



Extra Curricular Athletics Policy

1. MISSION AND VALUES

Our mission is to use athletics to grow healthy God honouring student athletes and foster strong enduring community relationships.

Royal Athlete Values

- Committed to Growth
- Committed to Team
- Committed to Relationship

Royal Coach Values

- Committed to Complexity (skill development and challenging athletes)
- Committed to Order (communication and structure)
- Committed to Relationship

2. BVCS PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS

Team sports have been part of the physical education and extra-curricular program for much of the school's history. For many students it is a chance to work on physical fitness, skill development, and team play in an enjoyable but competitive setting. Our bodies are a gift from God and it is the school's responsibility to help parents with the task of developing the emotional, mental, social, spiritual and physical aspects of our students.

Integral to sports is the concept of competition and striving for excellence. The focus on sports at the intramural and classroom level should be on cooperation and skill-development. Extra-curricular, intra-school sports involve the goal of excelling and ultimately winning. As a Christian school, we must never sacrifice our moral standards in this pursuit but to deny the pursuit itself is to deny the integrity of the sport. Some of the moral matters that must be considered are:

- the integrity of the individuals participating
- fair play and sportsmanship
- hard work and determination
- maintaining of a servant attitude by all those who participate.

Coaches and players must consciously and thoughtfully compete with these moral standards at the forefront of their minds and hearts. It is our belief that striving for team excellence in competition sets the frame work for which meaningful student growth can occur. In this pursuit of excellence, students are challenged to grow their individual skills and character traits, choose actions and words that contribute to the team goals, and build healthy strong relationships with their teammates and the athletic community.

3. STAKEHOLDER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Athletic Director

The Athletic Director is in charge of the administration of the extra curricular athletic program at BVCS. Their responsibilities include:

1. Communicate the Athletic Policy to the BVCS community
2. Monitor how teams are meeting the BVCS athletics mission statement and make adjustments when necessary to ensure this is happening
3. Register BVCS, students and teams with BC School Sports (BCSS)
4. Register BVCS school and teams with the Northwest Zone Athletic Association (NWZAA)
5. Create rosters and team season schedules
6. Ensure our students and teams abide by all BCSS rules and regulations
7. Attend NWZAA meetings two times a year
8. From time to time, serve on the Executive of the NWZAA and attend provincial meetings run by BCSS
9. Set practice schedules for BVCS teams
10. Register BVCS teams for playdays and the Zones tournaments at the end of the year
11. Facilitate coaches as they sign-up and attend tournaments outside our zone

12. Post important information to our social media, info on MyBVCS app, game times on school calendar etc.
13. Ensure our gym and equipment is up to standards for our teams
14. Organize and train coaches for our teams
15. Choose athletic awards at the end of the year
16. Work with coaches to decide team rosters
17. Provide conflict resolution for parents, players, and coaches
18. Provide players with uniforms at the beginning of the year
19. Work with coaches to host playdays and tournaments
20. Monitor coaches for a bias towards players that is creating an unequal playing field for all

3.2 Coaches

The coaches at BVCS can be staff members, society members, and/or Smithers community members. BVCS students can coach younger teams under the supervision of an adult.

Requirements for coaching:

1. Pass the Concussion Awareness Training Tool course
2. Provide the office with a criminal record check
3. Sign the Community Standards of Conduct document
4. Agree to abide by the BVCS athletic policy
5. Attend an informational session run by the AD

Coaching Responsibilities:

1. Ensure the safety of the players at all times (check equipment and monitor behaviour)
2. Run practices that ensure individual and team development is at a level to pursue excellence at their age level
3. Develop game strategy and decide positions and playing time for players
4. Foster a connection with student athletes that builds trust and creates an environment absent of fear
5. Attend playdays on weekends
6. Arrange games during the week and out of town tournaments
7. Communicate with parents about game times, schedule changes, and give sufficient advance notice whenever possible.
8. Communicate team expectations to players and families
9. Work with the AD to host one playday a season
10. Model respect, fair play, hard work and passion.

