

D.S.B.N. ELEMENTARY INTERSCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Overview:

The purpose of this manual is to assist in the development of high standards of physical achievement and sportsmanship in our students through interschool athletic competition conducted on a sound organizational and ethical basis. The resource manual is meant to deal with circumstances that are unique to the District School Board of Niagara.

2. Philosophy of Interschool Competition:

For some students, the schools provides the first opportunity for students to participate in organized athletic competition. The Ontario Curriculum 2010 - Health and Physical Education , emphasizes that within the context of a healthy school, the health and Physical Education curriculum provides all students with the skills and strategies they need to participate in a wide variety of physical activities. A supportive school environment will provide opportunities for students to continue their learning through more organized and competitive activities involved with the interschool sports programme.

The D.S.B.N. believes that the Interschool athletics program should provide an appropriate level of competition and encourage healthy active participation at the school level The student should focus on movement competence, positive attitude, sportsmanship and social skills in a safe non threatening and enjoyable setting. As the students grow and their movement skills improve, increased challenges and competition can be provided , including Area and District wide events. The operating framework and school support for the elementary Interschool Athletics program is outlined in the D.S.B.N. Interschool Athletics Resource Manual and the Ontario Safety Guidelines produced by OPHEA. Both documents include guidelines to be followed regarding safety and supervision by teachers as coaches, teachers acting as coach - liaisons and by volunteer coaches

A wide range of sports are offered and opportunities vary within the D.S.B.N. some sports (see athletic manual) will be centrally organized and supported by School Support Services while some are organized by area teacher volunteers. Area autonomy recognizes the importance of geographical and school community interests. Furthermore, individual schools are encouraged to make site - based decisions regarding participation in each ectivity that is offered in the Elementary Interschool Athletic program. This allows each school to provide a program that best suits the students and the community's needs throughout the D.S.B.N. .

3. Examples of Codes of Ethics:

a) Code for Players:

1. Play the game for the game's sake.
2. Be generous in winning.
3. Be graceful in losing.
4. Be obedient to the rules.
5. Work for the good of the team.
6. Accept gracefully the decision of the officials
7. Believe in the honesty of your opponents.
8. Conduct yourself, at all times, with honour and dignity.
9. Recognize and applaud the efforts of your teammates or opponents regardless of differences, including colour, creed or race.

b) Code for Coaches:

10. The game is a game for happiness.
11. The rules of the game are to be regarded as mutual agreements, the spirit of which no one should try to break.
12. Visiting teams and spectators are the honoured guests
13. No advantages, except those of superior skill, are to be sought over others.
14. Officials and opponents are to be regarded and treated as honest in intention.
15. Decisions of officials, no matter how unfair they may seem, are to be accepted without outward appearance of vexation.
16. To win is desirable. But to win at any cost defeats the purpose of the game.
17. Losing can be a triumph when the best has been given.
18. The greatest good to the greatest number is the ideal.
19. The Golden Rule in sport is to treat others as you, yourself, would like to be treated.

Note: from Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations

c) Code for Spectators:

20. Remember that children play organized sports for their own fun. They are not there to entertain you, and they are not miniature professional athletes.
21. Be on your best behaviour. Do not harass players, coaches or officials.
22. Applaud good players by your own team and the visiting team.
23. Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them, there would be no game.
24. Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake.
25. Condemn the use of violence in all forms.
26. Respect the official's decisions.
27. Encourage players always to play according to the rules.

Note: from Fair Play Codes for Children in Sports (Canada Council on Children and Youth)

It's Still Just a Game

The sun melts the mist of a crisp autumn morn. Young children gather in a lot where the grass is badly worn.

There are no goal posts, no scoreboard or marching bands.

There are no brightly colored uniforms, no astroturf or cheering fans.

No P.A. system blaring out each successful first and ten.

No coach directing the officials to measure that gain again.

But, here in the worn sandlot the children, they play,
with a zest, a spirit, a courage, a joy shown in their own way.

They run, they tackle, they block, but it is all in fun,
and, after the game no one races around screaming we're number one.

I watched them for a brief moment, and wonder, isn't it a shame
we have lost sight of the fact, it's still just a game.

Athlete's Oath

I believe that violence and physical intimidation are harmful to sport and I refuse to use such tactics. I understand that officials, team teammates, coaches and opponents are all integral to sport and are worthy of respect. It is my responsibility to maintain self-control.

"I will accept officials' and coaches decisions without argument, play with intensity, but without hostility, and behave graciously in triumph and defeat."

What Does a Parent Say to Their Child Before Their First Game?

This is your first game.
I hope you win.
I hope you win for your sake, not mine.
Because winning's nice.
It's a good feeling.
Like the whole world is yours.
But it passes, this feeling.
And what lasts is what you've learned.

And what you learn about is life.
That's what sports are all about.
Life.
The whole thing is played out in an afternoon.
The happiness of life.
The miseries.
The joys.
The heartbreaks.

There's no telling what'll turn up,
There's no telling whether they'll toss you
out in the first five minutes,
Or whether you'll stay for the long haul.

There's no telling how you'll do.
You might be a hero,
Or you might be absolutely nothing.
There's just no telling.
Too much depends on chance.
On how the ball bounces.

I'm not talking about the game.
I'm talking about life.
But it's life that the game is all about.
Just as I said.

Because every game is life.
And life is a game.
A serious one.
Dead serious.

But that's what you do with serious things.
You do your best.
You take what comes.
You take what comes, and you run with it.

Winning is fun.
Sure.
But winning is not the point.

Wanting to win is the point.
Not giving up is the point.
Never be satisfied with what you've done
Is the point.
Never letting up is the point.
Never letting anyone down is the point.

Play to win.
Sure.
But lose like a champion.
Because it's not winning that counts.
What counts is trying

