

# Bay Pines Lutheran School Athletic Handbook 2025-2026



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## Athletic Association

Bay Pines Lutheran School is a member of the South Atlantic Lutheran School Association (SALSA). This athletic league consists of WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) and ELS (Evangelical Lutheran Synod) grade schools. Even though we do not play them in all sports, we still consider our fellow WELS schools as part of our league. The league is split into two parts, East Coast and West Coast. Participating schools in this league are as follows:

| West Coast            |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Bay Pines Lutheran    | Seminole, FL       |
| St. Paul's Lutheran   | Beverly Hills, FL  |
| Northdale Lutheran    | Tampa, FL          |
| Ascension Lutheran    | Sarasota, FL       |
| East Coast            |                    |
| Peace Lutheran        | Kissimmee, FL      |
| Christ the King       | Palm Coast, FL     |
| King of Kings         | Maitland, FL       |
| New Hope Lutheran     | West Melbourne, FL |
| Divine Savior Academy | Doral, FL          |

We will also play local schools in the Pinellas area. See individual interscholastic schedules for a list of schools that will be played for that sport.

### **Purpose of the South Atlantic Lutheran School Association (SALSA)**

- To promote Christian sportsmanship.
- To help develop moral, ethical, spiritual, and physical characteristics of the child.
- To promote Christian fellowship.
- To develop a better understanding of the sports that the conference offers.

## The Athletic Program of Bay Pines Lutheran School

### Goals of the Athletic Program

The athletic program is a vital part of our school's program of Christian education. It helps accomplish these major goals of our school:

- Students glorify God by developing and using their God-given talents.

- As Jesus grew “in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men” (Luke 2:52), students have opportunities through the athletic program to grow spiritually, intellectually, physically, and socially.
- Students go with the Gospel by representing their Savior and school with God-pleasing effort and conduct in all athletic activities.
- Involvement in the athletic program provides opportunities to learn the benefits of responsible team play and cooperation. It provides a vehicle for learning mental and physical self-discipline, loyalty, personal pride, pride in the school, respect for others, and the will to win. It proves that hard work and dedication produce wins not necessarily just in the win-loss column. Participants are encouraged to develop their God-given talents and abilities to their fullest.

### **Motivation of the Athletic Program**

- Jesus’ love for us as demonstrated by his death on the cross motivates us in all aspects of Christian living.

*For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15*

- God has blessed each Bay Pines’ student and expects him to use the gifts he has been given in a faithful manner.

*Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. 1 Corinthians 4:2*

- Using these gifts to their fullest potential gives glory to God.

*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31*

### **Components of the Athletic Program**

Recess (all grades): Students are given daily opportunities to develop their social and athletic skills through play in an informal, supervised environment as well as teacher-driven games and sports.

Physical Education (grades K-8): Our physical education program is designed to expose each student to a variety of activities, teach basic skills, improve physical fitness, learn rules and tactics, and to provide a supportive and safe environment in which to practice skills and participate in the activities. Through teaching physical education we hope to encourage overall physical wellness and promote healthy life habits.

Interscholastic Sports (grades 4-8, track for grades 3-8): Interscholastic athletics provides opportunities for our students in grades 4 - 8 to participate in various sports at developmentally appropriate levels. Students are expected to give glory to God by demonstrating Christian sportsmanship, cooperative play, commitment to the team, and adherence to rules and guidelines as established by each coach. Teaching sportsmanship and fair play is important, as is honing the skills and teamwork of all players. Bay Pines Lutheran School offers the following interscholastic sports:

- Fall: Girls Volleyball, Coed Soccer, Coed Flag Football
- Winter: Coed Basketball
- Spring: Coed Track and Field

## **Interscholastic Sports Expectations**

The following are the basic expectations for all coaches, players, and parents of Bay Pines Lutheran School involved with interscholastic sports.

### **Coaches, players, parents, and spectators are all expected to:**

- Conduct themselves in a God-pleasing manner in all things and at all times and recognize that their behavior represents their Lord, family, and school.
- Properly attribute success to God's blessing and good team play.
- Treat opponents with respect and recognize them as fellow children of God.
- Be gracious in losing and take responsibility for shortcomings and mistakes.
- Be present and on time at scheduled events and faithful to their commitment to the team.
- Give thanks to God for all the opportunities offered in the athletic program.
- Strive to have fun coaching, playing, or watching sports.

*If anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. 2 Timothy 2:5*

### **Our coaches will:**

- Realize that they are Christian role-models for their players.
- Encourage their players to fully develop and use their God-given abilities.
- Strive to use constructive criticism in working with their individual players and team.
- Communicate with the parents of their players the rules and guidelines for the sport.
- Prepare diligently and teach their players the fundamental skills and strategies of the sport.
- Model a respectful attitude toward officials.
- Make sure that the facilities of Bay Pines and other schools are treated with care and respect.
- Recognize the unique abilities of their players and strive to put players in game situations where they are prepared to succeed and help the team reach its goals.

