

École Georges P. Vanier School Athletic Handbook



2026-2027

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Philosophy

École Georges P. Vanier School recognizes that extracurricular athletics promotes positive sport-based competition, team building, good citizenship, high academic standards, and community responsibility. Extracurricular athletics provide an opportunity for students to explore their unique talents outside of the classroom setting. These activities demand a high level of commitment, excellence, and self-motivation, which will help prepare students for the challenges they will meet outside the school community.

It is a privilege for students to participate in extracurricular athletics. Participation is voluntary and is not a requirement, nor an entitlement. Therefore, extra time and effort are required of those who participate. Since the reputation of the school is often judged by its extra-curricular programs, high standards must be maintained. Those who gain the privilege of representing École Georges P. School in extracurricular athletics are expected to accept greater responsibilities as school citizens.

Participation in extracurricular athletics is open to all students provided they meet the general requirements as outlined in this handbook and any requirements specific to the activity of their choice.

Programs

Vanier has many programs to offer throughout the year. Junior teams are open to students in Grades 7-9. Senior teams compete in competitive leagues with athletes in Grade 10/11/12. École Georges P. Vanier School supports the following athletic activities:

Sport	Female	Male
Golf	X	X
Cross Country	X	X
Volleyball	X	X
Curling	X	X
Basketball	X	X
Badminton	X	X
Track and Field	X	X

*Teams will run based on coach and player availability

Participation Fees

It is necessary for the athletic program to charge a participation fee for each activity that an athlete participates in. The following applies to participation fees:

- Participation fees cannot exceed \$150 per student per sport-HPSD Administrative Procedure 510
- Additional fees related to transportation and accommodations may be added in addition to participation fees. These participation fees **do not** include divisional attendance and zone attendance.
- [Sport Team Letter](#)
- Fee payment is directed to the school office. (Payments can be made by cash, cheque or e-transfer-gpvaccounting@hpsd.ca.)
- Players must pay fees **in full**, or make arrangements with the Athletic Director and Administration **before** they will be permitted to participate in league games or tournaments. **Fees are non-refundable** unless extenuating circumstances require individual consideration.
- Participation fees will include registration, jerseys rental, etc.

Fundraising

To prevent unnecessary overlap we ask that teams keep the Athletic Director and Administration aware of all fundraising. It is important that all funds raised are directed to the sports program involved. Student raised funds will offset fees paid by parents. Any excess funds raised will become property of the school program and will be directed to general cost for activities and student incentive program. Coaches must be able to account for all expenses and allocation of funds.

Fundraising Opportunities **may** include but are not limited to:

- Purdy's Chocolate (October)
- Bottle Drive(s) (November/December)-shared fundraiser amongst participants
- Wolfe Honey
- Perogies (February)
- Calahoo Meats (May)
- Hosting Tournaments

Uniforms and Equipment

All uniforms are property of and supplied by École Georges P. Vanier School.

Uniforms will be distributed by the coach and collected by the coach at the end of the season unless otherwise arranged by the coach. Players will be responsible for the care and maintenance of uniforms while they are in their possession. Jersey bonds in the amount of \$100.00 will be collected at the start of each season and returned at the end of the season.

Players will be responsible for the cost of replacement of any uniform damaged beyond normal wear and tear and/or lost while in their possession.

Teams may be provided with equipment specific to their activity. This equipment is owned by the school. The care and supervision of this equipment shall be the responsibility of the coach or their designate.

Transportation

The transportation for league, invitational, region, and/or provincial events may be handled in one of two ways, at the discretion of the coach. The preferred method of transportation is school buses.

Transportation (bussing) to games and tournaments will be organized by the team coach.

Athletes are not permitted to drive on their own or be driven by fellow students to games and tournaments as per SSA guidelines.

If an athlete requests to be driven to or from an event by someone other than their guardian or parent, written permission is required beforehand with appropriate paperwork in place. Coaches are not to arrange parent drivers. Declining Transportation Waivers must be signed if players are arranging alternate transportation from the school provided bussing. (Coaches will have the documentation and can be found on our school website)

Awards

Each year in June, after the conclusion of all school sponsored athletic activities, the school will sponsor and host an annual “Colour Night”. At this event, individual athletic awards, as determined by the Coaching staff. The Athletes of the Year and the Flying V Award are presented at the Fall awards ceremony

Each team will award:

- Most Valuable Player
- Heart and Spirit
- Breakthrough Athlete

Coaches may award other areas of recognition at their discretion.

