

CCA Athletics Policy

I. Policy Rationale

- A. to aid the athletic directors, coaches, athletes, and parents in living out their calling as Christ's own and the mission statement of the school. Therefore, CCA athletics will be a place where all involved may learn to know, love, and serve God.
- B. to allow for accountability on the part of the athletic directors, coaches, athletes and other participants, parents, and fans.
- C. to provide guidelines for athletic directors, coaches, athletes and other participants, parents, and fans, by which that accountability can be measured.

II Purpose

- A. to pursue a godly character while participating in a sport since athletics is in God's domain of authority and through play, whether positive or negative, spirituality and godliness are expressed.
- B. to further equip students in developing an understanding of service to and growth in Christ through athletics.
- C. to encourage team spirit that recognizes each athlete's contribution to the team, and each athlete's responsibility to each other and to the team.
- D. to encourage the development of sports-specific skills that help the athlete strive for personal excellence.
- E. to build and develop Christian leadership.
- F. to humbly recognize that God uses our schools to reflect Christ to the secular community.
- G. to promote fairness and safety in sport.

III. Principles and Procedures

A. Athletic Director

1. Qualifications

- a. must be a teacher at CCA
- b. must have an interest in, and knowledge of school athletics.
- c. must demonstrate organizational skills.

2. Responsibilities

- a. to be accountable to the administration of CCA.
- b. to be familiar with all aspects of team sports relating to extracurricular and intramural activities.
- c. to provide a CCA school/coach agreement to coaches, and a school/parent/player agreement for athletes and parents to sign at the beginning of each season
- d. to relay a season schedule prior to the start of each season.
- e. to register the school with the ASAA each fall and complete all zone registrations throughout the year.
- f. to recruit a qualified coach for each team and create a coaching assignment list in the fall of each year. All coaches need the approval of the administration and must meet the eligibility requirements of this policy.
- g. to ensure the coaching staff reads and understands the CCA athletics policy.
- h. to administer appropriate disciplinary measures when necessary, and to make clear to the coaches the responsibility they have regarding discipline when playing away from CCA
- i. to ensure that proper first aid supplies are present at all home and away games.
- j. to organize all scorekeepers, referees, gate workers and supervisors for each game.
- k. to book all buses and transportation as needed.
- l. to help select the athletic awards along with the coaches, which are presented at the year end school awards assembly.
- m. to attend all necessary ASAA meetings and BRJHAA meetings
- n. to provide professional representation of CCA as required in all leagues and associations.

- o. to organize all home tournaments.

B. Coaches

1. Eligibility

a. it is desirable that all teams at CCA have coaches who demonstrate through active commitment in a Christian church, a love for and commitment to Christ. Coaches that reflect this will be given higher preference over other community coaches.

- i) understand and have read the CCA Athletics Policy and will implement its expectations to the best of their ability and uphold and affirm our community and Christian faith values

b. must have an interest and knowledge of sport being asked to coach.

c. must submit a CCA Volunteer Application form (attached at the end of this document).

d. if coaching high school sports, must fulfill the mandatory course requirements of the ASAA (Concussion Course, By-laws and Policies).

2. Responsibilities

A coach is a leader and a mentor. Coaches are encouraged to, and should seek opportunities to model faith in Christ with their team players, parents, and other sports contacts. This, in combination with teaching technical aspects of the sport, should serve to develop athletes who are committed to the Lord and to their team. A coach, because he or she is a mentor, must display the qualities of respect, honesty, humility, loyalty, integrity, responsibility, trustworthiness, and self-control. (Col. 3:23)

a. must be committed to developing every player on the team to his or her fullest ability, realizing that each player has unique God-given talents.

b. to develop the players into a healthy "team" reflecting what it means to be a Christ-centered community.

c. to communicate and model appropriate Christian behaviour at home and when away.

- d. to administer appropriate curfews when away, realizing the team is there to play their best.
- e. to monitor players' behaviour and to be empowered to take appropriate action
 - i) foul language, mouthed or voiced, or displays of anger will not be tolerated, such an infraction will result in immediate benching until the player's attitude improves.
 - ii) any player caught smoking, vaping, consuming alcohol and/or using illicit drugs while representing the team will be suspended from the team. Any other behaviour contradictory to reflecting Christ may also result in suspension.
- f. to ensure all students are picked up from practices and games before the coach departs
- g. to ensure CCA students are under direct supervision while at CCA games and practices, and while CCA students are at other locations for games and tournaments

C. Athletes

1. Eligibility

- a. must accept that it is a privilege, not a right, for students to be involved in interscholastic sports.
- b. must demonstrate a healthy and positive attitude toward competition. Athletic competition may best be defined as challenging, intense play with a Christian response. Pursuit of the prize and excellence are honorable goals. Intensity of effort and pursuit of excellence are essential but so are: "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." (Gal.5:22) The challenge for a Christian athletic program is not to win, but to build a higher quality of striving for the goal.
- c. must demonstrate true Christian character and sportsmanship. Failure to do so may result in suspension from the game and the team. Christian athletes must be responsible for their actions, as individuals and as a team.
- d. must attend team practices. Practices are to be given the same importance as games. Time spent together in practice is essential to building up the team, physically, spiritually and relationally. A poorly prepared team cannot positively represent its school.

