

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

C. POLICIES & PROCEDURES

1. A Junior Students Participating at the Intermediate Level:

- a) Students in grade six or lower may participate in athletics at the Intermediate level at the same school under certain conditions.
- b) If there are sufficient students at the Intermediate level interested in participating on either a boys, girls or co-ed team , then Junior students should not be invited to participate as we would prefer to see students participate at their own division level.
- c) If there are not sufficient students to form either a boys or girls team at the Intermediate level the school may consider forming a co ed team that would participate in the boys league before considering bringing up Junior players to participate.
- d) If a school has sufficient numbers and interest to have teams at both the Intermediate and Junior levels but chooses not to have Junior teams , then Junior students may be allowed to participate at the Intermediate level. They should not replace Intermediate students who wish to participate.
- e) We fully realize with declining enrolment in some schools that forming boys and girls teams at both the Junior and Intermediate level can pose problems. It may at times be necessary to allow Juniors to play at the Intermediate level in order to compete in interschool athletics when there are insufficient Intermediate students interested in playing
- f) If a Junior student does compete at the Intermediate level due to the circumstances described in points B to E , then that student should be able to participate at the Junior level also. .
- g) There are no age restrictions in elementary sports. Intermediate is deemed to be Grade 7 and 8 while Junior is deemed Grade 6 and under.

1 B **Junior Schools unable to create both Boys and Girls Teams for League or Tournament Play**

With declining enrolment occurring in some schools we realize the difficulty there might be in fielding both a boys and girls team in certain sports. We would ask a school to do their utmost in creating both a boys and girls team . If however for a variety of reasons (lack of students, lack of interest in participating , lack of coaches etc) a boys and girls team can not be formed then that school will be allowed to enter a co ed team made up of both boys and girls into the boys league .We realize there may be an imbalance of numbers regarding the number of boys and girls on a team depending on the interest in that particular sport. This imbalance in numbers will be permitted. What we would not want avoid is a student not making a team (boys) because a co ed team was formed. If there are sufficient numbers willing to participate to warrant a girls team , then there should be a girls team. If there are sufficient numbers and interest to warrant a boys team, there should be a boys team. If a school decides to create a co ed team due to lack of numbers in boys, girls or both then they may do so. It will be up to the individual school to decide the formula used in creating this co ed team., as there are many variables that could possibly exist and only those within that particular school will be in a position to deal with them.

2. Equal Play

At the Junior Level, the focus should be on involvement and basic skill development. Winning is NOT the only thing. Therefore, the “Equal Play” format will be used for E.I.A.A. Junior Level team sports (volleyball and basketball). Details regarding “Equal Play” are included in *Section K - ‘The Concept of Equal Play’*.

The concept of Equal Play will not be used at the Intermediate level in either Basketball or Volleyball. The change is to help prepare athletes for future competition at the Secondary level.

3. Application to Participate in an Alternate Region:

- a) A School may apply to participate in an activity in another area or section for a number of reasons. These may include:
 - i) The alternate section or area offers a program that is not offered in the school’s home area
 - ii) An insufficient number of schools in the home area choose to participate in an activity causing the program to be ineffective.
 - iii) The alternate area would provide a higher level of competition.
- b) Schools applying to another area may be expected to play all games as “away” games due to transportation issues. This is a decision made within the accepting area.
- c) Schools applying to an alternate area must do so before the coach’s meeting for each activity. They do so using the following procedure for each activity in which they wish to apply:
 - i) Complete Alternate Area Application Form (*see section G - ‘Forms’*)
 - ii) Make two copies of the completed form.
 - iii) Send the form or copy to each of the following for application for that school year:
 - 1) Chair of Alternate Area
 - 2) Chair of Home Area
 - 3) Elementary Interschool Athletic Association (E.I.A.A.) Co-Ordinator.
- d) Schools should receive response of application no later than the end of the meeting of the coaches of that particular sport.(The decision is made by the School Athletic Reps of the Area to which the school has applied).

4. D.S.B.N. Post- Area Event Application:

- a) For basketball and volleyball, the E.I.A.A. Co-Ordinator must know which schools will be participating in the post- area events.
- b) At the Junior Level, the area winners advance to the tournament.
- c) At the Intermediate Level, all schools will be sent the Intermediate Level Tournament Application Form (*see section G - ‘Forms’*). Schools that wish to participate in the Intermediate Grouping tournaments must complete the form and send it to the E.I.A.A. Co-Ordinator by a specified date.

