



WALKERVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL SCHOOL SPORTS POLICY

PHILOSOPHY

School sport is an opportunity for children to enjoy and benefit from participation in school sport to enable them to develop skills, self-esteem, fun, fitness and friendships.

Our school provides a range of activities for children to participate in and relies on adult volunteers from the school community to coach, manage and support teams. Without the commitment of volunteers our children would not be able to play sport.

The School Sports Policy outlines the opportunities, responsibilities and commitments required by players, parents, officials and spectators. It is a condition that all children and adults agree to abide by this policy when participating or assisting school sport teams.

The school supports the philosophy of The National Junior Sports Policy and The Guidelines for the Development of Junior Sport in South Australia.



OBJECTIVES

The key objectives are for our children ...

- To provide a safe, healthy and friendly sporting environment that encourages personal achievement and develops self-esteem and confidence.
- To improve personal fitness and develop games skills.
- To enable children to participate in sport, regardless of ability, within age restrictions.
- To encourage cooperation through the development of team skills.
- To provide the opportunity to learn appropriate sporting behaviour.

SPORTS COMMITTEE

The Sports Committee is a sub-committee of the Governing Council and advises council on matters related to school sport.

Sports Committee membership is:

- Principal or delegate
- Phys Ed teacher
- Sports Coordinator (SSO)

- Governing Council Rep
- Maximum of four parent representatives appointed by Governing Council.

A Convenor from this committee will be appointed annually by Governing Council.

Coaches and parents of children who participate in sport are welcome to attend meetings in a non-voting capacity.

Meetings are held when required.

AGE REQUIREMENTS

Children will not be permitted to commence competitive sport until the year that the child turns 8 years old. Exemptions may be approved by the Sports Coordinator in special circumstances.

All children will participate in their year or age group. Promotion to a higher age group may be acceptable if there are insufficient numbers present in the older age group.

A younger player who has been assessed as being able to compete at a higher level, may do so providing all relevant parties are in agreement with this decision.

FURTHER CONTENTS

This policy contains the following guidelines

- Roles
- Codes of Conduct
- Consequences
- Duty of Care
- Grievance Procedures
- Injury Insurance
- Registration
- SAPSASA Sports
- Selection in Teams
- Sponsorship
- Transport
- Trophies & Awards
- Uniform & Equipment

ROLES

Sports Committee:

- identify the range of sports offered
- determine and monitor sports policy, including grievance procedures.
- appoint Sports Coordinator (SSO) annually
- endorse appropriate fee levels.
- convene an annual coaches' induction meeting to provide policy orientation and interpret guidelines.

Sports Coordinator (SSO)

- conduct a process for nomination and placement of children into teams.

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- communicate with coaches on a regular basis.
- liaise with appropriate sporting associations.
- identify appropriate volunteer coaches, or paid coaches where necessary.
- circulate fixtures and coach information to children.
- roster teams to a practice location and time if required.
- report grievances and breaches of the codes raised from teams.

Phys Ed Teacher

- ensure that sports equipment is in good condition and available to teams.
- ensure that appropriate skill acquisition is part of the phys ed program.
- coordinate SAPSASA representation and selection.
- assist coaches with initial practices and routines where necessary.

Coaches

- desirable that coaches are qualified.
- maintain a current Crimtrak check.
- report unresolved problems or grievances to Sports Coordinator.
- roster children to create fair playing time or to notify when a child is rostered 'in turn' to not play.
- manage practice sessions and decide when to cancel.
- provide advice to phys ed teacher about SAPSASA selection.

Team Manager

- appointed by coach to assist with team organisation.
- forward any brief newsletter articles
- keep medical and contact information at games.
- advise on equipment needs.

CODES OF CONDUCT

The Sporting Codes of Conduct are derived from the Australian Sports Commission's 'Codes of Conduct'.

Players' Code

'I will ...

