

**GREATER ESSEX COUNTY  
ELEMENTARY ATHLETIC  
ASSOCIATION**

**G.E.C.E.A.A.**

Constitution

October 2010

Greater Essex County District School Board

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**STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

1	THE ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR STUDENTS ENCOMPASSES PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, MENTAL-EMOTIONAL AND INTELLECTUAL FACTORS. ALL STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE REGULAR ACCESS TO HEALTHY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.
2	ALL SCHOOLS SHALL OPERATE THEIR ATHLETIC PROGRAMS IN A POSITIVE MANNER AND AS AN OUTGROWTH OF A SOUND PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND INTRAMURAL PROGRAM.
3	THE EMPHASIS SHALL BE ON PARTICIPATION FOR AS MANY STUDENTS AS POSSIBLE. IT IS EXPECTED THAT STUDENTS WHO ARE ON A TEAM SHALL PLAY IN SOME GAME SITUATIONS.
4	THE ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS THE CONCEPT OF GENDER EQUITY IN COACHING [SEE 7.01 (a)].

# CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I – NAME

1.01	This association shall be known as the Greater Essex County Elementary Athletic Association, hereinafter called the Association.
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## ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

2.01	The Association shall consist of all public elementary schools.
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## ARTICLE III – PURPOSE

3.01	The purpose of the Association shall be to:
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(a)	establish a close relationship among the various public elementary schools of GECDSB.
(b)	promote competition in all athletic activities deemed advisable.
(c)	enhance education through athletics.
(d)	enhance a friendly relationship between member schools.
(e)	promote a love for good, clean amateur sport and respect for fellow competitors, coaches, officials and spectators.
(f)	continue the evolution of the G.E.C.E.A.A. Constitution.
(g)	encourage each member sport body to support game officials and their decisions.
(h)	strive to ensure safe and suitable playing facilities.
(I)	promote fairness of play by governing the number of sports within a season, establish seasons of play, enforce transfer eligibility and eliminate recruiting of athletes.
(j)	be cognizant of the financial and personnel limitations of the member schools.
(k)	educate student athletes, coaches, spectators, convenors and administrators to follow and respect the G.E.C.E.A.A. Code of Conduct.

## ARTICLE IV - BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

4.01	All liabilities for damages, costs or legal fees resulting from any claim in a G.E.C.E.A.A activity under this Section shall be borne by the Greater Essex County District School Board whose student or employee is found to be liable for such damages.
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## ARTICLE V - EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

5.01	<p>The Executive shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, School Superintendent, Past President, OPC Principal Representative representative, and any others as designated by the Executive.</p> <p>(a) At least one member at large is to be elected to the executive to create an odd number of executive positions in order to prevent stalemates on decisions.</p> <p>(b) If any executive position(s) are not filled through the election process, the executive will endeavour to fill the position(s) through appointments.</p>
5.02	<p>All members of the Executive of the Association, except the supervisory office, shall be elected or appointed for a two (2) year term. Elections will take place at the same time and place as the general meeting in June on alternating years.</p> <p>(a) Notices of motion will be posted at least one week in advance of the General Meeting. Voting will be done in personal while in attendance at the year end General Meeting.</p>
5.03	The newly elected officers shall take office at the conclusion of the general meeting following their election.
5.04	The Executive shall arrange to fill any vacancy occurring during the tenure of office of any member of the Executive.
5.05	The Executive shall meet before each meeting of the Association and at any other time as directed by the President.

## ARTICLE VI - DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE

6.01	The duties of the Executive are to:
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(a)	rule on the interpretation of rules and regulations of the Constitution and its by-laws (playing regulations).
(b)	rule on protests and appeals.
(c)	rule on requests for postponement or changes in dates and/or times of any league or playoff game when one party does not agree through the mutual consent method (between principals and convenors).
(d)	to call a general meeting once per year.
(e)	notify all member schools (school representatives, principals and convenors) of the date of meetings at least three (3) weeks in advance of the meeting.
(f)	to solicit, approve and instruct convenors in their duties.

6.02	The duties of the President are to:
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(a)	act as spokesperson for the Association. The President shall be the only person to speak for the whole Association.
(b)	conduct the day-to-day affairs of the Association and convene meetings mandated by the Constitution.
(c)	maintain communication among the Association, Board of Education and member schools.
(d)	oversee the activities of the Secretary and convenors.
(e)	chair division meetings and the general meetings.

