

Introduction

Immanuel Lutheran School provides its students with educational and spiritual guidance, as well as social and physical activity necessary for their development as Christian individuals. The physical activities provided by Immanuel fall into two categories:

1. Physical Education
2. Interscholastic Sports

These two categories of opportunity provide physical activity and involvement at levels best suited for the child's safety, skill level, and opportunity to have a successful and rewarding experience.

Physical Education

Physical education is a mandatory part of the school curriculum. Physical activity is provided in gym classes twice or more times per week for all grade levels. The curriculum is designed to give students a means of using physical abilities in movement activities, conditioning exercises, drills and games. Competition on a limited basis is included but only in the framework of games played.

Interscholastic Sports

The interscholastic sports program at Immanuel refers to the competitive sports between schools, as an after school extra-curricular event. Having school teams provides the student body with events beyond the scholastic to develop school spirit.

Philosophy

One of the major goals of the athletic program is to help students learn to apply Christian principles to their lives. Dealing with success, as well as frustrations and failure, understanding team-work, and maintaining a proper Christian attitude in sports and in daily life is our goal.

The interscholastic athletic program strives to develop technically correct physical skills, physical conditioning, commitment to team concepts, self-discipline, priority-setting, the encouragement of others, perseverance, and the earning of playing and a position on the team.



TRI-COUNTY LUTHERAN LEAGUE

The athletic directors of the Tri-County Lutheran League are happy that you have chosen to be a part of your school's athletic program. This can be an enjoyable and meaningful experience for you as an athlete, parent, fan, or coach.

Athletics provide wonderful learning opportunities for everyone. Consider the following:

- Athletics provide players, coaches, and parents alike an opportunity to witness for Christ through actions and words.
- Athletes are taught to accept decisions and responsibilities in a Christ-like manner, whether in victory or defeat.
- Athletics provide for focused skill development and give participants satisfaction in accomplishment.
- Athletics provide for a student's growth in physical ability and the opportunity to use his or her God-given talents.
- Athletics strive to develop technically correct physical skills, physical conditioning, commitment to team concepts, self-discipline, priority setting, the encouragement of others, perseverance, and the learning of playing as a participant of a team.

The Tri-County Lutheran League expects that everyone will uphold and exemplify the highest standards of behavior and sportsmanship both on and off the fields of competition.

Acceptable behaviors for all associated with our league including athletes, coaches, parents, and fans:

1. Serve as a Christian example.
2. Follow the instructions and rules of league officials and coaches.
3. Respect the efforts of officials, coaches and all athletes.
4. Respect the rules of the game including the rulings of the officials.
5. Use encouragement to athletes, coaches, and referees without profanity.
6. Follow all safety rules.

What a privilege we have to be a part of a Lutheran athletic league. We pray that God will protect our athletes from injury as they compete, help us to witness our faith through our words and actions, and that we would have safety in all of our travels.

Participation and Team Selection

The interscholastic program is designed for students who demonstrate an emotional and mental readiness for competition, and who possess a satisfactory level of physical and academic competence.

Numbers of athletes to place on any team is an ever-present concern of coaches and parents alike. This decision takes into consideration manageable numbers for supervision and instruction, and the ability to provide quality practice and game playing time. Some sports, such as basketball and volleyball, lend themselves to a limited number of players.

If the need for try-outs should arise, team selections would be made by the head coach and would be based on such criteria as emotional and mental readiness for competition, physical competence and skills, experience, attitude, coachability, cooperation, conditioning, attendance, and priority-setting. Students who would not be chosen for teams would be encouraged to assume team-related roles such as managers, scorekeepers, and statisticians.

Academic Eligibility

Participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege, not a right. If a student/athlete allows his/her grade point average to fall below 2.00 on a 4.00 scale or receives an "F" in any subject, that student will be placed on academic probation for a two week (ten school day) period.

If at the end of the two week probationary period the student has not attained a 2.00 GPA or raised the "F" to a passing grade, the student will be suspended from the sport for the next two weeks.

If the student still does not qualify, the student is ineligible for that sport for the rest of the season.

Academic requirements also include the designated benchmarks in AR, Math Facts in a Flash, and Type to Learn. If an athlete fails to meet the requirements in these aforementioned areas, he or she will not be allowed to play until the designated benchmarks are met. Once the designated benchmarks are met, the athlete may return to the sport immediately.

Grades and curriculum benchmarks will be assessed at midterm and at the end of each quarter. Generally these dates fall on a Friday. The ten day probationary period will not begin until the following Monday.

Parents, coaches, and students will be notified by the athletic director regarding an athlete's academic eligibility at the start of and conclusion of the probationary period.

The GPA earned for a marking period carries over from one sport season to the following sport season for determining eligibility.

There is a limit of one probation and one suspension per sport per year.

