

**DEPARTMENT OF TOTAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION
REGULATION FOR DIOCESAN BOARD POLICY**

D/B Code 6050

REGULATION: REGULATIONS OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ATHLETICS IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN THE DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

RATIONALE

The Diocesan Association of School Administrators (DASA) and the Diocesan Board of Education have clearly stated that the primary purpose of Catholic education is to educate and develop mind, spirit and body. They clearly affirm the importance of providing physical education instruction within the school day and wholesome athletic experiences for all students as integral aspects of a total school program. They have clearly stated that jurisdiction of these programs lies with the parish board of education. The chain of communication is coaches, athletic director, administrator, and Board of Education. The athletic regulations were written to help foster the implementation of the diocesan policy.

To this end the regulations were established to:

- Act as regulations for boards and their administrators so that athletic contests between schools have some level of consistency in what is permissible and what is not.
- Set a scope and some sense of direction for all the diocesan elementary schools.
- Build a framework from which regional conferences could work.
- Help insure fairness between schools.
- Protect the athletes in respect to the level of their physical mental maturity
- Maintain spirit and enthusiasm, and not “wear out” the student athlete.
- Place an emphasis on the participation aspect of athletics.
- Encourage participation by any student, boy or girl, in an athletic sport of their choosing.

To meet the goals of a sound extra-curricular program for elementary schools, takes a coordinated effort on the part of the local parish board of education, the school administrator and the athletic coaches-advisors. They must all realize the importance of their mission as educators and role models for students still in their formative years. They must communicate to their student-athletes a sense of justice, fairness and concern for the well being and health of all concerned. When this communication is established and the spirit and letter of the diocesan board’s policy is followed, the best interests of all will be served in a Christ-like atmosphere sure to enhance any program.

GENERAL

1. **a. JURISDICTION:** The elementary school extra-curricular athletic program including Booster Clubs and coaches fall within the jurisdiction of the Board of Education. The Board shall make all policies relative to extra-curricular athletics. Hence, the Principal is responsible to the local Board of Education for administration and implementation of the program. If the Principal chooses to delegate these responsibilities to an Athletic Director, that director is responsible to and reports to the Principal.

An athletic program which involves participants who are members of the parish but not necessarily enrolled in the school is to be viewed as a parish team rather than a school team. Students, whose parents are not registered as members of the parish, and who are not participating in the faith

**DEPARTMENT OF TOTAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION
REGULATION FOR DIOCESAN BOARD POLICY**

formation programs of the parish, may not play on parish teams. When such is the case, the parish Board of Education shall maintain jurisdiction and shall delegate responsibility for administration.

- b. Inclement Weather: If school is canceled due to inclement weather all athletic events (games and practices) at that school are also canceled for that day.
2. **LOCAL ATHLETIC POLICY:** All schools are strongly encouraged to develop a local athletic policy and review it on a yearly basis. The local athletic policy and regulations must be consistent with the Diocesan athletic philosophy. The local Board may impose stricter regulations as deemed necessary in a given area.
3. **INTRA-MURAL SPORTS:** Plans and guidelines for establishing or furthering intra-mural sports shall be done by individual schools. Intra-mural programs are encouraged for students not participating in interschool competition.
4. **ELIGIBILITY:**
 - a. It is a privilege to participate in athletics; it is a privilege to represent a school. Eligibility to compete on a school team will be determined by the Principal in consultation with school personnel and the Athletic Director. Eligibility will depend on academic effort, attitude, and conduct, both in school and at school functions. Participation is limited to students enrolled in Catholic Schools.
 - b. Eligibility to compete on a parish team shall be determined by the administrator (who may be the Principal) in consultation with school personnel, (public and non-public), the Religion Education Director, and the local public Board. Eligibility will depend on academic effort, attitude, and conduct, both in school and at school functions.
5. **PARTICIPATION:** The emphasis in all sports shall be on participation for all athletes. A “no cut” rule will be followed by all schools in every sport. (Refer to No. 22 for specifics).
6. **COACHES:** Coaches are viewed as being a member of the para-professional staff. They are selected upon the Administrator’s recommendations to the Board of Education. Coaches are responsible for signing and upholding a statement of the athletic program philosophy, Diocesan regulations and school philosophy.

