

PRAIRIE CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION 2023-24

Dimmick Grade School (*Braves*)
Lostant Grade School (*Comets*)
Peru Catholic (*Cougars*)
Holy Family (*Crusaders*)
Trinity Catholic Academy (*Saints*)
Holy Cross (*Warriors*)

*Revised January 11, 2023

NOTE: Each school's primary contact is responsible for distributing a copy of the Constitution and master schedules to all coaches and school personnel associated with Prairie Conference activities.

SECTION 1.00

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- 1.11 MEMBERSHIP:** The Prairie Conference shall be comprised of the following schools: Dimmick, Lostant, Peru Catholic, Holy Family, Trinity Catholic Academy & Holy Cross.
- 1.12 VOTING:** Each school district shall be limited to one (1) vote on all matters of the conference. The person voting shall be the superintendent or designee. Absentee vote in written form will be accepted.

- 1.13 PARTICIPATION:** The sports offered will be boys' basketball, girls' basketball, girls' volleyball, boys' track and field and girls' track and field. The Prairie Conference will also hold an annual Scholastic Bowl competition.
- 1. NOTIFICATION OF TEAMS:** Each school must declare to the conference president whether they will have "A", "B" and/or "C" team(s) for each sport by September 1st and May 1st of each school year. Only "A" and "B" teams declared at that time will be able to field a team during the Prairie Conference Tournament. The conference president will then forward the compiled list to all schools in the conference.
- NOTE: Should there be a need for a member school to eliminate an "A", "B" and/or "C" team for any reason; it will be the responsibility of that school's primary contact to notify all member schools' primary contact not less than 1 month prior to the first scheduled game/competition of that season.**
- 2. TOURNAMENTS:** The host school site schedule for tournaments and scholastic bowl competition is listed in Appendix A.
 - 3. GAME NIGHTS:** Games will begin at 5:00 PM unless otherwise noted. The order of the games will be "C", "B" then "A".
 - 4. PRACTICES:** Practices must be scheduled in accordance with the IESA calendar requirements. Check out the IESA website for the specific dates. <https://www.iesa.org/>
- 1.14 CANCELLATIONS:** When school is in session the day of a competition and inclement weather conditions occur or are imminent for the evening event, the traveling school will have the final say in canceling the event should the host school not do so. The two schools affected will be responsible for rescheduling the event without risk of forfeiting. Any cancellations should be determined by 2:30 PM on the day of the scheduled event.
- 1.15 STUDENT ELIGIBILITY (AGE):** No student may compete in conference team activities if he/she has reached the age of fifteen (15) prior to August 15th preceding the current school year.
- 1.16 ENTRY AND OTHER FEES:** The annual fee for each member school shall be waived for the **2023-24** school year. When fees are required, member schools must submit the annual entry fee to the conference treasurer no later than September 1st of each school year. The Prairie Conference will meet all its financial obligations by the end of each year, even if additional assessment is required.
- 1.17 ADMISSION CHARGES:** Admission to conference basketball and volleyball contests, regular games and tournaments shall be \$3.00 for adults and high school students, and \$1.00 for grade school students and senior citizens, preschool free.
- 1.18 CONFERENCE PRESIDENT:** The conference shall annually appoint a superintendent as president. His/her duties will be to conduct the business and administrative functions of the organization and to perform other duties as designated by the conference.
1. The position of the conference president shall be rotated among the member districts according to the schedule listed in Appendix A.
 2. The treasurer, or his/her designee, shall collect and deposit all entry and other fees from the member schools. He/she shall be responsible for the matters of the conference.
 3. He/she shall set the time and place, with the other superintendents' & Athletic Director's agreement, for the regular meeting time for the superintendents' meetings.
- 1.19 SPORTSMANSHIP:**
1. Each school shall do their part to maintain proper sportsmanship at all events. School officials and adults in attendance should be aware of their responsibility to be role models to all athletes and student visitors. Each school should notify and hold accountable all athletes and parents of the expectations of appropriate sportsmanship. Any digression from good sportsmanship by a representative of any conference school shall be reported to his superintendent. Each act of unsportsmanlike conduct will have appropriate consideration by school superintendents & athletic director. A school displaying poor sportsmanship may be placed on

probation for one (1) year. Probation takes a majority vote of conference members with offending school allowed to vote.

2. The conference will not condone any belittling, inflammatory, derogatory, or profane remarks by, or directed toward players, officials, coaches or spectators.
3. School representatives shall **NEVER** for any reason, publically criticize officials except through channels provided by the Prairie Conference.
4. Students will be allowed on the gym floor only while in uniform and during authorized warm-up time.
5. A copy of the "Prairie Conference Athletic Activities Policies and Procedures" will be included.

