



Athletic Program Welcome Letter



Dear Parent,

Welcome to the 2016/17 School Year! Your child has shown an interest in being part of the Menno Simons Christian School athletic program. Their commitment requires your commitment and we are appreciative of the efforts that will be made to transport your child to practices, games and tournaments.

This year we are doing something a little different by having forms that will be for all of the sports that are across the entire school year. Anticipated start dates for each sport are listed in the table below with games beginning usually one to two weeks after practices begin.

Sport	Anticipated Start Dates
Volleyball	Sept 12 th
Cross Country	Sept 12 th
Basketball	Nov 21 st
Badminton	Feb 28 th (Practices in Gym Class)
Track and Field	April 24 th

It is important to note that participation on a School Team is a privilege and as such we anticipate that all our athletes exhibit the utmost in character while demonstrating a strong commitment to their teammates. The Menno Athletic Policy highlights what the athletes can expect from their coaches and what is expected from them. Students and parents are asked to complete the form and return it along with the Informed Consent/Permission Form required for all school excursions prior to September 7th, 2016. A photocopy of the Health Form, for the Camp Valaqua Retreat, will be kept on hand by the Teacher Sponsor and utilized when necessary. If your contact information changes or health concerns arise please inform the Teacher Sponsor so the Health Form can remain current.

At Menno Simons Christian School all of our students are encouraged to participate on school teams. As such, each individual that "try's-out" for a team sport makes a team and no one is 'cut' because of athletic ability. A student may be removed from a team if inappropriate behavior(s) occur or academic achievement is interfered with. All athletes will be given playing time but there should be no expectation that playing time will be equal. The coach will strive to provide quality time at his/her discretion with exceptions possibly occurring during elimination games at the Senior Team level (i.e. year-end play-offs and South Central Zone Competitions). For these games a player will not necessarily play in every game/match. Junior Team players can anticipate a more equitable approach to playing time, though equal playing time should not be expected.

Near the beginning of each sport season coaches will have a meeting with parents to discuss any questions they might have. During this time coaches can explain their style of coaching and philosophy. Parents should consider this meeting mandatory, as it will assist them in understanding the sport from the coach's perspective. Parents should feel free to talk with their child's coach at any point during the season to clarify any questions that they might have.

There will be a meeting for parents to discuss the athletic program with Mr. Colgan and Mr. Grasmeyer during Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday September 22nd. Once teams are determined meetings will be set up including the coach for that specific team to discuss the season of play.

Thank you for your support of the athletic program and the time commitment you make to allow your child to be part of the athletic program at Menno Simons Christian School.

Sincerely,

Steve Colgan
Athletic Director

On Same Sheet <

Return to School Checklist:	
Menno Athletic Policy -Last Page-	
Informed Consent/Permission Form	
Health Form	

Menno Simons Christian School

Athletic Policy



Menno Simons Christian School

Athletic Policy

- A. MISSION STATEMENT
- B. PURPOSE OF ATHLETICS
- C. COACHING/TEAM SPONSOR GUIDELINES
- D. FUNDING POLICIES
- E. ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT
- F. SPORTS TEAMS
- G. SPORTS PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

A. MISSION STATEMENT

Menno Simons Christian School is a Christian educational community within the Anabaptist/Mennonite faith tradition. Together with the home and the church, it offers an Education for Life providing opportunities for students to integrate sound academic learning with growth in character, faith, and service to God.

B. PURPOSE OF ATHLETICS

Athletics exist at Menno Simons Christian School to provide students with an opportunity to glorify God. "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17) Our athletes will demonstrate and improve their God-given talent, and represent our school in a way pleasing and acceptable to Him through the avenue of sport. All athletes are expected to have this as their goal.

C. COACHING/TEAM SPONSOR GUIDELINES

GENERAL

1. At the beginning of each season of play the **Athletic Policy** must be explained to all participating athletes and their parent/guardian. The Agreement Form at the end of the policy must be signed by the athlete and parent/guardian before the athlete will be eligible to participate.
2. Uniforms will be issued at the beginning of the season. The coach/athletic director will keep a record of the uniforms. They will be handed out to team members at the start of each season. Each athlete will be responsible to return the uniform at the end of the season in good condition. The athlete, at the discretion of the coach and athletic director, will be charged for any uniform that is lost or damaged.
3. The coach/team sponsor must supervise all students during and after practice. They are to remain in or around the facility until all athletes have left the venue or are picked up by a parent/guardian.
4. The **Palliser Health Form** needs to be collected by the Team Sponsor and on hand during all games and practices. The office can provide you with this student information.

