



(Draft)
Athletics Handbook
2023-2024

Philosophy

The athletics program at Crescent Valley School believes that school sports exist to develop students as both athletes and citizens. While participation in our programs will outwardly help to improve physical activity and ability among players, we also expect that the constructive adversity of sport will help create stronger, more well-rounded human beings. We hope that student-athletes leaving CVS will be well prepared for participation in High School athletics and carry the life-long lessons necessary for their development.

Student participation in extracurricular athletics is a privilege. Students are not required to participate, nor is anyone entitled. Outside of the additional pressures and expectations such as time and effort, students are called on to act as Ambassadors for Crescent Valley School, both within and outside the school's walls. Although there are additional responsibilities for student-athletes, the programs offered provide a deep enrichment to the student experience at CVS.

Guidelines

1.) TEAM SELECTION

- a.) It is the sole responsibility of the coach and/or designates.
- b.) It is based on attitude, participation, coachability and a basic skill level.

2.) FEES

- a.) Enrollment in extracurricular sports carries with it additional fees and costs.
- b.) Fees are to be paid through PowerSchool (online).
 - i.) Fees can be paid through the PowerSchool browser - not the mobile app.
- c.) Fees are primarily used to pay for transportation, registration, uniforms, equipment, officiating, tournament fees, first aid supplies, and other miscellaneous expenses.
- d.) Increased travel will result in higher fees.

3.) UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

- a.) Coaches will distribute and collect uniforms at their discretion.
- b.) Players will be responsible for the care and cleanliness of uniforms left in their care.
- c.) Please inform the athletic director of any lost/ broken equipment.
- d.) The school owns all equipment and supplies. The coach shall be responsible for the overall care and maintenance of the equipment assigned to a team.

4.) TRANSPORTATION

- a.) Buses may be necessary for travel.
- b.) Parents are responsible for the transportation of their own students to games within the community.
- c.) Additional travel may incur additional costs.

5.) PRACTICE AND GAME TIMES

- a.) The athletic director will be responsible for scheduling practices - while communicating with the front office for facility scheduling purposes.
- b.) A coach or teacher must be present for all team activities.
- c.) School sports shall have priority over community events at all times
- d.) A season calendar shall be provided to players and parents at the earliest opportunity.
 - i.) Changes shall be communicated to affected players and parents as soon as is reasonably possible - coaches are responsible for the overall communication between the team and parents.
- e.) Scheduled games will take precedence over regularly scheduled practices.

6.) PLAYING TIME

- a.) Coaches will make playing time decisions based on the team's needs and long-term team and athlete development. Coaches will communicate to athletes where they are in their development and what areas they can improve. Players' ability to incorporate this feedback into their practice and play is essential to coachability. Players and parents need to understand that literal equivalent play time during competition does not equal less value as a person or team member. Players should maximize the value they get from practice, formal and informal, to earn a larger role during competition. This will be balanced against a basic understanding that developing players need to gain competitive experience in their athletic development and growth - especially in a non-high school context.

7.) PARENTAL COMMUNICATION

- a.) Coaches will determine the best methods of communication for their team at the start of the season. Usually, this will include electronic communications. Parents must closely monitor electronic communications for last-minute changes, cancellations, etc.
- b.) Parental concerns should not be discussed with coaches on site (games or practices).
 - i.) Parents should wait 24 hours before discussing any issues of concern with coaches.
- c.) If a concern arises, parents are to call the school and arrange a private meeting with the athletic director and/or coach.

8.) RESPECT AND GOOD CONDUCT

- a.) Athletes are expected to conduct themselves as Ambassadors of CVS at all times.
- b.) Athletes will be held to a high standard of behaviour both in and outside of the school.
- c.) Competition can lead to intense emotions - students are expected to maintain a positive attitude and respect regarding their opponents, officials, spectators and coaches.
 - i.) If students are the target of disrespectful behaviour:
 - (1) they will report it immediately to their coaching staff - students will never retaliate or sink to the level of those who do not conduct themselves honourably.
- d.) No hazing rituals will be permitted. Initiations will not be tolerated.

9.) PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- a.) A student-athlete is a student first - they must maintain a satisfactory level of work and effort in all their courses to be eligible for play.
 - i.) This includes a priority on assignment completion and attendance.
- b.) Students must attend the entire game day to participate unless otherwise excused by the school administration.
- c.) Students need to meet behavioural or academic standards to be allowed to play until the problem is resolved.
- d.) Players ineligible for play due to an administrative decision will forfeit their team fees.

