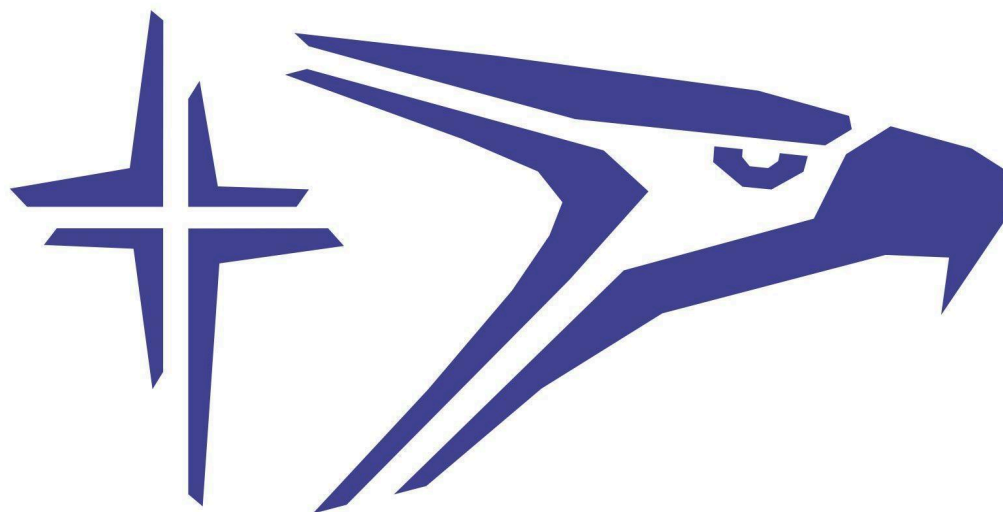


Trinity Klein Lutheran School

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



Trinity Klein Lutheran School
2024-2025

TRINITY LUTHERAN ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

The coaching staff of Trinity Klein Lutheran School (TKLS) has and will continue to dedicate itself to the development of the total student athlete. The spiritual, physical, and emotional growth of each person is conscientiously considered when planning and implementing our athletic program. We believe that sports are a gift from God and participation in sports is always to be to His glory. We acknowledge that participation in the TKLS sports program is totally voluntary, is a privilege, and is open to eligible students without discrimination on the basis of sex, color, race, religion, or national and ethnic origin.

Scripture will be the foundation for teaching commitment, trust, encouragement, love, humility, and forgiveness as important individual characteristics of who we are as redeemed children of our Heavenly Father. These characteristics are an important aspect of our team concept and important in the way we display our faith through athletics.

TKLS strives to assist young boys and girls to become successful citizens in our highly competitive society. The athletic program is one component of the process to achieve this outcome. Tryouts are a part of competition and a part of the process for forming TKLS athletic teams. Through this process, some students may not be selected for a team. Such decisions are a usual and normal part of the tryout procedure. We, as a coaching staff, will establish criteria for selection and will do everything possible to make the tryout process fair and accurate.

We recognize that students may be very disappointed if they are not included on a team after tryouts. We believe that the students and parents need to discuss this emotional risk in their family setting before students engage in tryouts. We also recognize that parents have the responsibility to prepare their children emotionally for the tryout process and to determine whether or not it is in the child's best interest to tryout.

Our staff is aware of the individual needs of youth, as well as, the social implications of being able to work as a member of a team. Team members will be given the opportunity through coaching, extensive training, and the use of excellent equipment and facilities to improve and develop toward their maximum athletic potential if they dedicate and commit themselves to our program.

We believe that student athletes are precious gifts of God. Selection to a team must never become an excuse for arrogance or taunting of other students, nor should lack of selection to a team become an occasion for blaming and resentment of others. We recognize that parents are ultimately responsible for loving and guiding their students through all experiences of success and failure. Parents have the opportunity to model how to appropriately handle both accomplishments and disappointments with a mature Christian attitude and perspective.

The TKLS athletic program **has distinguishable levels** based on our participation in the **Houston Area Private Schools (HAPS)** Conference and also based on our philosophy. Our primary objective of our **younger, developmental (Division II and III) teams** is to give the student athlete an opportunity to develop as a player, improving specific sport skills, improving physical conditioning, and gaining valuable game experience. Our **Division I teams** are committed to competing at the highest level where the student athlete competes for a position on the team and playing time based on the athlete's attitude, skill level, athletic ability, and ability to compete and perform in game situations. We believe that playing time is determined at the coach's discretion. We understand that these situations can sometimes become emotional issues. We also recognize that this is an opportunity for parents to model appropriate behavior for students in using the principles of Matthew 18.

