

# Diocese of Madison Policy as it relates to Athletics and Co-curricular Activities

## **Interscholastic Athletics DBA 6420**

Athletics should enhance and complement the parish educational program. Athletics are student activities which provide experiences to help boys and girls develop a Christian attitude toward cooperation and competition as well as to develop physically, mentally and emotionally. The element of competition and winning, though it exists, should always be secondary to striving to create a Christian environment which is exemplified by the instructor. Principles of Christian sportsmanship prevail at all times to enhance the educational values of contests.

Participation in athletics, both as a player and a student spectator, is an integral part of the student's educational experience. Participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the parish, to the school, to the team, to the student body, to the community, and to the student himself/herself. In play and conduct, he/she is representing skills and emotional patterns that he/she possesses, thereby making him/her a better Christian and citizen.

Each Parish Education Commission shall establish policy for all organized Parish sports activities. The school principal has jurisdiction over all interscholastic athletic programs. If there is no school the Parish Education Commission delegates implementation of the program.

## **Regulations DBA 6420**

Athletics are student activities which provide experiences to help boys and girls develop a Christian attitude toward cooperation and competition as well as to provide opportunities to develop physically, mentally and emotionally. Because of the involvement of students and the high participation of parents, it is important that athletic programs be run in a manner that is reflective of the health and maturity of the students involved as well as the image of the school that is presented to parents and the public.

A. The principal (designated individual in the case of non-school parish teams) is to be informed beforehand of all parts of the program including scheduled athletic events with other schools/teams. A schedule signed by the principal (designated individual) must be on file in each school (parish) office before a team can compete. No additions to the schedule should be made except for rescheduling cancelled games.

B. Coaches are to be recommended to the principal (designated individual) and Parish Education Commission/School Board for their approval before the coaches begin participating in the school athletic program.

C. Fund raising programs and other programs in support of athletics by parents and other interested persons must be approved in advance by the Parish Education Commission/School Board.

D. Since interscholastic athletic programs involve transportation of students, a signed parental permission slip and indemnification agreement for each student and a signed volunteer driver information sheet for each vehicle used must be submitted according to diocesan policy and regulations for field trips. A signed parental permission slip and indemnification agreement and/or a signed volunteer driver information sheet is valid for the specific sport schedule that is on file.

E. All students enrolled in the Parish school or regularly attending the Parish Religious Education Program may participate according to local policy.

F. Eligibility to compete will be determined by the player's academic performance, effort and conduct in school. Such determination will be made by the Principal (designated individual) with input from the player's teachers. The coach should be kept informed.

G. There is to be no practice nor competition without proper adult supervision.

H. There is to be no practice or competition during the hours school is in session, or on days when school is closed due to inclement weather.

I. Travel to games must be kept to a reasonable distance especially on days preceding a school day. Therefore, games after supper are discouraged prior to school days. The player's education and health must be safeguarded by the coach.

J. A physical examination shall be required for interscholastic sports every two years. Insurance should be provided by the parents.

K. A game is defined as competitive play between two teams of the same or different schools (parishes) during which time and score are kept. Scrimmage is defined as play during which no time or score is kept and coaches may interrupt to give coaching advice. A team is allowed 16 games per season. Scrimmages are not limited. The 16 games limit does not include tournaments. A team may participate in three tournaments each year.

L. After a team has played its first regularly scheduled game, a team is allowed four activities per week including games, practices and scrimmages. No more than two of these activities may be practices. A tournament is defined as one activity. A week is a calendar week.

M. All team members that participate in scheduled practices should play in each game. A goal to be worked toward is that every player will play a minimum of one-fourth of the total game. Coaches should not let "winning" influence their discretion in determining actual playing time.

N. All star competition is not allowed in grades K - 8 activities.

O. An individual player may not participate in two school sponsored sports simultaneously (e.g., soccer and volleyball). Players should not play in two levels of the same sport (e.g., on both the "A" and "B" teams) or be switched to other teams for tournament play. NOTE: Some schools may be so small that they cannot field a team and so players must play on both the junior varsity and varsity levels ("A" and "B" teams). Consideration of the student should limit the actual amount of time the student participates. The League (if any) should have specific guidelines to be followed.