



**Our Mission:**

**By the grace of God, Huron Christian School:**

- provides an exceptional Christ-centred education
- teaches that God and His Word shine in all areas of learning
- values all children as God's image bearers who have a place in His plan
- equips all students to be good stewards of God's creation and serve their community.

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## School Sports Policy

### I. Introduction:

Sports provide students the opportunity to celebrate and use the athletic gifts that God gave them. The Bible uses athletic competitions as a metaphor for the Christian life (1 Cor. 9:24-27, Heb. 12:1,2). Athletics are a valuable training ground for the young Christian since many virtues can be taught that can be further applied to a life of godliness: self-discipline, training, goal-setting, striving for excellence, and fair play, to name a few. And so, the sports program is an integral part of the overall education experience offered at Huron Christian School (HCS). We recognize that a quality sports program includes a variety of aspects such as competition, cooperation, sportsmanship, skill development, and team work. Teachers and coaches strive to teach students to do their best to honour God in the sports programs in which they participate.

### II. Levels of Involvement:

There are three main sport or physical development programs that are run at HCS: physical education classes, intramural sports and interschool sports.

#### Physical Education

Physical Education classes are intended to promote physical activity in young people within the Christian context. Emphasis is placed on promoting a positive attitude towards healthy, active living and the development of fundamental physical skills. Cooperation and full participation are emphasized over competition in a non-threatening environment where students are free to make mistakes and try new things.

#### Intramural sports

Intramural sporting activities are offered in a variety of sports throughout the school year. The purpose is to provide all students with an opportunity to enjoy a sport of their choice no matter what their level of skill. To ensure maximum benefit, the sports are divided into age or grade categories, usually grades 3 – 5, and 6 - 8. All students in a selected grade range are eligible and encouraged to participate. The only requirement is that students must participate if they sign up. This fosters a sense of commitment and responsibility to fellow team members. Intramural sports are more competitive than Phys. Ed. classes, but less demanding and competitive than interschool sports. Emphasis is placed on participation and fun for all team members. The intramural program also provides our intermediate students with refereeing experience.

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HCS offers a well-rounded intramural program. Examples of intramural sports are: soccer, volleyball, catchball, basketball, badminton, and floor hockey. The number of intramural sports offered in a given year depends on availability of staff, and other school activities.

### **Interschool**

One of the purposes of interschool sports is to provide a venue in which students with strong abilities and/or potential can develop their skills at a higher level. We intend to give students a more in-depth understanding of teamwork (cooperation, selflessness), competition, and sportsmanship at this level as well.

- HCS is a member of the Woodstock District Christian Schools Sports Council. As such, we have the opportunity to participate in tournaments in soccer, cross-country, volleyball, hockey, basketball, badminton, and track and field.
- Coaches will do their best to give all students an opportunity to play, but may not play all students equally or at all in highly competitive games.
- Students who make a school team must be committed to attending all practices and games except in extenuating circumstances (approved in advance by the coach).
- A staff coach or representative is needed for all school teams.
- Parent volunteers or coaches can be used if the staff does not have someone able or available. Parent coaches will be chosen based on interest, ability, and availability.
- In general, students in grades 7 and 8 are invited to try out for the teams. (See Appendix A for details regarding each sport.) In the event that a limited number of students can participate, and the grade 7 and 8 students are equal in the following categories, the grade 8 student is usually selected because it is his/her last year at HCS. Qualifying and continued participation on the teams are based on the following criteria:

#### 1) attitude

- behaviour, in all aspects of school life, is consistent with the Christian faith. The student can represent our Christian school well outside the school setting.
- shows respect for coach and team mates
- gives best effort in games and practice sessions
- does best to attend all games and practice sessions

#### 2) skills

- shows a high level of ability
- shows an aptitude for acquiring and building upon skills
- contributes to the cohesiveness of the team.

#### 3) academic accountability

- is working up to academic ability
- participating on school team does not detract from academic achievement
- homework is completed on regular basis.

The criteria mentioned above (attitude, skills, academic accountability) applies to all the interschool sports listed in appendix A.

### **III. Guidelines for Use of this Policy**

1. Include a reference to the sports program in the student/parent handbook.
2. Post a full version of the sports policy on the school's website.
3. At the beginning of the year, all grade 7 and 8 students and parents will be made aware of this policy; students in class and parents at the September Meet the Teacher evening.
4. The sports director is responsible for ensuring that each supervisor has a working knowledge of the sports policy as it relates to the sport in question.
5. The staff supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the coach(es) are aware of the sports policy and adhere to the guidelines of the policy.
6. Grievances regarding the sports team/events should be communicated to the staff supervisor or sports director.
7. In the event that a behaviour/ attitude problem arises, the coach, the staff supervisor and/or sports director, and the principal will make a decision regarding participation.
8. In the event that the academic accountability of a student is a concern, the student's teacher, and principal will make a decision regarding participation.

## APPENDIX A

School participation in the following sports tournaments may depend on availability of coaches. Each sport must have a staff supervisor. This supervisor should be available at practices and attend all games/tournaments.

### a) Soccer – (September/October)

All students in grades 7 or 8 who want to play on the team have the opportunity to participate. If more players are needed, students in grade 6 may be asked to participate.

### b) Cross Country Running - (September/October)

Students from grade 3 and up may participate in the cross country program. HCS presently participates in the Woodstock District Christian School meet, St. Anne's Elementary School Invitational, and the Public School meet in Londesboro. Qualifying standards vary for each meet. Students must participate in team practices in order to compete in the meets.

### c) Volleyball - (October/ November)

All students in grades 7 and 8 are invited to sign up for the volleyball team. Since far fewer players are actually on the court, the coach selects a smaller team. Playing time is at the discretion of the coach. Other students may be asked to participate in the practices to increase their skill level. Due to the limited availability of the gym, there will be at least one practice after school. Students selected for the team must attend these practices.

### d) Hockey - (February/March)

All students in grades 5 and up are invited to sign up for the hockey team. Students are selected for the team, beginning in the upper grades. Since hockey requires unique skating skills, students must participate in a hockey program for a minimum of 2 years to be eligible for the team. In addition, for safety reasons, students must demonstrate the ability to stop and turn on demand. There is one after school practice/week.

### e) Badminton - (April/May)

Students in grade 7 and 8 may try out for the badminton team. The number of students who qualify depends on the number of teams we can send to the tournament(s). A badminton team consists of 8 players, 4 boys and 4 girls.

### f) District Track and Field - (May/June)

All students in grades 2 and up who qualify at our local field day are eligible to compete at the district meet. Usually the top two qualifiers in an event at our local field day advance in that event, but depending on times of events and the number of events in which a single student has qualified, third or fourth place finishers may be asked to participate. Students may participate in no more than 3 events plus a relay. Selection of athletes for particular events is at the discretion of the coach(es). Students who wish to qualify for the distance runs must participate in the distance running practices held before the in school track meet.