

# ***MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN LEAGUE***

## **OPERATING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Updated 11-16-23

### Article 1: STATEMENT OF FAITH

- A. We believe in the divine inspiration of the entire Bible, which we believe to be the infallible and authoritative word of God.
- B. We believe in the one God, who is the eternally existent Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the creator and preserver of all things.
- C. We believe in the pre-existence, incarnation, virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, substitutionary death, bodily resurrection, ascension to Heaven, and the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- D. We believe in the fallen nature of mankind; the need for regeneration on the basis of God's grace alone, provided through the finished work of Jesus Christ, which is the only way to eternal life.
- E. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- F. We believe that each believer should be a witness of God's saving grace, including righteous living and good works.

### Article 2: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Mountain Christian League exists to provide a medium for distinctly Christian organizations based upon MCL Policies and Procedures Article 1 and Article 3.A to compete and cooperate in athletics and other activities. The Members of Mountain Christian League desire to put Christ first in our league activities and to promote Christian character in our schools, teams, coaches and athletes. The Members of Mountain Christian League agree to encourage sportsmanship, further the spirit of cooperation and Christian fellowship among our Members, embrace healthy competition and common interest in athletics and activities, and submit to the authority of God in our relationships with one another.

### Article 3: ORGANIZATION

- A. Mountain Christian League (MCL) consists of member schools and home-school organizations, hereafter referred to as "Members."
- B. Based on the statement of purpose, Members agree to compete against each other in accordance with the MCL guidelines for sports.
- C. MCL currently offers four sports in two sports seasons, plus a junior high season. Sports teams designated as "boys" or "girls" will not be co-ed, and will consist only of boys or girls defined according to their biological sex at birth.
  - I. Fall: boys soccer & girls volleyball
  - II. Winter: boys basketball and girls basketball
  - III. Spring: junior high boys basketball and girls basketball

- D. Addition of new sports or activities will be decided upon at the regular spring meeting. A new sport will begin with a trial season that will not include a league championship trophy. The purpose of a trial season is to determine the feasibility of formally offering the new sport. Members will vote upon whether or not to formalize the new sport following the completion of the trial season.

#### Article 4: MEMBER PARTICIPATION OBLIGATIONS

- A. Participation in MCL is voluntary for any particular activity. Members agree to participate in league activities according to MCL guidelines for sports. League activities include a regular season, and a season-ending tournament. Members that field a single team only are expected to play at the varsity level unless they petition for an exception.
- B. Unless the league is split into two divisions, all teams will play other teams at least twice in a season on a home-and-home basis. The first two contests between teams will count for league standings, with the exception of any preseason jamboree contests. MCL Members who are more than 3 hours apart may elect to play each other only once in a season, which would have to be determined prior to the game. If they choose to do so, the result of the game shall count double for league standings. Whichever team hosts said game shall travel to the other school the following year.
- C. The following provisions will govern league play when the number of teams participating in any one sport reaches 10.
  - I. The league will split into two geographical divisions for that sport only, as determined by the league based on the Members fielding teams in that sport.
  - II. Teams will play a home-and-home series of contests with all teams within their division.
  - III. Teams will play one contest with each team outside their division.
  - IV. Game locations will be set in the first year, and alternate in future years.
  - V. All games count for league standings.
  - VI. There will be only one all-league champion based on overall standings.
- D. Members agree to participate in certain mandatory events.
  - I. Tournament participation is mandatory for all tournament qualifiers.
    - a. Tournaments will be conducted according to MCL Tournament Guidelines.
    - b. Not attending the tournament results in suspension from competition with Members for the next season for that sport for that team.
    - c. Petition may be made to the league for a redress of grievance.
  - II. Two regular MCL meetings are mandatory for all Members.
    - a. The fall meeting is held the third Thursday in November.
    - b. The spring meeting is held the second Thursday in April.

- c. Not attending a regular meeting results in a probationary period until the next mandatory meeting for a first offense, or expulsion for a second consecutive offense.
  - III. Additional meetings may be called, including conflict resolution meetings, for some or all Members.
    - a. Meetings will be called by the league President. Members desiring a meeting will make this request to the league President.
    - b. Not attending an additional meeting results in a probationary period until the next mandatory meeting for a first offense, or expulsion for a second consecutive offense.
- E. Members desiring to withdraw from the league should communicate this before the regular spring meeting.
- F. Members may request the removal of another Member based on the following procedures.
  - I. A written request will be submitted to the league President.
  - II. The league President will present the request to the league for discussion. The Member potentially being removed will be present for an opportunity to rebut the request for removal.
  - III. A  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority is required to remove a Member.

