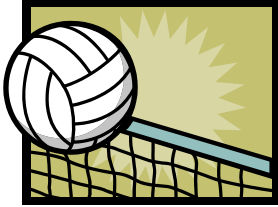
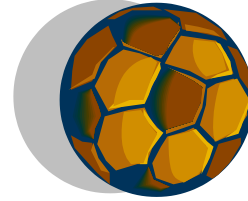


# Good Shepherd Catholic School

2011 -- 2012



## Sports' Program Handbook



(Revised 8/10/2011)  
(Policy Revisions are in **red** type)

## Putting Our Catholic Values Into Play

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### PHILOSOPHY

Welcome to the 2011-2012 sports' year.

The philosophy of the Good Shepherd Athletic Program flows directly from the philosophy of Good Shepherd Catholic School and is designed to provide opportunities for our student-athletes to develop emotionally, intellectually, and physically. The Good Shepherd Athletic Program strives to teach the value of teamwork, mutual respect, the joy of participating, development of talent, a healthy sense of competition, self-discipline, and honesty in a religious/academic environment. All who participate in the athletic program – students, coaches, parents, and spectators – are challenged to act and react in ways consistent with Christian values.

Good Shepherd Catholic School is an active and enthusiastic member of the Catholic Middle School Athletic Conference (CMAC). This conference is a competitive league consisting of twelve (12) Catholic Schools located in Orange, Seminole, and Osceola counties. The Good Shepherd Athletic Program works diligently to field winning teams and recognizes that competition is a major element in team sports. Learning the skills of a sport while developing teamwork, leadership, and good sportsmanship are integral to the program. Success cannot be measured merely in terms of wins and losses. The following questions must also be considered:

-- Did we learn more about the sport? -- Did we improve our fundamental skills and conditioning? -- Did we have "FUN" together?

## **ELIGIBILITY & PARTICIPATION**

### **Academics**

- Student-athletes must maintain an overall grade point average of C and satisfactory (S) performance in minor subjects.
  
- Student-athletes receiving a D on the mid-quarter report will receive an academic warning but are still eligible to continue playing through the quarter.
- Student-athletes receiving an "F" on a report card are ineligible through the next grading period.
  
- Student-athletes who become academically ineligible may try-out for an upcoming sport but may not participate until all academic requirements are satisfied.

**Behavior** The Good Shepherd Athletic Program follows the "Three Level Code of Conduct" discipline plan as outlined in the Good Shepherd Catholic School Student Handbook. Student-athletes must adhere to all school regulations and classroom rules in order to participate. Student-athletes must demonstrate an attitude of respect and mutual consideration for teachers, coaches, classmates, and teammates at all times, both on and off the playing field. Student-athletes serving a suspension due to a behavioral infraction is prohibited from participating in team try-outs, practices, or games per the Good Shepherd Parent and Student Handbook. Detentions take priority over all athletic activities.

**Physicals** Student-athletes must submit a recent physical examination form signed by a licensed physician within the last twelve (12) months. Forms are available in the school office.

**Attendance** Student-athletes must place a high priority on attending practices and games. The absence of even one member has a negative impact on the entire team. Good Shepherd Athletics must take priority over other extra-curricular activities. Student-athletes are allowed one (1) unexcused absence from a practice or game per season. Student-athletes with two (2) or more unexcused absences may be suspended from playing or removed from the team entirely. In the event of a prior commitment, the student-athlete must notify the head coach a minimum of 48 hours prior to missing a practice or game. Absence without prior notification (excluding illness) is considered unexcused.

**Practice** For practice occurring immediately after school, student-athletes report to a designated classroom and are then escorted to the practice facility by a school staff member. Student-athletes must stay with coaches for the entire duration of practice. Only team members are allowed in the practice facility. At the conclusion of practice student-athletes not picked up are escorted to the Extended Care Program and are charged for the service until the parent picks up their child. No student-athlete is to be unsupervised at any time. Coaches are expected to outline all discipline policies and procedures to the teams at the beginning of the season.

