



# TRENTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Policy Update - February 2008

Replacing -

## SPORTS POLICY

### Preamble

Offering children a competitive sports team experience brings certain opportunities and challenges. Our current practice in the competitive environment involves having a starting line up, selective substitution and situational team tactics. We rely on our coaches, either staff or parent volunteer, to decide on how these factors may work during a particular game or tournament. Your child will know at the start of the season whether they will start or substitute into the game. The starting line up can change due to injury, skill development and mental aptitude of the starters and the other players. All children will get playing time, but it will not be equally shared. That experience is available in our TCS intramural program.

Physical Education and Sports at Trenton Christian School can be described as a 3-tiered program:

1. Physical Education Class Curriculum;
2. Intramural Sports;
3. Interscholastic Sports.

(The following 3 paragraphs are various excerpts of M.A. Zuidema's Christian School International - Phys. Ed. 6-8)

### Phys. Ed. Curriculum

The focus of the physical education curriculum is motor skill development, health fitness, play, physical movement concepts and discipleship in a Christian lifestyle. The stress is on the use of physical activity as a developmental medium in which the primary goal is not the activity itself, but rather improving personal performance through the activity. Physical education is concerned with gaining understanding through muscular activity, using physical activity for service to God, relating this activity to other parts of God's creation, and knowing how physical activity forms the human being.

### Intramural Sports

Competition in intramurals is a natural follow up for a well rounded physical education program. It is an excellent opportunity for students to use skills, tactics and rules learned in physical education classes. An open invitation is extended to all students from grades 4 through 8 to participate regardless of skill level. Teams are selected based on numbers of students interested in playing the particular sport offered. Teams generally include a combination of students from each of the grades participating. Such competition encourages student self improvement, teamwork and cooperation in achieving common goals. Older students are role models and often become instructors to their younger teammates. The intramural sports program should emphasize both competing and participating for fun.

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### **Interscholastic Sports**

*The physical education program and intramural sports is intended as introductory learning for all students and involves inter class competitive play while interscholastic athletics are intended for the more highly skilled students and involves interschool competitive play.* Christians should feel free to play, to enjoy competitive sport experiences, and to celebrate in participation; but, Christians must also have responsibility before God, serving Him and others, during their play. The competitive play involved in athletics is usually more emotional, more fervent, more tense and possibly more testing of Christian values than competitive play achieved in intramural sports. The emotion of winning and losing is also more involved and continuously needs educational attention and guidance. The celebration in participation includes the challenge to play, an intensity of effort, quest for excellence, and intelligent tactics; the responsibility before God includes choices in behaviour, fair play, team play, and respect for opponents.

### **Team Selection - Interscholastic Sports**

Similar to other areas of participation (ie drama) a selection process is involved in organizing a sports team. A team selection is specifically based on the particular sport (and therefore particular # of participants permitted/required) and the criteria of a particular tournament. TCS often has the opportunity to participate in both Junior (generally Grades 4-6) tournaments with *Public Schools* and Seniors (Grades 7-8) tournaments with *Christian Schools and Public Schools*.

If the criteria of a tournament is participatory, all efforts will be made to include as many interested students as possible including the option of sending more than one team.

If the criteria of a tournament is competitive and the expectations are to field the best team possible, the team coach will select the players to go.

Since TCS encourages participation in sports, where possible the Junior team selection process will be made with the intent that all interested Grade 6 students participate on an Interscholastic team at sometime during the Grade 6 school year.

### **Coach Selection Criteria**

Love the Lord

Adhere and follow Christian values and principles outlines in TCS manual.

Enjoy working with students and have patience.

Be able to handle conflicts or various situations that may arise.

Have a reasonable knowledge of the sport and rules.

Be able to work along with the TCS staff.

### **Coach's Responsibilities**

Provide attention and guidance for player responsibility before God.

Treat players with respect and patience.

*Grade 7 is generally used as a learning time with Grade 8's acting as leaders and 7's learning as they go.*

*All players must at some time play during a tournament.*

Encourage the team members (ie words, treats, etc) regardless of the team's success. Bring along first aid kit, equipment and water bottles. *Also, return to storage area.*

Handle newsletter announcements.

Arrange own transportation.

Distribute uniforms in advance.

*Summary of season including concerns, questions or problems that arose.*

*Clean up after practices.*

*Respect officials*

*The coach will discuss with its team strategies and team member roles.*

**Interscholastic Team Selection Criteria**

Tournament criteria *such as participatory fun or competitive.*  
 # of players *suitable or permitted* for a particular sport.  
 Attitude of athlete - willingness to work, cooperate, *accept instruction*  
 Overall attitude of student *towards school and school work*  
 Skill level/*potential*  
 Availability to practice.  
 Grade or age

**Interscholastic Team Member Responsibilities**

*Conduce yourself in a Christ like manner*  
*Play your best and have fun!*  
 Listen and respect coaches and officials  
 Respect the opponent.  
 Respect each teammate; be a team player  
 Show up and on time to practices.  
 Players are to be in proper uniform and attire as they are representing TCS and what we stand for.  
*Be gracious whether you win or lose*  
*Keep up studies and good standing with teachers/school.*  
*Express any concerns to the coach.*

**Parent's Responsibility**

Pray for coach and team as they are all working to glorify God with their abilities/talents  
 Encourage, thank coaches, supporting staff for their time and effort  
 Encourage players on the team  
 Show respect for coaches and officials and their decisions  
 Approach coach with individual concerns and then administration if necessary  
 Whenever possible, support team by being able to drive.