

***TIMOTHY  
LUTHERAN  
SCHOOL  
ATHLETIC  
HANDBOOK***

***BLUE SPRINGS, MISSOURI***

***“TOUCHING LIVES FOR CHRIST”***

Dear Parents:

This is your copy of the Athletic Handbook for Timothy Lutheran School. It has been compiled so that you may become familiar with our program, goals, and expectations for athletic participation. Please read all of the following materials carefully with you son or daughter.

We hope to see you at as many events as possible. Your support is always welcome and greatly appreciated.

Serving the Master Teacher,

Edwin F. Kuerschner/principal  
Kim Myers/athletic director

### Mission and Philosophy Statement

“Touching Lives for Christ” is the mission of Timothy Lutheran School. Our ministry is founded on the Great Commission which Jesus gave His church—to make disciples of all people (Matt. 28:18-20). As disciples of Jesus, we are committed to:

Gathering for worship and fellowship in Christ. Hebrews 10:25  
Growing in Christ-like living through God’s Word. Colossians 3:16  
Going as a witness to all that Jesus is Lord and Savior. Matt. 10:8  
Giving joyfully in service to God and His people. Acts 1:8

## **A Christian Perspective of Athletics**

Timothy Lutheran School is here to help train youth for a life of service to God and man. As Christian athletes, we are commanded by God himself to strive for excellence and competence in our area of participation. The ultimate goal of our striving must be to give all glory to our God, who is the source of all our talents.

Athletics at Timothy places a Christian into a special position. This position gives us a special opportunity to witness our faith through our actions and words, both on and off the athletic field. It gives us the opportunity for individual growth through Christian fellowship. We show our Christian character in both winning and losing.

### **Our Program**

Timothy participates in the Kansas City Lutheran Athletic League (KC LAL). In this participation we cooperate with the league rules and procedures. These are identified within the rules of participation and procedures.

We offer the following sports through the KCLAL:

Volleyball----girls grades 4-8.

Soccer-----boys grades 4-8.

Basketball---girls and boys 4-8.

Track-----girls and boys 4-8.

Cheerleading girls only--3-8.

### **Expectations for the Coaching Staff**

It is the intent of Timothy to have all coach's part of the school faculty/staff. At times it may become necessary to have parents help. It would not be in the best interest for a parent to coach a sport in which their child is participating. Despite good intentions to treat all players equitably, there are often disagreements over actual or perceived favoritism.

#### **The Christian Coaches' Creed:**

I believe that the sports by Timothy Lutheran School have an important place in education and therefore I pledge myself to cooperate with other educators to administer sports so that the value of athletic competition will be understood and accepted as an integral part of Christian growth.

I believe that Christian sportsmanship is learned. I realize that I am a model to officials, players, and spectators. I believe that my actions will have a lasting effect on those who observe me. Therefore I will...

--Accept and support the decisions of the officials.

--Contain my emotions and actions to the best of my ability in order to be a witness of my Christian faith, my church, and my school.

- Exercise patience, tolerance, and diplomacy in my relationships with all players, co-workers, parents, officials, and spectators.
- Teach the game for the benefit of all and seek to coach according to the spirit of the rules, remembering that the attitudes of the members of both teams are equally important.

I believe that I have a unique calling and opportunity as a coach to influence student athletes. My life as a Christian serves to show them the joy and importance of being a follower of Jesus Christ.

### **Standards for Coaches:**

As Christian role models for students at Timothy Lutheran School, coaches are responsible for the following guidelines:

- >Dress professionally and appropriately for games.
- >Tobacco is not to be used during practices or games.
- > Foul and abusive language or insulting gestures are not to be used or directed towards students, officials or any other person associated with the activity.
- >Abusive physical contact with students is PROHIBITED.
- >Taunting officials or other participants or any other person associated with the activity is unacceptable.
- >Conduct, which may result in fighting or incites individuals to anti-social behavior, will not be tolerated.

### **Support Volunteers:**

These helpers are parents or students who fill an important niche in the practical administration of home games and other areas. Support volunteers are selected, inserviced, and scheduled by the AD. In general their responsibilities include but are not limited to the following items.

