

# Heritage Christian School

Sports Commitment and Policies



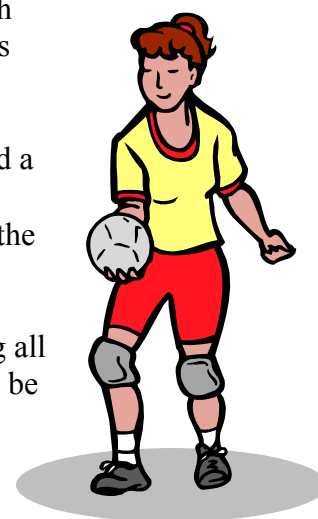
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## School Sports Program & Policies

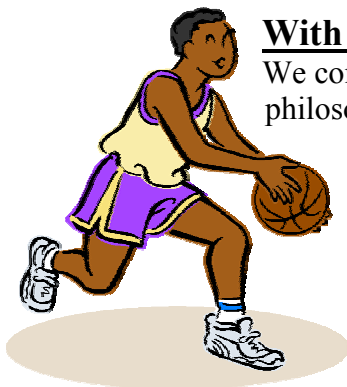
Heritage Christian School is dedicated to a developing our students into well rounded athletes bringing Christ to the court and field of play. We view our athletic programs as an opportunity to continue our school’s mandate, “Quality Education with Christian Values.” The following principles will always govern our sports programs:

- Participation on a HCS Sport’s Team should always be considered a “privilege” and not given right.
- The student’s parents must be supportive of their participation in the sport and must keep in mind the busy practice, playing and tournament schedules for such sports.
- Participation in School Sports is contingent on the student passing all of his/her classes at the time of participation. Exceptions can only be made by the School Administration.
- Students on Academic or Behavioral Probation are suspended and cannot dress or travel with their team.
- Christian Character and Godly Attitudes such as, fairness of play, honour and respect, effort and intensity will always take precedent over winning or athletic talent.
- Within the above context we believe competition to be a healthy and godly principle that leads us on to excellence in our lives.
- Respect for Coaches and Officials will be given the same level of respect as is required for Parents, Teachers and Administrators.
- Monies are budgeted for our scheduled teams for regular season play. Any tournaments, exhibition games, memorabilia, etc. will be the responsibility of the team to fund raise.
- Parents are needed and encouraged to participate through coaching, driving, fund raising, tournament support, etc.
- The Middle School Teams will focus more on participation of all players and development of skills.
- The High School Teams will focus more on the team dynamics of competitive play.



## Heritage Christian School Competitive Sports Program

- School attendance is mandatory to a student's participation in our Sports program. If a student is absent on a game day or skips out of class they will not be allowed to dress for that game.



### **With Whom Do We Compete?**

We compete within the following organizations and submit to their sports philosophies and regulations:

- **BC School Sports** – This is the governing body for the Public and Independent Schools throughout the Province. They are the overseeing organization for the Provincial Tournaments for Junior (Grade 10) and Senior Levels (Grade 11/12). See the next section for their eligibility policies. Web Address: <http://www.bcschoolsports.com>
- **Okanagan Central School's Athletic Association** – This is the local governing sports organization for District 23 and the Independent Schools within their geographical area. This organization determines the local seasons of play and schedules all of the "league games." Web Address: <http://sd23sun.sd23.bc.ca/ocsaa/>
- **BC Christian Schools Sports Association** – We have, in various years, participated in this organization. They sponsor province wide tournaments for Independent Christian Schools. Generally their tournaments are in the lower mainland and budget or travel considerations determine our involvement.

### **B.C. School Sports Eligibility Policy**

These policies can be found in detail at their web site: <http://www.bcschoolsports.com>. We advise all athletes to read these policies carefully because it may ultimately effect where you choose to go to school. A copy of the "Athletic Eligibility Overview" brochure published by BC School Sports is available upon request.

The following are General Rules that all registered schools in BC submit too:

- General Rule 1 – Students compete for the school at which they are registered.
- General Rule 2 – There is a maximum age allowed for each level of competition.
- General Rule 3 – Students are athletically eligible for five years, from entry to grade 8.
- General Rule 4 – A transfer of schools after the start of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of eligibility may limit athletic eligibility at the new school.
- General Rule 5 – Student cannot have graduated from secondary school.
- General Rule 6 – Students must be full time.

