

MANLY VALE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Sport Policy

OBJECTIVE

These Implementation Procedures should be read in conjunction with the Department of Education and Training's Sport Policy and other related policies.

School Sporting Teams are structured learning experiences provided by, or under the auspices of, the school which are conducted external to the school site.

School PSSA sports are initiated, organised and supervised by school staff and must be approved by the school principal and, when more than one school is involved, the principals of all participating schools.

The principal must be satisfied that there are sufficient teachers to maintain adequate control of the team. Teachers retain the ultimate responsibility for supervision.

Selection

Unless exceptional circumstances exist, all students should have the opportunity to try out for a particular PSSA team.

PSSA Sport is part of the schools extension sports program and it is limited to students in Year 3-6. All students in these year groups, including those with disabilities, are to be given the opportunity to try out for PSSA teams, but children chosen to participate in a PSSA team will be based on merit.

For each PSSA team there will be a minimum of one selection trial. The students that are able to meet the criteria set by the coach will make the team.

It is the coaches final decision of the students selected in the team.

Cost

There is a cost to participate in a PSSA team. The cost for each sport covers transport to local sporting field and covers the fee of hiring these fields each week. Additional costs for socks, shin pads or other sporting equipment may occur. Costs should be organised to ensure that there is no undue financial burden imposed upon individual members of the group or their families. Where financial hardship is understood to be the reason for a student's non-participation, schools must endeavour to provide financial assistance.

Student responsibility

Responsible use of the services by students, with guidance from teaching staff, will provide a secure and safe learning environment.

- Play for the fun of it.
- Play by the rules and always abide by the decisions of officials.

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- Control your temper. Make no criticism either by word or gesture. Deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will your own.
- Be willing to train and prepare for the game or competition. Preparation helps prevent injury and increases the level of enjoyment.
- Play only when you are fully fit. To play with an injury will handicap your team, and may expose you to the risk of further and more serious injury.
- Be a good sport. Applaud the good play of your team mates and that of your opponents.
- At all times cooperate with your coach, team mates and opponents, for without them you do not have a competition.
- Remember the goals of the game are to have fun and improve your skills. Be modest in success and generous in defeat.
- Commitment to training is important. Speak to your coach if you are unable to make training. Failure to turn up to training may result in less game time.
- Wear the appropriate uniform, including a sun hat, for all training sessions and games.

Parent responsibility

- Encourage your child to always play by the rules.
- If children are interested in sport, encourage them to participate. Refrain from forcing an unwilling child to participate.
- Remember that children participate in organised school sports for their enjoyment and fulfilment, not yours.
- Teach your child that honest effort is as important as winning so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
- Encourage your child to work towards skill improvement. Never ridicule your child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Always encourage the principle of good sportsmanship.
- Children learn best by example. Applaud good play by all individuals and all teams.
- Do not publicly question the officials' judgement and never their honesty.
- Appreciate the contribution and commitment of teachers in coaching positions. They give their time and resources to provide sporting activities for your child and deserve your support.
- Have realistic expectations for your child and her or his team. Do not expect more than they can give.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities. Condemn the use of violence in any form.

Coach/manager responsibility

School staff will:

- Respect and support students.
- Model and promote appropriate behaviour.
- Respond in a timely manner to incidents.
- Provide proactive and quality teaching about fostering positive relationships.
- Coaches must be a staff member, although parents can be asked to assist at training

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- Coaches should ensure that individual health care plans or medication for students with health care needs are taken to PSSA sports fields. A copy of this plan should be given to the coach in charge of the PSSA sport and its implications discussed before departure.
- Fundamental to effective sporting risk management is the communication of risk management plans to those who need to know, including staff and other adults involved in the sport and appropriate school based staff members who may be instrumental in initiating emergency response
- Have the responsibility to report inappropriate behaviour and material to their teachers or supervisors.
- Should be aware that a breach of this policy may result in disciplinary action in line with their school's discipline policy.

Interventions and strategies that the school may employ in cases of bad sportsmanship may include (but are not limited to):

- verbal reprimands
- meetings with parents
- withdrawal of privileges
- removal from the environment (eg. classroom, playground)
- restorative practises
- in serious cases, suspension or expulsion (according to the policies of the NSW DEC)

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed: September 2022.