e. must maintain their school work. Tournaments and games are not acceptable excuses for incomplete assignments and arrangements must be made with teachers ahead of time for missed work.

i) For Alberta Schools' Athletics Association(ASAA) eligibility, students must maintain a course load of 800 instructional minutes/per week. This equates to 2 full-time courses.

f. must understand that participation in athletics may be withheld if deemed appropriate by the CCA staff. Before any decisions are implemented concerning athletic eligibility, the administration and coaches involved must be consulted.

g. must follow the school's policy regarding school attendance; if a player has an unexcused absence or has been absent from class on a game day because of illness, he or she may not play that day.

h. must follow the school's policy regarding substance use. Any player caught smoking, vaping, consuming alcohol, and/or using illicit drugs while representing a CCA team will be suspended from the team. Any other behavior that is contradictory to reflecting Christ may also result in suspension.

i. athletes will pay all fees associated with participation on the team, set by CCA administration.

j. for athletes who are ages 12 or older, in order to participate in a female-only league, an athlete must be of the female sex at birth.

2. Responsibilities

a. to exhibit Christ-like attitude and behaviour, at home, on the road, and at other schools. Foul language, mouthed or voiced, or displays of anger will not be tolerated; such an infraction will result in immediate benching. On the contrary, courtesy is expected from the players while on the court and off the court. This is paramount, as these athletes are ambassadors for Christ.

b. must be committed to the team in all areas, including games, practices, and meetings

c. to inform the coach if they must be absent ahead of practices and games.

d. must be committed to improving their skills, which takes hard work, determination, and dedication. Athletes should be committed to always do their best.

e. to participate in fund-raising for the athletic program.

i) in particular, all athletes are expected to participate in CCA's highway cleanup event. This includes members of the team who are not students at CCA

f. to follow the dress code as outlined in the Student Handbook.

3. Confirmation of Athlete Eligibility

a. before an athlete may participate in a relevant sport, an athlete (or their parent or guardian if the athlete is under 18 years of age) must confirm in writing through the registration process with CCA, that they understand and meet the eligibility criteria set out in section C.1.j of this policy.

b. failure of an athlete (or their parent or guardian if the athlete is under 18 years of age) to confirm their eligibility in writing with CCA will render the athlete ineligible to participate.

4. Confidential Challenge to Athlete Eligibility

a. a confidential challenge may be submitted by an applicant if there are reasonable grounds to believe that an athlete is ineligible under section C.1.j of this policy.

b. a confidential challenge must be made in writing and sent to CCA at ccasociety@gmail.com

c. a confidential challenge to an athlete's eligibility must include: (a) the name of the applicant; (b) the name of the athlete, their club/team and sport; and (c) information that supports the grounds for the challenge.

5. Verification of Athlete Eligibility

a. upon receipt of a confidential challenge to an athlete's eligibility under section C.1.j of this policy, CCA will confirm receipt and notify the Minister of Tourism and Sport, without personal identifying information, within 3 business days.

b. CCA may dismiss the challenge if, in the opinion of CCA, reasonable grounds do not exist for the challenge. Upon dismissal of the challenge, the applicant will be notified by CCA and may be subject to sanctions under section C.7. of this policy. CCA will notify the Minister of Tourism and Sport of the dismissal, without personal identifying information, within 30 business days of the challenge.

- c. if CCA does not dismiss the challenge under section C.5.b. of this policy:
 - i. the applicant and the athlete whose eligibility is the subject of the challenge will be notified that the challenge is moving forward; and
 - ii. the athlete's whose eligibility is the subject of the challenge (or their parent or guardian if the athlete is under the age of 18) will be required to provide CCA with a copy of the athlete's birth registration document.
- d. Failure to provide the birth registration document as defined in the *Vital Statistics Act* or similar document issued outside of Alberta to CCA will render the athlete ineligible to participate in a relevant sport.

6. Resolution

- a. once the birth registration document is received, CCA will verify the athlete's eligibility under section C.1.j of this policy.
- b. if the challenge is upheld and the athlete is determined to be ineligible, CCA will notify the applicant and athlete whose eligibility has been challenged. The athlete will be permanently ineligible for participation in a female-only league, class or division of a relevant sport.
- c. if the challenge is dismissed and the athlete is determined to be eligible, CCA will notify the applicant and the athlete whose eligibility has been challenged. The athlete will be permanently eligible for participation in a female-only league, class or division of a relevant sport.
- d. upon a determination under section C.6.b or C.6.c of this policy, CCA will notify the Minister of Tourism and Sport of the decision, without personal identifying information, within 30 business days of the challenge

7. Invalid Challenge

- a. pursuant to section C.5.b of this policy, CCA may determine that reasonable grounds do not exist for a challenge, including but not limited to where:
 - i. CCA has previously resolved a challenge for the same athlete;
 - ii. not enough information has been provided to proceed as a valid challenge; or
 - iii. The challenge is deemed to have been made in bad faith.

b. factors relevant to determining whether a challenge, dismissed under section C.5.b of this policy, was made in bad faith and merits appropriate sanctions for the applicant include, without limitation:

- i. the applicant's prior history;
- ii. a pattern of inappropriate behavior or numerous unfounded challenges under this policy; and
- iii. the ages of the athletes involved.

c. sanctions for an applicant may include, without limitation:

- i. a written warning; and
- ii. a determination that the applicant has violated CCA's Code of Conduct, where applicable.