ROAD TO VICTORY

Trinity Klein Athletic Teams will strive to build and develop the following Christian characteristics:

COMMITMENT

We are committed to Christ and Christian principles above all things. We are committed to our teammates and to the sport we are participating in.

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 1 Corinthians 9:24

TRUST

We are honest with each other, listen to each other, and respect each other so that trust is developed. We trust in God to provide us with our daily needs.

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

ENCOURAGEMENT

We build each other up by encouraging and reminding each other of our strengths.

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Ephesians 4:29

LOVE

God's love for us is unconditional. Our love for one another is not tied to success or anything accomplished. We strive to show our love for each other because Christ first loved us.

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18

HUMILITY

We give God the glory for the abilities he has given to us, the success we achieve, and for our victories.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Ephesians 4:2

FORGIVENESS

We admit failure and ask for forgiveness when we've done wrong to our teammate or opponent.

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

Booster Club

As the parent/guardian of a student involved in any of our athletic teams, you are automatically a member of the Booster Club. The Booster Club is led by a number of appointed positions with the Athletic Director serving as advisor.

Booster Club's purpose is to "encourage, promote and help support" Trinity's teams and athletic program. Boosters operate concession stands and collect admissions at our home games. Booster sponsors the sale of Spirit shirts and fan wear. They organize and sponsor the Trinity Klein Invitational Basketball Tournament, a JV Volleyball tournament, a Cross Country meet, and many other events, such as Middle School Field Day for 5-8th graders held at Concordia Lutheran High School.

GREETINGS FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Just as Trinity Klein Lutheran School has a rich heritage as an academic institution, our school has also been blessed with an outstanding athletic tradition. My challenge, to both parents and athletes, is that you use the opportunity athletics provides to glorify Christ and build each other up in our faith.

The foundation of our athletic program is not to win games at any and all costs. Instead, we strive to follow the attitude Jesus exemplified to his disciples and to the people he taught. When they ask the question, "How can we be great?" The answer is we must serve one another. We serve our teammates! We show service to our opponents, and to anyone we encounter as representatives of Trinity Lutheran School. A group of athletes dedicated, disciplined, and concerned about each other; having faith and trusting first in our Lord and also in our teammates is the foundation of our program. This is the attitude we follow.

We pray that our program will be a blessing to you. We hope that you will be actively involved by supporting our teams, volunteering at games and events, and by attending as many of your child's games as possible.

In Christ's Service,
Nathan Frerking

TRINITY KLEIN ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

1. Age Requirements.
 - a. **All athletes must be fully enrolled students at Trinity Klein Lutheran School.**
 - b. **No student should be more than 14 years of age on September 1st of the calendar year in which they play.**
2. Academic Requirements.
 - a. Extra-curricular eligibility will be reviewed twice every grading period, at the mid-quarter Grade Check (grades 6-8) or Progress Report (grade 5) and again at the end of each quarter with the Report Card.
 - b. A student will be ineligible for extra-curricular participation if they receive two (2) or more failing grades (F) on a Grade Check or Progress Report; or one (1) or more failing grades (F) on a Report Card.
 - c. The ineligible period for the athlete will begin the day after the report card or grade check is issued. Three weeks following the issuance of a report card or grade check, any student ineligible must have each teacher sign an eligibility form provided by the Athletic Director. If the student receives the signature and current grade from all of his or her teachers, demonstrating that the student is passing all classes, **the student will regain eligibility and may participate the day after submitting the form to the Athletic Director for approval.**
 - d. **If the student does not meet the eligibility standards twice during an athletic season, then the student may not participate for the remainder of that athletic season.**
 - e. **A student who is ineligible at the time of tryouts for a sport may attend the tryout to be evaluated. If that student makes a team roster, they may not participate in practices or games until they regain eligibility as described above in section 2.c. Any other failure to meet the eligibility standards during that season would be the second occurrence and the student may not participate for the remainder of that athletic season.**
 - f. Eligibility status for any player participating on a team applying to attend a national tournament will be determined on the date the application is sent.
3. **School Attendance and Extracurricular Participation.**

Students must be in school attendance for a minimum of half day to participate in an extracurricular practice or a game that same day.