11. Coaches should be encouraged to pursue professional development in both skill and spiritual aspects of coaching, i.e. Christian athletics courses through Christian Colleges and camps, sport specific clinics, etc. Canadian coaching certification in the applicable sport is also recommended.
12. Coaches are encouraged to build positive relationships with all teams present at tournaments/playdays. (Engage in dialogue with other coaches, congratulate and encourage players from other teams, cheer for other teams, be willing to help where needed)

3.3 Players

BVCS students have the privilege of signing up for an athletic team and must meet the following criteria to be considered and continue with a team:

1. Meet BCSS eligibility
2. Agree to abide by the BCSS athletic policy
3. Attend school regularly (as determined by the athletic director and principal)
4. Work at completing their academic and behavioural responsibilities (as determined by the athletic director and principal)
5. Pay their required team fees before the first game.

While on a team, student-athletes have the following responsibilities:

1. Show up on time for all practices and work hard at increasing their skills
2. Show respect to their coaches, teammates, referees, and opponents
3. Accept their role on the team and not cause divisions among their teammates
4. Communicate with their coach if they have any concerns about playing time or team role
5. Communicate with their coach ahead of time if they will miss any practices or games
6. Help with clean-up/set-up at the beginning/end of practices
7. Help run their host playday (scorekeeping, reffing, cleaning)
8. Volunteer to help BVCS athletics (help coach other teams, scorekeep, etc)
9. Take care of their uniform during the season and return it at season's end

3.4 Parents

BVCS parents will help support their son/daughter and the team by doing the following:

1. Support the BVCS athletic policy

2. Support the coach, demonstrate appreciation, and not undermine their efforts
3. Ensure their son/daughter arrives on time to practice and games
4. Make sure their son/daughter cares for their uniform
5. Volunteer to help with host playdays (clean-up, supervise, etc)
6. Volunteer to drive to out-of-town playdays/tournaments

3.5 Spectators

Any player, student, parent, coach, or staff member is considered a BVCS spectator and must conduct themselves in the following manner:

1. Cheer for and not against
2. Be respectful of referees and game officials
3. Cheer and acknowledge good sportsmanship
4. Do not judge opposing teams and fans by our standards
5. Look for opportunities to interact positively with opposing fans/athletes/coaches/referees

3.6 Chaperones

An adult chaperone is required to oversee every practice and be present on the bench for games. If students are coaching younger teams an adult is still needed to be present as the chaperone. When attending an overnight trip a chaperone of the same sex of the players must be present. There must be at least two unrelated chaperones. A coach may act as the chaperone

1. Ensure players are conducting themselves in a safe manor
2. Enforce code of conduct
3. Support the coaches rules

4. TEAM GUIDELINES

BVCS has various teams at three different age levels; Grade 8, Junior, and Senior. Each one these age levels has their own guidelines

4.1 Grade 8 Teams

At the grade 8 level, team sports are an introduction to competitive athletics and the emphasis is on individual development of skills, experience in structured competition, and understanding team dynamics. Grade 7 students may be invited to join the grade 8 team by the athletic director. This decision will be based on the number of Grade 8 athletes, individual student maturity, and individual physical abilities.

1. All students who wish to play and come out faithfully to practices will be placed on a team with the understanding that it is a privilege to play at BVCS and not a right.
2. All players who have been attending practice and serious about their individual development, will be given approximately even playing time, *based on positions*, at all playdays or games leading up to zones.
3. At the year end zone tournament more emphasis will be put on winning and playing time will not be equal. All athletes are expected to attend the zone championship and support their team on or off the court.

4.2 Junior Teams

At the Junior level competition increases and more emphasis is put on team play.

