



# Team Selection Policy

Revised: June 2017

*Educating and equipping discerning disciples of Jesus Christ for restorative work in His kingdom*

## **Mission, Vision, and Values**

Cedars' mission is to *educate and equip discerning disciples of Jesus Christ for restorative work in His kingdom*. We believe that Jesus Christ is Lord of all of things, and that our obedience shapes all of life - not just the religious or sacred corners of it. Sport, like every part of life, provides an opportunity to be: *God-worshippers* who play to the glory of God rather than to garner public acclaim for oneself, team, or school; *Community-builders* who set aside self-interest, commit to a common goal, and develop interdependence, cooperation and teamwork; *Image-reflectors* who develop the gifts God has given and reflect the way of Christ in all things; *Creation-enjoyers* who celebrated our creativeness in competitive situations with skillful movement in the arena God has given us to play; and *Justice-seekers* who test skills and strategies in an environment of uncertainty and drama without circumventing the rules - or the spirit of the rules that govern sport.

The way we play should be an expression of our relationship to Jesus Christ. Spectators, players and coaches all need to enter into sports with a spirit of worship to God. If the action does not serve to worship God and bring him glory or it becomes so competitive that we do not enjoy sport, then any truly meaningful reason to participate in sport has been lost.

## **Team Selection – Volleyball and Basketball**

Some of the most challenging tasks for the Athletic Director and coaches are determining **what** teams to field in a given sport, and **who** should play on each. Volleyball and basketball, in particular, require clarity about values, policy, and procedure.

At all levels of our program, coaches work at developing skill, attitude, and commitment; however, there is a marked progression from “providing an opportunity for students to play” to “fielding our most competitive team” as players move toward senior team play. In the best interest of the athletics program, a senior team will be fielded whenever possible. The policy outlined below reflects this progression, and increased discretion on the part of the AD and coaches in our team selection process.

### **Grade 6/7 Teams – Participation and *Development***

- No cuts. Equal playing time.
- Participation and commitment expected.
- If there are 16 or more volleyball or basketball players, two balanced teams with two coaches may be created based on skill, grade, and social considerations, and availability of coaches.
- Maximizing floor time for each player is a priority.
- Ideal ratio of *practice* to *game* is 1:1 at minimum.

### **Grade 8 Teams – Participation and Development**

- No cuts. Commitment required.
- Equal playing time (*Exception: basketball 4th quarter is at coach's discretion*).
- If 20 or more volleyball or basketball players, schools are permitted a second team. Teams will be balanced, based on skill and social considerations.
- If less than 10 volleyball or basketball players, grade 7 players may be invited to play to create a team of up to 12 players. *Criteria:* Selection by coaches/AD based on skill, attitude, and commitment.

### **Junior Teams – Development, Participation, and *Competitive Play***

- No cuts. Selection to either Junior A or B team.
- All players play, but more coach discretion around playing time - especially in tournament play.
- If more than 12 volleyball or 10 basketball players, A / B teams may be formed.
- If less than 10 volleyball or basketball players, grade 8 players may be invited to play to create a team(s) of up to 12 players.
- In addition, exceptional grade 8 players may be invited to play. In this case, the grade 8 player(s) will be added to the junior (A or B) team roster, but will not prevent any junior players' opportunity to play at this level.
- Team selection will be based on skill, attitude, and commitment.

### **Senior Teams – Development and Competitive Play**

- Cuts may be required. Number of players carried on a team will be at coach's discretion, in consultation with the AD.
- All players play, but playing time is not equal and at coach's discretion.
- If more than 12 volleyball or 10 basketball players, A / B teams may be formed.
- It is in the best interest of the athletics program to field a senior team whenever possible. If less than 10 volleyball or basketball players, grade 8-10 players may be invited to play.
- Additionally, grade 8-10 players able to crack the "top 6" on the senior team lineup may be invited to play. Exceptional grade 8-10 players *may* displace senior players in some cases.
- Team selection will be based on skill, attitude, commitment, and sport-specific team composition considerations.

### **Team Selection – Soccer, Golf, Track & Field, Cross-country**

- No cuts. Commitment required.
- All team members play, but playing time not necessarily equal and at coach's discretion. In the case of Track & Field and Cross-country, all team members may be entered into Zone meets. In the case of Golf, only the top five players at a school may be entered into Zone tournaments.
- Participation and development are the primary foci in these "shoulder" season sports; however, competitive play is encouraged – particularly as teams move toward zone and provincial competitions.