

THE SPORTING SEASON

Our League: We are lucky here to be a member of the C.I.S.A.A. (Calgary Independent Schools' Athletic Association), a league of private schools in Calgary that coordinates a sporting season for its students. All participating schools meet twice yearly to discuss how best to work things, updating and changing a substantial list of by-laws that spell out the running of each sport and of the league itself. Each school also agrees to carry one sport in the year. For any information, including scheduling, visit www.leaguelineup.com/isaajr.

Events: Our sports season is as follows:

- Cross Country Running – September (*season*)
- Volleyball – mid-September to late November (*season*)
- Basketball – late November to mid-February (*season*)
- Floor Hockey – late February/early March (*tournament*)
- Badminton – March to April (*tournament*)
- Track and Field – mid-April to May (*tournament*)
- Soccer – May to early June (*season*)

“*Season*” means that there is a regular season of play, with an average of one after-school game/event per week along with one after-school practice per week. “*Tournament*” means that there is just one day of play for the whole sport with one after-school practice per week leading up to the tournament.

Most of these sports have teams divided into both age and gender (i.e., Grade 7/8 Boys and Girls, Grade 8/9 Boys and Girls.) Practices can run any day of the week; most of our games fall Tuesday or Thursday after school, and these are played either at home or at away schools.

Ethos: All Junior High students are invited to participate in each and every sport that is of interest to them. There are no try-outs or cuts to make; our program here is based primarily on participation. Winning is nice, of course, but secondary. This is not just our approach but that of the other schools against which we compete – the league is generally agreed upon the fact that all of this is meant for fun and participation for the students.

Administration: All of the sports require a nominal fee to be paid to the school by each participating student to cover our league fees, which in turn cover rental costs, referee costs, coaches' honoraria, medals and banners, whatever is needed to make the particular sport run. Some of the sports (volleyball, basketball) also require a team uniform, which in turn requires a deposit to ensure that it gets returned at the end of the season.

Order of Olympians: We have a tradition of acknowledging students who make the year-long effort of participating in each and every sport with the Order of Olympians. Students who win this receive a personal plaque and their names are engraved on a plaque that is on display at the school.

Coaches: Our coaches are drawn from a variety of sources: school staff, parents, alumni, and sometimes members from outside of our community. They are much appreciated for their time and efforts in carrying a team along a season; they are also rare and hard to come by. New coaches are always appreciated; if you know of any good people, who could help out, please let me know.

Athletic Director: Drew Danniels has stepped in to cover Jack Searchfield's sabbatical year. Both will work together in the month of September to work on the transition.

Drew Danniels, Athletic Director
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