

INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS

Background

The Division believes in and encourages interschool sports programs which provide educational experiences which will help students grow physically, mentally, emotionally, socially and morally.

Procedures

1. Interschool athletics programs shall be conducted in an environment of fairness and good sportsmanship.
2. Interschool athletics are to provide for maximum opportunities for both males and females to participate in a variety of activities (individual, dual, team).
3. Interschool athletics are to be organized and directed by coaches who stress educational objectives, safety, active participation by all participants, competence in the sport with an emphasis on enjoyment.
4. Staff involved with interschool athletics are to be familiar with the contents of the document *Safety Guidelines for Secondary Interschool Athletics in Alberta* and follow the recommended safety practices as is reasonable in the circumstances.
5. A Division Sports Coordinator shall be appointed annually to facilitate the smooth operation and scheduling of extra-curricular sports events, and to act as a liaison between the Division administration and the various schools, and among the schools themselves.
 - 5.1 The Division Sports Coordinator shall be appointed early in the fall of each year by the Physical Education Committee, which is made up of the Division's physical education teachers, and physical education teachers representing each of the Roman Catholic Separate Schools whose Divisions contribute to the funding of this role.
 - 5.2 The Division Sports Coordinator shall act as Chair of the Physical Education Committee and in this role shall be responsible to the Director of Human Resources.
 - 5.3 The Division Sports Coordinator shall coordinate the recognized interschool sports programs conducted by the Division's junior and senior high schools, including but not limited to the following duties:
 - 5.3.1 Playoff organization.
 - 5.3.2 Invitational meets and tournaments hosted in the Division.
 - 5.3.3 Maintaining a master schedule of activities for each school year.
 - 5.3.4 Notify schools of schedules and events.

- 5.3.5 Circulation to Physical Education Committee members the current procedures of the Division governing extracurricular activities and travel.
 - 5.3.6 Development of schedules in consultation with each physical education teacher involved.
 - 5.4 The Division Sports Coordinator shall keep the Division's administration, particularly principals of the schools involved with its programs, informed of its activities, plans and decisions; including but not limited to the following:
 - 5.4.1 Meeting with principals at least once each school year, preferably in September or October to discuss Committee plans and mutual concerns.
 - 5.4.2 Supply copies of agendas for all Committee meetings to the Director of Human Resources and principals.
 - 5.5 The Division Sports Coordinator shall provide advice to the Division, on behalf of the Physical Education Committee members, on procedures and financial matters relating to the sports program; through the office of the Director of Human Resources.
 - 5.6 The Division Sports Coordinator may receive funds assigned to support expenses of sports activities.
 - 5.7 The Division Sports Coordinator shall make provision in application of these procedures to include representation of the Separate School Districts in the Physical Education Committee and its activities. In this respect the Coordinator shall be sensitive to the dual system nature of the sports program, and shall review any concerns in this area with the Superintendent of the system concerned; or of both systems if appropriate.
6. All coaches shall emphasize safety of the athletes and not allow students to be put in competitive situations where their physical health is in danger.
- 6.1 Coaches are to be knowledgeable about any physical problems regarding students under their direction as well as being aware of each student's Alberta Health Care number, name of the family physician, and a home phone number.
 - 6.2 Parents have the responsibility of informing the coach of any relevant physical or medical problems.
7. Elementary interschool athletics are to be kept at a minimum. Any elementary interschool athletic event which occurs must be approved by the Superintendent.
8. Junior high interschool athletics will take place based on the following criteria:
- 8.1 The emphasis be on enjoyment, participation, and the learning of skills.
 - 8.2 Travel to other Division schools is strongly encouraged (e.g. home and home series in basketball and volleyball).
 - 8.3 When traveling on a week night, junior high teams are to leave their school at 3:30 p.m. so an early return can be realized.
9. To provide for maximum junior high students participation, elementary students will not be played during interschool games where there are enough junior high students to form a team

roster.

10. Senior high interschool athletics will take place based on the criteria that the emphasis be on enjoyment and participation and the development of competence in the sport which the student is participating.
11. Coaches must remember they are role models for all students under their charge and for this reason are to model a high degree of sportsmanship, fairness, consistency, and self-control to their own students, students and coaches on other teams, and officials.
12. At interschool athletic events students will behave in a manner that reflects positively on their school.
13. Early in the sports season the parents will be offered the opportunity to be informed of the coach's procedures and expectations in regards to the students and their parents. Early in the season, the coach shall provide a copy of the provisional game schedule to the parents.
14. Student travel to athletic events is subject to Administrative Procedure 563 – Transportation for Off Site Excursions.
15. The Principal may approve a coach who is not a member of the school's teaching staff.
 - 15.1 The Principal must provide guidance and direction to this coach in regards to all rules and procedures pertaining to interschool athletics.
 - 15.2 If a person, other than a member of a teaching staff, coaches a school team, the Principal will assign a teacher to the coach for the purpose of coordinating and managing the team's activities.
 - 15.2.1 The teacher liaison must be present for Zone and Provincial Competitions.
16. Student members of school teams must travel to all away games as directed by the Principal.

Adopted/Revised: JUN 2016.JUN 2019/NOV 2019/JAN 2023

Reference: Section 1, 6, 11, 31, 32, 33, 52, 53, 196, 197, 204, 222 Education Act
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12
Safety Guidelines for Physical Activity in Alberta Schools
Safety Guidelines for Secondary Inter-School Athletics in Alberta
Physical Education Safety Guidelines