### **Our student athletes are encouraged and expected to:**

- Realize their role as ambassadors for their Savior and school.
- Compete as part of a team, not for self-glorification.
- Strive to understand their roles on the team and put team goals before their own.
- Respect and accept the decisions of the officials without question.
- Compete with Christian sportsmanship.
- Give glory to God, demonstrating humility in victory and grace in defeat.
- Maintain grades according to policy.
- Respect and care for the facilities and equipment of Bay Pines and other schools.
- Attend all practices and games, excusing their absences with the coach as far in advance as possible.
- Respect and follow the directions of the coach.
- Understand that participation in interscholastic athletic teams cannot compromise academic performance.

### **Parents involved with the athletic program are encouraged and expected to:**

- Realize their role as ambassadors for their Savior and school and as role models for their children.
- Support the school, its coaches, and its programs.
- Avoid the temptation to coach their children from the sideline during games.
- Not speak negatively about coaches, other athletes, or officials.
- Be encouraged to support Bay Pines' teams with positive, enthusiastic cheering.
- Realize that cheering against other teams and officials is inappropriate.
- Transport their children to and from away games or arrange transportation for them.
- Strive to understand the role their child has on the team and support the goals of the team.

**Spectators at our athletic events are encouraged and expected to:**

- Represent our Lord and school in a Christ-like manner.
- Welcome visiting fans, players, and coaches, using the opportunity for fellowship with fellow Christians.
- Encourage participants in the games
- Respect calls of referees trusting that they are doing their best.
- Keep the facilities clean and follow rules for food and drink at home and away games.
- Supervise children not participating in games.

**Athletic Eligibility Policy**

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege. Students must therefore maintain good academic standing in order to participate. A student that receives a grade of D or lower on the last quarterly report card is ineligible until that student rectifies that grade. Students may also be deemed ineligible due to behavioral reasons, including but not limited to detentions, suspensions, and active disciplinary plans.

**Fees**

Each interscholastic sport has a \$15 fee (flag football \$10). Before the beginning of each year, a permission slip will be available. Students interested in playing that sport must have the permission slip signed by a parent or guardian to be eligible to practice and play with the team. After it is signed, the permission slip, as well as the \$15 fee, needs to be turned in to the Athletic Director (Jenna Bottler).

**Uniforms**

Uniforms provided by the school should be used with care and worn only for game days. Uniforms are to be worn in a neat and proper fashion. Shorts will never be allowed to sag, but must be worn properly around the waist. Shirts will need to be tucked in neatly at all times including during warm-ups. Tops of jerseys should never be placed in the dryer to prevent numbers from damage. Uniforms are to be returned to the athletic director at the end of season as promptly as possible.

**Volunteers**

Volunteers will be needed to fill the many different jobs that are required to make a home event run smoothly. Some of these jobs will be: scorekeepers, bookkeepers, and people to set up and take down.

Parents are also encouraged to help out with our athletic program by coaching or assisting other coaches. All those interested in coaching or assisting must contact our Athletic Director. All those wanting to coach or assist will be subject to a background check.

**Attendance**

Players are expected to be on time for all games and practices. Parents are expected to excuse their child's absence from a game or practice as far in advance as possible. The notice should be made by written note, e-mail, phone call, or in-person notification. If a player misses practice(s) prior to a game, his or her playing time for upcoming games may be affected.

**Transportation to Away Games**

Parents are responsible for securing transportation for their children to and from away games. Every effort should be made to arrange transportation to away games without the assistance of the coach or athletic director, although coaches may be willing to transport players if they have room.

## **Concussion Guidelines**

We follow the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) policy on concussions. Policy 40 (pages 103-105) in the FHSAA Handbook deals with Concussions, as partially listed below:

### **40.3 Mechanics for Removal from Athletic Contest**

The FHSAA concussion rule calls for the immediate removal of the participant from the contest or practice. Players, coaches and contest officials should be cognizant of athletes who display signs, symptoms or behaviors of a concussion and immediately stop play for injury evaluation within the rules of the game (the responsibility of the contest official is limited to activities that occur on the field, court, mat, etc.).

#### **40.3.1 Symptoms Reported by the Athlete**

- Headache
- Nausea
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or fuzzy vision
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Feeling sluggish
- Feeling foggy or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion

#### **40.3.2 Signs Observed by Other Individuals**

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about what to do
- Forgets plays
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Can't recall events prior to hit
- Can't recall events after hit

### **40.4 Return to Play (RTP) Criteria – Recommended Concussion Management**

40.4.1 No athlete should return to play (RTP) or practice on the same day of a suspected concussion. “When in doubt, sit them out!”

40.4.2 Any athlete suspected of having a concussion must be evaluated by an AHCP (appropriate health-care professional) as soon as possible and practical.

