

Shepherd of the Hills

Christian School



Sports Handbook
2015-2016

General Information

Shepherd of the Hills Christian School (SHEPHERDCS) exists to provide a nurturing, Christian educational environment which assists families in their God-given responsibility of preparing children for an earthly life of Christian witness and eternity with their Lord and Savior.

Philosophy of Athletics

The athletic program at Shepherd is an extracurricular activity offered, currently, to students in 4-8 grades in which children grow as Christian athletes. Skills learned include teamwork, fair play, discipline, hard work, sportsmanship, and self-sacrifice. The atmosphere of the athletic experience should be God-pleasing with athletes, coaches and fans striving to be Christ-like in their actions.

Team Philosophy (JV)

The object of the Junior Varsity team is to learn the sport, including: basic skills, basic strategies, rules, offense and defense, playing hard and having fun. The focus is more on learning these skills while becoming more competitive in preparation for varsity sports. Coaches will try to give athletes (5-6 graders especially) a reasonable amount of playing time in different situations throughout the year so long as the athlete regularly attends and makes good effort during practice, follows school guidelines and listens to the coach. We do not promise equal playing time for all athletes. During tournaments, competition is elevated so athletes are not guaranteed playing time as we strive to be competitive. The start of Christian sportsmanship is to be learned and demonstrated at this level.

Team Philosophy (V)

The varsity level of competition represents a step forward toward preparing athletes to the demands of a high school sport. Shepherd does not make cuts in any sport or level. Competition is much stronger at this level. Athletes will continue to be taught basic skills but will also be taught more advanced skills and strategies. Christian sportsmanship is still a priority at this level and is taught and expected to be demonstrated. All athletes will be given some playing time throughout the season, but do not expect playing time to be equal. Team needs come before individual needs at this level. During tournaments, competition is elevated so athletes are not guaranteed playing time as we strive to be competitive. The start of Christian sportsmanship is to be learned and demonstrated at this level.

Athletic Director

The Athletic Director will be responsible for securing coaches for each sport; organizing sport schedules; arranging for officials; organizing concessions help; monitoring each sport, coaches, players, and fans; and maintaining equipment. The Athletic Director is also responsible for conflict resolution on teams.

Coaching Staff

The coaching staff at Shepherd is on a stipend basis. The staff is comprised of qualified individuals who understand the principles of the individual sport, who have a strong Christian background and a desire to share that faith along with their knowledge of the sport.

All coaches are required to interview with the Athletic Director and are subjected to a background check. They are also required to complete Safeguarding Our Children. (No exceptions.)

Parents' Sportsmanship

Parents are expected to be supportive of their children's efforts by being at games, picking children up on time, being a supportive spectator (cheer for our team, not against the other team or referee,) and discouraging unsportsmanlike conduct. Parents should teach their children to be humble winners and gracious losers. Shepherd expects parents to support coaches especially in front of students. If an issue arises during a game, parents may talk to coaches after waiting 24 hours. Please do not address issues immediately before or after a game; coaches are thinking about how to best coach!

Conflict Resolution

If a conflict arises, between any individuals, we will follow the following guidelines recorded in Matthew 18:15-17.

First, the two parties will see if they can resolve their differences. Second, the Athletic Director will intervene to determine if a resolution can be made. Third, a pastor will be brought on as a mentor and advisor. If all of these steps fail to resolve the issue, the school board will review the issue at their next meeting.

Schedules

The Denver Area Lutheran Schools (DALs) sets the main schedule during tri-annual Athletic Director's Meetings. After this, the Athletic Director may schedule additional games. Scheduling of practices takes place after games are set with the consultation from the coaches to best fit the schedules of all. A DALs end of season tournament will also be scheduled by dates (not times) on the schedule.

Game Days and Times

Games will usually be scheduled as follows: (exceptions can happen)

Fall Sports- Tuesday and Thursday

Winter Sports- Tuesday and Friday

Most times games will start at 4:00 pm with JV teams followed by Varsity teams. Tournaments usually fall on a weekend (Friday/Saturday)

Transportation

Transportation to and from all games and practices is the responsibility of the parents. Coaches may, but do not have to, arrange rides to and/or from games. Many times carpooling takes place. Please be considerate to make sure your child is picked up on time from practices and to games when the coach asks.

Volunteering

Parent volunteers are necessary for a successful season. Parents are needed to help with concessions, at the scorer's table, cleaning up and driving. A schedule should be available to

sign up for needed helpers for the season. Please be on time for your shift. If something comes up and you are not available, please find someone to cover your spot. Thank You!

Medical Treatment

We pray that no injuries will occur during any season; however, if medical care is needed, we will follow the emergency procedure policy.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible to practice or play in games, each student must turn in the following:

- Sports Fee (\$100 for Shepherd Students, \$150 non-students) per student per sport
- Code of Ethics, Signed (one per year)
- Sports Physical

All of these may be turned into the office. Checks are to be made payable to Shepherd of the Hills Christian School. On the memo line of your check please write **(Sport name) Fee-(Last Name)**. Example *Basketball Fee-Smith*

Other Eligibility Factors

- Suspension—Misbehavior in school or in practice may result in a suspension from a game. The suspension may only be served at a game the athlete attends.
- Absence from Practice or Games—Coaches will have discretion, with Athletic Director's approval, to suspend players because of unexcused absences from practices or games for an appropriate amount of time.
- Absence from School— If you miss more than three hours of school, you are considered absent from school and will not be allowed to practice or play in games that day without Athletic Director's approval.
- Grades— a student must maintain a 70% average in each class and may not have an incomplete in any class.