

Mawson Lakes School

School Sports Policy



School sport is an opportunity for children to enjoy and benefit from participation in 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 School sport.

The School Sports Policy outlines the opportunities, responsibilities and commitments required by players, parents, officials, spectators, school teachers, Governing Council, sub-committees and Mawson Lakes School as a collective body. It is a condition that all children and adults agree to abide by this policy when participating or assisting school sport teams. A school sports team is a group of participants who are currently enrolled students of Mawson Lakes School and has been officially endorsed by the Governing Council Sports Committee.

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

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OBJECTIVES

The key objectives:

- 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.

SCHOOL SPORTS COMMITTEE

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

Sports Committee membership is:

- Principal or delegate
- PE teacher
- Sports Coordinator
- Governing Council Rep (Chairperson)

- Number of parent representatives to be determined 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 at least once per term.

AGE REQUIREMENTS

Children will not be permitted to commence competitive sport until the year that the child turns 8 years old in line with the recommendations of the National Junior Sports Policy.

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 parties (eg coach, parent, organisation) are in agreement with this decision.

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

The Sports Committee will review all team nominations and requests for training days and times and will set these at in line with the timing of team nominations and booked through the front office. Any changes to these allocated times will be reviewed by the Sports Committee.

It is expected that Coordinators, Team Managers and Coaches will communicate with each other and the school. It is important that equitable use is made of the available school grounds and facilities.

Access to our joint use facilities (Denison Centre and Mobarra Park) with preference should be within school controlled hours as per the relative agreements or will need to be negotiated separately.

Cancellation of training and / or matches happens from time to time. Should a training or match be cancelled, notification will be provided to the school office, SkoolBag and through Team App (optional).

WEATHER POLICY

Outside training will be cancelled if the forecast temperature is to exceed 35 degrees (or as required by the relevant sport) on the evening news the day PRIOR to training.

Should an unexpected weather pattern occur prior or during any activity covered by this policy (electrical storm, hail etc) a decision to cancel the activity will be made as soon as possible by the Coach and participants and guardians advised.

ROLES

Sports Committee:

- Promote and develop Mawson Lakes School Sports program and opportunities
- Identify the range of sports offered
- Determine and monitor sports policy, including grievance procedures
- Appoint Sports Coordinator annually
- Endorse appropriate fee levels, if required
- Convene an annual coaches' induction meeting to provide policy orientation and interpret guidelines.

Sports Coordinator / PE Teacher

- Conduct a process for nomination and placement of children into teams.
- 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.
- Ensure that sports equipment is in good condition and available to teams.
- Ensure that appropriate skill acquisition is part of the PE program.
- Coordinate SAPSASA representation and selection.
- Assist coaches with initial practices and routines where necessary.

Coaches

- Desirable that coaches are qualified.
- Maintain a current DCSI 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 PE 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.*
- *Be present at all practices and matches or make appropriate arrangements for the supervision of my child during this time.*
- *Ensure that my child wears safety and sun-smart equipment.'*

CONSEQUENCES

Any significant breach of the Codes of Conduct or 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.

Any person excluded 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.

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

DUTY OF CARE

Normal DECD Duty of Care arrangements apply during school operating hours. School sports conducted out of school hours is an after hours activity and therefore the ultimate duty of care lies with the parent. The coach is responsible for the safety of children during practices and games/matches. He/she is responsible to take 'all reasonable care' 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 and/or injury 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 Out of School Sports Grievance Committee in writing via the school office.
4. The Out of School Sports Grievance Committee consisting of the Principal and the Convenor will meet within seven days to resolve the grievance with relevant parties.
5. Any grievance outside of the remit of the Sports Committee should be referred to the Schools Grievance Policy.

INJURIES / INSURANCE

The school does not accept any liability for students or parents arising from any injury or accident which occur during participation in after hours sporting activities. 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 DECD Volunteer Policy. The principal must be notified of the details and witnesses immediately.

First Aid Kits are mandatory and provided by the school for each sporting team to assist in the event of basic casualty care. The kit should be available at all training and matches and monitored for any shortages.

Responsibility for replacement of items rests with the Team Manager in liaison with the school's front office. Kits are to be returned at the end of each season.

REGISTRATION

All students intending to register for a school sport must complete the 'Registration Form' available to download from the school website.

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.

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

SELECTION IN SCHOOL TEAMS

Out of School sports are offered with participation, fitness and enjoyment as the focus. 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.

SAPSASA SPORTS

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

Out of 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 Selection

The identification of students for SAPSASA team try-outs at district and state level is the responsibility of the PE staff and follows the SAPSASA selection processes. 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 PE staff will exercise 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.

SPONSORSHIP

All offers of assistance, endorsements, scholarships or awards from persons or organisations outside of the school should be referred to the School Sports Committee for discussion. Decisions to accept or approve 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 seatbelts 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 AND 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. The Sports Committee will establish a framework for acknowledging children who participate in sporting activities. These extra acknowledgments must be directly funded through parent contribution. Awards, trophies or medallions are to be identical for all members of the team.

UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

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

A uniform shirt will be supplied by the school (to be returned at the end of season) and parents will be expected to launder them and keep in good repair. Parents / Caregivers will need to provide shorts, skorts or any other components as necessary depending on the sport (refer to nomination form for full uniform requirements).

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 PE staff in writing. Players are expected to wear the protective equipment required for the sport that they are playing.

Review: Sports Committee at first meeting each year.