



CISVA

ELEMENTARY ATHLETIC COMMISSION

PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS: EAC SPIRIT OF COMPETITION AND FAIR PLAY

Athletics provide learning situations that are difficult to duplicate in a classroom setting. Students are given the opportunity to learn about and practice self-discipline, teamwork, fair play, loyalty, acceptance, humility, and other positive characteristics in a safe, supportive and educational environment. These opportunities must be permeated with those Christian values that are the foundation of our CISVA school communities.

The physical and psychological talents given to each athlete are a gift from God. As such they must be developed and shared. Athletic programs should challenge both the Individual athlete and the team to strive for excellence and develop their talents to the highest potential. The challenge should, however, always be in the form of positive reinforcement and affirmation, and never in the form of negative speak, belittling or undue pressure.

The challenge to achieve excellence is in striving to master the skills and should lead to a respect for others who are striving for the same goal.

SPIRIT OF COMPETITION

Competition creates the opportunity for students to learn about themselves and others. The spirit of competition lives in the school. Whether it be for a role in the school play, or to be chosen to say a reading at Mass, students compete amongst each other in a variety of setting. Athletics is such a setting that allows for competition to thrive and become a tool for learning. It is not competition that tends to create conflict but the keeping of the score.

All extra-curricular programs at the elementary level should encourage participation. All students who are willing to meet the requirements must be given the opportunity to participate. In an athletic setting, giving each player an appropriate amount of playing time as set by EAC rules for the sport, must be a higher goal than out scoring an opponent.

It is through the principal's support and commitment to the positive aspects of their school's sports programs that we can challenge our coaches, players and parents to grow in their commitment to our faith community.

FAIR PLAY

Problems are caused by some of the means that are used to achieve success. Striving to be the best within the letter and spirit of the rules and within the letter and spirit of the philosophy of the school will help students learn important lessons about life. However, when the need to win supersedes the rules and the good of individual student-athletes, more harm than good is done and it would be better not to participate.



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COACHES AND ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

The modeling of the Coach is a major factor if the athletic program is to be successful in inculcating the Christian values of the school. It is the coach that must teach by example: a respect for the rules of the game, a respect for officials and opponents, self-control, self-discipline, patience with those less talented, a willingness to put others forward, a tendency to affirm others, and a willingness to put the good of the team and individual players ahead of a coach's personal glory.

Integrity ensures that what the athlete learns make them better members of the Christian community. Only people with integrity, a deep understanding of athletics in a Catholic school setting and a desire for student growth and learning should be allowed to coach in our athletic programs.

The Athletic Director

For the purpose of this document, an Athletic Director is the person who assumes the responsibilities of organizing and overseeing all the athletic extra-curricular programming in the school. In many cases the athletic director is typically the PHE teacher, principal or vice principal.

It is the Athletic Director's responsibility to uphold and promote the EAC spirit of competition and fair play. Upholding and promoting a spirit of competition and fair play is done by:

- Informing coaches of this document and the CISVA EAC document.
- Choose coaches that will complement the PHE curriculum, understand the spirit of athletics in the CISVA, and uphold the mission and vision of their school.
- Seek CISVA employees to coach over parent and community volunteers.
- Ensure that if the coach is a volunteer, a CISVA employee is assigned to the team and attends all sporting events in which the team participates.
- Ensure that officials have a copy of the CISVA rule book and understand the rules of their particular sport, especially rules that are unique to CISVA sports.

If it is all about winning, then students are not developing, and the spirit of athletics is lost.

The Coach

For the purpose of this document, a "coach" is a teacher, supervisor and/or volunteer who is responsible for the participating athletes. A coach bears the greatest responsibility for the conduct of their players on and off the field/court of play. A coach leads by example and shows the student athletes what it looks like to have ethics and integrity. The coach teaches the sport and builds a love for the game.



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The coach's influence on players' attitudes and behaviour is unequalled and extends to the student body and school community. It is essential that the coach subscribe to the value of sportsmanship and fair play and teach its principles through word and deed.

The coach must be aware that athletics is a part of Catholic education and as such must complement the character and mission of the Catholic school. This is done by having a deep and strong understanding of what it means to participate in sports within a CISVA school.

The Coach must:

1. Act in a manner consistent with Catholic faith values. They will treat their athletes and the opponents with respect.
2. Emphasize values of sportsmanship and fair play; they will inspire a love for the game.
3. Emphasize the need to conform to the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
4. Teach their players their responsibilities concerning items 1, 2 and 3.
5. Actively supervise the players traveling to and from the game, on and off the field/court of play.
6. Take appropriate measures when players display unwillingness to live up to their responsibilities and exhibit poor sportsmanship, inappropriate behaviour and/or a disregard for the rules.
7. Report to their principal any breach of desirable practices on the part of the students, coaches and/or spectators.
8. Be a host to visiting teams; they are guests and should be welcomed.
9. Provide for social interaction between coaches and players before and/or after contests. Competition is emphasized only on the field/court.
10. Work with the Athletic Director to provide competent official(s) who have displayed an ability to deal fairly with all aspects of competition, who have complete knowledge of the rules and policies for the EAC, and are aware of their responsibilities.
11. Respect the official's judgment and interpretation of the rules. Seek clarification at appropriate moments in the contest or following the game. Remember public protests only lead to similar behaviour from players and spectators.
12. Publicly shake hands or another form of greeting, with the officials and opposing coach before and/or after a game.
13. Realize that it is imperative that the school endeavour to honour all commitments.
14. Ensure that the loss of instructional time is kept to a minimum.
15. Ensure that when unfavourable conditions require postponement of a contest, the team concerned will notify the other team as soon as possible.