1. If too many students sign up for a particular team, every effort will be made to create a second team to accommodate the numbers. One team will be more competitive, and one will be more geared toward player development. If a second team cannot be made, then player cuts will take place. The coaches and athletic director will decide which players get cut.
2. Players are expected to work on their skills and conditioning outside of practice time.
3. In the first half of the season, the coach will aim to give more even playing time, based on position, for all players. This will allow players to develop their in-game skills and demonstrate their abilities.
4. In the second half of the season, the stronger players will receive more playing time but all players will receive some playing time at each playday.
5. At the final zone tournament, the team goal of winning will take precedence and each player will play their part to help the team achieve that objective. This could mean that some players do not play at all in the zone tournament.

4.3 Senior Teams

At the senior level, competition becomes more intense, skills are more developed, and roles and positions are often set. The season culminates with a chance to meet the best teams in the province at the provincial championship. All senior teams are ranked provincially based on their win/loss record so the outcome of each game is important. Quality teams are the goal for senior level teams.

1. If too many players sign-up for a particular team then player cuts will take place.
2. Players are expected to work on their skills and conditioning outside of practice time.
3. Playing time is determined by the coach
4. If a junior level player can significantly improve a senior team, the junior player can play games during the season while continuing to play at the Junior level, join the team at the conclusion of the Junior season, or play solely on the Senior team. In making a decision about a junior player playing at the Senior level, the

athletic director will consult with the coaches impacted, the junior player's parents, and the school principal.

5. All players are expected to attend all games and be prepared to contribute either on the court or as a moral support from the bench.
6. All senior players must commit to the whole season and attending provincials if the team qualifies. If a player cannot attend provincials, they must tell their coach at the beginning of the season.

4.4 Joint Teams

BCSS allows for schools to come together to form one team from the pool of students at two schools. The purpose of joint teams is to provide opportunities to students that otherwise would not be able to participate in a sport because of lack of participation at their school. BVCS will form joint teams based on the following criteria:

1. The joint team is formed because one school would otherwise not have a team without joining together
2. We reserve the right to reject joining with another school for our reasons
3. We will accept students from another school to join our teams
4. We will send students to join the teams of another school
5. We will accept students from our online school to join our bricks and mortar teams (refer to online school requirements for extra curricular participation)
6. If we consider joining or accepting students from a public school or public online school we will consult with Admin and the Board before moving forward
7. All players of a joint team will be treated equally with the same opportunities and expectations

4.5 Playing time (relevant to all teams)

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

- The effort of the athlete (energetic, enthusiastic, positive, exemplary attendance)
- The attitude and behavior of the athlete (interest in game when not playing, demonstrates team spirit, co-operative).
- The athlete's leadership abilities to assist and lift up the team,
- The skill level of the athlete.
- The skill level of the opposing team.
- The importance of the game (ranking, elimination game etc)
- It is important to note that unique situations may occur where students, due to physical, emotional, or other factors, may not be able to compete in certain game situations.

5. COMMUNICATION

Athletic involvement can be highly emotional and intense. Conflicts and issues may arise between athletic directors, coaches, staff members, students, and/or parents. This is often the result of poor or ill-timed communication between those involved.

If a parent has an issue and they are unsure how to proceed after reading the following points then they should contact the AD for guidance. A coach should never be contacted without first consulting this policy.

BVCS' communication policy for dealing with these situations and complaints is consistent with the teachings found in scripture (Matthew 18 and Ephesians 4):

- Confidentiality regarding these discussions is paramount to the integrity of our relationships. Leave the discussion in the discussion and be careful not to share things which were spoken in confidence. Ensure that conversations in the stands are positive.
- All questions, problems, or complaints should be discussed with the person directly. Resist the temptation to share the issue with others before the issue has been discussed with the appropriate party. This is hard to do and requires the courage to face people with hard conversations. We encourage you to do the hard things. Share truth with love.
- Never use social media to discuss conflict or emotionally charged issues.
- Parents should avoid speaking with a coach about potential issues at the following times:
 1. Within 24 hours of an incident.
 2. Either prior to or immediately following an athletic competition.
 3. During an active practice session.
 4. During a time when other students are present or when it would be obvious to others that the discussion is taking place.
 5. When there is not sufficient time to allow for a complete discussion.
- It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way a child or parent expects or desires. This is the opportunity for a student-athlete to talk with their respective coach. When a student-athlete

handles an issue or concern, it gives them a voice, allows them to demonstrate ownership and become part of a learning process. While there are certain topics which should be discussed between a parent and coach, it is helpful for all involved to have clarity on those topics that are appropriate and are not appropriate.