- Serving as a model for the student athletes and other parents by upholding the precepts of the Christian Coaches' Creed.
- Being responsible in carrying out the duties that have been assigned.
- Being punctual for scheduled events or informing the AD of delays or conflicts at the earliest possible time.
- The positions filled by support volunteers include:
  - >Scorebook Keepers – Who are trained to keep the basketball and/or volleyball scorebooks.
  - >Line Judges – who assist in observing out of play balls in soccer and volleyball.
  - >Gatekeepers – who sell tickets and control entry into events.
  - >Hall Monitors – who supervise, control, and direct crowds during events.

## **Expectations for the Student Athlete**

### **Commitment and Dedication**

We consider the student athlete to be someone special, someone who can take on and manage added responsibilities. The responsibilities are accepted in order to broaden the athlete and further develop strength of character. It has been aptly put, "You owe it to yourself to always do whatever you do in life to the best and fullest of your ability."

By being an athlete you are representing your school and your self. You automatically assume a leadership role when you are on a team. Because of this leadership role you can contribute to school spirit by your performance and high ideals. The younger students are watching you. Do not let them down! Give them high ideals to copy.

### **Conduct:**

--All athletes, coaches, and fans are to conduct themselves in a manner as to reflect the Christ-Centered objectives of Timothy Lutheran School.

--Any student or coach receiving an unsportsmanlike conduct/technical foul will be required to sit out the remainder of that game. If it happens a second time during that same season the student/coach will be required to miss the remainder of that game and entire next game. If the student/coach receives a third one, they will be suspended for the rest of the season.

--Everyone is to speak in a Christian manner at all times to coaches, players, game officials, and all involved with Timothy's Athletic Program. Anyone who does not conduct themselves in a Christian manner may be suspended for 1 game. If it happens a second time the person may be suspended from the practices and games for the rest of the season.

--If a fan speaks in a non-Christian manner, he or she may be asked to leave the building to help NOT promote such conduct. Remember we are examples.

### **Attendance:**

This needs to be a matter of priority for you. Being a part of a team carries with it a certain responsibility to the rest of your teammates. As such, a high priority should be placed on attending all meetings, practices, and games. It is understood that today's society is fast paced and conflicts will arise, but please do all you can to schedule appointments away from practices and games. You can be considerate by communicating directly with your coach when conflicts arise.

If a student athlete is absent from school for any reason on a game day, participation for that day will not be allowed. Attendance for practice should be excellent. Unexcused absences or tardiness could result in ineligibility.

>One unexcused absence=1 game suspension

>Two unexcused absences=2 game suspension

>Three unexcused absences=an individual is off the team.

**AGAIN, IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ATHLETE/PARENT TO PERSONALLY INFORM THE COACH IN ADVANCE OF ANY ANTICIPATED ABSENCE OR TARDINESS.**

**Eligibility:**

--Academic Eligibility – All Timothy students working toward academic potential will be eligible for athletic activities at Timothy.

--Suspension – All students participating in school sponsored athletic activities who have below average grades in TWO OR MORE subjects (below C-) or who have a failing grade in ONE OR MORE subjects will be placed on suspension for a period of TWO WEEKS. Suspension means that such student cannot practice with the team or squad, play in any games or participate in the group's activities during those weeks of suspension. Forms will be furnished for the classroom teachers to keep records of any low grades. During the weeks of suspension, the student must raise all below average grades to a C- or above. If class work has not been successfully improved, the student moves into dismissal.

--Second Suspension – If a student is suspended from the team for a second time during the season he/she will automatically be dismissed from the team.

--Dismissal – Means the student is removed from the activity for the duration of the sport's season.

--Exceptions – Under special circumstances, the principal, teacher, and the athletic director may alter the probation or suspension policy on a week-to-week basis.

**Fees:**

Each student athlete will be required to pay a \$25 participation fee, to be paid before the activity begins. This one time fee will cover all sports the student athlete participates within that school year. This fee will help cover cost of uniforms and officials.

**Health and Medical**

Being in good health is important for the student athlete. Hidden health concerns may be amplified by the physical exertion of athletic competition. Although physical exams may not seem necessary at this age, we do require all our athletes to have a physical and to pick up a form from the school office for the Doctor to sign. We include all grades (4-8) on a 3-year rotation.

**Permission Slips**

A permission slip must be completed and returned for each sport in which the student athlete is involved. These forms will be distributed at the first organizational meeting held for a given sport. (After that they are available from the school office.) A completed and signed form must be on file before the student athlete will be allowed to practice.

*We Give God All Praise and Glory for our Abilities!*