they can grow physically, socially, and spiritually. We recognize each student as a precious and redeemed child of God, and as such, a very important person. Each student is an integral part of a team. We believe winning is an exciting result of hard work and effort. More important than winning is learning to utilize our blessings and talents as we play.

Expectations of the Athlete

Calvary athletes are first and foremost children of God. As such, we expect our athletes to conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner. Christian athletes must emulate Christ in everything they do, including how they compete, so others may see Christ and come to know Him. As part of this, we expect our athletes to show good sportsmanship to all people involved in their sport: teammates, opponents, officials, coaches, and fans.

Calvary athletes are students who must understand the importance of education and make sure that their studies are a priority over competition. They have a responsibility to themselves and to their teammates to work hard at school and keep grades at an acceptable level. Calvary athletes should take pride in themselves as students, athletes, and Christians. God Himself commanded us to strive for excellence in whatever we do. Colossians 3:23 says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." We expect our athletes to display attitudes that reflect this. Calvary athletes will:

- Work to be the best players they can be, play hard, and give best effort regardless of score
- Develop an unselfish attitude and be a team player
- Respect authority of the coach and the officials
- Help and support fellow teammates
- Display Christian sportsmanship at all times

- Attend practices regularly and be there for all games
- Perform student responsibilities to the best of their ability

Expectations of the Coaches

Coaches are to be members in good standing of Calvary or her sister congregations and are to be Christian models for the players by demonstrating Christian values and sportsmanship. Coaches must be servant leaders, seeking to help and serve their players first above themselves. Athletics provides a unique opportunity for coaches to influence the lives of athletes. Coaches are not focused solely on winning competitions but on making a difference in the lives of young athletes. We expect Coaches to create an environment centered on Christ, one that encourages physical and spiritual growth, and that builds trust, love, and support.

Coaches are responsible for the safety and well-being of their players. They are teachers and, as such, their goal is to help players grow and develop their skills. They are dedicated to helping each individual attain his or her highest level of performance. Coaches will be knowledgeable about their sport. They will organize practice time for effective instruction and development. They will give individual attention and help to each player, be enthusiastic, and strive for excellence.

Expectations of the Parents

Parents' conduct is at all times a reflection of their Christian faith and values, and they serve as models for their children. Parents represent not only themselves and their families, but the team and school as well. Parents should respect coaches as the leaders of the team and do their best to support coaches' efforts. We expect parents to be supportive of their child's efforts as an athlete and to show good sportsmanship at all sporting events. Taunting, harassing, criticizing, or abusing officials or other team members will not be tolerated. All parents and fans are to consider opponents as friends and guests. We strive to treat them with due courtesy and respect.

Parents play an extremely important role in the athletics program. Their support and cooperation are vital and mean a great deal to athletes and coaches. Parents are needed to give help by driving to games, helping supervise and chaperone, supporting the coaches and the team, and volunteering to assist in a variety of other ways. Parents' willingness and cooperation are integral to the success of this program.

Program Focus

All levels of Calvary Lutheran athletics follow the athletic philosophy stated above, making sure to keep Christ and good sportsmanship at the center of everything. Still, our program has different emphases depending on age level. This allows children to have fun, learn the game and improve skills, and enjoy the competitive nature of sports in an appropriate manner. In grades 4,

5, and 6, the focus of Calvary Lutheran School athletics is on **SKILL BUILDING**. In grades 7 and 8, the focus of Calvary Lutheran School athletics is on **COMPETITION**.

Eligibility

Academic Eligibility

All participants in Calvary Lutheran's athletic program are students before they are athletes; therefore, there are academic standards they must meet to be eligible to participate. All students are invited to take part in extra-curricular activities, but a satisfactory level of academic achievement must be maintained. **Any student whose academic average in any subject drops below a 70% will be subject to a one-week suspension from participation.** This suspension will remain in effect until the student's academic average is elevated to or above 70%. If a quarterly report card has a grade below 70%, the athlete will be ineligible for the first two weeks of the next quarter.

During a week of ineligibility, the student may practice with the team, but may **not** participate in any games or tournaments. Students will be expected to attend all athletic contests while ineligible even though they may not compete.

If a student becomes academically ineligible for a total of **four weeks** during any given athletic season, the student will be removed from the team for the remainder of that season.

The following pattern will be used to determine eligibility for each established period:

- Midterm Grades – Ineligible if grade below 70% in a core course.
 - ✓ Mandatory 1 Week ineligibility
 - ✓ Eligibility not restored until student grade average rises above 70%
- Quarter Grades – Ineligible if grade below 70% in a core course.
 - ✓ Mandatory 2 Weeks ineligibility

Conduct Eligibility

A student may likewise be declared ineligible for extracurricular participation as a result of disciplinary action. Upon the third (3rd) detention assignment in a quarter, he/she is suspended from participation. Each case of ineligibility shall be considered on an individual basis with the best interest of the student serving as the determining factor.

Students who do not meet eligibility requirements will receive a **Notice of Ineligibility Form** on the first school day of the period for which they are ineligible. The form will list the areas of concern and the teacher(s) involved. This form should be signed by the student and a parent and returned to school the following day.

General Athletic Rules

1. Calvary athletes will abide with the expectations specified in this handout. If the coach or Athletic Director determines that an athlete is demonstrating an attitude or behavior contrary to those expectations, they will be subject to suspension or expulsion from that sport or activity at the sole discretion of the coach, Athletic Director, or Principal.
2. Attendance at games is mandatory, even if serving a two-week suspension for grades. If there is a conflict, it is essential that the student contact the coach and receive permission to be excused from the practice or game.
3. Students need to be at practices and games on time and need to be picked up promptly afterward.
4. Students must have an **Emergency Medical Release Form** on file with the coach.
5. Students and Parents/Guardians must have an **Athletic Handbook Agreement Form** signed and on file with the Athletic Director.
6. Any medical or physically disabling conditions must be communicated to the coach prior to participation.
7. There is a monetary fee per athlete, per sport. Payment must be collected before a uniform can be given. Please make checks payable to Calvary Lutheran School and can be turned in to the school secretary.

Transportation and Facilities

Transportation to home and away games will be provided by the parent. If the parent is unable to provide transportation, that parent is responsible for coordinating alternate plans for transportation.

At the current time, Calvary Lutheran School does not have the facilities necessary to conduct practices and home games for all sports. Therefore, it is necessary to use other facilities in the area as our venue for practices and home games. Transportation to and from practices and home games will need to be provided by a parent.

Contact Names and Numbers

- Mrs. Cindy Perkins, Athletic Director *Email:* cbrasier@juno.com *Cell:* 214-803-5645
- Mr. Jim Henrickson, Principal *Email:* jhenrickson@caltex.org *Cell:* 214-549-9197

Conclusion

The foremost goal of the Calvary athletic program is to afford students the opportunity to worthily use their God-given talents. While we will strive to make your child's experience in the athletic program pleasurable, we know that in any human endeavor there are bound to be flaws. If you have questions or concerns during the course of any season, please speak with the coach directly, then with the athletic director when necessary. If you have not received a satisfactory

response after speaking with the coach or the athletic director, then you may speak with the principal. Please follow these proper channels when addressing your concerns. Remember, we are all sinful human beings who make mistakes, but we are forgiven and redeemed by our Savior Jesus Christ!

GO KNIGHTS!