10.) SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

- a.) Students are expected to conduct themselves as ambassadors for CVS at all times - including on social media.
- b.) Social media is visible to other individuals. Please exercise caution when posting anything on social media, in team or group chats, etc.
- c.) Student-athletes who are deemed to be acting inappropriately or in an unsportsmanlike manner on social media could face a number of consequences, including suspension or removal from the team.

RULES OF THE GYM

- 1.) No students are allowed in the gym unless supervised by a teacher or coach. If the coach is running late for practice, students must wait outside the gym until their coach has arrived. Being in the gym without a supervisor is not permitted.
- 2.) Proper non-marking athletic shoes must be worn.
- 3.) No food or drink in the gym except for water. All other beverages and food must be left in the hallway.
- 4.) No one else should be in the gym except team players and coaches.
- 5.) While waiting for practice or games, athletes must not wander the halls.

PARENT/ COACH COMMUNICATION

Communication Coaches Accept from Student Athletes:

- Concerns expressed in a timely manner, directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- Specific concerns in regards to a coach's expectations and/or philosophy

As your son or daughter becomes involved in the sports programs at Crescent Valley School he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments in their school career. It is important to understand however that there will be times when things do not go the way you or your son/daughter wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Communication Coaches Accept from Parents:

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach away from the court setting (24 hour rule)
- Notification of any scheduling conflicts well in advance
- Specific concerns in regards to a coach's philosophy and or expectations.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches:

- The treatment of your child mentally or physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behaviour

It is difficult to accept your child is not playing as much as you or they may hope. Coaches are dedicated individuals who make judgement decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all athletes involved. There are certain things that should be discussed with your child's coach, however there are also certain things that should not be discussed. Those decisions will be left to the coach's discretion.

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches:

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student athletes unless it directly impacts your own

These are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged but the following procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

Procedure for communicating an issue regarding your child.

- Wait 24 hours from the day of the game and incident.
- Communicate first with the coach in the manner the coach establishes.
- Only speak to the topics listed above that are with the coaches authority.
- If further mediation is needed, call and set up an appointment with the coach or the Athletic Director.
- The principal may become involved as a final step upon the request of the Athletic Director.

**Crescent Valley School
Bears Athlete and Parent Contract**

- I have read and understand the athletic handbook

- Any fees related to participation must be paid online unless prior arrangements have been made with the school administration. This includes practices as well as games.

- I understand that the coaches at CVS are all volunteers
 - I will not attempt to deter, through negative comments and confrontations, the ability or willingness of these volunteers to coach at the school
 - Communication will be conducted according to the athletic handbook

- I understand that as a spectator at school events my own behaviour and communication is governed by the same expectations as the players. I agree to conduct myself politely and respectfully at all times and understand that event hosts, school staff and administration have the right to ask me to leave if I fail to do so. Failure to comply may result in my student being removed from a team.

- I understand that if an athlete:
 - Has an unexcused absence from school the day of a game, they will not be allowed to play in a game that day.

- I understand that:
 - Outstanding assignments may affect the ability of a student to participate in games and practices.
 - Students are required to maintain a level of success that is contextually appropriate to their learning as an individual student, and questions about this are best directed first to their teacher and then school administration.

- Students earn the privilege of participating in school athletics based on the principles of good citizenship and appropriate behaviour at both school and athletic events. Students are accountable for their actions, at all times.

- I understand that coaches and administration may remove athletes from play based on behaviours exhibited in or out of class, during school hours or at school events. Additionally social media, or behaviours demonstrated after hours that impact the team will be considered.

I understand that the care of equipment and facilities is every athlete's responsibility. Equipment and uniforms issued to students must be returned. Failure to return said equipment, or damages incurred may result in a replacement fee applied to a student account. This may affect further enrollment in extracurricular activities.

I understand that:

- Parents are responsible for the transport of their own players.
- Buses may be utilized to transport the team out of town.
- Any transportation of players, by bus or parents must follow division transport expectations and administrative policies provided by Division Leadership or Board Policy.
- Parents are expected to be prompt in picking up their players from games and practices.

I have read, fully understand and agree to abide by the terms laid out in the Athletic Contract:

_____	_____	_____
Date	Student Signature	Printed Name
_____	_____	_____
Date	Parent Signature	Printed Name