



Yuma Lutheran School
Athletic Handbook

Revised 2023

Athletic Handbook

Yuma Lutheran School

The Mission of Yuma Lutheran is to share the good news of Jesus Christ by being Christ Centered, having a Comprehensive Curriculum and promoting a Caring Community.

Philosophy:

We believe at Yuma Lutheran School that God has given each individual unique abilities, talents, and characteristics. Through athletics, participants are provided with the opportunity to practice their faith while practicing and developing their God-given abilities. Athletes will not only develop their athletic abilities, but they will also develop relationships, Christ-like characteristics, and a sense of healthy competition. We believe that we can witness to others through athletics by being imitators of Christ. Through the development of a Christ-like attitude in our athletes, the athletic program hopes to build a caring community within and outside of Yuma Lutheran School.

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us... Ephesians 5:1-2a ESV

Goals:

- To give all glory to God in all that is done in and out of athletics.
- To provide guidance to athletes as they develop their God-given talents and abilities.
- To prepare athletes for the next level of competition.
- To develop and exhibit a Christ-like attitude.
- To provide a purposeful use of talent, abilities, and time.
- To build and maintain a caring community within and outside of Yuma Lutheran School.

Athletic Eligibility and Athlete Expectations:

Participating in the athletic program at Yuma Lutheran School is a privilege. In order to participate in the athletic program, athletes must meet and maintain certain expectations and criteria. If athletes fail to meet any of the expectations listed below, they will be placed on probation or dismissed from participation by an athletic director. Student-Athletes will only be allowed to play the sport that is offered for each gender and no cross over for the other gender to the other sport.

Forms and Fees: Athletes must have one permission slip for participation for the year along with a fee of **\$50.00** that must be paid and turned in to the office for each individual sport. Sports fees should not come in the way of playing. If you have a financial hardship please speak to Mr. Meyer. The permission slips must be signed by a parent or guardian before September 1, 2023. Athletes are also required to have a physical examination before they begin their first season of participation each year. Students who do not have a completed physical examination, permission slip signed, or fee will not be eligible for

participation until all requirements are completed. If ESA funds are available, the sports fee will be taken out automatically for each season.

Academics: Student-athletes must not be failing any classes or have multiple Ds. The athletic directors will be checking grades to ensure that our student-athletes are students first. During a bi-monthly grade check, if a student is found to have an F or more than one D, he/she will be put on probation until the grade has been improved. Students will be given a two-week probation period to raise their grades before being dismissed from the team for the season. When a new season begins, the student's last report card will determine if they are eligible to participate.

Discipline: Student-athletes are expected to be an example for the student body and represent Yuma Lutheran School while competing. We expect all athletes to have a respectful and sportsmanlike attitude in the classroom and in athletics. If an athlete receives detention on a practice day, they forfeit their right to participate that. If an athlete gets a detention on a game day, the student may sit on the team bench to support their team, but may not participate. If an athlete gets second detention within the same season, they lose their right to participate in their next game and practice, and will be placed on athletic probation. The athletic director will sign off on weekly grade reports until their probation period has ended. If an athlete receives a third detention within the same season, the student-athlete will be dismissed from the team for the rest of that season.

The behavior and conduct expectations of athletes at games and practices are equivalent to the behavior and conduct that are expected of students during the school day at Yuma Lutheran School. If an athlete does not comply with the rules set before them in the Yuma Lutheran School Student Handbook, parents and athletic directors will be notified. Consequences for the student's actions will be determined by the administration's discipline matrix and may result in their dismissal from a sport.

Teachers are asked to notify an athletic director if there is a persistent issue with a student athlete in the classroom. It will be up to the athletic directors, administration, and coaches as how to best deal with any given issue that is brought to their attention. If a student athlete's behavior is severe enough, it may impact playing time or practice involvement.

Games and Practices: All athletes are expected to attend every practice and every game. Practices start at 3:30 PM and end at 5:00 PM unless otherwise notified by a coach. Games begin at 4:00 PM and last, on average, one hour. If an athlete arrives late, leaves early, or misses a practice or game, they will forfeit playing time during games. If an athlete has an injury, they are still expected to attend practices and games to pick up skills and learn through observation. They are still a part of the team.

If an athlete knows that they will not be able to attend a practice or a game, they need to notify their coach in advance with a note from a parent. If an athlete is sick and cannot make it to practice, their coach needs to be notified by a parent. If the illness makes it impossible to make it to practice or games for more than three days, coaches need to be contacted. If the student-athlete is being a disruption the coach or athletic director will have the student-athlete call his or her parents to come pick them up early.

Attendance during the school day is also required to participate at practice or in games. If a student is absent from school for more than four class periods, they are not allowed to participate in athletics for that day. Unless the coach has been notified beforehand, this will be considered an unexcused absence from a practice or a game. Food at practice is not allowed. Students can eat before coming into practice.

Athletes must wear the proper athletic attire for practice. Athletes will not be allowed to participate in practice if they are not in athletic shorts/pants and proper shirt (i.e. regular school uniform is not permitted at practice). Athletes must also wear the proper uniform for games. If an athlete does not have their proper uniform at a game, they will not be allowed to participate on the court or playing field.

Uniforms and Equipment: Any and all uniforms and equipment issued to athletes must be cared for during the season and returned by the day after the last game of the season. Athletes will be held financially responsible if uniforms are returned damaged (other than the expected wear and tear of the sport that they are used for). If uniforms are not returned, athletes forfeit their privilege to participate in the next season until uniforms are returned or paid for in the office.

Cell Phone Usage: Athletes will not be allowed to use any electronic device during practices and games. Athletes will only be allowed to use their cell phone after practice in order to call for a ride. The YLS cell phone policy applies to the student-athletes.