Fairness and Safety in Sport Act ([Bill 29](#))

In accordance with the Province of Alberta and High Prairie School Division, we must adhere to the Fairness and Safety in Sport Act.

Fairness and Safety in Sport Guidelines (ASAA Sanctioned Sports)

These Guidelines

- apply to athletes participating in ASAA sanctioned extra-curricular sports in schools;
- apply to athletes 12 years of age or older;
- exist to promote fairness and safety in sport by addressing matters of eligibility to participate in relevant sports in accordance with the Government of Alberta’s Fairness and Safety in Sport Act and Fairness and Safety in Sport Regulation.

Athlete Eligibility

- To participate in a female-only league, class, or division of a relevant sport, an athlete must be of the female sex at birth
 - Before an athlete may participate in a relevant sport, an athlete (or their parent or guardian, if the athlete is under 18 years of age) must confirm in writing through the registration process that they understand eligibility requirements.
 - Failure to confirm the athlete’s eligibility in writing will render the athlete ineligible to participate.

Challenge to Athlete Eligibility

- If there are reasonable grounds to believe that an athlete is ineligible to participate in a female-only league, class, or division of a relevant sport, a confidential challenge may be made in writing and sent to the High Prairie School Division, attention Pam Heckbert (pheckbert@hpsd.ca)
 - A challenge may be made by:
 - an athlete in the same league, class, or division of the relevant sport
 - a registered coach or team manager of athletes currently in the same league, class, or division of the relevant sport
 - A parent or guardian of an athlete currently in the same league, class, or division of the relevant sport (if the athlete is under the age of 18)
 - The challenge to an athlete's eligibility must include
 - name of the applicant
 - name of the athlete, their team and sport, and
 - information that supports the grounds for the challenge.
- Upon receipt of the challenge, if it is deemed that reasonable grounds do not exist, High Prairie School Division reserves the right to dismiss the challenge as invalid
 - Challenges could be deemed invalid if
 - a separate challenge for the same athlete has already been resolved,
 - not enough information has been provided, and/or
 - the challenge is made in bad faith.

Challenges Made in Bad Faith

- Bad faith challenges are determined by factors including but not limited to:
 - the applicant's prior history, and/or
 - a pattern of inappropriate behaviour surrounding these guidelines including numerous unfounded challenges.
- If it is determined that a challenge is made in bad faith, appropriate sanctions for the applicant could include without limitation
 - determination that the applicant has violated the code of conduct, and/or
 - a suspension or ban from participation in High Prairie School Division extracurricular sports for a determined period of time.

Valid Challenges

- If a challenge is deemed valid,
 - The applicant will be notified that the challenge is moving forward
 - The athlete who is subject of the challenge will be required to provide the High Prairie School Division with a copy of the athlete's birth registration document within 30 days.
 - Failure to provide documentation will render the athlete ineligible to participate in the relevant sport
- An athlete is eligible to compete throughout the verification process
- If the challenge is upheld and the athlete determined ineligible, the athlete will be permanently ineligible for participation in a female-only league, class or division of a relevant sport
- If the challenge is dismissed, the athlete will be permanently eligible for participation in a female-only league, class, or division of a relevant sport.

Guidelines for Student Athletes

Eligibility

Students must be in attendance for the day of a practice or game to participate in that practice or game. Legitimate reasons for an absence, which would allow a student to participate on the same day as the absence, are:

- School Sanctioned Activities
- Appointments with health professionals (may require a note)
- Emergency Situations
- Planned absence for personal or educational purposes that have been approved by the school administration.

Students who are absent from classes all day due to illness are **not eligible** to participate on that particular day. It may be considered unethical for a coach to practice or play an athlete who was ill earlier in the day. The effects of that illness may linger and present a potential health risk to the athlete, their teammates, and their opponents if the athlete practices or plays that same day.