6.03	The duties of the Vice-President are to:
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(a)	convene all meetings, in the absence of the President.
(b)	perform the duties of the President, in the absence of the President.
(c)	fulfill those duties as required by the President.
(d)	chair division meetings.

6.04	The duties of the Secretary are to:
(a)	conduct the Association's correspondence, and keep whatever minutes and files are necessary.
(b)	prepare and circulate before each general meeting an agenda of the items to be discussed at that meeting.
(c)	prepare and circulate within two (2) weeks after general meetings a copy of the minutes of that meeting via email to the Phys.Ed reps, the executive, each school and the Superintendent of Athletics.
(d)	promote coaching awareness and in-service of the Constitution.
(e)	promote healthy active living and physical and health education in the schools.

6.05	The duties of the Past President are to:
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(a)	act in an advisory capacity, with voting privileges.
(b)	fulfill those duties as assigned by the President.

## ARTICLE VII - GENERAL MEETINGS

7.01	A general meeting of the Association shall be held at least once a year. Notice of the meetings shall be given to all voting members at least thirty (30) days prior to such meetings. All notices of motion must be forwarded to the secretary so that they can be posted on First Class at least one week before the meeting.
7.02	All meetings of the Association shall be at the call of the Executive itself, or as a result of a request from the OPC Principal.
7.03	The general meetings shall receive reports on activities, discuss and vote on motions relating to the business of the Association, and approve by-laws, rules and regulations. The general meeting will, in addition to the above, conduct elections of officers and of elected members of the Executive, where applicable.
7.04	While the meetings are open to all elementary teachers of the Greater Essex County District School Board, each school shall have two (2) voting representatives to the general meetings.
7.05	Divisions for all activities will be set by the Executive based on next year's projected enrollment. Geography/travel considerations may also apply.

## ARTICLE VIII - ACTIVITY CONVENORS

8.01	There shall be Activity Convenors for each Association activity. Activity Convenors will be voluntary and it may be necessary for the Executive to fill these positions.
8.02	The Activity Convenors are approved by the Executive for a one (1) year term. The appointments may be renewed indefinitely on an annual basis. These approvals are made known at the time of the general meeting.
8.03	Assistant Convenors may be approved at the discretion of the Executive.
8.04	The Activity Convenor of a G.E.C.E.A.A. activity may:
(a)	call all meetings of that activity, if necessary.
(b)	be Chairperson at all meetings of that activity or, if unable to attend, appoint an Acting Chairperson.
(c)	prepare a schedule of the activity whenever he/she deems it advisable for the purpose of laying down rules and regulations not covered in the Constitution or standing rules and regulations, arranging schedules and officials, and arranging necessary changes in schedules.
(d)	be responsible for deciding the postponement of contests due to inclement weather, epidemics affecting any school population, or other reasons in consultation with the President.
(e)	be responsible for all publicity in connection with the activity for which he/she is convenor, such as advance publicity through the press, radio and television; and notifying the press, radio and television, where applicable, of results that may be used by such agencies.
(f)	submit to the Secretary of the Association within reasonable time of the completion of the activity for which he/she was convenor a detailed report on that activity. This report should include the name of the school and the name of the individual winners or of the members of the team that wins the G.E.C.E.A.A. championships in that activity.
(g)	submit, where applicable, a detailed breakdown of all receipts and expenditures involved in the activity.

8.05	A convener of any GECDSB activity cannot ask for a special levy from participating schools to cover the cost of running that activity unless he/she receives permission from the executive of the Athletic Association.
(a)	a proposal for any additional levy must be presented to the executive of the elementary athletic association 30 days before the date of the event and said proposal must be presented to the president of the association in writing or through email. The proposal will include the justification of the levy, including the proposed amount as well as the costs that will be covered.
(b)	the president will either convene a meeting to discuss the proposal or may survey members of the executive through email.
(c)	notwithstanding approval of a levy by the executive, principals of all of the participating schools must be in agreement with the levy before it can be charged and collected
(d)	all monies collected for the levy will be forwarded to the treasurer of the association who will issue cheques to cover expenses upon receipt of the bills

## **ARTICLE IX - ELIGIBILITY**

9.01	To represent a school in any competition coordinated by G.E.C.E.A.A., students must:
(i)	be registered in the school and be eligible to compete only for their registered school.
(ii)	be eligible for competition under the Constitution, by-laws and standing rules of G.E.C.E.A.A.
(iii)	no student shall be eligible to compete in any event or game if his/her school attendance has lapsed, or if he/she is excluded or suspended or prohibited by his/her administration or teacher in charge.
(iv)	any questions on eligibility that may be raised shall be put to the President for the Executive to study and report to the parties concerned.
(v)	consistent with the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSSA) rulings, girl's who have been successful during the regular tryout process, will be permitted to play on any/all boys teams.