- *play by the rules of the sport and show respect towards officials.*
- *work hard for my team and myself.*
- *be a good sport by applauding all good plays whether by my team or opponents.*
- *acknowledge positively the efforts of opponents.*
- *cooperate with my coach, team-mates and opponents.*
- *participate for my own enjoyment and benefit.*
- *respect the rights and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.*
- *strive to improve my skills and fitness.*

- *attend training regularly and be available for games.*
- *inform my coach or manager when I am unable to attend training or play in a game.'*

Coach's Code

'I will ...

- *remember that young people participate in sport for pleasure.*
- *give all players fair attention and opportunities.*
- *encourage all players, even when mistakes are made.*
- *seek to improve all children's fitness levels appropriate to their age.*
- *be reasonable in the demands on players' time, energy and enthusiasm.*
- *operate within the rules and spirit of the sport.*
- *avoid over-playing the talented players and ensure all players receive fair game time.*
- *be respectful towards opponents and officials.*
- *follow the medical advice towards sick and injured players.*
- *attempt to obtain appropriate coaching qualifications in my sport.'*

Parents' Code

'I will ...

- *remember that my child plays sport for his/ her enjoyment, not mine.*
- *focus on my child's and the team's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.*
- *allow the coach to be the person who instructs and controls the team.*
- *encourage all players even when mistakes are made.*
- *encourage my child to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements respectfully.*
- *respect officials' decisions.*
- *assist my child to understand and follow the players' code.*
- *raise any concerns that I may have with the coach or Sports Coordinator.*
- *respect the rights and worth of every player regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.*
- *encourage my child to participate, but not force him/her into sport.*
- *help the team by fulfilling my assigned responsibilities or role.*
- *collect my child from practices and matches at the appropriate time*
- *ensure that my child wears safety and sun-smart equipment.'*

CONSEQUENCES

The school Sports Committee has endorsed the application of the following three step process as consequences for non-compliance and breaches of the Players' Code of Conduct.

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Players who significantly breach school behaviour codes during matches or practices, will be referred to the Principal for counselling and consequence.

Level 1 -one match exclusion

Level 2 -three match exclusion

Level 3 -remainder of season.

Players cannot attend any practices or matches for any sport during exclusion. Players may be excluded by the coach from participating in matches for not attending practices or failing to pay subscriptions by the due date.

Repeated and unacceptable behaviour by players will be referred to the Principal for consequences at level 2 or 3.

Coaches and parents will be reminded of appropriate adult behaviour by the manager.

DUTY OF CARE

School Sport is an after hours activity and therefore the ultimate duty of care lies with the parent. However, coaches and managers provide contact details and have a basic duty of care to discharge, including

- not leaving a child alone at the end of practices or matches.
- ensuring that a basic first aid kit is available
- removing players with open wounds from the game to receive treatment
- call an ambulance in the absence of a parent in the event of serious injury or illness
- cancel practices or matches in extreme or inclement weather, given reasonable notice to parents.
- ensuring that players comply with sunsmart practices.

Coaches and managers are protected by vicarious liability if they have discharged their duty of care.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Issues of concern should be raised with regard to the following grievance process.

1. Concerns related to players or parents should be raised with the coach or manager at an appropriate time.
2. Concerns related to the coach or manager should be raised with the non-involved coach or manager at an appropriate time.
3. Unresolved concerns should be addressed to the Sports Grievance Committee in writing via the school office.
4. The Sports Grievance Committee consisting of the Principal and the Convenor will meet within seven days to resolve the grievance with relevant parties.

INJURY INSURANCE

The school does not accept any liability for students or parents arising from any injury or accident. Parents may choose to seek private insurance to assist financially in the event of injury. Coaches, managers and other volunteers are afforded a limited cover by the DECS Volunteer Policy. The principal

must be notified of the details and witnesses immediately.

All teams are provided with a first aid kit to assist in the event of basic casualty care. The kit should be available at all matches and monitored for any shortages.