GAMES and PRACTICES

1. The Team Sponsor will make sure all team members have rides home and have left the school or gym facility before they leave.
2. Team Sponsors along with the coaches must travel with and supervise the team during practices, at league games, on road trips, and during tournaments.

3. Team Sponsors are to ensure **Informed Consent/Permission Forms** are signed and returned to the school before traveling to league games or tournaments. Submit the original copies to the office and keep a photocopy for your own records.

4. Team Sponsors are to ensure that the **Sports Participation Agreement Forms** are signed and return to the school before an athlete participates in league games or tournaments.

5. Students are expected to travel in their designated vehicle to and from games unless arrangements have been made in advance with the Team Sponsor and the administration.

6. Team Sponsors shall e-mail each teacher and the office a list of students who will miss classes for sports trips prior to each trip. Please do this as early as possible.

D. FUNDING POLICIES

1. Cost per sport

Presently there is no cost to the athletes to be part of a school team.

On average the cost to operate sporting programs are:

\$100 per athlete per team sport (i.e. Volleyball, Basketball)
\$25-30 per athlete per individual sport (i.e. Badminton, Track, Cross Country)

Costs are to cover:

- league fees (Referees, Year-end awards)
- tournament entry fees

In order to keep our Fees at \$0.00 the Athletic Department hosts tournaments. The tournament entry fees along with concession revenues assist in generating monies to pay for the running of our athletic program. Parental help in the concession goes a long way in helping the program to remain fee free.

2. Uniform Replacement

Uniforms that are damaged or lost during the season will be replaced at a cost per basis as determined by the coach and athletic director.

3. Tournaments

The Athletic Program attempts to include some away tournaments in its overall program. Food and accommodation costs are the responsibility of the athletes. Players are assigned rooms (3-4 athletes/room) and all costs for the rooms, including the coach's room, are shared equally among the members of the team.

E. ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

As a Menno Simons Christian School student and athlete, you are encouraged to participate on the school teams. You will be provided with the opportunity to travel to various schools or events within our athletic association boundaries.

Below is a list of what is expected of every MSCS student on athletic trips. If you meet these expectations, our travel and experience will be safe, fun, and we will leave a positive impression of MSCS on other communities.

Athletes are expected to:

- 1.) Demonstrate sportsmanship both on and off the court
- 2.) Respect officials and coaches
- 3.) Wear proper clothing and footwear for the sport
- 4.) Play their best, whether winning or losing
- 5.) Ensure that their coach/supervisor knows where they are at all times

Coaches, Team Managers, and Athletes should also understand and adhere to the following guidelines.

- a. It is an honor to be a member of a Mustang Sports team.
- b. In order to be involved with an interscholastic team the coaches, managers, and athletes must be prepared to commit themselves to the entire season.
- c. A satisfactory academic record and regular school attendance are mandatory.
- d. To be included on any team, in any capacity, a positive and cooperative attitude with the coaching staff, teachers, officials, administration, teammates and opponents is required, including acceptable attitude and behaviour in classrooms.
- e. It is presumed that any individual on a team will have an attitude of striving for excellence, good sportsmanship, common courtesy, and respect for ALL. Athletes represent Menno Simons Christian School and will act accordingly.

Athletes' Responsibilities

- a. Athletes are ambassadors for the school; a Christ-like attitude and behaviour are paramount.
- b. Athletes are to put their teams' goals ahead of their own goals.
- c. Athletes must be 100% cooperative with the coach; they must fully respect and honor the God-given authority over them even if they do not always agree.
- d. Athletes should be committed to always do their best.
- e. Commitment to the team in all areas is mandatory: games, practices, team meetings.

F. SPORTS TEAMS

1. Team Selection Criteria

The decisions involved in making team selections are not easy. The coach may spend a great deal of time in the decision making process to ensure that the process is accurately and professionally handled.

Senior Team Criteria:

1. Student in Grade Nine.

If other athletes are required from Grade 7 or 8 to complete a roster, the coaches and Athletic Director will utilize the following criteria to assess students that would otherwise be part of a Junior Team:

2. Skill level and 'coachability' of the athlete.
3. Social considerations.

Junior Team Criteria:

1. Student in Grade Seven or Eight.
2. If additional athletes are required students in Grade Six may be invited to be part of the Junior Team. This occurs when participation numbers are low and a team has too few players (and/or inadequately committed players). Players in Grade Six are selected according to the coach(es), Athletic Director and Physical Education Teacher's recommendations. Players that are deemed to be able to compete at the Jr. High level will be invited to try-out for the team. Coaches will then determine which athletes will remain a part of the team.

Athletes are to be made aware of their role and position on the team so that this is clear to them from the outset.

