



## **ATHLETICS POLICY**

### **Philosophy of Athletics**

CISVAEAC (Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese Elementary Athletic Commission) policy guidelines state:

“Athletics provide learning situations that are difficult to duplicate in a classroom setting. Students have the opportunity to learn about and practice self discipline, teamwork, fair play, loyalty, tolerance, humility and many other positive characteristics in an open, lifelike environment. In the Catholic school setting, these opportunities must be permeated with those Christian values that are the foundation of our schools.

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 degree, just as the individual student and class is academically challenged to excellence according to their talents. The challenge to excellence is the striving to master the skills of the game and should lead to a respect for the other teams that are striving for the same goal.

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 ahead of personal glory.

The word ‘competitive’ is sometimes misused to describe all that can be wrong with athletics. It is important that the word is used correctly; athletics are competitive. It is not the competitive nature of sports and the keeping score that creates problems. The problems are caused by the means that are used to achieve a higher score. 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 the individuals on the team, more harm than good is done and it would be better not to participate.”

The mandate set out in the CISVAEAC policy handbook provides the guidelines for the athletic program at St. Francis de Sales School. Athletics at the elementary school level seeks to facilitate the development of the whole child. It promotes life skills to develop children into healthy, productive individuals.

St. Francis de Sales School Athletics Policy is meant to assist the principal in communicating the school’s expectations of its athletes, coaches, teachers, supervisors and spectators.



For your general information, information from the CISVAEAC Athletics Policy has been reprinted here.

## **1. Administration of the Athletics Program**

The Catholic School principal must insure that the school's sports program is consistent with the philosophy of his/her school and the CISVAEAC Philosophy of Sport. It is imperative that the sports' program compliment the 'Character and Mission of Catholic Schools.

Due to the teaching aspect of sports in regard to planning, preparation, practice, and evaluation, the principal must ensure that coaches are developing, monitoring and implementing long and short range goals within the sports' program.

It is only through the principal's commitment to the positive aspects of the sports' program that we can challenge our coaches, players and parents to grow in their commitment to our faith community. The Principal, therefore, must:

1. Define policies regarding participation in sports' programs and procedures pertaining to participation by taking an active role in the development of same policies.
2. Communicate to all participants' expectations regarding the kinds of behavior expected of them.
3. Communicate his/her expectations to parents and coaches as well as players.
4. Support and encourage those aspects of the sports' program that are aimed at deepening the players' understanding of Sportsmanship.
5. Ensure that an authorized representative of the school other than the coach is on hand to supervise all competitors and all spectators at all times in the home field / court.
6. Ensure that every school team is coached or supervised by a staff member. During competition, every school team must be accompanied by a teacher-coach or the teacher.
7. Ensure that when unfavorable conditions require postponement of a contest the team concerned will notify the other team as soon as possible. Other than acts of God, a coach may reschedule a game once without defaulting.
8. Ensure that all competitors are covered by an accident insurance policy.
9. Ensure that the loss of instructional time due to competition in sports' programs will be kept to a minimum. (The principal must realize that due to circumstances beyond the control of athletic tournament organizers, some loss of instructional time may be necessary (i.e. Track and Field)
10. Instruct the student body in its role as host and its responsibilities to opposing teams – polite and courteous behavior.



## 2. The Role of the Coach / Teacher Supervisor

A coach / teacher / supervisor bear the greatest responsibility for the conduct of his/her players on and off the field / court of play.

The coach / teacher supervisor's influence on players' attitudes and behavior is unequalled and extends to the student body and school community. It is essential that the coach subscribe to the values of sportsmanship and teach its principles through word and deed.

The coach / teacher supervisor must be aware that athletics is a part of Catholic education and as such must complement the "Character and Mission of the Catholic School."