1.20 AMENDMENTS:

1. The constitution of the conference may be amended by *five (5)* votes of the superintendents or designees at any regular meeting or at a special meeting for that purpose provided the president submits all proposed amendments to the members of the conference at last two (2) weeks prior to said special meeting
2. New members may be admitted to the conference or current members may be voted out of the conference by *five (5)* of the total membership.
3. A member district, wishing to withdraw from the conference, shall give a written notice to the president on or before December 1st of the preceding school year in which the withdraw is desired. Such withdrawals shall be effective on June 30th following such notice.
4. Any athletic changes in the conference must be presented to the conference organization, made up of the superintendents or designees. Absentee vote in written form will be honored.

1.21 PROJECTED BOYS AND GIRLS' BASKETBALL and VOLLEYBALL MASTER SCHEDULES: The Conference President will create and submit a master schedule to each member by March 30 of the preceding school year. Each season, teams will play each other once for the conference record alternating home and away games/matches every other year.

SECTION 2.00 ATHLETIC EVENTS

2.11 AWARDS: The conference will award trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place at the conclusion of each of the conference tournaments for both "A" & "B" levels in girls' and boys' basketball, girls' volleyball, and scholastic bowl. NOTE: scholastic bowl will have only a single level of completion. For track, team trophies will be awarded for 1st place in each division, Girls' A, Girls' B, Boys' A and Boys' B. In addition, individual ribbons will be awarded for 1st through 6th place. The conference president host will be responsible for ordering all trophies and ribbons each year.

2.12 SCORES: All scores in basketball and volleyball must be sent to the conference president the day following the final Prairie Conference regular season game so teams can be seeded for the tournament and brackets can be distributed to all schools no later than 2:30 PM the Friday prior to Conference Tournament.

2.13 CHEERLEADERS:

1. The cheerleaders are to remain on the sidelines when they cheer. Exceptions are during time outs, half time and during time of their own team shooting free throws.
2. The following rules are in effect concerning mounts:
 - A. Acceptable mounts include any cheers where the mounters' feet are placed no higher than the hips or hips/lower back of the base cheerleader.
 - B. Acceptable mounts include sitting on the shoulders of the base.
 - C. The total height of the stunts shall consist of a base level and one level of mounters.
 - D. Standing on the shoulders is prohibited.
 - E. Cheerleader sponsors are responsible for providing their own spotters, when appropriate, for their teams during the execution of stunts.

2.14 BOYS AND GIRLS' BASKETBALL:

1. Fifth, sixth, and seventh graders may play both "B" and "A" on a given night. Participants may play a maximum of eight (8) quarters per day. Overtime is considered an extension of the fourth quarter. Competing at the "C" game level does not count against the maximum 8 quarters per day rule. Eighth graders may only participate at the "A" level.

2. "A" and "B" games shall be 6-minute quarters. "C" games—each of the 4 quarters shall be 4 minutes in length. Warm up periods for "A" and "B" teams will be 15 minutes and there will be ten minutes between halves.
3. The "C" game structure will be determined by the host school and all Prairie Conference Schools must be notified 1 week prior to the first game.
4. The order of games will be as follows, "C", "B" and then "A".
5. Conference standings with ties will be broken as follows:
 - a. Won-loss record for all conference games.
 - b. In head-to-head competition, the total win-loss record between or among the tied schools.
 - c. Coin flip.
6. The basketball court is strictly off limits for everyone except members of the team in uniform.
7. The 3-point field goal will count on courts where line exists for both regular season and tournament games.
8. The mercy rule shall be used as follows:
 - a. A running clock will be used at the start of or during the 4th quarter when a 30-point differential exists in the score.
 - b. Once started, the running clock will remain for the duration of the game.
 - c. The running clock will only stop when: A team time out is called, to replace a disqualified player, to administer a technical foul, to attend to an injured player and or any other situation deemed appropriate by the official.
9. Consequences for coaches receiving technical fouls for inappropriate behavior are as follows:
 - a. If a coach receives a technical before, during, or after a game, that coach may finish coaching that contest, but will serve a one game suspension and will not be eligible to coach the next scheduled game.
 - b. Should a coach receive a 2nd technical during a season, that coach may finish coaching that game, but will serve a 2-game suspension and will not be eligible to coach the next two scheduled contests.
10. Consequences for student athletes receiving technical fouls are as follows:
 - a. Should a player receive a technical during a game, that player shall be removed from the game for the remainder of that quarter AND the next full quarter.
 - b. Should a player receive a 2nd technical in a season, that player shall be removed from the game for the remainder of that contest and will not be eligible to play in the next contest.
11. Schools will be on the "Honor System" when adhering to the sportsmanship rules. They should maintain a record with the coach's name, day the technical foul was issued, and the date of the suspension should concerns be raised.
12. The free throw contest will be scheduled 30 minutes prior to the first game of the Prairie Conference Tournament for the A and B teams.