	OFSSA's decision was influenced by the 1986 provincial court ruling against the Ontario Hockey Association; the 1990 ruling of the Ontario Human Rights Commission against the Ontario Soccer Association; and 2006 Manitoba Human Rights Commission ruling against the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association.
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## **ARTICLE XI - CONSTITUTION REVIEW**

10.01	Changes may be made to the Constitution at each general meeting as long as the necessary notice of motion has been posted.
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# BY-LAWS

Provisions of the Constitution of the G.E.C.E.A.A. shall apply to all by-laws of the G.E.C.E.A.A.

## SECTION I – SPORT

<b>FALL SPORTS</b>	Cross Country Soccer Volleyball
<b>WINTER SPORTS</b>	Basketball
<b>SPRING SPORTS</b>	3-Pitch Badminton Skipping Ultimate Frisbee Track and Field

## SECTION II - STARTING DATES FOR ACTIVITIES

2.01	The starting dates for all activities within each school shall be determined by the school administration within each school.
2.02	All activities may re-organize at the general meeting in the Spring.
2.03	All schools shall notify the activity convenors and schools in their division if a team will not be entered in an activity.
2.04	G.E.C.E.A.A. follows the following schedule for sports:  (I) Fall term from September 1 to Christmas Break (ii) Winter term from January 1 to March Break (iii) Spring term from March Break to the end of the school year
2.05	All sports must be scheduled during their designated term only.
2.06	(a) All playoff games must be scheduled to begin before 8:00 p.m. (b) Tournament times may be adjusted to suit participating schools. (c) Recommend tournament entry fee be capped at \$75. (d) Recommend the use of adult and/or carded referees for any/all competitive games.

### SECTION III - PENALTIES

3.01 (a)	During any and all competitions, and, in the immediate times before and after, all athletes, coaches and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with their respective Codes of Conduct as defined elsewhere in this document. That having been said, should any athlete, coach or spectator be ejected from a competition for deliberate rough play, fighting or any other objectionable behaviour, it must be reported to the President by the official and/or the coaches. Any ejected party will be deemed ineligible for the next two (2) competitions, whether they be league play, playoffs or tournament play.
(b)	Having received such a report, the Executive will investigate the incident and may recommend further sanctions be invoked against the ejected party. It is expected that the Executive will seek input from the involved parties, the officials, and the convenor, and issue a subsequent decision.
(c)	The President will keep an active file of all such reports so that an ongoing tracking system is developed.
(d)	Any contest in which a suspended party participates will be declared a forfeit.
(e)	All of the above are subject to the approval of the Superintendent of Athletics or designate.

## SECTION IV - RULES GOVERNING GENERAL ACTIVITIES

4.01	<b>GENERAL</b>
	The rules and regulations governing the activities of the G.E.C.E.A.A. shall be the same as those adopted by the various athletic organizations of Ontario, except where otherwise specified in the Constitution, by-laws or playing regulations of the G.E.C.E.A.A. Competition at the district level of G.E.C.E.A.A. will supersede any local or regional competition.

4.02	<b>PROTESTS</b>
Protests may be made in accordance with the following regulations:	

(a)	All protests must be made in writing and sent by e-mail or fax to the President of the Association and the appropriate convenor of the Association within one (1) school day.
(b)	All protests must be made with the consent of the principal and coach of the school and sent to all involved parties. A one-hundred dollar (\$100.00) fee must accompany the protest. This fee will be returned if the protest is upheld. It will be added to the Athletic Association general fund if the protest is lost.
(c)	The Executive is responsible for resolving protests on that activity by convening a meeting of involved coaches and convenor. The Executive will then rule on the protest.
(d)	Copies of the letter of protest must be sent by the school making the protest to the other school concerned, to the referee and/or Association, where appropriate, and to each member of the Executive; and such copies must be forwarded within the specified time under Section 4.02 (a).

