

Guidelines for the Coaching of, Supporting and Participating in Team Sports at BVCS Secondary Campus

Approved by Education Committee June 9, 08

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. While team sports focus largely on the physical aspect, there is also an important component of the other dimensions that are developed in the process.

Integral to sports is the concept of competition and striving for excellence. Whereas 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, and the 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 only when a team is able to strive towards excellence in a Christ-like manner that true success is achieved.

In light of the above, the following statements serve as guidelines for coaches, students and parents in regards to the BVCS approach to participation in team sports:

1. If enough coaches can be found, students are invited to sign up for participation in team sports (volleyball and basketball) at the 7/8, junior (9/10) or senior (11/12) levels. Younger players are sometimes allowed to play on an older team and older can play with younger as an "outlaw" team. In the team concept, there are positions and roles and at times those things will determine the amount of playing time a player receives. These positions can also change depending on physical and skill development. All athletes will be challenged to improve regardless of skill level.
2. 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.
3. If too many students sign up for a particular level, the team may be divided into two teams. If there are not enough coaches for the two teams then a core group of 12-14 players will be selected to attend any particular playday.
4. Students, who miss a practice for any reason except sickness, should all get the same consequences. Students missing one or more practices without

notification run the risk of being dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season. Playing time will be affected due to the missed practice or games. If a student has a conflict with another activity, the coach and player will try to compromise where it can be worked out to the satisfaction of all.

5. At the **grade 7/8** level the emphasis will be on participation and skill development. Students who are faithful about attending practices and are serious about their drills, will be given even playing time, based on positions, at all playdays or games leading up to Zones. When the team needs to be short-listed for Zones, it will be done on the basis of a combination of faithful participation and skill level and it will be done during the final week of the season. The team size for Zones will be such that all players will be able to participate at the tournament.
6. At the **Junior level**, there is still a lot of emphasis on further skill development for all participants and roles and positions are further defined. Cooperation, hard work, faithful attendance at practices will weigh very heavy in playing time granted during playdays. All participants should be given a reasonable amount of playing time at games and playdays leading up to Zones. At Zones the coaches will need to give more time to their core players. If the team needs to be short-listed for Zones, it will be done using the policy found in #5 above.
7. At the **Senior level** competition becomes more intense, skills are more developed and roles and positions are clearly set. The season culminates with a chance to meet the best teams in the Province at Provincials. All students on the senior team must display a willingness to work hard, attend all practices and by their words and body language show respect for coaches and other team members even in the face of disappointment. All team members will get an adequate amount of playing time at any games leading up to Zones. However the students must be aware that at Zones and Provincials they may spend most or all of their time on the bench being a moral support to the players who are on the court.

Some things for everyone to remember:

1. Coaches, whether staff members, volunteers, or parents, go far beyond the call of duty to give of their time and energy. That needs to be greatly appreciated. Without that there would be not team sports at all.
2. Parents should be supportive of the coaches, including being willing to take their turn driving, helping clean up after any playday that the team hosts and in scorekeeping when needed.
3. Parents who have a serious concern with a coach should wait 24 hours before bringing the matter to the coach's attention. Coaches should take all comments and complaints seriously.
4. Fees for participating on a team sport must be paid by the first practice or they may not participate until the money has come in.
5. "It is impossible to please all of the people all of the time!"

We have read the BVCS Guidelines for Coaching Team Sports and will abide by the points as outlined. Major disagreements will be dealt with according to the school's **Conflict Resolution policy**.

Parent signature

parent name printed

Student signature

student name printed

Date

The money for my participation fee is:

_____ attached

_____ available in my BVCS account

Cross Country Running: \$25.00
Grade 7-8 Volleyball Fee: \$50.00
Jr Volleyball Fee: \$75.00
Sr Volleyball Fee: \$100.00

Gr 7-8 Basketball Fee: \$75.00
Jr Basketball Fee: \$100.00
Sr Basketball Fee: \$150.00