

## SPORTS POLICIES

In an effort to put best practices in place, the following policies have been approved by the Faith Assembly of Grand Detour Elder and Deacon Board.

### Sports Philosophy

- 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade teams—These years will be considered developmental in nature. Often times, this is a student's first experience with organized sports, and it is the belief that students need opportunities to grow and discover if the sport is a good fit for them. In order to facilitate that growth and discovery, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade coaches will give each player game-time experience throughout the season.
- 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade teams—Beginning with 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade teams, playing time will be earned and based on ability. Coaches will emphasize the importance of using practices and personal time (practice at home, etc) to improve in order to garner playing time.

### Team Caps/Sizes

- 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade teams—There will be no cuts/tryouts for the junior high teams beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. This will require more coaches to facilitate the potential of larger teams.
- 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade teams—Team sizes will remain the same as put forth in policy during the 2024-2025 school year.
  - Volleyball—(up to) 14
  - Basketball—(up to) 15
  - Soccer—(up to) 30

### Homeschool Athletes

We recognize and regard highly the contributions that homeschool families have given to FCS sports. They have led our teams to great victories and have contributed to the spiritual growth and fellowship of the FCS student body. We don't look to exclude them but rather move back to the original policy regarding homeschool athletes.

- **2025-2026 school year**—As space allows, homeschool students will be able to join FCS sports, still with the 33% cap in place. Roster spots will first be filled with FCS students. If there are roster spots still available, then homeschool students will have the opportunity to fill those vacancies. (Ex. If there are 15 FCS students on the Boys' Varsity Basketball team, then there are no spots available for homeschoolers because the team cap is 15. If there are 11 FCS students, then there could be space for four homeschoolers.) Homeschool families will be reminded that available spots could change from year to year. (Ex. A spot is available for the homeschool student's freshman year. The following year, there is a large influx of FCS students, and no spot is available for the homeschool student for their sophomore season.) Any special circumstances (such as low enrollment) may be considered a unique variance by board approval only; such as, in the event that a team size of fully-registered and homeschool students (within the 33% limit) does not accommodate a full bench of substitutes, the 33% limit may be waived to field a team size that will allow for those substitutes per board approval. (Ex. Boys basketball has only four fully registered students. Six homeschool students would be allowed to accommodate five starters and five subs.)