



# Coaldale Christian Interscholastic Sports Policy

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Revised: May 2020

As Christians we believe that God is in all of life. He is our maker, His world is our laboratory, His word is our guide, His Son Jesus Christ is our Redeemer and we must live lives of love and service to Him. We want to pass along this philosophy to our children. To do that we need a school that is based on God's Word, one which incorporates the Bible's teachings into each subject area. Our children are God's children. Consistency demands that we send them to a school that meets our religious and philosophical objectives, a school where they may learn to know, love and serve God.

Interscholastic Athletics within CCS must fit in with our Christian world and life view. It should be viewed as an extension of the curriculum, which attempts to meet the mission of the school. Each human being is created by God to praise and serve Him. Body, mind and soul are interdependent and form a whole, which cannot be separated. The whole person is called to be an instrument of service to God and others. Athletics should be viewed as a response to that calling.

## **I. Policy Rationale:**

- a) to make certain that the focus of the CCS Interscholastic program is consistent with the mission of the school.
- b) to aid the athletic director, coaches, athletes and parents in living out their calling as Christ's own through the mission statement of the school.
- c) to allow for accountability on the part of the athletic director, coaches, athletes and other participants, parents and fans.
- d) to provide guidelines for the athletic director, coaches, athletes and other participants, parents and fans, by which that accountability can be measured.

## **II. Purpose of the Interscholastic Program:**

- a) to allow participants to develop a godly character through their participation in sports since athletics is in God's domain of authority and through play spirituality and godliness can be expressed.
- b) to further equip students in developing an understanding of service to Christ through athletics.
- c) to encourage students to allow their faith in Christ to grow through their participation in athletics.
- d) to encourage the concept of team spirit, which recognizes the uniqueness of each participant and demonstrates that each participant contributes to the team.
- e) to encourage the idea that each participant has a responsibility to each other and to the team.

- f) to encourage the development of sports-specific skills that help the athlete strive for personal excellence.
- g) to build and develop Christian leadership.
- h) to humbly recognize that God uses our schools to reflect Christ to the secular community.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not men.” Col 3:23  
 “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord.” Col 3:17.

### III. Principles and Procedures:



#### A. Athletic Director

CCS shall appoint an athletic director and in doing so determine the range of expectations of that person.

#### Qualifications:

- a) must be a teacher employed by CCS.
- b) must have an interest in, and knowledge of, school athletics.
- c) must demonstrate good interpersonal and organizational skills.
- d) must be concerned with the development of all athletes and coaches.
- e) must have a vision for athletics that is consistent with the mission of the school.

#### Responsibilities:

- a) is directly accountable to the administration and maintains regular communication with administration concerning interscholastic activities.
- b) to remain up to date with all aspects of team and individual sports relating to interscholastic activities.
- c) to develop a vision for the program in consultation with staff and administration, which is consistent with the mission of the school.
- d) to promote the development of the skills of all coaches as to their knowledge of the sport, understanding of the character of student athletes, and skill in developing a positive team environment.
- e) prior to each season to recruit a qualified coach for each team and create a coaching assignment list. All coaches need the approval of the administration and must meet the eligibility requirements of this policy. The principal will present this list to the Education Committee for information.
- f) to ensure that all coaches understand athletics from a Christian perspective.
- g) to encourage and be sure that all coaching staff read, understand, and follow, the CCS sports policy.

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- h) to encourage professional development of the coaching staff through clinics and workshops.
- i) in consultation with administration to administer appropriate disciplinary measures when necessary, and to make clear to coaches the responsibility they have regarding discipline whether it be at practice, at home, or away.
- j) to ensure that proper first aid supplies are present at all home and away games.
- k) to book all buses and arrange all transportation as needed.
- l) to annually review with administration the interscholastic program budget. All fund raising needs the approval of the administration.
- m) to provide appendix sheet B to coaches, for athletes and parents to sign at the beginning of each season.
- n) each year to distribute an interscholastic program information letter informing coaches, parents, and athletes about the program.
- o) to ensure that all warmup music is appropriate and reflects the philosophy and mission of the school.

**Responsibilities:**

**Senior High:**

- a) to register the school with ASAA each fall and complete all zone registrations throughout the year.
- b) to attend all basketball league meetings, volleyball league meetings, badminton, track and cross-country meetings, along with all ASAA meetings.
- c) to provide professional representation of CCS as required in all leagues and associations.
- d) to provide leadership and support for any tournaments that are hosted by CCS Senior High Teams

**Junior High:**

- a) to register the school for all leagues in which teams will be involved.
- b) to provide professional representation of the Junior High as required for any league and associations commitments.
- c) to provide leadership and support for any tournaments that are hosted by Junior High Teams.

**B. Coaches:**

**Eligibility:**

- a) must maintain the same church membership as required for eligibility as a school society member and demonstrate Christian leadership in athletics.
- b) must have an interest in, and knowledge of, their sport.
- c) High school students may be eligible to coach Junior High if placed in a qualified co-coaching position under the direct supervision of a qualified adult.



d) must complete a criminal records check.

