



INTER-SCHOOL ATHLETICS POLICY

DM Approval:

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Effective Date: July 1, 2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

The *Education Act* requires the Minister of Education to establish and communicate goals and objectives for the Yukon education system, one of which is to encourage the physical development, personal health, and fitness of Yukon students.

Inter-school athletics (including competitive and non-competitive sports teams, leagues, and tournaments available for all communities) and other physical education activities in Yukon schools are important ways in which Yukon Education helps to ensure that this goal is met.

Yukon Schools Athletic Association (YSAA) events are intended to supplement the regular physical education program and therefore play a key role in student development by building physical literacy, enhancing skills, and by promoting team play, goal setting, and positive lifestyle choices. They also provide opportunities for students from across the Yukon to interact and engage in positive competition.

Inter-school athletics rely on teachers and other school-based staff as coaches and officials who play a fundamental role in ensuring athletics programs are available in schools. Teachers and other school-based staff also support community volunteer coaches who participate in inter-school athletics.

Under the Yukon Teacher's Association (YTA) Collective Agreement, Yukon Education and the YTA have agreed that the participation of YTA members in extra-curricular activities (including inter-school athletics) is voluntary.

Inter-school athletics also rely on community volunteers as coaches, officials and as supports to school-based coaching staff. These individuals are a vital resource in making inter-school athletics occur each year.

DEFINITIONS

'Disruptive Person' means a person (student or adult) who exhibits rude or abusive behaviour to any other person; uses vulgar, obscene or abusive language and/or

gesture; or fails to promptly follow any reasonable direction given to that person by a school or YSAA representative.

'Parent' means the biological parents, the adoptive parents by custom or otherwise, the persons legally entitled to custody, or the persons who usually have the care and control of the child.

'Physical Literacy' means the development of fundamental movement and sport skills that permit a child to move confidently and with control in a wide range of physical activity and sport situations.

'School Activities' means all activities that occur in the school, on school grounds and during activities that are sponsored or approved by the school.

'School Community' means everyone in a community who has contact with a school, including school staff, students, School Councils, school committees, School Boards, parents, and supporting organizations.

'Spectator' means a person who is in a school or on school grounds for the purpose of viewing a school athletic event. This includes students who are not participating in the athletic event, the parent(s) of a student participating in the event, school staff, or other members of the public.

'Sports Associations' means associations that have been formally established in Yukon to govern a specific sport.

'Yukon Schools Athletic Association' (YSAA) is the unincorporated association that administers inter-school athletics in Yukon in accordance with its Constitution and By-laws.

'YSAA Event' means an inter-school athletic event sponsored by YSAA, as determined each year by YSAA at its annual general meeting.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the policy is to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the YSAA in the coordination, management and governance of inter-school athletics in Yukon schools.

POLICY STATEMENT

Yukon Education supports and encourages inter-school athletics in all Yukon schools.

Principles

Students participating in inter-school athletics have a right to do so in an open and safe environment free from intimidation and harassment.

The participation of YTA members in inter-school athletics is voluntary.

Coaches, officials, and other adults involved with students in inter-school athletics shall be positive role models for students and parents to emulate.

Yukon Education policies and school rules apply to inter-school athletic events.

YSAA Administers Inter-School Athletics

The YSAA administers inter-school athletics in Yukon schools in accordance with its Constitution and Bylaws, which for information purposes are attached as an appendix to this policy.

YSAA membership is open to all schools, students, teachers and school administrators.

All participants in inter-school athletics shall abide by the requirements of the YSAA Constitution and Bylaws. This includes:

- Student eligibility
- Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Athletes, Parents and Spectators
- Dispute Resolution Process
- Consequences for contraventions of the YSAA Constitution, Bylaws, or Codes of Conduct
- Appeal Process

The YSAA Codes of Conduct do not supersede the Yukon Teachers' Association Code of Ethics in its application to YTA members.

Any school or individual may appeal a decision of the YSAA involving inter-school athletics using the appeal process set out in the YSAA Constitution and Bylaws.

The YSAA has no authority to impose discipline within the meaning of the Education Labour Relations Act and the YTA collective agreement.

Disruptive persons at YSAA sponsored school athletic activities and events may be asked to leave the activity or event and may be provided with notice under the *School Trespass Act*. If required, the RCMP may be contacted for assistance in removing a disruptive individual from activities and events.

A school may conduct its own athletic events, however such events do not necessarily become YSAA events.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Yukon Education

Yukon Education has overall responsibility for all school activities in Yukon.

Yukon Education provides funding to the YSAA for inter-school athletics and reviews the YSAA annual budget.

A designated representative from the Public Schools Branch is a member on the YSAA Executive.

Yukon Schools' Athletic Association (YSAA)

The YSAA's role and responsibilities are set out in the YSAA Constitution and Bylaws. General duties include:

- Coordination and oversight of the annual sports calendar
- Management of disputes and appeal processes
- Promoting coaching programming, training and development
- General administration and financial management.

The YSAA is responsible for notifying the school administrator of any actions taken with respect to an athlete, ***an adult community volunteer*** coach or the school under the YSAA Bylaws.

YSAA is responsible for providing an annual budget to Yukon Education.

School Administrators

School administrators are responsible for ensuring there are opportunities for students to participate in inter-school athletics and to make physical space at the school available for inter-school athletic events.

School administrators are encouraged to have a YSAA representative in the school. If a school does not have a YSAA representative, communications regarding school athletic events will be sent to the school administrator.

School Administrators are responsible for ensuring that coaches have the appropriate training to coach an athletic sport as determined by the YSAA or a sports association.

School administrators are encouraged to promote the involvement of staff members in inter-school athletic activities and events.

School administrators are responsible for approving community volunteers who coach inter-school athletic activities and events.

Teachers and Other School-based Staff

Teachers and other school-based staff who coach school athletics are responsible for following Yukon Education policies and the rules and procedures set out in the YSAA Constitution and By-laws when participating in inter-school athletic events.

The YSAA is responsible for notifying the school administrator of any contravention of the YSAA Constitution and Bylaws or Code of Conduct by a teacher or school-based staff which would normally result in YSAA imposing a penalty.

Volunteer Coaches

Other adult community volunteer coaches who coach school athletics are responsible for following Yukon Education policies and rules and procedures set out in the YSAA Constitution and By-laws when participating in inter-school athletic events, specifically the YSAA "Coaches Code of Conduct".

Students

Students who participate in inter-school athletics are responsible for following school rules and rules and procedures set out in the YSAA Constitution and By-laws, specifically the 'Athlete Code of Conduct'.

Parents

Parents of students who participate in inter-school athletics are responsible for following rules and procedures set out in the YSAA Constitution and By-laws, specifically the 'Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct'.

APPLICATION

This policy applies to all Yukon Education employees, Yukon Schools' Athletic Association members, students, parents and all other members of the school community.

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

In situations where the individual circumstances of a case are such that the provisions of this policy cannot be applied or to do so would result in an unfair or an unintended result, the decision may be based on the individual merits and justice of the situation. Such a decision will be considered for that specific case only and will not be precedent setting.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy is effective July 1, 2016.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY REFERENCES

Education Act s. 4 (a) (vi) (vii)
Education Labour Relations Act
School Trespass Act
Safe and Caring Schools Policy
Student Transportation by Government Vehicles (Vans) Policy
Substance Abuse Policy
Volunteers in the Schools Policy
Yukon Schools' Athletic Association Constitution and Bylaws
Yukon Teachers Association Collective Agreement

HISTORY

Inter-Schools Athletics Policy, July 1, 2016