### **What Sports Do We Compete In?**

Because our school is small we have limited the number of sports we enter competitive teams. This is for three reasons:



## Heritage Christian School Competitive Sports Program

- Budget always drives our consideration of how many teams we can promote. We budget approximately \$750 -1000 per competitive team.
- More importantly we want to give our students a successful experience where they can compete effectively with schools 10 times our size. Maintaining the focus into one sport gives the opportunity for average athletes to excel in one sport and not be spread too thin.
- The two main sport's seasons, volleyball and basketball, don't occur at the same time.
- We will from time to time consider participating in other sports that may not be as team intensive.

We have therefore directed our Boys towards basketball and our Girls towards Volleyball. This is not hard and fast and we've made exceptions for different grades in the past.

### **What Levels Do We Compete In?**

Until the school grows considerably in size and athletic participation it our goal to maintain a competitive team every two years. The teams will often include students from various grades:

- Seniors will also include both Grade 11's and 12's but may also include Grade 10 students if there is not Jr. Level Team. We compete as a Single "A" School within BC School Sports.
- Junior Level includes Grade 10 and 9 players.
- Grade 9 teams on years when we don't have a Jr. Level team.
- Grade 8 teams on years that we don't have a Grade 9 or 7 team.
- Grade 7 teams on years that we don't have a Grade 8 team. We will include Grade 6 students on these teams.
- Exceptions to this may be made if we have large numbers of students wanting to participate in a particular sport.

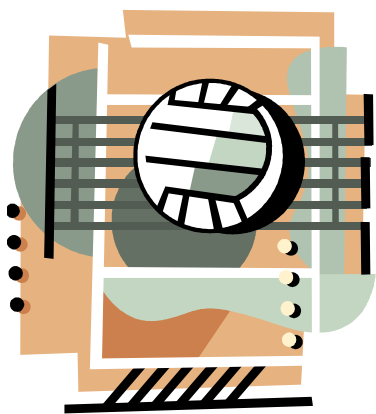
Occasionally we will ask players to play up into higher level teams when there is the need to staff that team or to give the athlete the opportunity to play at a higher competitive level. The following policies will govern students playing up:

- Lower Teams will not be "raided" of their players to create a higher level team.
- Players are allowed 4 competitive days or games to participate in a higher level. If they exceed this they will automatically be ineligible for their original level of play.
- The school may obtain special permission for players to play at two levels this must be obtained from the parents, coaches, administration and OCSAA and BC School Sports.

### **Other Frequently Asked Questions?**

What about Uniforms?

## Heritage Christian School Competitive Sports Program



- We provide uniforms for our students
  - In the lower levels we encourage the coaches to assign a parent to cleaning and distributing all of the uniforms for each event.
  - At the higher levels players will be required to give a uniform deposit which will be returned upon handing back all of the uniforms or gear.
    - Basketball Deposit - \$50
    - Volleyball Deposit - \$30

### Who are the coaches?

- Depending on the sport the school has long standing coaches for certain levels. Example: Mr. Bitgood for Jr. or Senior Boys Basketball.
- All coaches (including assistants) must be approved by the Administration and are subject to all of the staff policies regarding Student/Teacher relationships.
- We encourage parents to develop in their coaching skills by starting out as assistant coaches and eventually taking their own teams.
- Every team must have a Teacher Sponsor from the school staff.
- We encourage alumni and other young adults to participate in our coaching staff.

### What if I have a dispute with the coach or administration about a situation?

- All disputes need to be worked out through the Biblical process outlined in our School's "*Finding Resolution*" Brochure.
- If the first steps of this process do not resolve the problem then the following process is available to the student and or his/her parents.
  - If your dispute is with the coach then the student and parent are encouraged to come and speak to the Athletic Director. If there is no appointed Athletic Director in the school at that time then they should see the School Principal.
  - If after seeking resolution with Administration a solution is not found then the student can take the issue to the school's Sport Representative and the issue will become a School Committee matter.