## SECTION V – HONOURARIUM

5.01	The honorarium received by the convenor shall be \$100 per activity in each division. If the activity is co-convened then each convenor will receive \$50.
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**SECTION VI - VISION STATEMENT FOR COACHES, PARTICIPANTS AND SPECTATORS**

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(a)	We believe that the true essence of sport is to strive for personal achievement and excellence through full and honest effort.
(b)	We are committed to participating in sport with integrity, and to striving to win only by legitimate means.
(c)	We pledge to learn, understand and adhere to both the written rules of the sport and the accepted rules of fair play.
(d)	We believe that violence and physical intimidation are harmful to sport, and we refuse to use such tactics.
(e)	We understand that officials, teammates and opponents are all integral to sport and are worthy of my respect.
(f)	It is our responsibility to maintain self-control. We will accept officials' decisions without argument, play with intensity but without hostility, and behave graciously in triumph or defeat.

6.02	<p>All athletes, coaches and spectators are reminded the rules of the game are to be regarded as mutual agreements, the spirit or letter of which no one should try to evade or break. Decisions of game officials are to be accepted without displays of anger. No participant will utter abusive or irritating remarks. Participants will strive to win with humility and lose with dignity. To win is desirable, but to “win at all costs” defeats the purpose of the game as it applies to educational objectives of each member school.</p> <p>Players and coaches subscribe to a code of conduct as outlined (By-laws, Sections VII and VIII). The conduct of players both on and off the field of play is the responsibility of the coach. Conduct of the spectators is the responsibility of supervising teachers.</p>
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## SECTION VII - CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES

7.01	<p>It is the purpose of this code to develop a set of standards for G.E.C.E.A.A. coaches that would be acceptable to and upheld by all coaches involved with student athletes participating in G.E.C.E.A.A. sponsored activities:</p> <p>(a) If a male team has a female coach or a female team has a male coach, and adult of the opposite sex will assist with coaching duties. (parents can be used in this situation)</p> <p>(b) Non-staff (e.g. parents) coaches shall be in-serviced about the G.E.C.E.A.A. Constitution by the principal or designate of the school. All school teams should have a staff sponsor if non-staff coaches are utilized. The staff sponsor shall act as a liaison with the team and shall assist the coach with duties as assigned by the principal. The staff representative must sit on the bench during all games. Police clearances for volunteer coaches is strongly recommended.</p> <p>(c) Any coach who breeches the G.E.C.E.A.A. Constitution shall be subject to sanctions as determined by the Executive.</p>
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7.02	<p>The areas of concern governing coaches have been divided into three categories:</p>
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### (a) The Physical and Psychological Well-being of All Participants

(i)	<p>The coach must assume the responsibility for the physical and psychological well-being of the students in his/her care.</p>
(ii)	<p>The coach must be concerned with the prevention, care and rehabilitation of sport injuries, and should make sure that appropriate first aid service is available at all game sites.</p>
(iii)	<p>The coach must attempt to develop a high degree of physical fitness in the athletes.</p>
(iv)	<p>The coach must at all times work to enhance the self-esteem of the students and the enjoyment of the game.</p>

### (b) Deportment

(i)	<p>A coach is a representative of the school for whom he/she coaches. He/she, therefore, must first and foremost uphold the educational values of sport and be ever mindful of the role sport plays within the educational objectives of the school, Boards and G.E.C.E.A.A.</p>
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(ii)	Coaches are role models for our children. As such, the coach's behaviour must be exemplary and beyond reproach. Dress and personal appearance should be professional and appropriate to the occasion.
(iii)	It is the responsibility of all coaches to understand the standards and expectations set by their school and Association.
(iv)	The coach must show respect for all involved in the competition: opponents, officials and their own athletes.
(v)	The coach must respect the spirit as well as the letter of the rules governing the competition and not attempt to manipulate them.
(vi)	To win is desirable. But to win at any cost defeats the purpose of the game, which is to give students the opportunity to enhance their physical skills, their self-esteem, teamwork and to have fun.

### c) The Development of Positive Attitudes and Skills

Through teaching and by example, the coach should attempt to instill in the athletes high ideals of sportsmanship and qualities of cooperation, reliability, self-control, self-discipline and commitment.

## SECTION VIII - CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

8.01	Each student athlete should strive to demonstrate the following values and behaviours:
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(a)	To understand the responsibilities involved in being a team member in terms of willingness to participate in practices, games and maintaining satisfactory academic standards.
(b)	To be generous in winning and graceful in losing.
(c)	To gain a good knowledge and understanding of the rules of the game.
(d)	To understand that winning is desirable but to win at any cost defeats the purpose of the game.
(e)	To exhibit the qualities of good sportsmanship, dedication, pride, team spirit and leadership.
(f)	To demonstrate courtesy and respect towards coaches, sponsor teachers and officials.