 - a. **A student must arrive and be checked in no later than 11:30 AM and stay for the remainder of the school day.**
 - b. **A student that has been in attendance from the beginning of the school day must not be checked out and depart before 11:30 AM.**

Please refer to the attendance policy in the School Handbook for clarification. Exceptions to this policy, if not illness related, will be considered (such as attending a funeral), on an individual basis.

ATHLETIC POLICIES

1. **Athletic Participation Form - Every athlete must have all four pages of this form (including the physical exam) completed, signed and on file with the athletic director before they may participate in any practice session, scrimmage, or game. This form has four important parts and all must be completed.**
 - a. **Emergency and Insurance Information**
 - b. **Athletic Tryout Permission**
 - c. **Student Athletic Contract**
 - d. **Medical History and Physical Examination.**
2. Practices and games are mandatory. Two (2) unexcused absences will result in suspension from one game and (3) will result in dismissal from the team. **Communicate any absences, either excused or unexcused, with the coach prior to any team activity, practice, or game.**
3. Uniforms are handed out at the beginning of each season. Each athlete is responsible for laundering his or her own uniform during the season and turning it in at the end of the season. If the uniform is lost during the season, the participant will pay the replacement cost. If another uniform is available it will be issued.
4. TKLS will not issue a uniform or other school issued equipment to any athlete who forgets to bring it on the day of the game, or on team picture day.
5. All athletes must be picked up within 15 minutes after practice from the area designated for their team by their coach. If athletes are not picked up in 15 minutes, the coach will send the student to extended care, where extended care charges will be applied.
6. Students in extended care will be released 15 minutes prior to a starting practice time or designated departure times for away games so that they can change clothes and get ready for the game or practice.
7. Any student who has practice or games that begin at or before 4:00 will be supervised by the coach from the time school is out until the end of the practice or game. Any student having practice or game beginning after 4:00 p.m. will need to check-in to extended care after school or leave campus until the practice or game. Students found loitering around campus prior to their practice or game will be checked in to extended care.
8. All parents with a child in a sport will assist with concession stand, admission, supervision duty, or in some cases, sport specific duties, or pay a \$225.00 fee per child for each sport in which they are participants. This service must be provided by the athlete's parents for each sport season. You will be given the opportunity to select your schedule times of service just prior to the season using an online volunteer scheduling website. There is an optional \$225.00 buyout fee that can be made at the Booster Club General meeting. However, no-shows for assigned concession service will be assessed \$75.00.

9. If school transportation is used to take students to an away contest, the students must return to school with the provided school transportation unless:
 - a. The parent notifies the coach, either written or verbally, that the child is leaving with the parent after the contest.
 - b. The student may leave the contest with another family only if they are listed on the student's Athletic Participation Form as having permission to transport their child.
10. **The use of cell phones and other unauthorized personal electronic devices are not allowed at practices, games (home or away), or on school vehicles. Coaches may give permission for their use only to contact a parent or guardian. TKLS will take no responsibility for electronic devices damaged, stolen, or lost.**
11. Coaches have the authority to close a practice to spectators. If parents are watching a practice, siblings should not be allowed to play or wander in the gym or other areas of the FLC.
12. Trinity Klein offers these sports for student participation: volleyball, cheerleading, cross country, tackle football, basketball, soccer, swim, track & field, baseball, and softball. All of these sports require their own separate tryouts to qualify for the squad/team.
13. **Trinity Klein Lutheran School is a member of the Houston Area Private Schools (HAPS) League.**
 - a. **HAPS League Levels of Play**
 - i. **Division I - primarily 7th and 8th graders.**
 - ii. **Division II - primarily 6th and 7th graders.**
 - iii. **Division III - primarily 5th and 6th graders.**
 - b. **When considering team formation, Trinity's highest priority is to place a team in each league division, when offered by the league.**
 - c. **Other factors involved in team formation include number of players wanting to participate in the sport, coach availability, practice facilities, and HAPS scheduling and acceptance.**
 - d. **Being on a team one year does not guarantee selection on the same team the following year.**
14. **SELECTION PROCESS FOR ATHLETIC TEAMS**
 - a. Evaluators will be selected to observe and score each participant that tries out for a sport. The number of evaluators, and those selected to evaluate will be approved by the Athletic Director.
 - b. Final decisions on team formation and players selected for teams will be reviewed and approved by the Athletic Director and School Administration Staff.

