

DAVID'S STAR LUTHERAN SCHOOL COACHES' HANDBOOK Revised 2019

Introduction

We are truly blessed at David's Star. The Lord gives us many opportunities to serve Him in many different ways. As we continue to grow, the need for lay coaches to instruct our interscholastic teams will become necessary.

This will not be an easy commitment. Depending on the sport, you can expect to spend at least 3 hours a week or more at practices, matches, or games. As coaches, you are responsible to the athletes, their parents, other coaches, the Athletic Director, the Principal, and the Board of Education. Most importantly, you are responsible to God Himself to teach these athletes what is God-pleasing when it comes to sports and competition. Our mission statement must be reflected in all we attempt to teach the athletes, whether it is curricular, co-curricular, or extra-curricular. By volunteering to serve, you take on a large responsibility.

These are the policies and procedures that you should know upon becoming a coach at David's Star. These policies make it possible for us to carry on an organized, well-planned, extra-curricular sports program that attempts to meet one goal established for our school - to prepare children for Christian living.

Please familiarize yourself with the contents of this booklet and follow the procedures listed. If you have any questions concerning the policies and procedures, please contact the Athletic Director.

Philosophy

- A. The purpose of interscholastic athletics is for the child to grow in his/her skills and abilities, and to have the opportunity to use those skills in meaningful competition against other teams.
- B. The child will develop the fundamental skills at the B team level through active participation. Those who desire to continue to develop their skills at a more competitive level will have the opportunity to do so on the A team. It is our goal to give all team members a chance for meaningful participation in all games and practices.
- C. Since the teams our children compete against have the same general attitude toward interscholastic athletics, we look forward to enjoyable competitive games. We expect our players, coaches, and spectators to conduct themselves in a Christian manner at the practices and games.

Coaching Eligibility

All coaches, whether head or assistant, at David's Star are to be members in good standing at David's Star Lutheran Church. Exceptions will be approved by the School Board. All lay coaches and assistant coaches shall be approved by the Board of Education before they are allowed to begin coaching. It is the Athletic Director's responsibility to gain this approval. It is also the Athletic Director's responsibility to fill any vacancies on the coaching staff with candidates qualified to coach the sport in which there is a need for help. All coaches or assistant

coaches must have a routine background check before they are allowed to help coach the students at David's Star.

Coaching Code of Ethics

- A. Focus on Christ - The coach must recognize and portray a Christian attitude in light of 1 Corinthians 10:31: "So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God,"
- B. Integrity - The coach must act with integrity in performing all duties owed to the athletes, the sport, other members of the coaching staff, and the public.
- C. Competence - The coach must strive to be well prepared and current in order that all duties in the respective discipline are fulfilled in accordance with the mission of David's Star.
- D. Athlete's Interest - The coach must act in the best interest of the athlete's development as a whole person.
- E. Respect for the rules - The coach must accept both the letter and the spirit of the rules that define and govern the sport.
- F. Respect for Officials - The coach must accept the role of officials in providing judgment to ensure that the games are conducted fairly and according to the established rules.
- G. Responsibility to other Coaches - The coach's conduct toward other coaches must be characterized by courtesy, good faith, and respect.
- H. Personal Conduct - The coach must maintain the highest standards of personal conduct and support the principles of fair play.

Practice Information

Coaches should be prompt in the times they begin and end practices. Parents do not appreciate having to wait because a practice started or ended late. Coaches are expected to attend each practice that is scheduled for their team.

If you are unable to hold a practice, please contact the Athletic Director immediately so that practice may be cancelled. The parents and athletes must be made aware so that proper transportation may be arranged for the child after school.

To schedule extra practices, extra games, or a tournament, please consult with the Athletic Director first.

Practice and Game Conduct

Much of what we want athletes to learn in terms of attitude can most simply be taught by example. If we want our children to show good sportsmanship, then be a model of behavior that you want them to exhibit. If we do not want them to complain about calls, show them what you expect by being an example for them and not complaining about calls either.

Not only are the athletes watching you; the parents are also watching you. Coaches must, at all times and in all situations, be in control of themselves first, if you expect the athletes and parents to be in control as well.

One of our goals at David's Star is to prepare our children for Christian living. The following list of guidelines will assist us in working toward the common goal we have for our children.

1. Coach from the viewpoint that, in all we do, we are to glorify God.
2. Teach the children that, no matter where they are, they represent their parents, school, and most importantly, their Savior.
3. Coach from a positive point of view, not a negative, encourage, don't discourage.
4. Realize you have a responsibility to the athletes to be a good example in all you do.
5. Coach from the point of view that winning is important, but not the most important.
6. Always strive to do your best, and encourage the athletes to do the same.
7. Encourage good sportsmanship by being a good sport.
8. Always work to refine or improve the athletes' abilities and knowledge.
9. Teach athletes to be gracious winners and losers.
10. Teach athletes the correct forms and techniques for the various skills in your sport. 'Force' them to use those skills.
11. Teach athletes the team concept, "There is no "I" in the word team."
12. Teach athletes there is no shame in losing, only in not doing their best.
13. Coaches should have the goal that every player will play in every game.

Order of Authority

This is a listing of the order of authority that is to be followed:

Board of Education, Principal, Athletic Director, Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches.

Parental Communication/Disputes

See the School Handbook for dealing with disputes for the proper procedures. This is the policy we will follow with our coaches.

- A. The coach should communicate to the parents:
 - a. philosophy of school and coaching
 - b. expectations of the players
 - c. location and times of all practices and games.
 - d. team requirements, i.e., practices, special equipment
 - e. event of an injury
 - f. discipline
- B. Expectations from parents include:
 - a. concerns regarding coaching philosophy and expectations should be expressed to the coach during a scheduled appointment.
 - b. immediate notification of any scheduling conflicts.
 - c. notification of any injuries to the athlete.
- C. Appropriate topics for parents to discuss with coaches are:
 - a. treatment of the child, mentally and physically
 - b. ways for the child to improve
 - c. concerns about the child's behavior
- D. Inappropriate issues for parents to discuss with the coach would include:
 - a. playing time.
 - b. team strategy.
 - c. play calling.
 - d. other student athletes.

Equipment and Storage

Coaches are to make certain that equipment is being used and not abused. Whatever is taken out for practice must be put back where it belongs. Athletes may not use any other equipment other than the equipment needed for that practice.

If any piece of equipment is missing or damaged, please contact the Athletic Director immediately so that it can be found, repaired, or replaced.

If any equipment is needed, please ask the Athletic Director first to see if funds are available.

Coaching Clinics

Occasionally, the Athletic Director obtains information for opportunities to attend coaching clinics. We hope that our coaches will dedicate themselves to attending such clinics to further educate themselves.

Coaches should also encourage athletes to attend clinics or camps made available to them through KMLHS or other recommended organizations.

Student Safety

Coaches are responsible for the physical safety of the athletes on their teams. As you plan your practice, keep the athlete's safety uppermost in your mind. Be certain that you are informed of any health problems or concerns your athletes may have. Report injuries immediately to the Athletic Director and to the parents of the injured athlete. An Incident Report must be prepared immediately and given to the Athletic Director.

Closing

As coaches, we are representing our Savior, as well as David's Star Lutheran School. Our words and actions will influence the athletes we work with as well as the people in the stands. We need to set an example for them in practices and at games.

We also need to be setting examples for them by attending church regularly. Sports are not as important as taking the opportunity to worship our Savior, and set an example for these athletes as children of God. We do ask that our coaches and assistant coaches be members in good standing at David's Star. We can't be good Christian examples if we ourselves are not firmly grounded in God's Word, knowing what God expects of us.