It is the responsibility of the Administrator and/or Athletic Director to meet with all coaches and inform them of these responsibilities, as well as expected standards of personal conduct.

Evaluation of coaches will be done on a yearly basis by at least one of the following: Administrator, Athletic Director, Athletic Committee or a person designated by the Board of Education.

Each Administrator will have on file a form signed by each coach testifying that he/she has read the regulations and will adhere to them.

7. **SUPERVISION:** There is to be no practice nor contests without adult supervision. Adult supervision means the supervisor must be a minimum of 18 years of age. This includes cheerleading. Coaches and supervisors must be a proper Christian role model.

**DEPARTMENT OF TOTAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION
REGULATION FOR DIOCESAN BOARD POLICY**

8. **BOOSTER CLUBS AND ATHLETIC ASSOCIATIONS:** The purpose of Athletic Association and Booster Clubs is to give support to the school and/or the athletic programs. All fund raisers, expenditures and budget must be approved by the Board of Education as local policy dictates.
9. **TITLE IX:** Diocesan schools must be in compliance with Title IX requirements which define equal rights/opportunities.
10. **INSURANCE:** Players must be covered by family or student insurance for both travel and competition. A written permit from parents is required and a medical examination is highly recommended before participation. The permit and exam form are to be kept on file in the school office.
11. **AWARDS:** Recognition should be given to all participants. Award expenses should be kept to a minimum.

In all sports, including tournaments, no individual awards (eg. Most Valuable, Most Improved, etc.) are to be given to students below the 8th grade level. An exception is made for 7th graders who are playing together on an 8th grade team. A player may receive an award if all members are receiving the same.

12. **COMPETITION:** Players shall not be switched to other teams for tournament play. A player may not be switched downwards, e.g. an 8th grader to the 7th grade team. Any player switched upwards for more than two games, e.g., 6th to 7th grade, that player must remain at the higher level for that school year. In this situation the five-quarter rule does not apply.
13. **GAMES:** A game is defined as competitive play between two teams of different schools during which the time and score are kept. Scrimmage is defined as play in which no time or score is kept and coaches may interrupt to give coaching advice. All games shall not start until school is in session.
14. **LEAGUES:** Leagues provide a structure that helps make athletic programs more effective. In a league, rules and policies of the league shall be established and/or reviewed by Administrators and Athletic Directors. Each Board of Education must formally adopt the league.

Each league within the Diocese of Green Bay must follow the regulations established by the Diocese. They can, however, adopt stronger measures as voted on by members of the league.

Leagues may adjust the number of games for their member schools, but, the total number cannot exceed the maximum established by the Diocese.

15. **INTERSCHOOL COMPETITION:**
 - a. In basketball, volleyball, softball, track, soccer, and wrestling, interschool competition is to be limited to grades 5-8. Competition in these sports may be extended to lower grades but only if the school's Board of Education determines this extension to be in the best interest of the students and school involved.
 - b. In football (tackle and touch) interschool competition shall involve grades 7 and 8. Grade 6 may be involved with flag football only but no lower grades.
 - c. Although tackle football is played in the Diocese it is not a recommended team sport nor is it encouraged.

**DEPARTMENT OF TOTAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION
REGULATION FOR DIOCESAN BOARD POLICY**

16. **GAMES:** (contests) per week:

- a. Effort should be made to schedule an average of one game or contest per week, excluding tournaments, in all sports.
- b. Games or contests shall not be scheduled after 8:00 P.M.
- c. When tournament play is involved, effort shall be made so that teams are not competing on consecutive weekdays (Monday-Friday) in any sport.
- d. Basketball's 5-quarter rule and volleyball's 3-game limit could provide exceptions to this regulation.

17. **GAMES:** (contests) per season:

BASKETBAL- boys and girls grades 7 & 8 - sixteen games maximum plus tournament(s)

- boys and girls grades 5 & 6 - sixteen games maximum plus tournament(s)

VOLLEYBALL-boys and girls - maximum of 12 matches, plus tournament(s)

SOCCER - boys and girls - 12 games for grades 7 & 8 maximum plus tournament(s), 10 games for grades 5 & 6 maximum plus tournament(s)

TRACK - boys and girls - maximum of 10 meets

FOOTBALL - maximum of 7 tackle or 10 touch

SOFTBALL - maximum of 10 games plus tournament(s)

18. **CONTEST PER DAY:** Athletes may not be involved in more than one contest per day in league or tournament competition. The only exception will be during tournament play, but no more than 2 basketball games may be played on any one day.

