

# **The American School of Asunción Sports Program**

## **Philosophy, Objectives, Rules, and Responsibilities**

**(Note: The web site version of this document is considered the official policy in effect at ASA.)**

The American School of Asunción believes in the value of sports participation as an essential part of a strong and comprehensive educational program. The sports program serves to support the ASA Vision of “Developing, Respecting, Excelling” by helping participants become well-round and responsible student-athletes who can better reach their full potential. The following sections outline the overall philosophy, objectives, organization, responsibilities, and rules related to providing a high-quality sports program at ASA that supports the school’s vision for program excellence. By choosing to participate in the ASA sports program, students and parents are providing their consent to support and abide by the rules and responsibilities as outlined in this document for participants.

### **Principal Objectives for Elementary and Middle School Sports**

- **To provide students with equal opportunity to participate in a variety of activities;**
- **To teach the concepts of teamwork and values of sportsmanship and fair play; and**
- **To help students gain technical knowledge and develop skills in sports.**

As the hallmark of the ASA sports philosophy at the Elementary School, everyone has an opportunity to participate and play. ASA encourages and values the spirit of sportsmanship, participation, teamwork, and solidarity regardless of the final results of the games or tournaments. The elementary sports program seeks to help student develop their skills, learn about playing on a team, and develop good habits of personal responsibility and sportsmanship.

At the Middle School level, ASA also supports the philosophy that everyone has an opportunity to play yet acknowledges the increased level of physical maturity and skill needed when competing against other schools. As a result, ASA seeks a balance in encouraging the spirit of sports, teamwork, and solidarity along with the additional goal of achieving good results during games and tournaments.

### **Participation Guidelines**

- Students must be enrolled in the program within the specified inscription timeline and complete all required paperwork. Attendance and punctuality are necessary for full participation in the program.
- Priority for playing time in games and tournaments will go to students who have attended practices and previous games, completed their team responsibilities, maintained ASA academic and conduct requirements, and demonstrated good sportsmanship on and off the field.

- Student-athletes must wear the official ASA sports uniform in order to play in games and tournaments. They will have the opportunity to play during the game depending on the criteria of the coach in the game situation.
- Players who miss practices and games will have decreased playing time that reflects the number of practices and/or games missed or will not be invited to participate in that particular game / tournament.
- Students who have not fulfilled the participation guidelines will be informed of their reduced playing time or inability to participate in an upcoming game by the Sports Coordinator and/or team coach.
- As always, a note from a doctor, parent or teacher can be used to excuse a student's absence for academic, medical or personal reasons.

### **General Organization**

- At the elementary level when feasible, ASA will attempt to form multiple teams (e.g., 'red', 'white', 'blue'), or participate in events that allow for unlimited substitutions in order to ensure fair and equal participation. As a general guideline for the elementary school, ASA will participate in at least one interescolar tournament per semester, per team. ASA will also attempt to provide a series of fixed *amistosos* with other schools that share our sports participation philosophy. ASA will not generally form select or 'all-star' teams for interescolar tournaments or *amistoso* games at the elementary level.
- At the middle school level, ASA may elect to form select and 'all-star' teams for inter-basico participation; however, participation in these select teams will be heavily dependant on regular attendance at practices and games as well as fully meeting the guidelines as outlined above. *Amistosos* will also be organized under the premise of equal participation for all. As a general guideline for the middle-school, ASA will participate in at least one inter-basico per semester, per team and also attempt to organize *amistosos* and possible league games with other schools.
- The Sports Coordinator and coaches will make the 'red', 'white' and 'blue' team assignments when necessary in the event of a large number of participants with the goal of balancing the skill levels between these different teams.
- Where feasible, ASA will attempt to keep these team groupings consistent throughout the semester and rotate their participation when necessary in order to ensure students' equal opportunity to participate.
- The feasibility of the above organizational goals will depend on the number of ASA students participating in practices and games on a consistent basis, the rules presented by the institution organizing the particular event, and whether the institution organizing the event allows participation by multiple ASA teams.
- Whenever possible, ASA will participate in events that allow us to follow the above guidelines, and/or host our own *amistosos* and tournaments so as to allow this kind of flexibility in providing multiple playing opportunities for student-athletes.

### **Parent Responsibilities**

- Help advance the principal objectives of the activities program by encouraging participation and emphasizing teamwork and sportsmanship with their children.

- Keep in mind at all times that equal participation takes precedence over winning, especially at the elementary level.
- Make sure that students attend practices and fulfill all participation guidelines in order to ensure consistent participation in scheduled games.
- Support the work of the coaching staff by remaining off the sports field or court during practice sessions and games.
- Demonstrate the highest standards of sportsmanship as spectators and exemplify the values of the ASA community at all in-school and out-of-school events.

## **Rules and Regulations for Participation on High School Sports Teams**

The purposes of the following rules and regulations are: 1) to increase student responsibility in order to achieve substantial improvement in the overall performance of sports teams at ASA, and 2) to present viable and well-prepared teams for the most competitive events in which ASA participates.

