

## **Extra-curricular Athletic Philosophy and Program for Seven Persons School**

### **Overall Vision:**

The Seven Persons Athletic program emphasizes solid moral values, sportsmanship and commitment to excellence. A shared vision amongst all stakeholders will foster an atmosphere and level of understanding that enables our athletic teams to maximize their potential.

### **Guiding Principles:**

1. Student participation in a Seven Persons Athletic team comes with the obligation to consistently demonstrate the 4 'A' Attributes (Athleticism, Academics, Attendance and Attitude) in all facets of their schooling. Members of our school team are considered as representatives of our school, and as such are expected to follow certain obligations and responsibilities.
2. We are competitive with a purpose. Games are won and lost, but those games become lasting lessons learning in teamwork, perseverance, determination, fitness, time management and more.
3. The success of our teams is determined not only by wins and overall placing, but also by the way in which we conduct ourselves in all situations, including adverse situations. Sportsmanship forms the foundations of our athletic program and is to be displayed at any athletic competition, practice or in response to any decisions that are made. This expectation applies to coaches, parents, athletes and spectators.
4. 'A' teams are a feeder to high school athletic programs, while B teams are more of a developmental team, providing the opportunity to apply and extend the basic fundamentals of the sport being taught.

### **Team Eligibility/Selection:**

A - teams are generally comprised of the top athletic performers in grades 7-9, for the identified sport. Athletes are not guaranteed a spot based on their grade level, or on their level of seniority with a particular sports team.

B - teams are focused on skill and development and will be comprised of grade 6-8 students. The inclusion of grade 6 students on this team will depend on how many other students from grade 7-8 have expressed interest.

Student athletes who do not make the A team cut off, will have the opportunity to go through a second B-group try-out to determine their suitability for that team.

Prior to being able to play in any game, all players will be responsible for bringing a parent representative to the initial start-up meeting, as well as submitting required documentation (student/parent contracts) and fees.

See the coach responsibility (below) for additional considerations related to team selection.

### **League games/tournaments :**

- 1) League games are determined on a yearly basis. Schedules for these games will be shared with the athletes once it is made available to the school.
- 2) The number of tournaments that any given team participates in depends on the year. Some years, there are fewer options to choose from, as there may even be fewer teams hosting tournaments, and there have been times when we have missed an opportunity based on the fact that a tournament has been filled completely within a very short period of time.

### **Coach responsibility:**

- 1) Conduct the Parent Meeting after teams have been selected (within the first or second practice), to clarify expectations contained within this document.
- 2) Coaches will make sure all players are picked up after the games and communicate this expectation to parents.
- 3) Submission of a recent police/child welfare check for community coaches, with the cost of these checks being covered by the SPS athletic department, upon submission of a receipt. PRSD staff/coaches submit this documentation prior to being employed with the district and as such are not required to resubmit this upon accepting coaching responsibilities.
- 4) Coaches will conduct themselves appropriately to positively represent our school expectations.
- 5) Adequately supervise athletes at all events at all times.
- 6) Communicate with the school any changes made to the practice schedule, striving for 24 hour notice.
- 7) Have a practice plan in place as a form of accountability (see attached).
- 8) Be at games at least ½ hour before games
- 9) Communicate team selection appropriately, first with school administration and then with the athletes through an appropriate means (in a sealed envelope with a message indicated whether or not they have made the team).
- 10) Ensure that athletes adhere to our school dress code.
- 11) Determine the size of the team, with a minimum line-up of three players beyond what is required for a game.
- 12) Determine the play time for each athlete (which is not equal for all players), based on the following:
  - a) The athlete's ability
  - b) The athlete's effort at practice
  - c) The athlete's attendance at school and practice/games
  - d) The athlete's consistent application of skill development in practice and their willingness to apply feedback from the coach during practice.
  - e) The athlete's personal conduct in and out of team sponsored events.
  - f) It is ultimately the coach's decision with regards to who they play and for how long.
  - g) All athletes, regardless of the level, will be given equal playing time at practice. At games (especially at tournaments), coaches may choose to play certain players to maximize overall team opportunities.