The Coach / Teacher Supervisor must:

1. Act in a manner consistent with Catholic faith values. He/she will treat his/her players and the opponents with respect.
2. Emphasize values of sportsmanship and fair play; he/she 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 his/her players their responsibilities concerning items 1, 2 & 3.
5. Actively supervises the players travelling to and from the game, on and off the field/court play.
6. Take appropriate disciplinary measures when players display an unwillingness to live up to their responsibilities.
7. Report to his/her principal any breach of desirable practices on the part of 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 on the field / court.
10. 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 be sure they are aware of their responsibilities as stated in Section 5, p.33.
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 behavior from players and spectators.
12. Publicly shake hands with the officials and opposing coach before and / or after a game.
13. Realize that it is imperative that the school endeavor to honor all commitments.



14. Ensure that the loss of instructional time is kept to a minimum
15. Ensure that when unfavorable conditions require postponement of a contest, the team concerned will notify the other team as soon as possible.

### **3. The Role of the Players**

Players 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 issues.

Players must come to know school sports as an integral part of their education but not view sports as the main focus of school. Sports are not to be used as an excuse for poor academic performance. Rather it is expected that the athlete will use the lessons of commitment to challenge striving and learning in the classroom as well as on the field of play.

The role of the player in elementary school sports is as a student first and a player second. The goal is to become a student-athlete.

The player must:

1. Show respect and appreciation for a coach's time and effort.
2. Treat opponents with respect.
3. Shake hands 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!



#### **4. The Role of the Spectators**

Spectators include everyone watching a game.

Believing that sportsmanship is a byproduct of a spirit of tolerance and goodwill and the centering of attention on the good qualities of all involved, and believing that conduct is an important part in the school athletic program, a spectator must act in accordance with these policies.

A spectator at a CISVAEAC athletic event must:

1. Exhibit exemplary behavior at all times.
2. Maintain and exhibit poise, self-discipline, and restraint during and after the contest.
3. Conduct himself/herself in such a manner that attention is drawn not to himself, but to the participants playing the game.
4. Regulate actions at all times so as to be a credit to the team he supports, 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 the individual athlete.
8. Accept the judgment of the coach.
9. Respect the property of the school.
10. Display good sportsmanship by acting graciously in victory and defeat.
11. Appreciate the good play of both teams.
12. Show sympathy for an injured player.
13. Regard the officials with respect.
14. Direct energy to encouraging the team rather than belittling the officials.
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 that spectators have great responsibilities.



## 5. The Role of the Officials

Competent officials are essential for a smoothly functioning and fair contest. They determine, to a great extent, the behavior of the spectators.

A competent official will:

1. Place the welfare of the players above all other considerations.
2. Accept his position in an unassuming manner. Theatrics and over-officiating is never acceptable.
3. Know the rules thoroughly and give informed interpretations to the players and coaches whenever necessary.
4. Maintain confidence and poise, controlling the game from start to finish. Attending to spectator's comments detracts from an official's efficiency.
5. Publicly shake hands with the coaches of both teams before the contest.
6. Work cooperatively with fellow officials, scorers and timers for an efficient contest.
7. Never attempt to "even-up" or compensate for previous mistakes.
8. Never exhibit emotions or argue with a player or coach when enforcing the rules.
9. Move swiftly and decisively when reacting to a violation and be explicit in communicating the nature of the foul.



## **Athletic Policy**

1. Organized school sports should be fun for members of all ages and all levels of ability.
2. The structure of the Athletics Program follows CISVAEAC Athletics Policy.
3. Each participant should be allowed to develop at his or her own speed.
4. Each participant shall be given the opportunity to learn the proper techniques of the sporting activity.
5. Each participant will be given the opportunity to train and compete.
6. The school shall ensure that the volunteer coaching is the highest quality available.
7. Each participant shall be taught good sportsmanship and team spirit.
8. Full participation by athletes and their families is encouraged to better enable the school team to meet its objectives.
9. Each athlete competes individually for his/her own success but as a team, they compete in order to field the strongest team for school points. The coach will have the final say in this matter.