8. Appeals

a. the applicant may appeal to CCA a dismissal of a challenge under section C.5.b of this policy.

9. Protection of Personal Information

a. all information and data relating to the athlete will be treated as sensitive personal information and will be processed as such in accordance with applicable data protection and privacy laws. Such information and data will not be used for any purpose other than to determine athlete eligibility.

D. Parents/School Community

Parents and community adults are a valuable part of the CCA athletic "team." They can offer help and support that will lighten the demands on the Athletic Director and coaches.

- a. could volunteer to co-coach a team.
- b. could offer to help drive Junior and Senior High School teams to games and/or tournaments.
- c. could be available to chaperone for game and/or tournament(s).
- d. should be willing to help in some way with hosting a hospitality room for coaches and officials at home tournaments, (organizing, providing food, serving).

e. are encouraged to support their children's teams by attending as many games as possible, remembering to cheer positively from the stands but not coach.

f. should encourage and show appreciation to their children's coaches and uphold them and the teams in prayer.

g. should bring any questions or concerns directly to the coach, after 24 hours has passed to allow for a reasoned and gracious face-to-face conversation. If disputes between parents and coaches cannot be resolved, the athletic director will mediate the dispute. In all situations, the principles of Matthew 18 will be used to resolve conflict in the following steps:

- Athlete communicates with Coach
- Athlete and Parent communicate with Coach
- Communication between Parent, Coach and Athletics Director
- Matter will be forwarded to School Administration

E. Teams

Athletes are role models; being a team member brings about new responsibilities which must be respected. Many people will know the team members by their appearance at games, and by their actions. Their conduct should always be such that it brings credit to themselves, their team, their school, and ultimately glory to God. Their Christian witness should never be compromised to the secular community.

1. Team selection criteria

The decisions involved in making team selections are not easy. The coach must spend a great deal of time in the decision-making process to ensure that the process is accurately and professionally handled.

a. The entire student, not just his or her physical skills, is to be considered in the process of choosing the team. The team player criteria include the following:

i) skill level, skill potential and level of physical fitness

ii) attitude, behavior, work ethic and coachability

iii) leadership potential

iv) personal benefit to the student

v) time commitments of the athletes on non-athletic responsibilities that might be detrimental to either the individual or the team.

b. Athletes are to be made aware of their role and position on the team so that this is clear to them from the outset. Since there may be changes as players develop their skills, the communication from the coach must remain current.

c. It is expected that when cuts need to be made, the coach will speak with all players privately, encouraging each one in their strengths.

2. Homeschool/Joint School Athletes

a. In situations of low interest/number of players for any given team from CCA students, consideration may be given to allowing athletes from homeschool or joint school programs participation in our athletics program.

While athlete-parent feedback and social/team dynamics will be considered, **the final decision on homeschool player and joint school involvement will be made by the CCA athletics director and/or CCA administration in consultation with the team coach.**

b. commencing in the 2023/2024 school year, new student athletes from homeschool are not guaranteed to have a spot on the team. Priority will be given to CCA students first, followed by joint school efforts, and lastly for those that are homeschooled.

c. joint school declaration must also satisfy the requirements of the ASAA and not jeopardize the classification of the team at a desired level.

d. athletes and parent/s must read, understand and sign all CCA Sports Policy documents.

- Student Athletes must adhere to and abide by “Section C – Athletes” of our CCA Athletics Policy as outlined above.

e. Athletes will pay all fees associated with participation on the team, set by CCA administration.

3. Playing Time

a. Generally, there are a number of criteria which determine who plays, and how much time each athlete receives.

i) the effort of the athlete (energetic, enthusiastic, positive, exemplary attendance)

ii) the attitude and behavior of the athlete (humility, interest in game when not playing, demonstrates team spirit, co-operative)

iii) the athlete's commitment to the team at practice and during competition

iv) the athlete's leadership abilities to assist and lift up the team, (encouraging, Christ-likeness, helpful)

v) the skill level of the athlete

vi) the skill level of the opposing team

b. Coaches will evaluate their choice of playing time for each athlete with the athletic director during the season and just prior to play-offs.

F. Fans

In the interest of Christian sportsmanship and positive Christian testimony, all fans are asked to observe the following:

a. show proper respect to the players on both teams.

b. show proper respect for the visiting crowd and to treat them as they would like to be treated in the visitors' gym.

c. show proper respect for officials and their legitimate position of authority over the game.

d. remember that the other teams' players, coaches, fans, and the officials are not their enemies. They are merely their opponents in a game.

e. derogatory remarks to an official's decision or to a player's performance are not permitted.

f. fans are encouraged to remember the Lord sees their actions and knows their thoughts and the intent of their hearts.