

# GREEN PARK

L U T H E R A N S C H O O L

## 25-26 Athletic Handbook

Dear Green Park families of student-athletes,

The Green Park Athletic Department is pleased that your student-athlete is part of the over 120 members of the Green Park student body taking part in the athletic programs offered by Green Park Lutheran School. The information in this handbook is designed to assist parents as they work with the teachers and coaching staff in order to make Viking athletics and the Green Park Athletic Department the best it can be! This handbook is meant to help provide guidance and set a structure by which teachers, parents, and coaches can begin or continue the process of nurturing our young student-athletes through what can be some exciting, stressful, and challenging situations. The Athletic Handbook is a resource for you through every athletic season, and we encourage you to review and refer to this handbook throughout the athletic season.

The Athletic Handbook offers information regarding student-athlete, parent, and coaching responsibilities, eligibility requirements, proper protocol for dealing with issues that arise during the season, and more. The handbook is meant to be your primary resource should you have questions about Green Park athletics. The Green Park coaches and the Green Park Athletic Department are also available for additional information and discussions regarding questions that may arise not covered in this handbook.

The Green Park Athletic Department believes that the opportunity for participation in a variety of interscholastic sports is a vital part of the student's educational experience. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to God, the activity, to the student body, to the community, and to the students themselves. These experiences contribute to the development of learning skills and emotional patterns, and physical fitness that enable the student to make maximum use of his/her education.

While this handbook deals with the athletics offered by Green Park, there is a ministry aspect to the Green Park Athletic Program as well. Like all things associated with Green Park, our ministry to you is also relational and educational. We love and care about your children and look forward to working with you this year as we build on these associations to the glory of our God.

God's Blessings on you and your student-athlete as you begin this season.

The Green Park Athletic Department

## Philosophy

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Green Park student activities are considered co-curricular to the school's program of education. They provide experiences that will help to develop each young person physically, mentally, spiritually, socially, and emotionally.

Currently in our soccer, volleyball, and basketball programs, "A1" teams play at a competitive level, while "A2", "B", and "C" teams play at a participatory/developmental level. This means that student-athletes on the "A1" teams are not guaranteed playing time, while the "A2", "B", and "C" teams receive as close to *fair* participation in regular season games. **Tournaments are an exception to the previous statement, fair playing time will not be guaranteed.**

## Forms

*Physical/Parent Permission.* Each student-athlete participating in athletics at Green Park must have a current physical/parent permission form on file with the school nurse before he/she is allowed to try out or participate on a team.

*Medical Emergency Form.* Emergency Forms are copied and the copy is given to the coach during the season. The copy is returned to the Athletic Director and destroyed once the season is completed.

## Teamwork

We want to foster teamwork in every aspect of playing a sport: between coaches and parents; coaches and student-athletes; student-athletes and parents; and student-athletes and teammates. Coaches work hard at building a rapport with and among student-athletes. Coaches have to feel that you believe they are doing their best for the student-athletes as a team, not just individuals. Please support the coach(es) in all situations; discuss concerns without your child present.

Team unity is stressed in every sport. You can have an abundance of talent, but having the same goal is essential to good team unity. The student-athletes need to realize that they are part of a team. They are taught to support each other and help those lacking in certain skills and/or abilities. We hope that fans will be able to foster the team spirit by being friendly and supportive of everyone; being examples to the student-athletes, to fans from other schools and to each other.

### Student-Athlete Responsibilities

Student-athletes need to attend **all** practices and games. Inform the **coach directly** well in advance if he/she absolutely cannot attend a practice or a game. In cases of illness, please contact the **coach directly**. If a student-athlete attends the entire day of school, he/she is expected to be at practice. Injured student-athletes should attend practices in order to learn even from the sideline. Student-athletes who have two un-excused absences will be excused from the team.

Student-athletes are NOT to attend the practice/game if not in attendance for *at least the last ½* of that school day. For tournament weekends, permission from the Athletic Director is required prior to a Saturday or Sunday game if the student-athlete was not in attendance on the last school day of the week.

If a student-athlete receives a suspension, he/she will not be allowed to participate in the game that day. If there is no game scheduled for that day, he/she will not be allowed to participate in the next game.

Student-athletes are to give their all during practices and during games. He/she is to be attentive and respectful to their coaches and their teammates. Problems in this area could result in loss of playing time or removal from the team.

Student-athletes are to discuss concerns (if any arise) with the coach rather than other players. It is essential to attempt to see things as a teammate and through the eyes of the coach. It is strongly recommended that parents encourage their student-athlete to address concerns with the coach before parents intercede.

