

LONDON CHRISTIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Interschool Sports Policy

(Revised-Spring 2010)

Part I: LCES Sports Policy

One of the main goals of London Christian Elementary School is to encourage students to serve in God's kingdom out of a love for God, their neighbours, themselves and God's world. We aim to foster a community of caring which is reflected in all aspects of the school environment. This care will reflect respect for God, His creation and the school community and will model and provide opportunities for students to practice what it means to live as followers of God. We also strive for this in the sports program.

To expose as many students as possible to character and community building through sports participation, a signup process will be used to form teams. Aiming to avoid situations of exclusion and isolation, we focus on open access, shared learning, skill development and team building for the enjoyment of all students.

As an elementary school, we do not see it as our role to only select students with certain aptitudes, specializing in a certain sport or a specific position within that sport. Rather, we seek to give students the opportunity to learn and to play all the sports available through the sports program. As such, all grade eight students will be invited to participate in team sports offered at LCES. It is hoped that this will provide an enjoyable sports experience and encourage the individual skills and team play.

It is important that students learn to handle winning and losing appropriately. Given these opportunities within a structured school environment allows for valuable learning experiences. The aim is to give all students experience in developing skills, playing as a team, and to develop and use their athletic gifts to the best of their potential. Occasions will be provided for students to enjoy sports and to glorify God through a variety of athletic activities.

Steps taken to implement the sports program using this rationale are outlined in the following section.

Part II – Implementation of LCES Sports Policy

Since the interschool sports policy at LCES is carried out by a variety of staff members and parent volunteers, the Athletic Coordinator (an LCES staff member) will help to implement the policy. Staff and parent coaches should be familiar with both the rationale and implementation of the policy. Although not necessarily coaching, a staff representative should always be present at practices and games. The staff representative will ensure that the students are playing safely and that the sports policy is being implemented in the case of a parent volunteer. The staff representative will be in close contact with the Sports Council Representative.

Individual Roles and Responsibilities

A. Students' Responsibilities

At present we have a variety of interschool sports opportunities, both team and individual, for students at different age levels. All student athletes must attend all practices, unless they are unable to come for valid reasons. If they are unable to come for a valid reason, they must inform their coach personally. Student athletes are to show a positive attitude, put forth good effort in practices and games/meets and demonstrate cooperation and Christian attitudes towards the coach, referees, team-mates and members of other teams. Student athletes must also maintain, and not fall behind in, their academic work and understand that playing on a school team is a privilege.

B. Coaches' Responsibilities

Coaches will work toward developing the skill level of each student, encourage a cooperative team spirit, insist on a Christian attitude toward others in play and aim for maximum participation of all team members. The coach is responsible for helping students to see that they are each an important part of a team effort in their play, and that all have a unique contribution to make towards the team.

In games leading up to championship games, all team members should have opportunity to play. The discretion of the coach may be used to determine playing times at championship games.

The LCES Athletic Coordinator will review the "Coaching Guidelines" and the "LCES Interschool Sports Policy" with each coach before the season starts so that the coach has a clear understanding of the policy. Discussion will include how the coach plans to implement the sports policy.

C. Parents' Responsibilities

Parents of LCES students are required to encourage their child, help their child prioritise practice times, communicate with the child's coach and agree with the LCES "Coaching Guidelines" and "Interschool Sports Policy".

Parents are to show a positive attitude and must respect the coach's and referee's decisions during a game. If a parent has an issue with a specific call or decision, they are asked to speak with the coach personally and privately to clear up the matter. Parents are also asked to speak positively about the sports experience and respectfully of their child's coach and the decisions he or she makes.

The sports policy is reviewed as needed. It is dictated in part by the size of the school. If the school were to expand substantially the sports policy would need to be re-visited by the Board.

Team Sports

Limits are set on the number of students that can join each team so that there is a healthy and safe practice setting. As well, the school has limited facilities, staff and equipment to be able to accommodate all interested students at the intermediate level. However, if there are more than a recommended number of students for that specific sport in Grade 8 alone, exceptions will be made. For example, there are fifteen Grade 8 girls interested in joining the volleyball team. The recommended limit for volleyball is twelve, but all will be allowed to join since they are all in Grade 8.

In September of each school year, all students in Grades 7 and 8 will be surveyed to determine their interests in school teams. All students in Grade 8 are invited to participate in all of the intermediate level team sports. Should more students be needed to make a team, a choice will be made from those Grade 7 students who would like to participate in a particular sport. Grade 7 will be surveyed to find out their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices of teams, and will be allowed to join as space allows. Grade 7 students will be chosen by the Athletic Coordinator. If there remains space on a team, Grade 6 students will be approached and invited to play if they are interested.

Ideally, season schedules and teams should be determined at the beginning of the school year. This will ensure that no one sport or team becomes an overwhelming task for a coach or student to manage outside of regular responsibilities.

Some students may wish to participate in alternate activities related to play, such as score keeping or stats manager, and still be considered part of the team.

Sports Seasons

SPORT	LEAGUE	DATES	Recommended # for each team
Cross Country Grades 3-8	Catholic School – Local Woodstock District Christian Schools Meet	September and October	open
Soccer Grades 7&8	Woodstock District Christian Schools Tournament	September and October	20 per team
Volleyball Grades 7&8	CTAA (Catholic Teachers Athletic Association) League Woodstock District Christian Schools Tournament	October to December	12 per team
Basketball Grades 7&8	CTAA (Catholic Teachers Athletic Association) League Woodstock District Christian Schools Tournament	December to February	12 per team

Hockey Grades 7&8	Woodstock District Christian Schools Tournament	March	15 maximum
Junior Basketball Grades 5&6	Skills and drills practice (may also involve a fun game against a local school)	March and April	15 per team
Badminton Grades 7&8	Woodstock District Christian Schools Tournament	April and May	16 (8 girls, 8 boys)
Track & Field Local: Grades SK-8 District: Ages 8-13	Local Day District Track and Field with Woodstock District Christian Schools	May June	Local: open District: top 2 from each event at local day