2.15 GIRLS VOLLEYBALL:

1. Fifth, sixth, and seventh graders may participate in **two** (2) volleyball matches per night. A match is defined as having played 2 or 3 games on either the "A" or "B" level. Competing at the "C" level will not count against match/game restrictions above.
2. Fifth, sixth, and seventh graders may play on both levels, "B" and "A", for a night and in both levels for tournaments. Eighth graders may only participate at the "A" level.
3. A rally scoring match is the best two out of three games. Game 1 is to 25, Game 2 to 25 and if a Game 3 is necessary to 25.
4. Dimensions of courts will be 50' by 25' if possible. Nets must be 7'0" from the top of the net to the floor unless the standards of the host school are not adjustable.
5. In case of ties in league standings, ties shall be broken by methods described below:
 - a. Win-loss record for all conference games.
 - b. The Win-loss record in head-to-head competition between or among the tied teams.
 - c. Coin-flip.
6. All games shall have at least one official provided by the home team.
7. Each team will be allowed two (2) time-outs per game, sixty (60) seconds each.
8. Substitutions shall be allowed at any time.

9. If the ball hits any object other than the net or a player on its way to the opponent, a point is awarded to the opponent.
10. The volleyball warm-up schedule at regular games will be 2-6-6 to align to the IESA rules.

2.16 GENERAL RULES FOR ALL EXTRA CURRICULAR EVENTS:

1. There may be an "C", "B" and "A" team from each school.
2. To avoid conflicts, all conference games shall be scheduled prior to scheduling of non-conference games if possible.
3. Adults shall be used as scorekeepers and timekeepers when possible.
4. If available, home teams shall wear light-colored jerseys and the visitors shall wear dark jerseys.
5. All protests must be made in writing to the conference president within seven (7) days. The president shall call a meeting of all superintendents and the coaches involved to consider the protest. Decisions will be made by a majority vote with all superintendents voting.
6. Any team more than fifteen minutes late for a match will forfeit unless arrangements are made in advance or an emergency or weather-related reason is given.
7. Games that are cancelled shall be made up no later than the week prior to the conference tournament. In the case that it is not possible to do so, then winning percentage will be used to determine seed.
8. The Prairie Conference master schedule will be developed in accordance with the IESA calendar requirements to allow members to participate in the IESA.
9. Prairie Conference funds will be used to pay for trophies and ribbons awarded during the conference tournaments, event officials/referees and supplies needed for conference operations.
10. Issues not specifically stated in the Prairie Conference Constitution will revert to those established by the most recent release of the IESA rules.
11. Athletes, coaches, and spectators shall ***NOT*** arrive earlier than 30 minutes from the start of the first game/match.

2.17 BOYS TRACK AND FIELD AND GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD:

1. Track meets will consist of Boys "A" & "B" and Girl's "A" & "B". 8th Grade athletes may only participate at the "A" level. 5th through 7th Grade athletes may participate on either or a combination of "A" and "B" levels as long as they do not violate the IESA participation requirements.
2. The events to be run are as follows:
 - a. Order of Events: Will be the same as the IESA. Students are limited to 4 events per day, unless otherwise approved by host school. They may not participate in both the 4x100 and 4x200 relays at either level.

SECTION 3.00 ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The following policies are intended to provide similar services, actions, and attitudes among all member Conference schools to further the cooperation, support and understanding of all persons who attend our activities. We all want our respective athletic activities to be well-controlled, friendly get-togethers where an environment of sportsmanlike fun can be enjoyed by all.

1. Walking across, upon, or otherwise being on the gymnasium floor by unauthorized spectators is prohibited.
2. There will be no unsupervised or unauthorized use of athletic equipment or shooting of baskets.
3. Only authorized persons (team members, coaches, managers, or any others specifically authorized by representatives from the host and/or visiting school) will be admitted to locker rooms if provided.
4. The host school will not be responsible for valuables left in the dressing rooms by the visiting school. Such valuables must be properly provided for and safely secured by the visiting school authorities or, if requested, by the host school authorities.
5. The visiting coach is responsible for checking out the condition of the dressing rooms used before leaving for home. Any problems observed will be reported immediately to the host school authorities.
6. Any grade or high school student who leaves the school building during the game in progress without authorization will be required to pay a second full admission fee to secure re-admittance.

7. Conference policy as interpreted by all Prairie Conference member schools encourages and expects all spectators to always observe and demonstrate good sportsmanship, whether at home or away from home. Unsportsmanlike conduct has absolutely no place in the kind of environment desired at all athletic events in which all Prairie Conference member schools participate.

APPENDIX A ROTATION FOR PRESIDENCY (HOST), TOURNAMENTS & COMPETITIONS

Conference members will be required to host all conference tournaments events. (Basketball, Volleyball, Track & Scholastic Bowl) When a member school is scheduled to host, they may elect to make alternative arrangements for where the Prairie Conference Tournament will be held if they believe their facility is not adequate.

2020-2021	(Cancelled due to Covid)
2021-2022	Trinity Catholic Academy
2022-2023	Holy Cross
2023-2024	Dimmick
2024-2025	Peru Catholic
2025-2026	Lostant
2026-2027	Holy Family