- h) Playing time – For B teams it is encouraged that all players have fair playing time at practice and league games, with the exception of coaches applying their discretion to make decisions based on overall athlete conduct, or to maximize overall team opportunities.
- i) Playing time for A teams –Some players may develop more quickly (skill) and may be placed in certain circumstances that provides them with more playing time than others
- j) At any time, a coach and/or the school staff deem a student as not honoring their responsibilities as a Seven Person student, this athlete may lose play time, as well as the eligibility to remain on the team. Also, coaches may seek the advice of the SPS athletic department head or school administration at any time.

**Parent Responsibility:**

- 1) Attend the initial start-up meeting.
- 2) Sign the parent contract and parent code of conduct.
- 3) Trust the discretion of the coaches to make the best decisions in the interest of the overall team.
- 4) Pick up your child right after the practices and/or games.
- 5) Assist, as needed with keeping score, running concession and clean up after home games and tournaments.
- 6) Pay user fees and uniform deposit within the first week of the season. Also, school fees for the year must be paid prior to your child being accepted onto a team.
- 7) Arrange for suitable transportation to and from practices and games.
- 8) Model appropriate sportsmanship conduct and/or problem solving strategies.
- 9) Submit the appropriate volunteer driver policy documentation if they are transporting students other than their own children. The cost of driver's abstracts will be covered by the SPS athletic department, upon submission of a receipt.
- 10) Communicate directly with the coach if you have concerns. A protocol for appropriate lines of communication is enforced. Start first by taking your concerns to the coach, and if no resolution is achieved; then go to the SPS athletic department head, and finally to the school administration, if no resolution is reached. Recognize that each situation is dealt with on an individualized basis, and we hope that you will value the partnership that you have with the coach and the school in dealing with any concerns that you may have. Sharing concerns publicly before giving the appropriate individual the chance to address a concern can create a level of distrust and a strained relationship between the coach and your child.

### **Athlete Responsibility:**

- 1) Demonstrate consistent performance in the 4As (**A**thletics in school and on the team, **A**cademics in school, **A**ttendance all around, and **A**ttitude all around), as indicated in the guiding principles.
- 2) Sign athlete contract/code of conduct
- 3) Maintain acceptable grades in all classes in school.
- 4) Maintain acceptable attendance at school, including all classes in school, and at team events (including practices, league games, tournaments, wind-up celebrations, etc).
- 5) Positive behavior and leadership in and around the school. Act responsibly and respectfully to others, including any individuals at the school, as well as coaches, teammates, officials, and opponents. This includes trusting the discretion of those who are in a position to make decisions that are deemed to be in the best interest of the athlete or team in general.
- 6) Every SPS athlete is expected to follow the rules and guidelines of the team on which he or she is a member.
- 7) Athletes on our school team must attend and work hard at practices and put forth a high degree of effort in game situations.
- 8) Be at games at least ½ hour before games.
- 9) Athletes are expected to regularly attend practice and games. Please try to arrange appointments around your commitment to the team. We would rather you miss a game than a practice. If you miss a practice and don't let the coach know, you will be sitting out.
- 10) Report to the coach if it is necessary to miss a practice or a game.
- 11) Missed school and games - If the student is absent from school during the day, it is expected (as a school policy) that they will not participate in games or any team activity that evening. If the student missed a portion of the school day due to an appointment and the school was notified, then the player may still participate in game. Athletes are expected to inform community coaches of their school absences. Failure to do so will result in further consequences.
- 12) Playing is a privilege and proper behaviour at games, practices and at tournaments is expected – major discipline issues will be dealt as a school issue (as the player is representing the school)
- 13) Treat other players graciously in all aspects, including team selection.
- 14) Be adequately prepared for all practices and games. This includes having the proper equipment/uniform, healthy snacks and a water bottle.

**NOTE: Seven Persons School reserves the right to suspend or remove the privileges of playing on a school team, for a short term or permanent basis, if students are unable to maintain these standards.**