## **Protests and Disputes**

All complaints must first be made to the coach and principal. Please present your protests or concerns in writing to the school principal.

## **Individual Events**

Placement of athletes into individual events will be under the authority of the Coach. The Coach's decision on the placement of athletes into individual events may be made before or during the competition. Any changes are under the authority of the Coach.

## **Team Events**

Placement of athletes on teams will be under the authority of the Coach. Teams may be formed before or on the day of the competition. Any changes are under the authority of the Coach.



## Coaches' Authority

Coaches' authority prevails during all practices and competitions. Any questionable acts by the Coaches may be forwarded in writing to the school principal who has the authority to discuss and/or investigate the questionable action.

Coaches are available to discuss concerns after practice and after competitions. Please do not interrupt the coaches during practice times or during a competition.

## Athletics Attire

Proper gym strip is mandatory. Students will not be permitted to participate in athletic activities without it. School track suits should be purchased by team members. Team jerseys are loaned to team members for a small deposit, which is refunded at the end of the season. If they are lacking proper attire, parents will be notified.

At St. Francis de Sales School, the athletic program follows both the guidelines set out by the CISVAEAC and the criteria administered by the Ministry of Education for the Province of British Columbia.

At the school, the Physical Education instructor organizes sports during instructional time (physical education class) for the children as part of the athletic program. During non-instructional time (before school, during lunch break, after school) the Physical Education instructor co-ordinates volunteers to coach and supervise competitive sports. To enforce CISVAEAC policy, volunteer teachers must be recruited for the activity to go forward during non-instructional time.

## Saint Francis de Sales will be participating in the following sports:

<b><i>Sport</i></b>	<b><i>Season of Play</i></b>	<b><i>Type of League</i></b>	<b><i>League Dates</i></b>
Volleyball*	Sept. – Nov.	Div/zone tournament	Sept. – Nov.
Basketball	Jan. – March	Intramural/ Invitational	Jan. – March
Cross-country*	October	Zone/system meet	October
Badminton*	March – April	Zone play downs final tournament	March – April
Track & Field*	April – June	Final system meet	June

\* Indicates CISVA play



The competitive sports listed above give children access to sports that they may have limited access to outside of school. These activities provide the opportunity for many children of many different skill levels to actively participate.

1. Any sport that involves inter-Catholic school competition must be approved by the CISVAEAC. The CISVAEAC approves inter-school competition, organizes leagues and facilitates final tournament / meet / championships.
2. The CISVAEAC will ascertain through entry forms the number of teams / participants each school will provide in any league so that leagues / tournaments etc. can be organized and scheduled well in advance.
3. Age – Eligibility (eligibility for all sports with the exception of Track and Field and Cross-Country.)

*Senior – 13 years and under as of December 15 of the current school year*

*Junior – 11 years and under as of December 15 of the current school year*

*Juvenile – 10 years and under as of December 15 of the current school year*

Team sports – students who are overage by one year may play either with their grade or the grade above. They may not play at both levels.

4. Playoff structure will be set by director in agreement with CISVAEAC before the start of each season of league play.
  - Home-gym / field advantage will be granted to the team finishing higher in the league standing.
  - where two teams finish in equal positions teams may play in neutral location or decide home by a coin toss.

### **Player / Participant Responsibilities**

1. All athletes, coaches and officials follow guidelines set forth in the CISVAEAC Athletics policy.
2. As a player participating in organized school athletics, there will be zero tolerance for any overly aggressive/physical play as it compromises any player's right to a safe and enjoyable game.
3. Any punching, kicking or similarly violent act will result in immediate ejection from the game and will be subject to review.
4. Participants are required to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner.
5. Any questionable incidents during games require follow up by a written incident report by the coaches present during the competition and/or activity.
6. Participants involved in incidents should issue apologies



## **Spectator Responsibilities**

1. All spectators at CISVA events should follow the CISVAEAC policy guidelines – “The Role of the Spectator”.



# Communication



This page is intentionally left blank