School and Athletic Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is important for success in school and a requirement of the state. Notification of absence procedures are outlined in the parent handbook. It is the student's responsibility to make up all missed assignments and tests within a reasonable period of time.

A student who is unable to participate in physical education, should not participate in any after school athletic function.

If a student is not in school for a full day due to illness, that student may not participate in afternoon or evening activities. If a student is not in school on Friday due to illness or an unexcused absence, that student may not participate in any Saturday activities. If for some reason there is no school on the day before a game, students may still participate the following day. Excused absences (funerals, doctor's appointments, and family emergencies) are an exception.

If a student has been suspended, that student is also ineligible to practice or play in any sport or related school activity.

An athlete has a responsibility to his/her team and coach to attend all games and practices. If an athlete is aware of an impending absence in advance, he/she should speak to his/her coach. The coach shall be the **sole** determiner of disciplinary action, if any, for absences from games and practices.

Parental Role

None of the interscholastic program is possible without the support and help of the parents. Assistance is required in every area: driving, operating concession stands, readying fields and facilities, clean-up, coaching, supporting the individual athlete, attending sport activities, providing support for the cheerleaders, and reinforcing the responsibilities of the student in Christian behavior and understanding. Some of these responsibilities include the following:

1. Teach by example - a Christian attitude toward all. The school can only support and encourage the basics as taught in the home.
2. Assist the school to establish proper priorities with respect to church, family, peers, studies, and play.
3. Encourage and participate in the development of the student athlete's abilities.

4. Support the student's commitment to groups and teams.
5. Develop within each athlete foresight, which enables him/her to accept responsibility for both individual and group actions.
6. Make a commitment to help the athletes by attending sports events, driving, working concession stands, assisting in clean-up, and encouraging coaches.
7. Instill in the athlete good health habits toward food, sleep, and exercise. Discourage the use of cigarettes, liquor, and drugs.
8. Enthusiastically support teams at athletic contests without being over-zealous or critical of coaches and officials.

In general, the parent must exemplify everything that he/she wants the student athlete to be, and must participate in both home and school activities, if the student athlete program is to be successful.

Parent-Athlete-Coach Relationships

In order that we may foster a God-pleasing spirit of cooperation and willingness to work together, all involved must realize that all people are sinners, full of many imperfections and shortcomings. Coaches will endeavor to train, guide, lead, and discipline in a Christian manner.

The Board of Education has initiated a "due process" procedure to handle concerns that do occur. Please allow at least 24 hours to pass before bringing a concern to the coach's, athlete's, or parent's attention. First, talk to the individual involved face to face. "Mentioning" often gets misinterpreted. Second, follow-up your meeting, and if you are not satisfied, meet one more time. At this meeting, have a brief written statement of the problem and a way to solve it. If the problem still exists, set up an appointment with the athletic director and/or the principal where all parties may discuss the issue. If all else fails, the final step is to go to the Board of Education, so they can review and attempt to resolve the concern.

Physicals and Commitment Forms

All parents are required to submit to the school office a health form with doctor's signature indicating that the athlete has undergone a recent physical examination (after June 1st to be current for the upcoming school year) or a physical waiver form indicating special health concerns. Parents and athletes will also be asked to sign commitment forms. Parents will be assigned to appropriate committees for each student in each sport.

These forms are attached to the end of this handbook. If you need new forms, please contact the school office. Failure to supply these forms will prevent the athlete from participating with the team or competing in interscholastic competition.

Both the athletic physical and consent form must be submitted to the athletic director participation in any sport.

Athletic Dress and Equipment

Team uniforms are issued to and become the responsibility of each team member, in terms of laundering, care, and upkeep. All team uniforms are to be returned by the dates indicated at the end of the sport season or face daily disciplinary action. Coaches will determine proper practice dress and will take appropriate action. For sanitary reasons, each team member should supply his/her own water bottle.

Program Offerings

Immanuel participates in the Tri-County Lutheran League (T.C.L.L.). The league includes the following schools:

Western Conference

Bethlehem Saginaw
Peace Saginaw
St. Lorenz Frankenmuth
St. Peter Hemlock
Faith Bay City
Holy Cross Saginaw
Immanuel Bay City
St. Paul Saginaw

Eastern Conference

St. Lorenz Frankenmuth
St. Paul Flint
St. Paul Millington
Christ the King Sebawaing
St. Michaels Richville
St. Paul Lapeer
Trinity Reese
Immanuel Frankentrost

Interscholastic sport offerings and grade levels involved are as follows:

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Grade Levels</u>
• Soccer	5-8
• Girl's Basketball	"A" 7-8 "B" 5-6
• Boy's Basketball	"A" 7-8 "B" 5-6
• Volleyball	"A" 7-8 "B" 5-6
• Track	5-8
• Girl's Soccer (a one day tournament in the spring)	5-8
• Boy's Volleyball	5-8

(a one day tournament in the spring)

Due to the size of our school, grade levels per sport may vary from year to year at the discretion of the athletic director.