Concerns and or issues that are appropriate for a parent to discuss with coaches	Concerns and or issues that are <u>not</u> appropriate for a parent to discuss with coaches. If necessary they can discuss with the AD in a respectful manner.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child's behaviour and attitude 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team selection or team composition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child's mental and physical well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child's or other children's role on the team (position/playing time)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The social dynamics of the team and/or interactions between team members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-game strategy or coaching decisions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication style/tactics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school's athletic policy

- If appropriate discussions between a parent and coach do not lead to satisfactory resolution, the next step is to meet with the Athletic Director.
- If appropriate discussions between a parent, coach and Athletic Director do not lead to satisfactory resolution, the next step is to meet with the principal.
- If the response of the principal is not satisfactory, the matter can be addressed to the board in a letter.

6. **TRAVEL**

1. The coach or designated adult arranges travel to all games outside of Smithers. No student should drive themselves or others to games outside of Smithers at any time.

2. Every driver should have a driver's abstract on file with the business administrator and have a safe vehicle for all conditions
3. Any official chaperone or an adult staying with the team on an overnight trip should have a criminal record check on file with the business administrator
4. Provincial trips will be planned by the athletic director and the coach including arranging drivers, accommodations, and food
5. When a team is traveling and staying together the coach will plan and conduct both evening and morning devotions. If the last day of a tournament falls on a Sunday and the group will be traveling home on that day then it is at the discretion of the teacher/chaperone of whether they will attend a worship service or not. If the decision to not attend a worship service is made, the teacher/chaperone will ensure that there is a devotional time during the travel period.

7. ACADEMIC AND BEHAVIOURAL CONCERNS (classroom and team setting)

Teachers should be in regular communication with the principal regarding academic and behavioural issues related to all students, including student athletes, to allow administration to make decisions regarding athlete eligibility.

- 1) It is essential for all stakeholders to remember that extra curricular sports plays an important role in students feeling connected to a school, countering issues related to anxiety, and helping with overall mental health. This should be an important element in any decision to suspend a student athlete.
- 2) Any player who quits a team during the season must meet with the athletic director before joining any other BVCS team.
- 3) Students who are suspended from school are not eligible for athletic participation during their suspension.
- 4) A student who is absent from school cannot attend practices or games on the same day of their absence unless prior communication has been made with the athletic director for special circumstances. If the sporting event is on the weekend and multiple consecutive absences have occurred in the week leading up to the event then the student/parent must communicate with the athletic director to see if they are eligible to play.
- 5) Any player or coach who receives a yellow card/technical foul/ejection or similar sanction will meet with the athletic director who may impose further consequences. If the athletic director is the coach of the player or is the coach who receives the sanction, the player/coach will meet with the principal.
- 6) The use of tobacco products, drugs, alcohol, and other unhealthy lifestyle choices are strongly discouraged for student athletes. Use during a sporting

event or trip would fall under the school's policies for consequences. Coaches should address this with their teams at the beginning of the season.

- 7) A player who displays negative attitudes or behaviours towards officials, teammates, opponents, fans, or coaches will be addressed by the coach. If the behaviour persists a meeting with the AD will take place and discipline as needed will be enforced.
- 8) Students with significant missing assignments, attendance issues, or behavioural concerns may be removed from athletics by the principal in consultation with the athletic director. Potential consequences may include:
 - a) Missing assignments must be completed before student can continue participating on the team
 - b) A contract could be written to outline individual student-athletes specific academic eligibility requirements.
 - c) Suspension from a team
 - d) Expulsion from a team