## Coaches Code and Covenant

The coach – student relationship is a very important aspect to the success of any sporting endeavor. Coaches play a critical part in the personal and athletic development and growth of the students involved. Therefore the coaches will be expected to keep the following commitments:

- The School’s Coaches are committed to uphold the Christian values and goals of Heritage Christian School. This includes our Student Covenant and the overall vision and direction of the School and its Administration, Staff and Families.
- The School’s Coaches are committed to helping our students achieve their academic and spiritual goals over and above their athletic goals. This will mean that they will honour our “no play” policy for students that are falling behind in their academics or spiritual life.
- The School’s Coaches are committed to abiding by and promoting the rules and regulations of BC School Sports, OCSAA, the local league they are in, the tournament leadership and of the sport they are participating in.
- The School’s Coaches are committed to showing honour and respect for each individual student on their team. This means that a coach will never try to degrade a student. Keep in mind that a coach’s role may often be intense and very critical but all criticism will have a positive, constructive goal in mind. They commit to work towards a positive team environment that will provide for the students a meaningful and enjoyable experience.
- The School’s Coaches are committed to showing honour and respect to the officials of the sport and recognize them as God-Ordained authority. This means that they will not speak in a disrespectful manner and if a dispute should rise they will follow the outlined procedure of resolution by the various associations responsible for the league or event.
- The School’s Coaches are committed to developing our teams in the spirit of excellence always striving to bring the best out of their teams. This means in the Middle School Teams they will work towards skill development of all players and will try and play the athletes as equally as possible (exceptions to this may depend on the event or student safety.) This means in the High School Teams (gr. 9 – 12) they will work towards a winning stratagem and will give players the opportunity to play as their skill, intensity and attitude allow. The goal is not win at all cost, it is to always do the best we can as athletes and teams.
- The School’s Coaches are committed to participation with the team in practices and games and will find suitable replacements and help when the rare occasion may occur that they are not able to be there.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Students/Athlete's Code & Covenant

I, \_\_\_\_\_ commit to the following principles and philosophy of play. I understand that my violation of these principles or inability to comply with them may mean disciplinary action on the part of my Coach, Parents, Teachers or School Administration.

- I have read and understand and am committed to the schools sports policy.
- I understand that my life off the court as well as on the court reflects on the character of my team and school. I will do all that I can to maintain my Student Code of Conduct and School's Values and Rules both when I am at school and away from H.C.S.
- I commit to our Christian Values in my attitude and playing style as an athlete of this school.
- I will honour my Coach as a God-Ordained authority in my life. This means that I will always have a cooperative attitude and will look to him/her for how I am to participate in my team.
- I will honour the Sport's Officials as God-Ordained authorities in the games, leagues and tournaments that I participate in. This means that I will not outward demonstrate any form of disrespect. I will use the prescribed means for questioning their judgment. I will accept their rulings in the competitive environment.
- I will honour my team mates and work toward their success. I will help them both on and off the court towards godly character and achievement.
- I am committed to do any fund-raising or pay any extraordinary costs that I might incur as an athlete at Heritage.
- I am committed to come to practices, games and tournaments and will give the Coach notification of when I cannot attend.
- I am committed to do my best and develop my skills as an athlete in the sport I am participating in. This means that I will do whatever training is prescribed by my coaches.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Parent's Code and Covenant

We/I, \_\_\_\_\_ are allowing \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the school sports program. I have read and support the school's Sports Policy. By allowing my/our student to be involved in this sport's program I am making the following commitments:

- I/We are committed to seeing our student appreciate and maintain their Student's Code of Conduct as outlined in the School Handbook.
- I/We are committed to helping our student achieve their academic and spiritual goals before their athletic goals. This will mean that I/we will need to pay extra attention to their academic progress, homework, studies, etc.
- I/We will honour our student's Coach's as a God-Ordained authority in their life. This means that I will not argue or interfere with the overall program, methods and styles of the Coaching Staff. I will always try to speak respectfully of the coaches and school program with my student or other parents. When I have a difference of opinion I will follow the school's guidelines outlined in Conflict Resolution Brochure.
- I/We will honour the Sport's Officials as God-Ordained authorities in the games, leagues and tournament. This means that I/we will not outward demonstrate disrespect, taunting or yelling at the refs. I/We recognize our role as a representative of the school and as an example to my student and their team.
- I/We will honour our student's role on his or her team. I understand that his/her participation is not just for their benefit but for the benefit of the group as a whole. I will work to see that I/we and our student works towards godly attitudes towards their team mates.
- I/We are committed to do help whenever possible our team's fund raising or pay any extraordinary costs that our student might incur as an athlete at Heritage.
- I am committed to help in the driving to away games or tournaments whenever possible.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_