#### Article 5: STUDENT PARTICIPATION OBLIGATIONS

- A. Because it is the intent of MCL to provide an opportunity for meaningful athletic competition to students who are home or Christian schooled, students attending a local public or charter school, but desiring to play for a MCL Member are not eligible.
- B. Students who choose to stop attending a MCL Member and attend a public or charter school become immediately ineligible.
- C. Students must be age 18 or younger on August 31 of the current school year to be eligible for competition. Students who have graduated are not eligible. For junior high competition, students must be age 14 or younger on August 31 of the current school year to be eligible.
- D. Students may not join a team after 50% of that team's contests have been played.
- E. Players who play the majority of time in the majority of varsity contests should not play in a JV contest, nor play in a JV tournament.
- F. If a student is ejected from a contest, s/he is suspended from playing in the next game. If s/he receives a second ejection in the course of the season, s/he is suspended from playing for the rest of the season.
- G. Petition may be made to the league according to MCL Policies and Procedures Article 8 for exceptions to any particular student participation obligation based on extenuating circumstances. Suggested guidelines for reviewing a petition for exception may include the following:
  - I. An exception might be granted if the MCL Member needs more players in order to field a team.

- II. An exception might be granted if the MCL Member desires to include an enrolled student whose age falls outside normal requirements.
- III. An exception is more likely to be granted for junior varsity participation than for varsity participation.

#### Article 6: FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

- A. No league fees nor league dues exist.
- B. MCL receives no income, maintains no assets, and provides no insurance nor legal protection.
- C. All Members participating in a sport agree to share costs with the other participating Members for all-league events in that sport in which they participate, such as season-ending tournaments.

#### Article 7: VOTING REGULATIONS

- A. All Members receive one vote. It is up to the Member to determine their representative for such vote and to communicate this to the league President.
- B. Motions pass according to a simple majority for most league decisions and guidelines for sports. Changes related to the MCL Policies and Procedures or to MCL membership require a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority.

#### Article 8: PETITION PROCESS

- A. Petitions shall be submitted to the MCL President.
- B. If the petition is just a rules clarification, the petition will be handled by the Executive Council. If the petition is for an exception to the rules, the petition will be communicated to the whole league for a vote. That way all the members will be involved in a decision related to league rules.
- C. Following the opportunity for discussion, the President will conduct a vote according to MCL Policies and Procedures Article 7.

#### Article 9: CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

- A. When Members have conflict, Members agree to follow the Biblical commandments for resolution found in Matt. 18:15-17.
  - I. The offended Member will go directly to the one causing offense for the purpose of reconciliation, without gossip.
  - II. If reconciliation is not accomplished, the offended Member will solicit the involvement of the league President, Vice-President, or Executive Council Member for mediation.
  - III. If reconciliation is still not accomplished, the issue will be addressed at a league meeting for all Members to assist with mediation.
- B. If a Member refuses to be reconciled, the Member may be removed from the league according to MCL Policies and Procedures Article 4.F.

## Article 10: LEAGUE LEADERSHIP

- A. League leadership will consist of an Executive Council comprised of a President, Vice-President, and Executive Council Member.
  - I. The President's responsibilities include, but are not limited to, facilitating communication, calling league meetings, setting meeting agendas, presiding over league meetings, assisting in conflict resolution, training the Vice-President, and facilitating league operations.
  - II. The Vice-President's responsibilities include, but are not limited to, assisting the President, assisting in conflict resolution, managing the reporting of scores to the MCL website, and facilitating league operations.
  - III. The Executive Council Member's responsibilities include facilitating taking notes at league meetings, assisting the President and Vice-President, and facilitating league operations.
- B. Each position will be for a term of one year, beginning at the conclusion of the regular spring meeting. The Vice-President will transition to President, and a new Vice-President will be elected.
- C. The Member hosting a season-ending tournament will provide a Tournament Director who will administer the tournament. The Tournament Director will work in close communication with the league President to ensure that the tournament is conducted according to league norms and precedence.

## Article 11: GROWTH PROCEDURES

- A. Recognizing that MCL geographic boundaries cannot extend indefinitely, the boundary for an MCL membership is a maximum of two hours travel time from Liberty Park in Spokane
- B. MCL members are encouraged to interact with other schools or home-school organizations, hereafter referred to as an "interested party," and communicate with the MCL Executive Council whether or not they might be a good fit for eventually becoming new members. Based on data gathering by the Executive Council, discussion will be had at one of the MCL regular meetings about an interested party.
  - I. When it has been determined that an interested party would likely be a good fit for MCL membership, the Executive Council will invite that interested party to attend the spring MCL meeting with the intent of discussing a provisional season for the interested party. Members will vote to accept or reject provisional seasons.
    - a. If provisional seasons are accepted, the interested party will play a calendar year of sports contests against all Members. Members will not be required to play against an interested party, but will make reasonable effort to do so.
    - b. Those contests will not count for or against Members standings for a league championship or tournament seeding.

- c. The interested party will not participate in a season-ending MCL tournament.
- II. Following a calendar year of provisional contests, if the interested party desires to commit to membership in MCL, the party will request full membership before the next regular MCL meeting.
- III. Members will vote to accept or deny the interested party's membership so the interested party's status will be established before the next regular MCL meeting. A  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority is required to accept a new Member. The vote will be coordinated by the league President.