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Reasons Why We Should Cease and Desist From Inter-School Sports

An Appeal to the Health and PE Teachers of the North American Church School System

1

. It is an affirmation of a false god of this age (sports mania). For our schools to be leading out in this misdirected emphasis represents a corporate apostasy. It goes directly against the inspired counsels specifically given us regarding this matter, which we neglect (or defy) at our peril.

2. It provides an almost incontrovertible argument to the critics of the system that our schools have become look-alikes to secular, "worldly" schools, and are no longer worthy of the parental/family/church sacrifice required to sustain them.

3. It introduces into our schools an uncontrollable element, reorganizing them around the *play, amusement principle*, instead of the traditional work/witness/service mission of SDA education. Its secularizing influence subverts the true, central purpose of Christian education: acquiring a knowledge of God and extending His kingdom on earth.

4. It is a gladiatorial model, inherently antibiblical and anti-Christian, for it idealizes an adversarial view of, and relationship to, other human beings—God's children. In that inherent vein, it generates a spirit of rivalry and animosity. In engaging in this, we are literally playing the game of life on the Enemy's court! Unbecoming, spiritually self-defeating.

5. It is not necessary educationally; *everything* we embrace as legitimate objectives can be reached in the approved intramural sports programs we presently have on our campuses.

NOTE: The church has not—nor does it intend—to object to friendship games between Adventist schools *within the context of Christian fellowship*, such as academy/college weekend exchange programs that feature joint/reciprocal religious program presentations, Christian sharing and outreach, et cetera, by visitors and guests. However, the stand-alone athletic face-off to prove which school is "No. 1," and the participation in season **league** play is too risky and should be terminated.

—G.H.A.

This appeal summarizes the major points of Dr. George Akers' taped address to the SDA Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Association in Kansas City, Missouri, April 5, 1988.