OBJECTIVES OF THE TRI-COUNTY LUTHERAN LEAGUE (June, 2013)

The Word of God is also the Word of Life and a Christian philosophy of life should govern and pervade every aspect and dimension of our congregational programs which certainly includes the inter-scholastic athletic activities of our individual congregations. We should strive to meet, not in theory, but in practice the following goals:

SPIRITUAL

1. To teach our athletes that talents and skills are God-given.
2. That all of life is worship, and conduct and athletic participation should be God-pleasing.
3. To nurture a mutual Christian respect and fellowship, not only among athletes and students, but parents and coaches as well.
4. To develop a mutual respect for personal and public property.
5. To provide Christian discipline when there is a violation of Christian conduct and philosophy, whether it involves athletes, students, fans, or coaches.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL

1. To develop character traits such as: self-discipline, responsibility, leadership, teamwork, and self-control under pressure, defeat, and failure, as well as proper acceptance of success and victory.
2. To provide the principles of sportsmanship and fair play.
3. To encourage total participation under the competitive principle whenever possible.
4. To encourage athletic directors to provide support for intramural athletics for non-participants.
5. To stimulate and encourage school spirit and pride, but to also foster mutual respect for the pride and spirit of others.
6. To teach a beneficial use of leisure time with a Christian atmosphere.

PHYSICAL

1. To develop to a greater degree the fundamental skills and knowledge of the rules.

2. To help prepare our students for participation in advanced levels of school athletics, such as high school and college.
3. To provide for, to the best of our abilities, the training, safety, and protection of athletic participants.

EVANGELISM

1. To provide a Christian witness to all our members and to our communities, and to demonstrate by example the fruits of the Christian faith even in athletic competition.

Revised & approved, June, 2013

Athletic Awards

Each student athlete is recognized at the Parent/Athlete Sports Night with the presentation of an athletic award. Respective teams, coaches, and parents are invited to participate in season-ending get-togethers. Parental input is invited and welcomed regarding these matters.

Eighth grade girls and boys are eligible for the Randy A. Burk Memorial Award. This award is based on participation in numerous sports over the respective athlete's years, athletic accomplishments, leadership, Christian conduct, and evaluations by principal, teachers, and coaches. This award will be announced at the Congregational Picnic.

Practice and Game Schedules and Attendance

Game schedules for league play are attached to this handbook. A few changes may be added throughout the year. Coaches will provide monthly game and practice schedules to all team members.

Players must practice to play. A player missing one or more practices can expect to play proportionately less time during an actual game. Players should not have siblings or friends waiting for them during practice. No one is allowed in the gym or on the field during practice except players. There is no supervision available for non-roster players.

Conduct for Home and Away Games

1. Arrive no earlier than thirty (30) minutes before the activity is scheduled to begin, unless directed otherwise by school personnel or coaches.
2. The approximate ending time for an activity will be announced before the event takes place. Transportation arrangements should be made ahead of time so that a telephone call is not necessary.
3. Players must find their own rides to and from away games. If a player does not arrive at home or away games on time, he or she may not be allowed to register for playing the game. Asking teachers/coaches to provide transportation places these people at

certain financial and insurance risk in the unlikely case of accident. These people are not able to supervise non-participating students when they are actively participating in the sports program or coaching.

4. Regardless of whether the activity is at our own school or at the site of another school, please stay inside the building (for inside events) or on the school grounds near the activity (for outside events). You will be asked to leave if discovered in areas other than those designated without authorized permission. Repeated disregard for this rule will result in loss of privilege to attend games or events as a participant or spectator.
5. Come to cheer and support our school athletic events not to ridicule the other team or as play time for yourself. Plan to behave or plan another activity for yourself.
6. Refrain from booing. You may be asked to leave the activity for this display of unsportsmanlike activity.
7. Be a good sport and supportive spectator at all times. You are a representative of our school.
8. Loud, boisterous conversation and other attention-seeking behavior is not appreciated and not allowed.
9. Be courteous to the visiting spectators and players. You will appreciate this effort in return when you visit their school.
10. Stand at attention when and if the American flag is presented. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Join in prayer with teammates.
11. Remain seated during games or presentations. Do not roam around the school. You are welcomed at the event as a participant or a spectator only.
12. Students and parents are responsible for the conduct of their guests. Parental or adult supervision is required for small children (ages 1 to 8) at school events.
13. The school is the wrong location for any type of public display of affection. Intimacy and physical contact will be treated as a disciplinary matter.
14. Admission will be denied to any student involved in profanity or obscene gestures or cheers.
15. Umpires and referees are to be treated with respect regardless of student or adult opinions of their professional judgment.