40.4.3 Any athlete who has sustained a concussion must be medically cleared by an AHCP (as defined above) prior to resuming participation in any practice or competition.

40.4.5 A written medical clearance from an AHCP (as defined above) is required for return to competition (Post Head Injury/Concussion – RTP Form, AT18).

## Questions and Concerns

If Bay Pines' athletic program and everyone in it were perfect, there would never be a need to address questions or concerns. However, that is not the case. All people involved with the athletic program, from the athletes, to the coaches, to the athletic director are human beings. All of us make mistakes. However, we hope and pray that they are small in nature and number.

If you, as parents, have concerns about the athletic program or the people involved with it, please follow the procedures described here. This policy follows the guidelines of Matthew 18:15-17, which says, *"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of one or two witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or tax collector."*

- Please begin by going directly to the person involved. For example, if you have concerns about what a particular coach is doing, please speak directly to that coach. **Please wait for a 24 hour period and then set up a meeting.**
- If the concern is not adequately resolved in the meeting with the person directly involved, please speak to the Athletic Director. The athletic director will then reach a satisfactory resolution to the concern.
- If the concern cannot be resolved at the level of the Athletic Director, the person with the concern should then speak with the principal. Again, there may be discussions with all the parties involved. Only through the open exchange of concerns and possible solutions can a satisfactory resolution be found.
- In the event that the principal is not able to bring about the satisfactory resolution, the concerned person should speak to the chairman of the Board of Education. When the concern reaches the Board of Education level, a final decision will be made and a course of action determined.
- All people involved in the athletic program in any way are encouraged to remember our Lord's command to speak well of others and to take their words and actions in the kindest possible way.

We thank you in advance for following these procedures!

## Conclusion

It is our belief that if the terms of this handbook are followed, the athletic program of Bay Pines Lutheran School will be successful in contributing to the mission of our school.



## **Student Code of Conduct**

1. I promise to respect my teammates, coaches, officials, and opposing team members.
2. I will make a commitment to the team by completing the season of a sport I begin and attend all games and practices specified by the coach or athletic director unless I notify my coach prior to the game or practice.
3. My uniform will be used only for game days or other Bay Pines approved activities.
4. I acknowledge I must attend school prior to any game or practice. I acknowledge that Bay Pines athletics gets first priority if another sport is played during the season. If a Bay Pines practice is skipped to attend a non-Bay Pines game or practice during a given week, playing time during that week's Bay Pines game will be limited. If more than one practice is skipped during a given week, playing time will be severely limited.
5. When students commit to our sports program, they are expected to attend all practices and games. Should a student miss a practice or game, the parents should personally speak or write an excuse to the coach in advance when possible.
6. During the games, coaches will use their discretion and play the students as they see fit.
7. I must must not have a failing grade in any subject at quarter breaks to be eligible. Upon being declared ineligible and unable to play in games, I must meet the minimum grade requirement to be declared eligible again.
8. I realize verbally criticizing and arguing with teammates and officials, and poor sportsmanship to opposing teams will not be tolerated.
9. If I receive a technical foul for poor sportsmanship I may receive a minimum one game suspension.
10. Coaches, the principal, and the athletic director reserve the right to withhold players from playing for inappropriate behavior or attitude.

**I agree and accept the above statements.**

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(Player Signature)

## Parent Code of Conduct

1. I have read and received the Athletic Handbook.
2. I will be supportive of my child, our Bay Pines teams, and coaches in a positive way.
3. I will observe principles of good sportsmanship and fair play serving as a good role model for our children, and I will respect the official's decisions.
4. I recognize my child's attendance in school is mandatory prior to any game or practice.
5. I acknowledge that Bay Pines athletics gets first priority if another sport is played during the season. If a Bay Pines practice is skipped to attend a non-Bay Pines game or practice during a given week, playing time at that week's Bay Pines game will be limited. If more than one practice is skipped during a given week, playing time will be severely limited.
6. I also recognize my child must not have a failing grade in any subject at quarter breaks to be eligible. Upon being declared ineligible and unable to play in games, my child must meet the minimum grade requirement to be declared eligible again.
7. I realize verbally criticizing and arguing with officials, opposing teams or their fans will not be tolerated.
8. I recognize coaches, the principal, or athletic directors reserve the right to withhold players from playing for inappropriate behavior.
9. I agree to take my turn in volunteering for Bay Pines Athletics during the season.
10. I agree to hold Bay Pines Lutheran harmless from any and all injury, disability, death, or loss or damage to person or property, whether arising from the negligence of the releasees or otherwise, to the fullest extent permitted by law, and do consent and agree to the release and waiver of liability on behalf of my minor child. I release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless Bay Pines Lutheran from any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's involvement or participation in these programs, even if arising from their negligence, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

**I agree and accept the above statements.**

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(Parent Signature)