

The Division believes in and supports interschool sports programs as an extension of the educational experience. These programs are intended to foster growth in students physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, morally, and in faith. Extra-curricular athletics provide opportunities for students to develop their God-given talents in a way that reflects Gospel values, respect for others, and Christian sportsmanship.

Procedures

1. Facilities and Equipment

- 1.1 Division-owned facilities and equipment (excluding transportation) shall be available, free of charge, to students participating in extra-curricular athletics programs.
- 1.2 Students may be required to provide their own personal equipment.

2. Fees and Financial Accountability

- 2.1 A fee may be charged to students to assist with costs of participation. Schools may also support athletics through fundraising.
- 2.2 Where fees are charged:
 - 2.2.1 Accounts must be maintained in accordance with Administrative Procedure 507– School Generated Funds and are subject to audit.
 - 2.2.2 No school or the Division shall realize a profit from fees.

3. Program Conduct

- 3.1 Extra-curricular athletics shall be conducted in an environment of fairness, good sportsmanship, safety, and Christian values.
- 3.2 Principals must ensure proper supervision for all activities.
- 3.3 Instructional time loss for coaches and athletes must be minimized.

4. Participation and Eligibility

- 4.1 Programs must maximize opportunities for both males and females in individual, dual, and team activities.
- 4.2 Female-only competitions require eligibility by female sex at birth, confirmed in writing by the student or parent if a minor.
- 4.3 Eligibility challenges must be submitted confidentially in writing to the Principal or designate. Rulings may be appealed to the Superintendent.
- 4.4 School Sport Alberta obligations to the Minister of Tourism and Sport shall be upheld.

4.5 Females may compete in male competitions.

4.6 Mixed gender or mixed sex competitions may occur where numbers warrant.

5. Coaches

5.1 Coaches shall emphasize safety, fairness, skill development, participation, enjoyment, and the modelling of Christian values.

5.2 Coaches must model sportsmanship, consistency, and self-control.

5.3 The self-esteem of athletes must be respected, and parental communication maintained.

5.4 Principals may approve non-staff coaches, provided:

5.4.1 Principals provide guidance on rules and procedures.

5.4.2 A teacher is assigned as liaison to coordinate activities.

5.4.3 The liaison is present at practices, league play, tournaments, Zone and Provincial competitions.

5.5 Faith Integration: Coaches are encouraged to integrate faith into athletics through practices such as prayer before or after games, moments of reflection, and promoting Gospel values in competition and teamwork.

6. Safety Requirements

6.1 Coaches must ensure athletes are not placed in unsafe or inappropriate competitive situations.

6.2 Coaches must be aware of students' health concerns and emergency contacts.

6.3 Parents are responsible for notifying coaches of relevant medical conditions.

6.4 All staff must be familiar with and follow the Safety Guidelines for Secondary Interschool Athletics in Alberta.

7. School Sports Coordinator

7.1 Each year, someone will serve as the School Sports Coordinator to

7.1.1 Coordinate Division-recognized extra-curricular programs.

7.1.2 Organize playoffs, invitational meets, and tournaments.

7.1.3 Maintain and circulate a master schedule.

7.1.4 Ensure current procedures are communicated to staff.

7.1.5 Consult with coaches in developing schedules.

7.2 The Coordinator shall meet with principals annually, preferably in September or October, to review plans and concerns.

7.3 The Coordinator may receive Division-assigned funds to support athletics.

8. Student Behaviour and Parent Communication

8.1 Students must conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on their school and models Christian character.

8.2 Coaches must inform parents early in the season of procedures, expectations and provide a provisional game schedule.

9. Travel

9.1 Student travel is subject to Administrative Procedure 319 – Field Trips, Excursions, National and International Tours.

9.2 Students must travel to away games as directed by the Principal.

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References

Education Act, Sections 1, 6, 11, 31, 32, 33, 52, 53, 196, 197, 204, 222

Access to Information Act

Fairness and Safety in Sport Act

Protection of Privacy Act

Vital Statistics Act

Fairness and Safety in Sport Regulation

School Fees Regulation

Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12

Physical Education Safety Guidelines

Safety Guidelines for Physical Activity in Alberta Schools

Safety Guidelines for Secondary Inter-School Athletics in Alberta