Parent Responsibilities:

Parents/guardians are the best influencers on their children. The attitude that you exhibit at home will be manifested in your child at school and during their athletic participation. We ask that you positively encourage your child as much as possible in all that they do.

Parent Meeting: Parents and athletes will be required to attend a meeting with coaches and an athletic director before each season begins. During this meeting, athletic directors and coaches will go over rules, schedules, and expectations of athletes. This meeting will occur during the first week of each season. If for some reason you are unable to attend this meeting, please contact an athletic director to set up an appointment to discuss rules and expectations. Your child will not be allowed to continue to practice if you do not attend this mandatory meeting or set up an alternative appointment with an athletic director.

Physical Examination: Parents need to set up an appointment with their child's physician for a physical examination to ensure that all athletes are physically capable of participating in a sport. Athletes are required to have a physical examination before they begin their first season of participation each year. Students who do not have a completed physical examination by the first practice of the season will not be eligible for participation until their exam is completed.

Practices: We ask that you encourage your child to participate in all practices for the entirety of each practice. Please make sure that your child is picked up promptly at 5:00 PM. Coaches will send athletes who have not been picked up on time to Surround Care.

Practices are meant only for athletes. Siblings and friends of athletes are not allowed to attend or watch practices unless they have parental supervision. The coach is only responsible for the athletes that are participating on their team. Please send siblings of athletes to Surround Care after school if you are unable to pick them up.

Games: Parents are responsible for the transportation of their child to and from all away games. Games begin promptly at 4:00 PM. If you are unable to transport your child to or from a game, you will have to find alternative transportation for your child. Coaches are not responsible for the transportation of athletes to and from games.

Communication: Any and all communication needs to start with the coach. Contact your child's coach when your child will miss a scheduled practice and/or game or if your child has an injury. If an issue or problem arises, please contact the coach to set up an appointment to speak about said issue. If the issue or problem is not resolved, contact an athletic director to set up an appointment to discuss the problem. Please contact administration if there is an issue that remains to be resolved after a meeting with the coach and an athletic director.

Volunteering: Throughout all sports' seasons, the athletic program will need the assistance of parent volunteers. These volunteer positions will be addressed by the athletic directors.

Coach Responsibilities:

First and foremost, coaches must be a positive, Christ-like example to their athletes, parents, opponents, and officials. They must lead by example and by dealing with others in all circumstances with a sportsmanlike demeanor. Coaches are representatives of Yuma Lutheran School and our mission.

Games and Practices: Coaches are to teach skills, strategy, concepts, attitude, and game rules to their athletes. They are responsible for their athletes' safety at all times while the athletes are under their supervision. Coaches are vetted through a background check with our human resource personnel.

When coaching a 5th/6th grade team, coaches are to develop skills for a higher level of competition. While it is always fun and exciting to win, the main concern for the 5th/6th grade teams is to develop skills and knowledge of the sport. The coach will do their best to involve all eligible players in all practices and games.

For our 7th/8th grade teams, coaches will do their best to develop skills for a higher level of competition. Our 7th/8th grade teams are more competitive and require more thought and strategy on both the athletes' and coaches' part. For the eligible athletes, playing time during games is up to the coaches' discretion.

If athletes are not picked up on time from practice or home games, coaches are required to send them to Surround Care. If an athlete is not picked up on time from an away game, coaches are to contact parents and wait until a parent/approved ride arrives. We want to make sure all athletes are safe at all times.

Games and practices may be canceled if there is an excessive heat warning in Yuma County at the discretion of the athletic directors.

Communication: Coaches are responsible for communicating with the athletic directors and parents about rules, expectations, issues that arise with athletes, and for any other concern related to their sport.

During games, coaches are the first line of communication with officials and representatives of other teams. They are to instill this ideology in their athletes: it is neither the athletes' place nor responsibility to address officials or representatives from other teams during games about calls or directives given. If the officials or other representatives of other teams become intolerant or belligerent towards a YLS coach, the coach is to report this to an athletic director as soon as possible.

Award Ceremonies

There will be two award ceremonies, one at the end of each semester, to recognize the accomplishments of student athletes. Athletic directors and coaches will work together to schedule and organize these events.

League Affiliation

Yuma Independent Schools Association

Affiliated Schools:

AmeriSchools Academy
2098 S 3rd Ave
Yuma, AZ 85364

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School
700 W 18th St.
Yuma, AZ 85364

AmeriSchools Academy North
1220 S 4th Ave
Yuma, AZ 85364

San Pasqual
656-688 Baseline Rd
Winterhaven, CA 92283

Freedom Christian Academy
11750 South Mesa Drive
Yuma, AZ 85365

Southwestern Christian School
3261 S Ave 6 E
Yuma, AZ 85365

Immaculate Conception School
501 S Avenue B
Yuma, AZ 85364

Yuma Lutheran School
2555 S. Engler Ave.
Yuma, AZ 85365

Gowan Science Academy
1020 S Avenue C
Yuma, AZ 85365

Final Thoughts

Yuma Lutheran School expects all participants in the athletic program to be an example of proper sportsman like conduct and to be witnesses to others. Here is a summary list of expectations for all participants (athletes, coaches, fans, parents).

- Consider all opponents as friends and guests and treat them with courtesy.
- Accept all decisions made by an official.
- Never hiss or boo at a player or official.
- Never utter abusive or irritating remarks from the sidelines.
- Applaud teammates and opponents who make good plays or reflect good sportsmanship.
- Seek to play fairly and according to the rules of the game.
- Respect the game for its own sake and not for what it can do for you.
- Treat others how you would like to be treated.
- Win without boasting and lose without excuse.
- Celebrate the opportunity to participate and be active.
- Praise God for giving you the ability to participate.