

Menno Simons Christian School

Athletic Policy (updated 2021)



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A. MISSION STATEMENT

Menno Simons Christian School is a Christian educational community within the Anabaptist/Mennonite faith tradition. Together with the home and the church, it offers an Education for Life providing opportunities for students to integrate sound academic learning with growth in character, faith, and service to God.

B. PURPOSE OF ATHLETICS

Athletics exist at Menno Simons Christian School to provide students with an opportunity to glorify God. "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." (Colossians 3:17). Through the avenue of sport, the goal of our athletes will be to demonstrate and improve their God-given talents and represent themselves and our school in a way that is pleasing and acceptable to Him.

C. COACHING, TEAM SPONSOR AND STUDENT GUIDELINES

1. At the beginning of each season of play the **Athletic Policy, Consent/Permission forms, and Sports Participation Agreement forms** must be read and signed by all participating athletes and their parent/guardian in order for the athlete to be eligible to participate in any athletic activity.
2. Uniforms will be handed out to team members at the beginning of the season, after completion and signing of the **Athletic Policy, Consent, Sports Participation Agreement, and Palliser Health forms**. The athletic director will keep a record of the designation of the uniforms. Each athlete will be responsible to return the uniform at the end of the season in good condition. The athlete, at the discretion of the coach and athletic director, will be charged for any uniform that is lost or damaged.
3. The coach and/or team sponsor will provide supervision to the students during and after practice, as well as during and after games. They will remain at the facility until all athletes have left the venue or are picked up by a parent/guardian. Parents/guardians are responsible for transportation of their child to and from all venues.
4. **The Palliser Health Form** will be on site for all games and practices to ensure the health and safety of the students.

D. FUNDING POLICIES

1. Cost per sport

There is currently no cost to the athlete to be part of a school team. The Athletic Department coordinates a volleyball camp in late August as well as hosts tournaments for Volleyball and Basketball throughout the year. The fees collected from these events assist in generating the funds to pay for the running of the athletic program.

On average the cost to operate sporting programs are:

\$100 per athlete per team sport (i.e. Volleyball, Basketball)

\$20-30 per athlete per individual sport (i.e. Badminton, Track, Cross Country)

Costs cover:

- League fees (Referees, Year-end awards)
- Tournament entry fees
- Equipment and uniforms

2. Uniform Replacement

Uniforms that are damaged or lost during the season will be replaced at a cost per basis as determined by the Athletic Director.

3. Tournaments

The Athletic Program attempts to include some away tournaments in its overall program. Food and accommodation costs are the responsibility of the athletes. Players are assigned rooms (3-4 athletes/room) and all costs for the rooms, including the coach's room, are shared equally among the members of the team.

E. ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

All Menno Simons Christian School students and athletes are encouraged to participate on the school's sports teams. Each season there will be the opportunity to travel to various schools or events within our athletic association boundaries. Below is a list of what is expected of every MSCS student on athletic trips. If these expectations are met, our travel and experiences will be safe and fun, and we will leave a positive impression of MSCS on other communities.

Athletes are expected to:

1. Demonstrate sportsmanship both on and off the court.
2. Respect officials and coaches.
3. Wear the team uniform and appropriate footwear.
4. Play their best, whether winning or losing.
5. Ensure that their coach/supervisor knows where they are at all times.

Coaches, Team Sponsors, and Athletes should also understand and adhere to the following guidelines.

- A. It is an honor to be a member of a Mustang Sports team.
- B. In order to be involved with an interscholastic team, the coaches, sponsor, and athletes must be prepared to commit themselves to the entire season.
- C. To be included on any team, in any capacity, a positive and cooperative attitude with the coaching staff, teachers, officials, administration, teammates and opponents, during sporting events and within the classroom, is required.
- D. It is presumed that any individual on a team will have an attitude of striving for excellence, good sportsmanship, common courtesy, and respect for ALL. Athletes represent Menno Simons Christian School and will act accordingly.

Athletes' Responsibilities

- A. Athletes are ambassadors for the school; a Christ-like attitude and behavior are paramount.
- B. A satisfactory academic record and regular school attendance are mandatory.
- C. Athletes are to put their teams' goals ahead of their own goals.
- D. Athletes must be 100% cooperative with the coach; they must fully respect and honor the God-given authority over them even if they do not always agree.
- E. Athletes should be committed to always do their best. Commitment to the team in all areas is mandatory: games, practices, team meetings.

F. SPORTS TEAMS

1. Team Selection Criteria

The decisions involved in making team selections are not easy. The coach may spend a great deal of time in the decision making process to ensure that the process is accurately and professionally handled.

Senior Team Criteria:

1. Student in Grade Nine.

If other athletes are required from Grade 7 or 8 to complete a roster, the Coaches and Athletic Director will utilize the following criteria to assess students that would otherwise be part of a Junior Team:

2. Skill level and 'coachability' of the athlete.
3. Social considerations.

Junior Team Criteria:

1. Student in Grade Seven or Eight.
2. If additional athletes are required students in Grade Six may be invited to be part of the Junior Team. This occurs when participation numbers are low and a team has too few players (and/or inadequately committed players). Players in Grade Six are selected according to the Coach(es), Athletic Director and Physical Education Teacher's recommendations. Players that are deemed to be able to compete at the Junior High level will be invited to try-out for the team. Coaches will then determine which athletes will remain a part of the team.

Athletes are to be made aware of their role and position on the team so that this is clear to them from the outset.

2. Playing Time

At Menno Simons Christian School all individuals that try-out for team sport makes a team and none are 'cut' because of athletic ability. However, it is a privilege to be a member of a team. It is during practices that a player earns the opportunity to play in a game. All athletes will be given playing time but there should be no expectation that playing time will be equal. The coach will strive to provide quality time at his/her discretion. Every athlete can anticipate playing in each match of a Volleyball competition (a match usually means best 2 games out of 3) and each Basketball game. The exceptions are elimination games at the Senior Team level (i.e., year-end play-offs). For these games a player will not necessarily play in every game/match. Junior Team players can anticipate a more equitable approach to playing time, though; equal playing time should not be expected. Players will be expected to attend all practices even though they might be given limited playing time in the games.

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

- the effort of the athlete
- the attitude and behavior of the individual athlete
- the athlete's commitment to the team at practices and during competition
- the athlete's leadership abilities to assist and lift the team up
- the skill level of the athlete
- the skill level of the opposing team

3. Attitude and Sportsmanship

The player's attitude toward participation in a sport is critical. There should be an attitude of enthusiasm and good sportsmanship. This is demonstrated by supporting and encouraging team members, and not by demeaning opponents or arguing with referees. It is imperative that players respect the opposition and the referees. This is especially significant as a good witness for Christ.

4. **Relationship**

Teammates, coaches and opposing team members must always be respected as people of value in the sight of God. Relationships should be built on Christian principles. Loyalty, discipline and sacrifice are encouraged to develop positive character and promote team spirit and unity. Characteristics of egotism, selfishness and jealousy should **never** occur.

5. **On Winning**

Athletics is competitive and our aim is to play well and to win. However, winning is only one way to measure success and certainly not the most important. Our Christian witness is most important and must never be compromised for the sake of winning.

6. **General Conduct**

We are role models. Being an athlete or a spectator brings about new responsibilities that we must accept. Many people will know us by our appearance at games and observing our actions. Our conduct should always be such that it brings credibility to ourselves, our team, our school and ultimately, glory to God.