Student athletes are students first and athletes second. It is expected that all student athletes are attending classes, submitting required classwork and meeting expectations in the classroom. If this does not occur, students may be withheld from missing instructional time for athletic obligations. The coach will structure academic time for athletes to complete their assigned work.

Suspensions

An athlete serving an out of school suspension is also suspended from participation in all extracurricular activities, until such time as the student has been reinstated to classes. Students that are suspended on a Friday will not be allowed to compete in any activities that day. If there is a weekend in the middle of suspension, the athlete is not permitted to participate in any activities that Friday and/or Saturday.

Conduct

Student athletes are representatives and ambassadors of École Georges P. Vanier School and as such, athletes, coaches, and parents must follow [HPSD Administrative Procedure #209-Welcoming Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments](#) and [HPSD Administrative Procedure #340-Student Code of Conduct](#) at all times particularly with regard to drugs, vaping, alcohol, tobacco, and language.

Student athletes are expected to provide strong examples of leadership and citizenship both on and off the court/field/mat of play, and both in and out of the classroom.

If a student athlete does not conduct himself or herself in a manner that reflects favorably on the school, the privilege of participation may be suspended or revoked by a Coach/supervisor, the Athletic Director and/or Administration.

Hazing or negative initiation activities are prohibited by École Georges P. Vanier School. The planning, initiation of, or participation in such activities shall be dealt with under the behavioral expectations of Vanier athletics and may lead to suspension or removal from a team or school sponsored activity and/or involvement of the authorities.

Team Before Self - Most sports are team games and although it is proper and even necessary to have personal objectives, it is paramount that each member of a Vanier team possesses an unselfish attitude where team objectives are primary.

Injury

-All student athletes should carry some form of medical insurance. If an athlete is injured while participating on behalf of École Georges P. Vanier School, the school will not cover medical costs (e.g. Ambulance costs).

[HPSD Administrative Procedure #315-Emergency Medical Treatment](#)

-Any student suffering a concussion, is required to present a note from a physician or requires parental consent before being eligible to practice or play again.

[HPSD Administrative Procedure # 318-Concussion Protocol](#)

Commitment

Being a member of any school team is a privilege, which each athlete must earn. A key to earning that privilege is commitment to the team. Team success can only be achieved if all participants are committed. This type of commitment includes:

- Attendance at all practices, games, and team events.
- Providing the coach with advance notice of absences from practices or games, and an explanation of that absence.
- Assisting in duties and responsibilities related to hosting tournaments at École Georges P. Vanier School.
- In the case where classes will be missed, teachers will indicate what work will be missed and is expected to be completed.

Guidelines for Parents/Guardians

Support the team, the players, and the coaches.

Help your child to follow and uphold the École Georges P. Vanier School athletes' guidelines for participation.

Support the goals of sportsmanship and help bring pride and respect to your child and École Georges P. Vanier School.

Parent Communications

Both parenting and coaching are difficult roles. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefits to students. It is also very important to remember that coaches are volunteers, and they are giving their valuable time to work and help improve your child's leadership abilities, social skills, team cooperation and responsibility. Here are some guidelines to help you as a parent supporter of the athletics programs at École Georges P. Vanier School.

Communication Expectations (Student Athletes and Parents/Guardians):

- Concerns will be discussed in private, firstly to the coach. Should no resolution be agreed upon, the Athletic Director will be notified, Administration may become involved if necessary.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts should be dealt with well in advance
- Concerns/questions/issues will not be displayed on **any** digital (text/email/DM) or social media platforms.
- Practice the **24/48 hour rule** prior to addressing concerns/issues. (Wait 24 hours to express the concern and an additional 24 hours for response) as outlined in the Conflict Resolution Expectations below.
- Legal Parents/Guardians will be the **ONLY** individuals who will communicate with members of the coaching team and/or Administration on behalf of the player.