The numbers of participants per sport listed are guidelines only.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

A Team = Gr. 6-8, minimum of 8 players and maximum of 12 players on team.

B Team = Gr. 6-7, minimum of 8 players and maximum of 14 players on team.

C Teams = Gr. 5-6, minimum of 9 players and maximum of 14 players on team.

Other combinations of teams may be formed and entered in the HLAC league as a non-official member.

CROSS COUNTRY

One program = Gr. 5-8 no minimum or maximum.

Compete in Boys D1 (5th- 8th) and D2 (5th and 6th only) and Girls D1 (5th- 8th) and D2 (5th and 6th only)

BOYS FOOTBALL

A Team = Gr. 7-8, minimum of 18, no maximum.

B Team = Gr. 6-7, minimum of 18, no maximum.

CHEERLEADING

Varsity = Gr. 6-8, **Fall and Winter seasons**, minimum of 6, maximum of 16 cheerleaders.

JV = Gr. 5-6, **Fall and Winter season**, minimum of 6, no maximum.

Some years, it may be necessary to combine all into one squad, if there is not enough interest to form each Varsity and JV squads.

BASKETBALL

A Boys = Gr. 6-8, minimum of 10 players and maximum of 12 players on team.

B Boys = Gr. 5-7, minimum of 10 players and maximum of 14 players on team.

C Boys = Gr. 5-6, minimum of 10 players and maximum of 14 players on team.

Other combinations of teams may be formed and entered in the HLAC league as a non-official member.

A Girls = Gr. 6-8, minimum of 10 players and maximum of 12 players on team.

B Girls = Gr. 5-7, minimum of 10 players and maximum of 14 players on team.

C Girls = Gr. 5-6, minimum of 10 players and maximum of 14 players on team.

Other combinations of teams may be formed and entered in the HLAC league as a non-official member.

SOCCER - moves from Fall to Winter Sport

Boys Team (11 vs. 11) = Gr. 5-8, minimum of 16 players and maximum of 22 players on team.

Girls Team (11 vs. 11) = Gr. 5-8, minimum of 16 players and maximum of 22 players on team.

BASEBALL

A Boys Team = Gr. 5-8, minimum of 12 players and maximum of 16 players on team.

B Boys Team = Gr. 5-8, minimum of 12 players and max. of 16 players.(if needed)

SOFTBALL

Girls Team = Gr. 5-8, minimum of 12 players and maximum of 16 players on team.

TRACK & FIELD

One program = Gr. 5-8 no minimum or maximum.

Compete in Boys D1 (5th- 8th) and D2 (5th and 6th only) and Girls D1 (5th- 8th) and D2 (5th and 6th only)

NATIONAL LUTHERAN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The ultimate goal of Trinity Klein Athletics is to teach, model, and encourage characteristics listed and portrayed on the "Road to Victory ". It is our belief that a trip to a national tournament gives greater opportunity to instill and build these characteristics in our student athletes.

Purpose and Objectives

1. To set a standard of excellence that would require dedication and commitment to reach the goal of qualifying the A Boys and A Girls basketball teams for the National Basketball Tournament held **in Fort Wayne, IN** the last week in March.
2. To provide motivation for excellence and reward proper behavior. To give students the opportunity to demonstrate responsibility.
3. To give the students a memorable experience and to provide an opportunity to grow in our relationships with team members, coaching staff, and parents.
4. To visit a different part of the country, providing an out of school educational experience.
5. To represent our school and community at a national event providing positive public relations to the community.
6. To provide an opportunity for spiritual growth through devotions, prayer and a dynamic worship experience with student participation.

GUIDELINES FOR INDIANA BASKETBALL TRIP

1. The TKLS **A Boys** or **A Girls** basketball team may make an application for the National Basketball Tournament if the team meets the criteria of finishing First, Second, or Third in the **Texas** State Tournament.
2. Cheerleaders (consisting of 7 & 8 Graders only) with at least 4 squad members, may go to the National Tournament at coach's discretion if both basketball teams qualify for the National Tournament, with final approval from the Athletic Director.
3. Each Coach will determine if the application will be made for the National Tournament if the team qualifies by Trinity's standards to make the application.
4. The principal will review the application and make final decisions concerning individual player participation and whether the application is submitted.
5. The Board of Christian Day School will hear any appeals to the process.