2. Playing Time

At Menno Simons Christian School all individuals that try-out for team sport makes a team and none are 'cut' because of athletic ability. However, it is a privilege to be a member of a team. It is during practices that a player earns the opportunity to play in a game. All athletes will be given playing time but there should be no expectation that playing time will be equal. The coach will strive to provide quality time at his/her discretion. Every athlete can anticipate playing in each match of a Volleyball competition (a match usually means best 2 games out of 3) and each Basketball game. The exceptions are elimination games at the Senior Team level (i.e. year-end play-offs and South Central Zone Competitions). For these games a player will not necessarily play in every game/match. Junior Team players can anticipate a more equitable approach to playing time, though; equal playing time should not be expected. Players will be expected to attend all practices even though they might be given limited playing time in the games.

6

Generally, there are a number of criteria which determine who plays, and how much time each athlete receives:

- the effort of the athlete
- the attitude and behaviour of the individual athlete
- the athlete's commitment to the team at practices and during competition
- the athlete's leadership abilities to assist and lift the team up
- the skill level of the athlete
- the skill level of the opposing team

3. Attitude and Sportsmanship

The player's attitude toward participation in a sport is critical. There should be an attitude of enthusiasm and good sportsmanship. This is demonstrated by supporting and encouraging team members, and not by demeaning opponents or arguing with referees. It is imperative that players respect the opposition and the referees. This is especially significant as a good witness for Christ.

4. Relationship

Teammates, coaches and opposing team members must always be respected as persons of value in the sight of God. Relationships should be built on Christian principles. Loyalty, discipline and sacrifice are encouraged to develop positive character and promote team spirit and unity. Characteristics of egotism, selfishness and jealousy should never occur.

5. On Winning

Athletics is competitive and our aim is to play well and to win. However, winning is only one way to measure success and certainly not the most important. Our Christian witness is most important and must never be compromised for the sake of winning.

6. General Conduct

We are role models. Being an athlete or a spectator brings about new responsibilities that we must accept. Many people will know us by our appearance at games and will be observing our actions. Our conduct should always be such that it brings credibility to ourselves, our team, our school and ultimately, glory to God.

7



SPORTS PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

After reading the Parent and Athlete letter, and the MSCS Athletic Policy, please complete this form to indicate that you agree with the terms and conditions outlined. The signatures of both student and parent/guardian are mandatory before being allowed to participate in the first game.

As a student who wishes to participate as a member in the Menno Simons Christian School Athletic Program, I have read and hereby agree to comply with the MSCS Athletic Policy.

Student Name (Please Print): _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

As a parent/legal guardian of the student signing above, I have read and hereby agree to comply with the MSCS Athletic Policy.

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____



PALLISER REGIONAL SCHOOLS Informed Consent/Permission Form for Minor Tours



DETAILS OF TOUR

Nature of Tour: **2016-17 Athletic Program**
 Date: **September 12th, 2016 – June 23rd, 2017**
 Destinations: **Various Schools and Sites**
 Supervisor(s): **Various Palliser Regional School Staff**
 Transportation Arrangements: **Parent Drivers or Bus**
 Cost to Student: **none**
 Contact Person: Mr. Colgan & Mr. Grasmeyer Phone: (School): 403-531-0745

ELEMENTS OF RISK

Educational activity programs such as the **Athletic Program** involve certain elements of risk. Injuries may occur while participating in these activities. The following list includes, but is not limited to, examples of the types of injuries which may result from participating in **the Athletic Program**.

<u>Type of Injury</u>	<u>Precaution taken</u>
1. Sprains/Strains	- Proper warm up and stretching
2. Vehicular accident	- experienced drivers driving safely
3. Dehydration	- Athletes bring along extra supply of drinks
4. Contusions	- Use of proper etiquette

The risk of sustaining these types of injuries result from the nature of the activity and can occur without fault of either the student or the School Board, its employees/agents or the facility where the activity is taking place. By choosing to take part in this activity, you are accepting the risk that your/your child may be injured.

The chance of an injury occurring can be reduced by carefully following instructions at all times while engaged in the activity.

If you choose to participate in the **Athletic Program** from **September 12th, 2016 – June 23rd, 2017**, you must understand that you bear the responsibility for any injury that may occur.

The Board of Trustees of Palliser Regional School Division No. 26 does not provide accidental death, disability or dismemberment or medical expense insurance on behalf of the students participating in this activity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We have read the above. We understand that by participating in the activity described above, we are assuming the risks associated with doing so.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

PERMISSION

I give _____ permission to participate in **Athletic Program** from **September 12th, 2016 – June 23rd, 2017**

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date