



Junior Athletic Policy

Note: Junior Athletics encompasses all Green, Blue, and Junior divisions

The following proposal was developed by the Athletics Consultant with assistance from teachers, coaches, and administrators in Saskatoon Secondary Schools.

Preamble:

It is the intent of this document to clarify the philosophy, scope, and purpose of junior athletic programs by developing common objectives and shared understandings, regarding organization, administration, and expectations of the programs.

Junior sports are intended to be participation-based competitions. An athlete who attends practices regularly, consistently works hard and displays a positive attitude can expect a fair share of playing time over the course of the season regardless of his/her ability. The amount of playing time is ultimately determined by the coach; however, the key emphasis is to involve as many participants as possible. SSSAD recognizes that there may be special conditions such as practice attendance, discipline, and academic responsibility, etc. that may influence the amount of playing time a player receives in certain games. In these cases, a player should know the consequences ahead of time and should know why they will not be playing.

With the amount of playing time determined by the coach, it might be expected that as the season progresses to the year-end tournaments coaches might choose to substitute more sparingly. Coaches must communicate with athletes and parents regarding the playing time philosophy during league play and for year-end tournaments that declare a city champion.

The extent of out-of-town travel is the responsibility of the school principal in consultation with the coach. Not to exceed two "overnight" trips for competition (one out-of-province) in a season.

Junior Athletics are governed by SSSAD and the SHSAA, but because of the different emphasis at the junior level the following guidelines have been set in place.

NOTE: This document was ratified by principals at the December 12, 1990

1. Assumptions and Beliefs About Junior Athletics in Saskatoon High Schools

- a. The major emphasis in junior sports must be participation through healthy competition.
- b. Programs must provide each participant with the opportunity to learn and grow.
- c. Coaches must strive to arrange for a fair share of playing time regardless of ability.
- d. Coaches must strive to develop a meaningful role and clear expectations to participants over the course of the season.
- e. All activities must be organized and conducted with the following student objectives in mind.

2. Objectives for Students

- a. Students will take pride in honest effort and work toward the improvement of their abilities.
- b. Students will develop the ability to win with humility and lose graciously.
- c. Students will follow the rules of the game and learn the values of fair play.
- d. Students will demonstrate support and respect for officials.
- e. Students will demonstrate respect for facilities, equipment, and locker rooms.

3. General Guidelines

Junior interscholastic programs should provide each participant with the opportunity to learn and grow in an educationally positive environment. Administrators and coaches are responsible for such an environment and should consider the following while conducting their programs:

- a. Take responsibility for all participants.
- b. Exemplify good deportment and leadership.
- c. Have high standards for participant behavior.
- d. Recognize and praise the efforts of all participants.
- e. Keep student athletes and parents well informed about practice times, game dates, and expectations as the season progresses.
- f. Request a reasonable time commitment from participants. Suggested guideline would be 3-5 times per week for practices and games. A determination of what is reasonable should be a joint decision reached by the principal, coaches, and players.
- g. Place participants in their proper competition level.
- h. Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to play again.
- i. Make corrections and coaching points in a positive, reassuring manner.

4. Organizational Format and Scheduling

Each sport will be organized by its coaches' group through a collective meeting. They should designate a person to act as coordinator and liaison person with the Athletics Consultant.

Each coaching committee (volleyball, basketball, football, badminton) is responsible for:

- a. Establishing a set of guidelines specific to its sport. These to receive approval from SSSAD and Principals Committees.
- b. Providing a schedule for competition considering the senior schedules of that sport.
- c. League standings are not to be kept or recorded.
- d. Year-end tournaments (declaring a city champion) will be offered in basketball, volleyball, badminton, and wrestling.
 - i. Senior aged athletes are ineligible to participate in the year end tournament.
 - ii. If there are at least 3 teams (minimum) that have senior aged athletes a yearend tournament will be organized. Schools competing in the blue division of play which have the intention of competing in conference play leading to a Provincial Championship will be ineligible for the year end tournament.
- e. Media coverage (results and promotion) will be permitted for events approved by the SSSAD Executive Council
- f. A generic coach seeding (ranking) form will be used to set the draw for year-end tournaments.
- g. Establishing a host and date for any year end tournament to conclude city play and involve only city teams.
 - i. Each school will share in the responsibilities of conducting this tournament as outlined by the host school.
 - ii. Admission for year-end tournaments will be charged.
 - iii. Admission rates for year-end tournaments will be the same as senior rates:
- h. Sharing the responsibility of recruiting and coordinating officials for their sport.
- i. Providing an updated "host expectations" checklist for each coach to ensure uniformity.
- j. Review the guidelines on a yearly basis. At the pre-season meeting specific recommendations from the previous year will be discussed.

5. Governance and Chartering Procedures

- a. Each sport to be governed by its coaches committee with SSSAD and Principals Committees' approval of all guidelines and procedures of conduct.
- b. Each team while at the competition, must be supervised by a staff member, school approved designate or employee, who must sit on the team bench during the competition.
- c. Games are not permitted on a Sunday. The Saskatoon Boards of Education do not allow practices on Sunday unless special permission is granted by the principal.

- d. Any new initiatives or changes to the guidelines should originate at the coaches level with approval of SSSAD and the Principals Committee.

6. Officiating

- a. Each sport committee and all member schools should work in conjunction with SSSAD, the Officials Association representatives and the Athletics Consultant to establish an officials pool for each sport.
- b. A list of these officials will be made available to all coaches.
- c. Each official's association will attempt to train and charter these new officials. Officials will be paid (negotiated cost) by the school, SSSAD and the respective official's association.
- d. Officials cost to be shared by host school and SSSAD
- e. Coaches must respect the level of officiating competence.

7. Junior Co-op

A request for a Junior Co-op between two schools can be made to SSSAD if schools have exhausted opportunities to form a green, blue, or junior team in the school, including Grade 9's playing with Grade 10's and grade 10's playing with the Grade 9's.

8. Eligibility

- a. Students playing down are not eligible for the year end tournament.
- b. Senior aged athletes are ineligible to participate in the year end tournament.
- c. Students may only play in one year end tournament for any one activity.
- d. Teams pursuing SHSAA conference play are not eligible for the year end tournament.
- e. Students are eligible for only one year end tournament for any one activity.
- f. If there are at least 3 teams (minimum) that have senior aged athletes a yearend tournament will be organized. Schools competing in the blue division of play which have the intention of competing in conference play leading to a Provincial Championship will be ineligible for the year end tournament.
- g. As of 2010-2011 junior programs in girls' volleyball and girls' and boys' basketball will merge to include ninth and tenth graders. Teams will be assigned to one of maximum of 3 teams in girls' volleyball and 2 teams in each of girls' and boys' basketball eligible for competition in green and/or blue (advanced) divisions, organized in any combination according to level of play.

This document is to serve as the framework within which each junior sport will conduct its program as well as adhering to its own sport specific policy. Principals Agreement: December 12, 1990, April 7, 2004, January 2008, 2010