(g)	To understand that the only way to play the game is fairly and cleanly.
(h)	To accept that fighting, instigating threatening and/or other intimidating behaviours are not acceptable in G.E.C.E.A.A. competition.
(I)	To accept that obscenities, trash talk or other forms of verbal abuse directed at coaches, officials, players or spectators are not acceptable behaviours in G.E.C.E.A.A. competition.

Failure to comply with the behaviours and expectations of the above Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary actions at the school level as well as disciplinary action as outlined in the G.E.C.E.A.A. Constitution.

**SECTION IX - CODE OF BEHAVIOUR FOR SPECTATORS  
(as prescribed by O.F.S.A.A.)**

9.01	The following code should be posted in every gymnasium where it can be seen and understood by all spectators.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cheer in a positive manner.</li> <li>2. Respect officials' decisions.</li> <li>3. Do not interfere with the competition.</li> <li>4. Keep off the playing area.</li> <li>5. Be courteous and respectful.</li> </ol> <p>Failure to comply with this Code of Behaviour may lead to ejection.</p>

## **GENERAL RULES FOR INTER-SCHOOL SPORTS**

No jewelry shall be worn by any student athlete while participating in any/all sports activities.

All fields must be vacated immediately when thunder is heard or lightning seen. Play may not resume until 15 minutes after thunder is not heard and/or lightning is not seen. The teacher supervisors will have the ultimate authority for this decision, not the referees.

### **METHOD OF COMPETITION FOR 3-PITCH, BASKETBALL, SOCCER AND VOLLEYBALL**

1.	There will be one large and small school division winner for the Pronger and Cheswick divisions.
2.	Large and small schools will be determined by the Executive based on the September projected enrollment in Grades 7 and 8.
3.	The two finalists for A and AA schools, from the Pronger and Cheswick divisions, will compete for the district championship.
4.	Specific rules of each sport will be defined by activity convenors based on acceptable Association practices and existing practices to meet the needs of elementary student athletes.

### **RULES OF COMPETITION FOR ALL OTHER SPORTS**

1	Track and Field and Cross Country as defined by the Activity Convenors of these sports.
2	Badminton and Skipping as defined by the Activity Convenors of these sports.

## AWARDS SCHEDULE

<b>Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, 3-Pitch</b>	
Banners	Champion and Finalist for each division
Medallions	District Champions receive Gold Medallions Finalists receive Silver Medallions Consolation Champions receive Bronze Medallions
<b>Track and Field</b>	
Banners	Qualifying Meet: Champions District Meet: Champions Gender Division Champions
Medallions	District: Age/Gender Champions receive Gold, Silver, Bronze
Ribbons	Qualifying and District Meets: Each event recognizes 1 <sup>st</sup> through 6 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Cross country</b>	
Banners	A and AA Divisional: Novice, Junior, Senior Champions for each gender A and AA District: Novice, Junior, Senior Champions for each gender
Medallions	Divisional and District: Age/Gender Champions receive Gold, Silver, Bronze
Ribbons	Divisional and District: Each category recognizes 4 <sup>th</sup> through 10 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Badminton</b>	
Banners	A, AA, AAA, AAAA District Champions
Medallions	Each event in all four divisions receive Gold, Silver, Bronze
<b>Skipping</b>	
Banners	District Champions
<b>Ultimate Frisbee</b>	
Banners	District Champions and Finalists

## REFEREES

<b>District Championships</b>	Association referees will be used for all these games.
<b>Division Meets</b>	Where possible, Association referees will be used for finals and semi-finals.
<b>Playoffs and Tournament Play</b>	There may need to be a limit fee established for referee costs at elementary events.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

1. Sports medics or St. John Ambulance should be used at Cross County, Soccer, 3-Pitch and Track and Field events (playoffs, semi-finals, finals, tournaments).
2. All activity convenors will publish the rules that are specific to their sport/competition prior to league/tournament play.
3. All activity convenors are encouraged to seek input from coaches following the conclusion of their sport/ competition. This input will be used to better facilitate the operation of the specific sport/competition.
4. All games must be scheduled to begin before 8:00 pm
5. No tournament shall exceed 3 games for an after-school tournament and 4 games for a weekend tournament.
6. If teams are scheduled for back to back games, a minimum of 45 minutes must be given prior to the start of the second game, unless mutually agreed by both coaches (applies only to soccer and basketball).