

Wallaceburg Christian School Society - Board Policy Manual

Section: Students
Subject: 613-Team Sport Participation

Subsection: Sports
Effective: February 2004

Team Sports Participation Guidelines

Background:

Since the availability of the Wallaceburg Christian Reformed Church's gymnasium to our school, we have been able to set up a physical education program that fosters the physical usage of our bodies through the learning of skills, physical fitness and recreation. In addition to this program, we have an opportunity on the extra-curricular level to learn the aspects of team sports and Christian sportsmanship with our involvement in inter-scholastic participation with area Christian schools, public and separate schools. The extra-curricular involvement differs from our classroom involvement in regard to team selection and team play.

This guideline addresses three areas: 1) the process of team selection, 2) the nature of team sports competing with other school teams, and 3) the substitution of players.

Process of Team Selection:

In team selection, this guideline states that all grade eight students have a place on the team if they so desire, barring only those who demonstrate an unwillingness to be coached, or those who demonstrate un-Christian values in sportsmanship. For additional spots on the team, students of grades five through seven are chosen on the basis of their abilities.

The Nature of Team Sports:

The nature of team play suggests that players need to learn how to play as a team. Coaches are to train students to learn what team play is and how team play is to be performed in order to achieve successful executions. In coaching terms, team play involves getting the players to "gel" with one another to achieve successful executions. Coaches understand that the gel can become loose and "watery" by the insertion of substitutes at the incorrect time. Substitute players do need to be exposed to regular team play and to encourage player development; substitutes need to have that opportunity.

Team play in the interscholastic setting differs from intramural and recreational play. There is an aesthetic quality in competitive sports. A finely executed play, regardless of achieving "points on the board" or not, is a beauty to see, either as a player, a substitute, or as a spectator. One of the measurements of fine play and how well the team or athlete performs is the number of points earned. It's not the only measurement but the team does need an honest feedback on its performance.

Substitution of Players

Substituting players so all team members have a chance to develop their abilities is an important element in inter-scholastic sports. The game situation has entirely different expectations than what practice situations allow. Hence, all players will need to experience game situations in order to grow in skill individually and as a team player. The coach will use exhibition games to determine what he might expect from a player's performance and therefore gives all players adequate amounts of playing time on the playing surface. Since all other teams have substitutions waiting to play as well, coaches will often substitute at the same time to keep the competition level the same. Coaches will need to determine correct substitutions during the course of the game.

We are to encourage one another as members of the body of Christ, each of us with our own gifts. Students, even though they are in the beginning stages of developing their gifts in various areas, need to be reassured that their gifts are unique and that they need to support others as well as develop their own gifts. Encouragement in the role as “supporting cast” on the bench or on the playing surface or as a spectator contributes to the development of team membership.