

INTRAMURAL PROGRAMS/INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Background

Given the many benefits of organized physical activity in District schools, the athletics programs are considered an integral part of the education system. The athletic program of District schools are designed to give students an opportunity to participate in team and individual activities on both an intramural and an inter-school basis. Co-operation and team work, skill development, hard work and commitment, friendly competition, and fair play practices are the guiding principles of conduct.

Procedures

1. The District will seek to fund sports of boys, girls, and co-ed (groups determined by the sport governing body) equitably.
2. The District expects team coaches and sponsors to be cognizant of safety issues and take necessary precautions with respect to the particular activity.
3. Elementary Schools
 - 3.1. It is a long-standing practice of the District that each elementary school is to have a playfield (grass field) of adequate (regulation) size to permit the playing of team sports. If this is not possible at a particular site, the District shall seek to provide alternative playing space nearby. Both intramural and extramural competition is endorsed at the elementary level through Grade 7.
 - 3.2. Interscholastic competition for team and individual sports and participation in dance performances are organized for all appropriate grade levels. These activities are co-ordinated by a volunteer body of District employees, the Vancouver Elementary Physical Activity Association.
4. Secondary Schools
 - 4.1. The District endorses an intramural and extramural programs at the secondary school level. Teams compete locally and may proceed to play-offs involving other schools throughout the province. Out-of-province play must be sanctioned by B.C. School Sports and must follow relevant administrative procedures on field trips.
 - 4.2. Divisions in the school are determined primarily by age and are governed by regulations set by the Vancouver Secondary Schools Athletic Association and B.C. School Sports.
 - 4.3. It is the intent of the District that interscholastic athletics adheres to high standards of ethical and educational values. The District also wishes to see opportunities to benefit from athletic competition extended to all students, not only to those who are outstanding athletes. A constructive approach to physical activity is to be encouraged, and intramural and interscholastic programs are to be justifiable not only from an athletic standpoint but also from an educational standpoint.

- 4.4. The annual publication of the Vancouver Secondary Schools Athletic Association is the primary reference for all rules and regulations pertaining to sanctioned secondary athletic activity in Vancouver, including a coaching code of conduct, eligibility, and disciplines.

Reference: Sections 8, 17, 20, 22, 65, 85, 177 School Act

Adopted: December 16, 1976

Revised: October 18, 1982; September 1994; January 1999; September 24, 2018