

# **INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**

## **Mission**

The WRCS Middle School interscholastic athletic program offers opportunities for developing excellence in athletic teamwork, knowledge, skill, leadership, sportsmanship, and school spirit in the context of extra-curricular sports competition with similar area Christian schools.

## **Objectives**

1. To offer voluntary extra-curricular athletic activities for interested students in addition to required physical education classes.
2. To encourage healthy alternatives for out-of-school leisure time activity.
3. To promote and develop excellence in athletic teamwork, knowledge, skill, sportsmanship, and school spirit.
4. To develop leadership and public performance skills, shaped by Christian values.
5. To provide a bridge from recreation league participation to interscholastic competition, preparing players for more selective high school athletic programs.
6. To attract and retain students who might otherwise enroll in another available middle school which has an interscholastic athletic program.
7. To offer positions on WRCS team rosters to those who earn and maintain the privilege of team membership.
8. To lend positive visibility to Warwick River Christian School.

## **Currently Available Options in Peninsula Coed League**

- Soccer Season goes from September to Oct/Nov. There are 9 playing positions on the team with room for about 12 players to be in uniform for an official game.
- Basketball Season goes from December to March. There are 5 playing positions on the team with room for 10-12 players to be in uniform for an official game.
- Volleyball Season goes from March to May. There are 6 playing positions on the team with room for 10-12 players to be in uniform for an official match.

## **Standards for Team Selection and Retention**

While all Middle School students are encouraged to try out for a place on interscholastic team rosters, representing WRCS is a privilege. Within the limitation of available team positions, players will be selected and retained for team membership who:

- are Eighth, Seventh, or Sixth Grade boys or girls.
- maintain at least a “C” grade-point average and/or have affirmation by teachers that they are performing up to their academic potential. [Violation is determined by teacher(s)]
- participate regularly and seriously in scheduled practices and games. [by coach(es)]
- are respectful and responsive to instructions and guidelines of the coaches. [by coach(es)]
- demonstrate exemplary conduct and citizenship. [by teachers, administrators, coaches]
- are able to contribute to a team’s competitive capacity against other schools in the league.

Violation of these standards may result in suspension from the team, with possibility of restoration after two weeks if deficiencies are satisfactorily addressed. Those responsible for monitoring violations are indicated in [brackets] above. All suspensions and restorations are to be coordinated with the Athletic Director.

After tryouts and selection for a team, players will be assessed a participation fee to defray some of the expense for facility rental, game officials, athletic insurance, equipment, etc. About half of total expenses are covered out of regular school budget.

## **Playing Time**

- The amount of individual playing time in games is determined by the team coach(es), based on

participation in practice, responsiveness to coaching instructions, attitude, conduct, skills, and ability to play well with teammates.

- Since much learning happens in practices and observation of games, the amount of time in uniform or playing in games is not the primary measure of current or future development.
- Uniform positions, starting positions, and playing time will be given first to those who are best developing/maintaining their privilege as described in the preceding section.
- Coaches are encouraged to give some playing time in league games to all players in uniform.

### **Spectators**

- Positive, encouraging, and spirited support of one's team is appropriate at all times.
- All non-players are expected to display hospitality and good sportsmanship toward officials, players, coaches, and representatives of both WRCS and the opposing school and team.
- Adults are expected to model the good sportsmanship required of players and other students.
- Parent concerns are to be communicated in a non-public setting away from the sporting arena. Differences should be resolved in the spirit of Mt 18:15-20 through civil conversation, one-on-one, small group exchange, or mediation.

### **Game Sustainance**

- Group prayer before and after games is encouraged.
- Generally, water fountains are available for player refreshment in indoor facilities.
- Where not otherwise available, the school will provide water for player refreshment.
- Generally, snacks or special beverages will not be provided for players. Coaches may arrange half-time refreshments where deemed important for sustaining energy or morale, but such should not be a required contribution from parents.
- Individual players may provide their own after-school snacks on the bus (with care to clean up any trash).

### **Post-Season Recognition**

- All team members will be recognized in an all-school chapel at the end of the particular sports season. This will include individual participation certificates presented by WRCS and presentation of any team trophy which may have been earned via league play.
- Other trophies/medals, dependent on investment by parents, are discouraged.
- An after-season event inviting play between team members and parents may be considered.

### **When there are not enough playing positions for all students desiring to play**

A Varsity Team will be selected by coaches to represent the school in league play, based on player strength in leadership, skill, sportsmanship, and school spirit. Opportunities for potential players not selected for the varsity team may include one or more of the following options:

- (a) regular practices open to all interested students who wish to earn a uniform position from week to week.
- (b) selective scheduling of "junior varsity" games as possible against middle schools not in a league.
- (c) scrimmaging as possible against schools in [another league].
- (d) intramural games at noon or after school.
- (e) selection of two teams (perhaps an "Eighth Grade and Others" team and a "Sixth Grade and Others" team), each to play their own schedule of PCL games.