As your child becomes involved in the extra-curricular programs at École Georges P. Vanier School they will experience many rewarding moments. It is important to understand however that there will be times when things do not go the way you or they wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

All communications from parents to a community coach must go through the Athletic Director. It is an expectation that communication should be done in a positive nature to maximize student performance. Administration reserves the right to apply sanctions should expectations not be met

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches:

- Ways to help your child improve (player development)
- Concerns about your child's behavior
- Any undue influence that the activity is having on your child's academic performance
- Bullying and/or harassment

It is difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you or they may hope. Coaches make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved and at times for the most competitive product they can put towards the competition. Those decisions need to be left to the coach's discretion. While there are certain things that should be discussed with your child's coach, however there are also certain things that should not be discussed.

Inappropriate Issues to Discuss with Coaches:

- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged but the following procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

Conflict Resolution Expectations:

- Call and set up an appointment with the coach, Manager, Athletic Director and/or School Administration
- Resolution, not confrontation, is the best approach-**confrontation will not be tolerated**
- Please do not confront (in person or via digital methods) a coach before or after a game or practice - these can be emotional times for both the parent and coach, and our coaches are instructed to walk away from such situations. Allow 24 hours before engaging in a discussion about a situation and another 24 hours to receive a response.
- If needed, a third person can provide objective observation of the discussion and assist in ensuring it is respectful and appropriate

If required, the Next Step:

- Call and set up a meeting with the Athletic Director and/or Administration to discuss the situation
- At this meeting if a resolution cannot be reached, the next step can be determined

The coaches at École Georges P. Vanier School recognize the importance of extra-curricular activities. We structure a program that strives to provide your child with a positive and meaningful experience.

Documentation

It is expected that all parents/guardians return the appropriate permission forms for their student athlete to the school in order for the student to leave school grounds for games, tournaments, sport trips.

-School Registration Form (Current year)-[HPSD Administrative Form # 320D](#)

-Medical Documentation-provided by the Athletic Director

-Permission Form/Bus/Transportation Form-provided by the coach/Athletic Director

-Declining Transportation Forms-[HPSD Administrative Form # 260L](#)

-Parental Consent for Athletic Teams-provided by the Athletic Director

-Fairness and Safety in Sport Act Declaration

*Failure to provide the required documents will result in your child being **unable** to leave school grounds to attend games, tournaments, etc until these forms are received by the office.

JH Teacher Approval Form-Release of athlete

Release of Athlete must be handed in by 3:30pm the day **BEFORE** a player is scheduled to leave.

Student Name: _____ Team: _____

Date seeking approval: _____

Subject	Teacher Signature	Work that will be missed and needs completing
Math/ Mathématiques		
Science/Sciences		
English Language Arts		
Social Studies/ Études Sociales		
FSL/Français		

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SH Teacher Approval Form-Release of athlete

Release of Athlete must be handed in by 3:30pm the day BEFORE a player is scheduled to leave.

Student Name: _____ Team: _____

Date seeking approval: _____

Course	Teacher Signature	Work that will be missed and needs completing
Block 1		
Block 2		
Block 3		
Block 4		

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Student Name: _____ Team: _____

Date seeking approval: _____

Course	Teacher Signature	Work that will be missed and needs completing
Block 1		
Block 2		
Block 3		
Block 4		

Parent/Guardian AND Player Acknowledgement of Expectations

Only one Acknowledgement of Expectations is required per school year. The Acknowledgement will apply to all sports that a player participates in throughout this school year.

Parent/Guardian Declaration

I _____ (parent/guardian) of

_____ (player name) acknowledge that I have read through the policies and procedures of the École Georges P. Vanier School Athletic Handbook. I will abide by and respect the policies and procedures within the École Georges P. Vanier School Athletic Handbook.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Player Declaration

I _____ (player name) acknowledge that I have read through the policies and procedures (pages 1-9) of the École Georges P. Vanier School Athletic Handbook. I will abide by and respect the policies and procedures within the École Georges P. Vanier School Athletic Handbook.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

For Female athletes 12 years old and up

Bill 29-Fairness and Safety in Sport Act

Consent - Please sign below to show you have read and understand the expectations listed above. When your child signs up for Female-Only ASAA Sports, please make sure they are aware and confirm by signing that, in order to participate in these sports they must be female at birth as outlined by Alberta's Fairness and Safety in Sport Act. Please note that no additional documents or proof are needed at the time of registration

Player Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____