

Oostburg Christian School Athletic Policy

PHILOSOPHY

Physical activity is an essential part of the maturation process all children go through. God has created young people as spiritual, cognitive, emotional, social, and physical beings. Therefore, interscholastic athletics are of value in the total educational process.

Interscholastic athletics should provide:

1. A positive learning experience
2. A positive base for Christian development
3. An understanding of competition, emphasizing sportsmanship, sacrifice, and teamwork during the pursuit of excellence.
4. An opportunity for athletes to develop and share skills and knowledge at an appropriate level.

Athletics should be enjoyable and at the same time require dedication and concentration. The joy often comes from the feeling of having trained well, met the challenge and put forth the best effort.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Just as Oostburg Christian School expects the pursuit of excellence scholastically, the same holds true on the behavior and conduct of its student athletes. We expect the following:

1. Appropriate behavior in school and athletics.
2. Proper respect for those in authority.
3. Spirit of cooperation and sportsmanship
4. **A student must be in school the full day of an athletic event to participate, unless excused for a valid reason accepted by the administrator.**
5. A student must be at all practices, unless the coach or administrator has been notified of the absence and the reason.

Any student who presents undue and persistent discipline problems in school will not be allowed participation in school athletics. Any student, who violates any discipline code, ethical or moral value of the school shall be subject to total or partial suspension from athletic participation.

Decisions about suspension will be made after consultation with teachers, coaches, athletic coordinators, and parents. The administrator will make final decisions.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Any student doing unsatisfactory academic work in classes (not working up to his or her potential) and showing an attitude of not trying to improve his or her work will not be allowed to participate in athletics. Decisions about suspension or probation will be made after consultation with all teachers involved, coaches, and the athletic director. The school administrator will make any final decision.

PLAYING TIME

Recognizing that Oostburg Christian School has a physical education program for all students in grades K – 8 and an intramural program for all students in grades 6 – 8, the interscholastic program of Oostburg Christian School will be seen as the gifted, or advanced, program for athletes. Just as advanced math students are placed in a more challenging math curriculum and speech festival contestants are those who have advanced beyond the school-wide speech festival to the “interscholastic” festival; so too interscholastic sports is meant to challenge the more gifted athletes and help them strive for individual and team excellence within the context of the interscholastic sports available at Oostburg Christian School.

Oostburg Christian School has a “no-cut” policy for all students interested in taking part in interscholastic athletics. Students may be suspended or completely removed from a team due to behavior or poor academic achievement (see policy). Although all students are invited to be part of interscholastic sports, not all students will play equally. There may even be games when not all players participate.

Coaches are expected to use their wisdom and base playing time for team members on the following criteria:

- God-given, individual talent
- The age of the student/athletes
- Effort and presence in practice
- Safety of student/athletes
- Ability of the opponent (competitive nature of the game)
- Number of players on the team
- Desire to strive for excellence as a team
- Desire to grow each student/athlete in that specific interscholastic sport

RESPONSIBILITIES OF COACHES

1. Coaches are responsible to supervise team members during practices, games, and tournaments. Coaches are to remain after practice until all players have left the school grounds.
2. Coaches must maintain the discipline and behavior of players and be willing to bench players for unsportsmanlike conduct during games.
3. Coaches should follow the guidelines set forth in this policy when establishing playing times for the student-athlete.

4. Coaches may set additional guidelines regarding the team members with the approval of the athletic director and school administrator. These guidelines must be communicated to all members of the team and their parents.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

1. Parents are expected to pick players up on time from practice or games or arrange for transportation with another parent.
2. Parental support and involvement is needed as well as appreciated. Parents should not criticize their child, other players, the officials, or the coaches in front of others. Parents are asked to address problems with the appropriate party at a time both agree to (not during a game). If a parent feels the need to call a coach, they must wait 24 hours after the event.
3. Parents are expected to assist with supervision of athletes and fans during game days.
4. It is the parent or guardian's responsibility to ensure that their child is physically capable of performing the sport they are involved in. A physical examination is *recommended* for all participating athletics at Oostburg Christian School. If a parent chooses not to have their child examined by a physician, a Sports Physical Waiver Form must be filled out in the school office before the child may participate in interscholastic athletics.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FEES

Money is needed to run our athletic programs at Oostburg Christian School. Money raised through participation fees is used for payment of referees, league fees, tournament fees, the purchase of sports equipment, and purchasing uniforms. The following fee schedule has been set by the administration of Oostburg Christian School:

Fees per student per year	\$75.00
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