#### Responsibilities:

A coach is a leader and a mentor. Coaches are encouraged to, and should seek opportunities to, model faith in Christ with their team players, parents and other sports contacts. This, in combination with teaching technical aspects of the sport, should serve to develop athletes who are committed to the Lord and to their team. A coach, because he or she is a mentor, must display the qualities of respect, honesty, humility, loyalty, integrity, responsibility, trustworthiness, and self-control. (Col 3:23)

- a) to understand, and carry out, the CCS Policy for interscholastic athletics – this includes reviewing the policy with their team at the start of each season.
- b) must recognize that prayer and devotions are integral elements of the interscholastic program.
- c) must be committed to developing every player on the team to his or her fullest ability realizing that each player has unique God-given talents.
- d) to develop players into a “team” reflecting what it means to be a Christ-centered community.
- e) to communicate and model appropriate Christian behavior at home and when away.
- f) to administer appropriate curfews when away, realizing the team is there to play their best.
- g) to monitor players' behavior and to be empowered to take appropriate action:
  - foul language mouthed or voiced, or displays of anger will not be tolerated. Such infractions will result in immediate benching until the player's attitude improves.
  - Any player caught in the possession of, or using, smoking materials, alcohol, or illicit drugs while representing the team will be suspended from the team immediately. Further discipline will be carried out in consultation with the athletic director and the principal.
- h) to ensure that all warm-up music is appropriate.

#### Professional Development:

Coaches should be encouraged to pursue professional development in both skill and spiritual aspects of coaching, i.e. Christian athletics courses through Christian Colleges and camps, sport specific clinics, etc. Canadian coaching certification in the applicable sport is also recommended. All coaches must take the required ASAA courses prior to the start of each season.

#### **C. Athletes:**

##### Eligibility:

- a) must accept that it is a privilege, not a right, for students to be involved in interscholastic sports.



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- b) must demonstrate true Christian character and sportsmanship. Failure to do so may result in suspension from the game and the team. Christian athletes must be responsible for their actions, as individuals and as a team.
- c) must be a diligent student, achieving their potential (minimum of passing in all courses) in their regular classroom work. Failure to do so may result in suspension from the game and the team.
- d) must attend team practices. Practices should be viewed as more important than games. Time spent together in practice is essential to building up the team, physically, spiritually, and relationally. A poorly prepared team cannot positively represent its school.
- e) must understand that participation in athletics may be withheld if deemed appropriate by the principal. Before any decisions are implemented concerning athletic eligibility, coaches, teachers and administration will be involved. Final decisions will rest with the principal.
- f) must follow the schools' policy regarding school attendance; if a player has an unexcused absence or has been absent from a class on a game day because of illness, he or she may not play that day, unless there are extenuating circumstances that have been agreed to by the school principal.
- g) must follow the schools' policy regarding substance use. Any player caught smoking, consuming alcohol, and/or using illicit drugs while representing a CCS team will be suspended from the team. Any other behavior that is contradictory to reflecting Christ may also result in suspension.

**Responsibilities:**

- a) to exhibit Christ-like attitude and behavior, at home and on the road. Foul language mouthed or voiced, or displays of anger will not be tolerated; such infractions will result in immediate benching. On the contrary, courtesy is expected from the players. This is paramount, as these athletes are ambassadors for Christ.
- b) must be committed to the team in all areas, including games, practices, and devotions.
- c) to inform the coach of an absence in advance.
- d) must be committed to improving their skills, which takes hard work, determination and dedication. Athletes should be committed to always do their best. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." II Timothy 4:7
- e) to participate in fund raising for the interscholastic program.
- f) to follow the school dress code.

**D. Parents/School Community:**



Parents and community adults are a valuable part of the CCS athletic "team". They can offer help and support that will lighten the demands on the Athletic Director and coaches. Some examples are:

- a) offer to volunteer as a coach or co-coach (look under “Coaches” for eligibility and responsibilities).
- b) offer to drive to games or tournaments as the need arises.
- c) be available to supervise/chaperone for games and/or tournaments.
- d) be willing to help in some way when teams are hosting tournaments.
- e) are encouraged to support their children's teams by attending as many games as possible, remembering to be a positive support in all ways.
- f) should encourage and show appreciation to their children's coaches and uphold them and the teams in prayer.
- g) should bring any questions or concerns directly to the coach, and if needed further to the athletic director.

#### **E. Teams:**



Athletes and coaches are role models; being a team member brings about new responsibilities which must be respected. Many people will know the team members by their appearance at games, and by their actions. Their conduct should always be such that it brings credit to themselves, their team, their school, and ultimately glory to God. Their Christian witness should never be compromised.

