

Ad Hoc Committee on the Face of Sports for the Future

Committee Recommendations, May 2019



Preamble:

The overall goals of the De La Salle athletics program are important to the mission of the school. It is important for these goals to be communicated clearly to students, teachers, and the larger Del community, including parents. The following recommendations reflect this sense of importance. Our guiding principles and areas of focus for these recommendations relate to Culture, Participation, and Balance.

Culture:

- To contribute to a healthy and safe school environment, we recommend a reporting tool – to add to pre-existing ways of doing so – that creates a platform for students to voice, anonymously, issues of concern for students, concerning other students, as relates to matters such as bullying. We recommend a six-month trial and subsequent assessment, by the Administration, of the effectiveness of this reporting tool. Examples of this reporting tool include Speak Up!, an app.
- We recommend to make mandatory, for all coaches, the currently-optional PD from The Positive Coaching Alliance. This is in support of ensuring clear and consistent expectations and language as it relates to the Athletics program.

Participation & Balance:

- We recommend that the Administration develop the criteria for deciding what sports to offer, at what levels, and in what capacities. We recommend that this involves reassessing and reducing the number of sports on offer, and teams that are fielded to ensure there is an appropriate balance with non-athletic extra-curricular activities.
- We recommend that the Administration review the rationale for participating in CISAA as opposed to participating in the Toronto Catholic District School Board League and/or the Small Schools Athletics Federation.
- In response to administrative and cultural change, we recommend that teachers be given direction and criteria as it relates to involvement in athletics programs and other extracurricular activities, in balance with classroom responsibilities (example: lesson-planning, tutorials, etc).

- We recommend that students be given direction and criteria as it relates to involvement in athletics programs and extracurricular activities, and that this happens in ways that emphasize the importance of being fully involved in the life of the school, in and beyond academics. We recommend that students be required to participate in at least two extracurricular activities per year.
- We recommend the creation of co-curricular records.
- We recommend the creation of a way to recognize extracurricular activities in parallel to the way this is done in Athletics (Junior and Senior letters).
- We recommend that the Athletics Director position incorporate non-Athletics extracurricular activities and be renamed to reflect that, accompanied by a re-articulation of the role.
- We recommend that new opportunities for intramural recreational activities be identified, such as Special Schedules.

Conclusion:

The overall goals of the Athletics program at De La Salle are informed by and affirm the mission of the school. Achieving a culture of safe and healthy participation that balances academics and extracurricular activities, and also balances participation and winning, will ensure a thriving community life for all.