5. Applying to a Different Intermediate Grouping for Post- Area Tournaments:

- a) Schools may not apply to a lower Intermediate Grouping for the D.S.B.N. Post- Area Tournaments.
- b) Schools may apply to a higher Intermediate Grouping by completing the Intermediate Level Tournament Application Form (see section G - 'Forms') and sending it to the E.I.A.A. Co-Ordinator. Acceptance of the application depends on the number of participating teams in each grouping and the corresponding competition level.

c)

6. Volunteer Drivers:

- a) For away games, volunteer drivers are often used to transport students. Please refer to D.S.B.N. Administrative Procedure # 3-19. (see end of this section)
- b) Volunteer drivers must complete the form, Authorization to Transport Students Participating in School Events, included with Administrative Procedure # 3-19. (also in section G - 'Forms')
- c) The parents/guardians of students who will be passengers must also complete an appropriate consent form permitting their son/daughter to travel in a vehicle driven by a volunteer driver.

7. Volunteer Coaches:

- a) Parents and/or community members may volunteer to coach teams at the school, particularly at the Junior Level. They can bring a great deal of expertise and energy to the school. The volunteer coach would be like any other volunteer in the school, covered by the D.S.B.N. Policy # G-1. (see section G - 'Forms')
- b) Schools are reminded that the volunteer does not replace a teacher-coach and thus appropriate supervision of practices and games is necessary. Schools are also reminded to be aware of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and its relevance while using volunteer coaches.
- c) A sample Volunteer Coaching Information Form (see section G - 'Forms') is included in this manual . The Principal is encouraged to ask additional questions which would be relevant to their school.

8. Medical/Emergency Information:

- a) Refer to D.S.B.N. Policy # G-15 (see end of this section).
- b) Student athletes must have a Permission to Participate Form (see section G - 'Forms') completed. This form includes medical and personal information needed by a coach in case of emergency. The form needs to be completed for each student **for each sport** in which they participate. Parents need only complete the detailed sections once per year unless medical conditions change.
- c) These forms, or copies of the forms, should be readily accessible by the coach at all times. This includes all practices and games.
- d) When the sport concludes, the forms should be filed for future use.

9. Participation of Schools not in the D.S.B.N.:

- a) Schools not in the District School Board of Niagara may apply to participate in a limited capacity in the D.S.B.N. Elementary Interschool Athletics program:
 - i) Schools outside the D.S.B.N. may be included in league/meet scheduling on an **“exhibition” basis ONLY.**
 - ii) Official standings are to **exclude** schools outside the D.S.B.N. Thus, team sports will not include these schools in their standings and/or playoffs. Individuals from schools outside the D.S.B.N. will not be recognized in official results.
 - iii) Schools outside the D.S.B.N. are **ineligible** to participate in post- area tournament play (end-of-season tournaments organized by the E.I.A.A. co-ordinator).
 - iv) Any awards/recognition organized by Area Structures (and/or the E.I.A.A.) are **not** to given to schools/individuals outside the D.S.B.N.
 - v) Other restrictions may apply as decided by the Area (home games, costs, etc.)
- b) For each activity in which they wish to apply, schools outside the D.S.B.N. must contact the E.I.A.A. Co-Ordinator and the Chair(s) of the area to which they are applying and indicate their desire to participate. They must also complete the non DSBN Athletic Application form for each activity they wish to take part in.
- c) **Acceptance of the above applications is not guaranteed.** Acceptance is dependant on a number of issues including number of participating teams, division organization, scheduling, timelines, etc. The decision is made by the E.I.A.A. Co-Ordinator with assistance from the Area Chair(s).

10) WEATHER AND ATHLETIC EVENTS

When weather conditions make it unsafe for teams to travel to an event the decision to postpone the event is done by the Athletic Co ordinator in most cases the afternoon before the day of the tournament in consultation with anyone else involved in the running of that event. This is done so schools can inform students before they leave for the day of changes. Generally we will always err on the side of caution. If the weather improves after the postponement is decided upon and announced it will not be reinstated for the day it was to run on. Any event postponed will be completed. If we get a weather condition overnight that effects safety the Athletic Co ordinator along with those involved in the running of the event will be responsible for contacting both the principals of all schools as well as the coaches early that morning. All coaches should have a fan out system in place. Hopefully this situation will not arise but we must be prepared for it.