### Parent Responsibilities

Parents are responsible for the transportation of their student-athlete to practices and games. Please be on time to pick up your student-athlete from practices and games. If your student athlete is not picked up within 15 minutes after a practice, you will be billed for childcare costs according to our After Care fees. Please work out any car pool arrangements well in advance of games and practices. No phone calls will be allowed during the school day to work out ride arrangements unless a car pool person is out ill. For liability reasons, we do not allow coaches to transport student-athletes.

A parent meeting will be held early each sport season. Information from this handbook and other vital information regarding the specific sport are covered during this meeting. **It is expected that parents know this information and have read through this handbook with their student-athlete.**

Parents need to be in control of siblings that are brought to the games. Children are to remain in the gym during these events. The hallways are off-limits during the games.

Parents are expected to fulfill duties throughout their student-athlete's sports season(s), including, but not limited to, line judging, scorekeeping, and bookkeeping. A signup sheet will

be provided early in the season for parents to sign up for dates and duties.

If a parent has a concern, the first person they should discuss it with is the coach. As stated earlier, this discussion should take place privately—NOT before or after a game (unless prior arrangements have been made with the coach). **Please observe the 24-hour rule:** wait 24 hours after a situation to let any emotions subside. If the concern is not addressed, then the Athletic Director is the next person to contact. *We follow Matthew 18 when addressing any concerns within the Green Park Athletic Department (and Green Park Lutheran School).*

Show respect to the officials and opponents. Games do not take place without referees. Officials are hard to find at our level. Opponents are people just like our own families who love and care for their children. Good will for our school can be extended by using restraint, understanding, and praise. Recognize good plays by both teams and cheer our Vikings on no matter what the score is.

Remember to keep your emotions in check. These games are fun. Every game there will be a winner and a loser, however positive things can result from playing to compete, learning from mistakes, and trying your best. Encourage your student-athlete with positive comments, support them and listen to them. These are children still learning not just how to play a sport, but also learning how to participate on a team.

### Uniforms

Student-athletes are responsible for the care of their uniform. If they misplace or damage a uniform, they will be responsible for the full replacement cost.

Please wash all uniforms in COLD water and do not put them in the dryer. This will lengthen the life of the uniforms. DO NOT IRON THEM.

Uniforms should be returned clean and folded at the end of the season.

**If a student-athlete comes to a game without their correct uniform, they will sit on the bench with the team and will not be allowed to play during that game. No phone calls will be allowed during the school day to ask for forgotten uniforms to be brought to school.**

### Athletic Eligibility Policy

The goal of this policy is to treat each student-athlete on an *individual* basis as *fairly* as possible. Any student-athlete meeting any of the following criteria during a season will be referred\* to the Eligibility Committee.

1. A student-athlete receives two after-school detentions.
2. A student-athlete receives a grade of two Ds or one F on a report card.
3. A student-athlete receives an In-School or Out-of-School Suspension.
4. A student-athlete is working well below their potential.
5. A student-athlete is continually disruptive or is not following the school and/or classroom rules.

The committee may consist of the Athletic Director, Assistant Athletic Director, coach, homeroom teacher, and the referring teacher(s). A letter will be sent to the parent(s) informing them of the committee's decision if action is taken. The parent is to return notification of receiving the letter as directed by the letter. The parent has three school days to discuss the committee's action if there is any question. Please contact the Athletic Director via email or phone call. The Green Park Athletic Department may include Green Park Administration at this point.

*\*referral does not mean disciplinary action will be taken*

### St. Louis Area Lutheran League Rules: Playing on Other Teams

Teams that are eligible for city playoffs will not be permitted to play in separate leagues before the Lutheran League Season. Participation in summer or after season leagues is allowed. Teams may participate in other leagues during the season as long as they do not surpass the allowed number of games as designated in the league rules.

Student-athletes playing on A1 Green Park Teams are allowed to play on other teams during the Lutheran League Season as long as no more than two teammates play on the same team. This applies to volleyball and basketball. For soccer, the number of student-athletes on the same team increases to five.

PENALTY: Suspension from the league playoffs that season or the next.

### Final Thoughts

With athletics comes scorekeeping. With scorekeeping comes competition. We encourage our student-athletes to "win" on all levels. However, competition is healthy when it is kept in perspective. Coaches get to know their team and in doing so make goals that are appropriate for them. When those goals are met, games are considered successful. Although winning the game is a goal, there are other goals that parents and student-athletes must keep in mind.

Over the years, the trends and attitudes developing in America for amateur athletics have become increasingly negative. In general, they are hurting the high ideals that sports are supposed to develop in our children, and we do not want our student-athletes hurt by these pressures. We are DIFFERENT. *We represent Christ*. We must look to Christ as our example. Let your light shine to everyone as you watch, support, and guide your student-athlete through athletics at Green Park.

**Each family will sign a commitment form, which states they understand and will comply with the expectations of the handbook, including the eligibility policy before the first game.**

**Please discuss any situations with the Athletic Director prior to the start of the first game.**