19. **TOURNAMENT:** Players are limited to the number of tournaments they may participate as members of a school/parish team during the season as specified below:

a. Grades 7 & 8 - three tournaments per sport

b. Grade 6 - two tournaments per sport

c. Grade 5 - two tournaments per sport.

d. Three-on-Three - An individual is allowed to participate in three-on-three basketball tournaments before the first regular season game or after the last regular season game.

20. **CHEERLEADERS:** A school may have only one varsity cheerleading team per squad. Additional squads are discouraged. The no cut rule referred to in 5B pertains to cheerleading teams as well. All cheerleaders must be allowed to participate in cheerleading competition. Teams may participate in no more than three competitions per season.

Rotation of participants is permissible and participation in cheerleading and another sport simultaneously is permissible. Cheerleading teams must have a faculty or adult supervisor (minimum 18 years of age) who is responsible to the Administrator.

21. **STARTING DATES:** Practice prior to the first scheduled game shall be limited either 3 weeks before the contest or a total of 12 practice sessions.

**DEPARTMENT OF TOTAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION
REGULATION FOR DIOCESAN BOARD POLICY**

22. SPECIAL RULES NOT COVERED IN POINTS 15-21:

SOCCER Follow Wisconsin Alliance rules (WIAA does currently have soccer rules).

- BASKETBALL**
- a. On a team of 10 players or less, each player must play in every regular season game.
 - b. On teams of 11 players or more, each player must play in every other regular season game. This means that for every two games that are played, each player on the team must have played at least one.
 - c. If a team has eight or less eligible players, the team may use the WIAA five-quarter rule. Any time played in a quarter constitutes a full quarter of play. Five-quarter rule applies for same day competition except in tournament play.
 - d. In grades 5 and 6, no pressing shall be allowed until the basketball has entered the front court, except in the last two minutes of the second/fourth quarter when full court pressing will be allowed.

VOLLEYBALL No player may be in for more than 3 matches per day, except during tournaments. Every player must play in every match.

- TRACK** The events and the order in which they will be run will be as follows:
- a. The 4 field events, shot put, discus, high jump and long jump will be run first and simultaneously or as close to simultaneous as possible.
 - b. The track events will be run in the following order:
 - 110 meters hurdles - boys
 - 100 meters hurdles - girls
 - 100 meter dash
 - 1600 meter run
 - 800 meter relay
 - 400 meter dash
 - 400 meter relay
 - 800 meter dash
 - 1600 meter relay(Coaches may mutually agree to change the order.)

AWARDS BANQUETS - No alcoholic beverages shall be served or smoking allowed at athletic banquets or functions intended to honor and acknowledge the student athlete.

Others - The regulation of any sport not mentioned above shall be under the jurisdiction of the local Board.

**DEPARTMENT OF TOTAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION
REGULATION FOR DIOCESAN BOARD POLICY**

23. ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS:

All Athletic Directors must submit schedules to their school Administrators who will keep them on file and will give a copy to the Athletic commission Chairman upon request. Schedules shall include tournament activities. If violations occur, the Administrators, Athletic Directors of the violating school and in some situations the League President must make every effort to resolve the violation at the local level. Should the concern continue, written communication should be forwarded to the Diocesan Athletic Commission for a clarification of rules or a decision to bring the violation to a fair and equitable close.

The decision will be communicated in writing to the Administrator of the school involved as well as Athletic Directors and League President.

24. EXCEPTIONAL SITUATIONS:

Exceptions to these rules can be requested, in writing, through the DASA Chairperson of the Diocesan Athletic Commission, Dan Verbeten, 801 Lawe Street, Kaukauna, WI 54130 (920) 766-1075. This request must be submitted in writing by the administrator/local board of education 30 days in advance of the first practice of the sport being considered for rule exception. This time frame is necessary to allow the Commission to examine the request and make public any exceptions which are allowed.