**Coaches** Coaches are selected by the Athletic Director in consultation of the School Administration. Coaches must be fingerprinted and have participated in the Safe Environment Program.

**Grievance Procedures** Individual or team grievances are to be handled in the following manner:

1. Discuss the issue with the coach.
2. Discuss any unresolved issue with the Athletic Director.
3. Unresolved issues may be brought to the Good Shepherd School Board for review. The GSSB representative is Aida Diaz.

**The decision of the Good Shepherd School Board and the administration is final.**

**Athletic Fees** Student-athlete fees are charged in order to help offset the costs of league fees, sports' banquet costs, equipment, and uniforms. Sports' fees are due in full prior to the first regular season game and are non-refundable. Athletic scholarships may be available for families experiencing financial hardship. Scholarship requests must be submitted in writing to the School Administration for approval.

**Game Uniforms** Student-athletes are provided a team uniform. Uniforms must be maintained in good condition and returned clean at the end of each season. Parents are responsible for additional costs to repair/replace damaged or lost uniforms.

#### **Practice Uniforms**

Student-athletes are required to wear appropriate, proper athletic clothing to practice. Individual coaches determine acceptable practice clothing.

#### **TEAM SELECTION**

**Tryouts** Students in grades six through eight are given equal opportunity to try out for all team sports. Fifth grade students may be offered to try out for a team if there are open spots on a sixth grade team. Team members are selected based on skill level, attitude, and behavior. Tryouts are held after school hours.

**Varsity Soccer** The team consists of no more than eighteen (18) players. Coaches must select at least ten (10) eighth graders. Coaches are not required to select an eighth grader over a seventh grader for the remaining spots. Additional seventh graders may be chosen if there is a shortage of ten (10) eighth graders.

**Junior Varsity Soccer** The team consists of eighteen (18) players. Coaches select players from the seventh and sixth grades. Coaches are not required to select a seventh grader over a sixth grader. Fifth graders may be allowed to try out if there is a shortage of eighteen (18) players.

#### **Varsity Basketball**

The team consists of ten (10) players. Coaches select ten (10) eighth graders. Seventh graders may be allowed to try out if there is a shortage of ten (10) eighth graders.

**Junior Varsity Basketball** The team consists of ten (10) players. Coaches select ten (10) seventh graders. Sixth graders may be allowed to try out if there is a shortage of ten (10) seventh graders.

**JJV Basketball** The team consists of twelve (12) players. Coaches select twelve (12) sixth graders. Fifth graders may be allowed to try out if there is a shortage of ten (12) sixth graders.

**Varsity Track** The team consists of student-athletes in the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Coaches are not be required to select players based on grade level.

**Varsity Volleyball** The team consists of no more than twelve (12) players. Coaches must select at least eight (8) eighth graders. Coaches are not required to select an eighth grader over a seventh grader for the remaining spots. Additional seventh graders may be chosen if there is a shortage of eight (8) eighth graders.

**Junior Varsity Volleyball** The team consists of twelve (12) players. Coaches select players from the seventh and sixth grades. Coaches are not required to select a seventh grader over a sixth grader. Fifth graders may be allowed to try out if there is a shortage of twelve (12) players.

**Cheerleading** The teams consist of student-athletes in the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Coaches are not be required to select players based on grade level. Teams are based on cheer and dance technique, spirit, attitude toward directives, voice, and overall presentation.

#### **SPORTS' CALENDAR**

**Girls' Seasons** -- Basketball (August through October) -- Track (October through December) -- Soccer (December through February) -- Volleyball (March through May) -- Cheerleading (fall, winter, or full year)

**Boys' Seasons** -- Soccer (August through October) -- Track (October through December) -  
- Basketball (December through February) -- Volleyball (March through May)

**Right to Amend** The School Administration reserves the right to amend the Good Shepherd Athletic Program handbook. Notice of amendments are posted in red on the school website.