

Athletics Participation Policy

Students in grades 3-8 are eligible to participate in athletics. Students in grades 3 and 4 may participate on A & B-teams because of a lack of numbers. Students in 2nd grade may participate on C-teams because of a lack of numbers. Much time and effort, and a considerable expense has gone into planning an interscholastic athletic program for our students, but obviously the program will not be successful without the cooperation of participating students and their parents.

Therefore, we ask that if your child has an interest in participating in an athletic sport this year, you would go over the following considerations with your child, and then, if you feel you can obligate yourselves, sign up for the various sports. Remember, that this is a commitment which cannot be neglected later because of inconvenience or because a child changed his/her mind. If at any time your situation changes and you and/or your child cannot fulfill this obligation, notify the coaches as soon as possible so that they will not be counting on you.

Students are obligated to:

1. realize that participation in athletics is a commitment and responsibility to the team. Therefore, all team members are expected to be present at every practice and game;
2. cooperate with coaches;
3. seek to develop TEAM spirit and practice Christian sportsmanship;
4. work at developing skills in practice and during spare time;
5. accept all referees' decisions as part of the game and final in a cheerful spirit;
6. have the proper apparel for practice and games at all times;
7. not let athletic participation interfere with schoolwork;
8. sit in the stands and watch other events scheduled along with their own, and practice good sportsmanship as fans;
9. be responsible for belongings and care for uniforms and equipment;
10. cooperate with parents who provide rides for them and never leave an event with someone else without letting their original driver know; and
11. exhibit Christian conduct and habits generally as a representative of his/her school on athletic teams.

Parents are obligated to:

1. do their part in providing transportation by driving (or furnishing drivers for practice and events.) Teachers and coaches are not expected to provide this transportation;
2. supervise children they bring along to games. Do not let them run loose throughout the building or go outside;
3. accept officials' decisions as part of the game. There is to be no criticism of the officials from the sidelines;
4. assist where necessary in care of uniforms and keeping participants' personal equipment clean; and

5. pick up their children from scheduled practices and games promptly so that teachers and coaches are not inconvenienced.

Uniform Care:

1. Uniforms are to be worn for games only. Uniforms are not to be worn while eating.
2. Uniforms are to be hung out to dry immediately after games, (not left in gym bags).
3. Uniforms should be washed as needed or after every other use (whichever comes first).
4. Wash in warm (not hot) water by hand or using a gentle cycle. Be careful of bleeding colors!
5. Line dry. Do not iron unless necessary. Do not touch lettering with an iron. Use as cool an iron as possible.
6. Return uniform within two weeks to the Athletic Director (washed, dried, and folded) after the season.
7. Uniforms are quite expensive and often not replaceable! Treat them accordingly.

Participation Criteria and Guidelines for C Teams

C Teams (Grades 3-4 – if low numbers some years may go down to 2nd)

- C Team level is primarily instructional in nature.
- All team members are guaranteed an amount of playing time in all games.
- Winning is not a priority.
- A team member's attitude, (especially during practice), attendance at practice, and determination are factors coaches should take into consideration when giving team members playing time.
- All involved — coaches, team members, and parents — should realize that the Lord gives varying levels of talent to individuals.

Participation Criteria and Guidelines for B Teams

B Teams (Grades 5-6 – if low numbers some years may go down to 3rd)

- B Team level is primarily instructional in nature.
- All team members are guaranteed an amount of playing time in non-tournament games.
- Winning is not the main priority.
- In tournaments, coaches are not compelled to use all team members in a given competition, but coaches will make every effort to include all team members if the game situation allows for it.
- A team member's attitude, (especially during practice), attendance at practice, and determination are factors coaches should take into consideration when giving team members playing time.
- All involved — coaches, team members, and parents — should realize that the Lord gives varying levels of talent to individuals.

Participation Criteria and Guidelines for A Teams

A Teams (Grades 7-8 – if low numbers some years may go down to 4th)

- Winning is more of a priority.
- Competition level provided by opponent determines how much an individual plays in a given game or match:
 - a) Tougher competition means we will play our better, more experienced players more.
 - b) Weaker competition means we have the opportunity for weaker players to develop their skills more fully.
 - c) Close competition means the coach can play whoever is best for the situation.
- Coaches are not compelled to use all team members in a given competition, but coaches will make every effort to include all team members if the game situation allows for it.
- A team member's attitude, (especially during practice), attendance at practice, and determination are factors coaches should take into consideration when giving team members playing time.
- All involved – coaches, team members, and parents – should realize that the Lord gives varying levels of talent to individuals.

* Note. In athletic offerings in which there are no “C” or “B” teams, participation criteria and guidelines for “A” Teams will apply.

Realizing that the coach is usually a volunteer who spends many hours in coaching and associated practices, all involved - parents and team members - should be thankful for their extra efforts. During practices and games, the coach is the authority. Decisions must often be made quickly during the course of a competition. Accordingly, the coach's actions are not to be criticized. Only a coach can truly understand the rapidity with which a contest can pass. Coaches would appreciate a separate meeting with them at another time if you need to discuss a matter with them. Expressing concerns immediately after a contest is not always the best time.

While excused absences are expected on occasion, players failing to make practices without a legitimate excuse and players who do not follow the coaches' leadership during practice obviously jeopardize the amount of playing time they might expect. Students must be in school for the afternoon session to be able to participate in an athletic program after school. The only exception would be those students absent with a valid excuse (i.e. dental and medical appointments, family emergencies, funerals, etc.). Any student who misses the practice prior to a game will not be able to start in that next game.