Similar to the sports philosophy at the younger levels, ASA also considers it equally important to ensure that High School Student-Athletes who want to compete in sports competitions have the opportunity to practice and participate in games that give them the necessary experience to partake in future tournaments that demand greater competitiveness. At the high school, the level of competition with other schools increases significantly and the preparedness of athletes becomes a more critical factor for achieving individual and team success. Team selection will therefore be more competitive than in elementary or middle school in order to participate effectively and compete with other schools. The priority thus shifts to ensuring the consistent participation of our better athletes with the objective of competing to win.

In order to achieve this broad range of goals, the school has established a system for team participation and tournament play that considers a balance for our student-athletes in the areas of personal responsibility, athletic skills, effort, and sportsmanship.

### **Team Composition and Selection**

- The school will organize athletes at the high school level into two separate teams for each respective sport, and the school will also decide which respective team will compete at games and tournaments during the semester.
- When a sufficient number of participants are eligible, varsity and junior-varsity teams will be formed at the beginning of each semester and these teams may be modified at any moment, changing players from one team to another, depending on the outcome of the continuing assessment of players on their level of individual responsibility in meeting participation requirements as well as athletic performance.
- Where enough participants are available to form multiple teams, those athletes with the highest level of responsibility and skill potential based on the determination of their respective coaches will form Team A. The other team will be called “Team B”

and will play in other games and tournaments determined as played against equal competition.

- The “A” team will play in tournaments abroad such as Rancho and Intercollegial, as well as in intercollegiate games or tournaments in the country to be determined at the beginning of each semester by the Sports Coordinator and School Administrators. The “B” team will play in other tournament and selected amistosos.
- The most responsible players of Team B may advance onto Team A replacing those players who do not meet the requirements of minimum attendance in Team A at any moment in the semester, according to the established criteria on the participation rubric. Team B players who meet the participation requirements may also go to Team A according to their athletic abilities, replacing another of the Team A, according to the criteria of the coaches related to athletic skills and competitiveness.
- Invitations for Rancho and ASA Intercollegial will be made using these criteria, according to the sport commitment level that includes responsibility and aptitude demonstrated during the previous 12 months of sports season, with no privileges for Seniors who do not comply with or fulfill the above requirements.
- The Sports Coordinator will be responsible for scheduling amistosos, smaller tournaments or getting invited to intercollegiate tournaments to ensure for the equitable distribution of games if participation is required for teams A and B.
- Those student-athletes who have been subject to disciplinary action or who are not eligible according to school requirements will not participate in tournaments and games, according to the regulations provided.
- Specifically in the case of absences in practices, tournaments or games, the Sports Coordinator will establish at the beginning of each semester the rules under which an athlete might move from Team A to B, or possibly non-participation in the tournament depending on the time and scope as determined by those rules.

### **Criteria for Meeting Participation Responsibilities**

ASA Student-Athletes must meet the following criteria in order to participate on organized sports teams:

1. Maintain academic and conduct eligibility as outlined in the ASA Student-Parent Handbook.
2. Demonstrate good standing in the sports program by completing all requirements for competing on sports teams including returning completed paperwork for inscription, and purchasing the official ASA uniform.
3. Exhibit expected conduct and sportsmanship that upholds the values of ASA.
4. Student-athletes must wear the official ASA sports uniform in order to play in games and tournaments.

- Participate in the required number of practices and tournaments as determined by the coaching staff, Sports Coordinator, and School Administrators. The school will utilize a point system for attendance at practices, games, and international sports events as the criteria for determining participation at the junior-varsity and varsity levels. The Participation Point System will be reviewed each semester and posted for the student-athletes and parent awareness.

If a Student-Athlete does not meet the minimum expected criteria as outlined above, he or she can be replaced on the team by another athlete, even those athletes from another team or category who have been meeting their established participation responsibilities. In the event of an opening on a select team, the Sports Coordinator will announce try-outs to allow for other athletes to fill the open position(s), and the criteria for selecting team replacements will be posted in advance of the try-out process.

## Team Sports Opportunities Offered at ASA

### Elementary and Middle School: Teams for Girls and Boys

<b>Kinder 5:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Basketball</b></li> <li><b>Soccer</b></li> </ol>

<b>1<sup>st</sup> graders: Cuartita "A"</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> graders: Cuartita " B"</b>	<b>3<sup>d</sup> graders: Tercera "A"</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> graders: Tercera "B"</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Basketball</b></li> <li><b>Soccer</b></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Basketball</b></li> <li><b>Soccer</b></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Basketball</b></li> <li><b>Soccer</b></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Basketball</b></li> <li><b>Soccer</b></li> </ol>

<b>5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> graders: Primera</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> graders: Pasarela</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Basketball</b></li> <li><b>Soccer</b></li> <li><b>Volleyball</b></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Basketball</b></li> <li><b>Soccer</b></li> <li><b>Volleyball</b></li> </ol>

### High School: Teams for Girls and Boys

<b>9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, &amp; 12<sup>th</sup> graders:</b> <i>Varsity and Jr. Varsity*</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Basketball</b></li> <li><b>Soccer</b></li> <li><b>Volleyball</b></li> <li><b>Futsal</b></li> </ol>

\*JV: if sufficient players available

Approved on August 3, 2009