#### Team selection criteria:

The decisions involved in making team selections are not easy. The coach must spend a great deal of time in the decision-making process to ensure that the process is accurately and professionally handled.

- The entire student, not just his or her physical skills, is to be considered in the process of choosing the team. The team player criteria include the following:
  - skill level, skill potential, and level of physical fitness
  - attitude, behavior, work ethic, and coachability
  - leadership potential
  - personal benefit to the student
  - time commitments of the athletes on non-athletic responsibilities that might be detrimental to either the individual or the team.
- athletes are to be made aware of their role and position on the team so that this is clear to them from the outset. Since there may be changes as players develop their skills, the communication from the coach must remain current.
- it is expected that when cuts need to be made, the coach will dialogue with the athletic director after which they will speak with all players privately encouraging each one in their strengths.

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### Playing time:

- At the junior high “B” team level (grade six, seven and eight) equal participation time in practice and game situations is desired. The goal is for students to have a good initial experience.
- At the junior high “A” team level (grade eight & nine) the selection process is more refined with increased emphasis on both individual athletic skills and team play. All players should receive substantial playing time in games and equal participation time in practice. Coaches are encouraged to select players who can play at that level and then play all the players they select.
- At the senior high “B” team level equal participation time is again desirable in practice and games.
- At the senior high “A” team level quality teams are the goal. A God-glorifying pursuit of excellence is clearly within the framework of Christian commitment. Decisions about team dynamic, priority of athlete, educational needs and goals must be constantly evaluated in each situation. We do not “win at all costs”. Coaches are strongly encouraged to select players who can play at that level and then play all the players they select.

Generally, there are several criteria that determine who plays, and how much time each athlete receives.

- the effort of the athlete (energetic, enthusiastic, positive, exemplary attendance)
- the attitude and behavior of the athlete (humility, interest in game when not playing, demonstrates team spirit, co-operative).
- the athlete's leadership abilities to assist and lift the team, (encouraging, Christlikeness, helpful).
- the skill level of the athlete.
- the skill level of the opposing team.

Coaches will evaluate their choice of playing time for each athlete with the athletic director during the season and just prior to the playoffs.

### Time commitment for teams:

The following are suggested guidelines to help determine the amount time commitment involved.

#### Practice:

6-9: once or twice (when no games) a week for one and half hours.

9-12: once or twice a week for up to two hours.

#### League Play & Games:

6-9: up to twice a week but preferably once a week

10-12: up to twice a week but preferably once a week

### Tournaments:

6-9: VB and BB - two or three tournaments including zones

9-12: Volleyball: up to four tournaments plus zones

9-12: Basketball: up to five tournaments plus zones

Consideration must be given to the combination of all three aspects of participation; practice, league and tournaments so a healthy balance is achieved. On average exposure to the game should be as follows:

6-9: two times in a week (3 during tournaments)

9-12: two to three times in a week (4 during tournaments)

Students should not normally be expected to participate on days when school is not in session, especially during normal breaks such as Christmas, Family week and Easter.

### **F. Fans**



In the interest of Christian sportsmanship and positive Christian testimony, all fans are expected to observe the following:

- a) show proper respect to the players on both teams.
- b) show proper respect for the visiting crowd and treat them as they would like to be treated in the visitor's gym.
- c) show proper respect for officials and their legitimate position of authority over the game.
- d) remember that the other teams' players, coaches, fans and the officials are not their enemies. They are merely components in a game.
- e) derogatory remarks to an official's decision or to a player's performance are not permitted. This behavior will not be tolerated, and you will be asked to leave.
- f) fans are encouraged to remember the Lord sees their actions and know their thoughts and the intent of their hearts.

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## Coaldale Christian Interscholastic Sports Policy

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### Coach's Agreement

Name of Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

Sport(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Season: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this, I understand and agree to the following:

- This is a voluntary position. Any payment or reimbursement expected will be discussed with the athletic director and outlined at the bottom of this form.
- I have read the CCS Sports Policy and will implement its expectations to the best of my ability.
- I will submit to the secretary a Criminal Records check (expense to be borne by CCS).
- I will discuss any discipline concerns with the athletic director as soon as possible.

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Coach's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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## Player's Agreement & Emergency Information

Name of Player: \_\_\_\_\_

Sport(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Season: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this, I understand and agree to the following:

- I understand that my participation is not a right, but a privilege, and comes with expectations and responsibilities. I will do my best to meet those expectations as found in the CCS Sports Policy.
- I will respect my teammates, the opposition, fans, coaches, and officials in all situations.
- I will work hard for the team during practices, games, and tournaments.
- I will be diligent in my schoolwork.
- I will respect the application of appropriate discipline for any behaviors which are not acceptable.

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(with my signature, I support the CCS athletic program and its policies and will help my son / daughter abide by them. I also understand that participation in sports carries some risks.)

Medical Concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact (1): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone / Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact (2): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone / Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

AB Health Care # \_\_\_\_\_

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