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STUDENT ATHLETES AND SPECTATORS

Student Athletes

A student athlete is a student who exhibits their gifts of athleticism through their effort, dedication, teamwork, and desire to learn more about the sport they are participating in. The student athlete is first and foremost a learner. As such they are to treat participation in athletics as an opportunity to grow and develop their talents in all aspects of the sport. All students, regardless of their ability level, are encouraged to become a student athlete. Elementary school athletics is about participation, learning and gaining experience competing with and against other student athletes. Student athletes are expected to follow the lead of their coaches and to act in a manner that is consistent with the highest principles of sportsmanship and our own Catholic faith values.

Student athletes must come to know school sports as an integral part of their education but not view sports as the main focus of school. It is expected that the student athlete will use the lessons of commitment to challenge themselves to strive and learn to their best ability in the classroom as well as on the field of play.

The student athlete must:

1. Show respect and appreciation for a coach's time and effort.
2. Treat opponents with respect.
3. Shake hands, or another form of greeting, with opponents before and/or after a game and wish them well.
4. Exercise self-control at all times; the player must abide by decisions made by coaches and officials at all times.
5. Respect the official's interpretation of rules and regulations.
6. Realize that only team captains should seek clarification from officials regarding infractions.
7. Accept both victory and defeat graciously.
8. Congratulate opponents in a sincere manner following a contest.
9. Accept seriously the responsibility of representing the school, realizing that it is a privilege, not a right.

Spectators

Spectators include everyone watching a game. Believing that sportsmanship is a by-product of a spirit of acceptance, goodwill, and the centering of attention on the good qualities of all involved, a spectator has the duty to be exemplary to the students on how one should conduct themselves when watching a competition. The spectator's conduct is an important part in the school athletic program, a spectator must act in accordance with these policies. The expectations of a spectator at EAC sporting events are greater than other sporting events as we all spectators at our events represent the CISVA and our Catholic faith.



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A spectator at a CISVA athletic event must:

1. Exhibit exemplary behaviour at all times.
2. Maintain and exhibit poise, self-discipline, and restraint during and after the contest.
3. Conduct themselves in such a manner that attention is drawn not to themselves, but to the participants playing the game.
4. Regulate actions at all times so as to be a credit to the team they support, knowing the school receives the praise or blame for spectator conduct, since the spectator represents the school in much the same manner as the athlete.
5. Support all reasonable moves to improve good sportsmanship.
6. Treat the visiting teams and spectators with respect.
7. Avoid actions which will offend any individual athlete, the team, the coach, the school and/or other spectators.
8. Accept the judgment of the coach and the officials.
9. Respect the property of the school or venue hosting the event.
10. Display good sportsmanship by acting graciously in victory and defeat.
11. Appreciate the good play of both teams.
12. have sympathy and compassion for an injured player.
13. Regard the officials with respect.
14. Direct energy to encouraging the team rather than focusing on negative comments.
15. Believe that the officials are fair and accept their decisions as final.
16. Consider it a privilege and duty to encourage everyone to live up to the spirit of the rules of fair play and sportsmanship.
17. Realize that privileges are invariably associated with great responsibilities and those who are spectators have great responsibilities.

VIOLATIONS OF THE SPIRIT OF ATHLETICS AND FAIR PLAY

Any coach who is in violation of this document is also in violation of EAC policy will have their case reviewed by the EAC. The EAC will then make recommendations to the principal of the coach. In serious violations, the EAC reserves the right to remove the coach from attending EAC sanctioned events including all zonal league games (including exhibition), all playoff and championships. The official and/or principal has the right under the school act to remove anyone from the premises who is being a safety concern to the school. Uncontrolled emotions, aggression, disregard for the dignity of others, etc. would be grounds to be immediately asked to be removed from the property.



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Any spectator who in violation of this document will be asked to leave the property. Any further action would be at the sole discretion of the principals involved.

Any student who is in violation of this document will be reported to the EAC. The principal, athletic director, coach of the student will decide what action is needed based on the violation and report their conclusions to the EAC.

Too often people are only interested in talent. God is interested in character.

Reference: Participation in Team Sports 2013-2014 – Spirit of Athletics Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese Elementary Athletic Commission (CISVAEAC) Cross-reference: EAC Policy	Approved: Board of Directors
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