REGISTRATION

All students intending to register for a school sport must complete the 'Green Form' sent home prior to a summer or winter season commencing.

Summer Sports are generally considered to be term 1 and 4. Winter sports are terms 2 and 3.

The registration form will provide a basic overview of the sport, the levels of competition, venues and the subscription fees required. Late nominations will be accepted, but will be placed onto a waiting list. These players will only be invited to join the team if there are vacancies. Non-payment of fees can result in the child's exclusion until fees are paid.

Player details, parent consent, contacts and medical information will be requested prior to a season commencing.

SAPSASA SPORTS

The school is affiliated with SA Primary Schools Amateur Sports Association and is part of the East Adelaide District. Students are given the opportunity to compete at a more advanced level individually, or as part of a combined team.

School sports are not offered as the primary mechanism for children to develop their sporting skills with the view to a potential career in sport. Those children who have sporting ambitions are encouraged to participate in the SAPSASA selection process and club sports in addition to their school sports.

A calendar of events will be published to the whole community via the school newsletter. The Physical Education teacher will ensure the release of information about SAPSASA events in a timely manner, giving students reasonable time and expectations for preparation.

SAPSASA sports offered annually are:

Athletics, Swimming, Cricket, Softball, Football, Netball, Soccer, Hockey, Tennis, Cross Country and Orienteering.

SAPSASA Selection

The identification of students for SAPSASA team try-outs at district and state level is the responsibility of the Phys Ed teacher, after consulting with the coaches of the relevant teams. Information regarding selection, costs and training details will be available before children try-out for a representative team.

Students are not required to belong to a school team in order to gain an invitation to attend SAPSASA try-outs. However, the Phys Ed teacher will exercise

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discretion when determining the number of students given permission to attend try-outs. This identification of students will be based upon merit and ability. However, the Principal may intervene where behaviour standards are compromised.

SELECTION IN SCHOOL TEAMS

School sports are offered with participation, fitness and enjoyment as the focus. School sporting teams will be comprised on the basis of fair participation, with skill level not being a consideration. Every effort will be made to place children into teams providing they nominate within the required time.

Coaches will employ rotation and fair playing time strategies to manage the team. Children from nearby schools may join teams after every effort has been made to fill vacancies from within the school.

SPONSORSHIP

All offers of assistance, endorsements, scholarships or awards from persons or organisations outside of the school should be referred to the Sports Committee for discussion. Decisions to accept these offers will be taken by Governing Council.

TRANSPORT

During school hours sporting events persons and vehicles carrying children to and from sporting events must be covered by an appropriate comprehensive insurance policy. Only persons with an unrestricted (not L or P plated) licence will be permitted to carry other students. Vehicles must be in roadworthy condition and have seatbelts for all occupants.

The school will usually engage a bus with student seat-belts when a team requires transport for events, eg knock-outs, SAPSASA etc. There will be a transport cost for parents in these instances.

After school hours transport is the sole responsibility of the parents.

TROPHIES & AWARDS

Participation is the major focus of the school sports program. Children who participate in sporting activities will be acknowledged at the end of each season by a gathering of the team and its officials and parents.

Players will receive a participation award that is provided and funded by the school.

Coaches, supported by their parent group, may further acknowledge the team by providing a medallion or trophy to each player. This must be directly funded through parent contribution and endorsed by the Sports Convenor. Awards, trophies or medallions are to be identical for all members of the team.

UNIFORM & EQUIPMENT

Team uniforms are endorsed by the Sports Committee and all players should wear the school sports code with pride. Uniforms should reflect the school colours of navy blue and red as much as

possible. Uniform is normally kept simple and is purchased by the parent. Uniforms will usually be stocked in the Uniform Shop.

Team equipment is issued to coaches or managers at the start of the season and remains with them until the season is completed. Coaches should request the replacement of items via the Phys Ed teacher in writing. Players are expected to wear the protective equipment required for the sport that they are playing.

May 2017

