



# HAWTHORNDENE PRIMARY SCHOOL SPORTS POLICY

Developed 2016

## PHILOSOPHY

The importance of sport for the physical and emotional development of young children is well recognised. It is an opportunity for children to develop skills, increase self-esteem, have fun and make new friendships. The provision of a range of sporting opportunities encourages children to broaden rather than just specialise their sporting experience.

Opportunities for students to access and participate in school sporting competitions are actively promoted at Hawthorndene Primary School. Our school provides a range of activities for children to participate in and relies on adult volunteers from the school community to coordinate, coach, manage and support teams. Without the commitment of volunteers our children would not be able to play sport.

All students, parents and staff at Hawthorndene Primary School, who are associated with school sports, are expected to support, and abide by, this policy. Sports Coordinators should ensure that all coaches, managers, and parents with children involved in school sport are aware of this policy.

The school supports the philosophy of The National Junior Sports Policy.



## OBJECTIVES

The key objectives are:

- 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 is comprised of:

- Principal/Deputy Principal or delegate
- School SAPSASA Coordinator/Teacher Representative
- Governing Council Rep
- Parent Coordinators of each sport

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. Exemptions may be approved 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.

## ROLES

### Sports Committee:

- identify the range of sports offered
- review and monitor sports policy, including grievance procedures.
- endorse appropriate fee levels.
- review coordinators' handbook

### Sports Coordinators (see handbook)

- collect and collate registration forms
- conduct a process for nomination and placement of children into teams.
- provide team lists and coaches' details to school via Business Manager and Deputy Principal
- provide list of all registered players to Business Manager for invoicing

- 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.
- advise on equipment needs
- manage sports team uniform allocation
- report grievances and breaches of the codes raised from teams.

### **School SAPSASA Coordinator**

- coordinate SAPSASA representation and selection.
- consult with coaches of relevant teams
- organise permission forms and transportation to SAPSASA events

### **Coaches/Team Managers (see handbook)**

- desirable that coaches are qualified.
- maintain a current Criminal History Screening 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 School Sports Coordinator about SAPSASA selection.
- provide brief newsletter articles to the school
- keep medical and contact information at games and practices

### **Team Managers (see handbook)**

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

<b>CODES OF CONDUCT</b>
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The Sporting Codes of Conduct are derived from the Australian Sports Commission's 'Codes of Conduct'.

### **Players' Code**

- Play for the FUN of the game
- Play fairly, safely and by the rules
- Respect your coach, team-mates, umpires and opponents

- Abide by all umpires' decisions – during a game no discussion is to take place between players and umpires
- Remember the goal of the game is to have fun and improve your skills
- Control your temper, as bad behaviour and inappropriate language results in sitting out of the game
- Treat all players how you would like to be treated. Don't interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of any player.
- Be a good sport and encourage others.
- Cooperate with your coach, team-mates and opponents – without them you don't have a game.

### **Coaches' Code**

- Avoid over-playing the talented players. The "just-average" players need and deserve equal time.
- Be reasonable in your demands on the young players' time energy and enthusiasm. Remember that they have other interests.
- Teach players the rules of the game.
- Group players according to age, height, skill and physical maturity whenever possible.
- Remember that children play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it. Never ridicule or yell at the children for making mistakes or losing a competition.
- Set a good example yourself with appropriate behaviour. Never use profane language or harass other players, coaches or umpires.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities are safe for players to use.
- The scheduling and length of practice times and competitions should take into consideration the maturity level of the children.
- Develop team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as for the judgement of umpires and opposing coaches.
- Follow the advice of a doctor in determining when an injured player is ready to play again.
- Remember that children need a coach they can respect. Be generous with your praise when it is deserved and set a good example.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed on sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of children.

### **Parents' Code**

- Remember that children play sport for their enjoyment – winning or losing is irrelevant
- Never ridicule your own or any other child for making a mistake

- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in sport
- Encourage playing by the rules and respecting others
- Do not question the umpire's judgement or honesty
- Look for opportunities to assist the players, coaches and team managers
- Help your child work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship
- Reinforce good sportsmanship at all times
- Remember that children learn by example so be a good role model
- Support all efforts to remove physical and verbal abuse from all sporting activities
- Collect my child from practices and matches at the appropriate time
- Ensure that my child wears safety and sun-smart clothing

### 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.

Players who **significantly** breach school behaviour codes during matches or practices will be referred to the Principal/Deputy Principal.

1<sup>st</sup> breach – one match exclusion

2<sup>nd</sup> breach - three match exclusion

3<sup>rd</sup> breach - remainder of season.

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

### 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.
- For trainings that occur immediately after school, parents are not required to arrive until the end of training. Coaches only have duty of care for team members so alternative arrangements must be made for siblings. If a child is absent from after school training with no notification, coaches are to contact the front office to follow up the child's whereabouts.
- ensuring that a basic first aid kit is available
- removing players with open wounds from the game to receive treatment
- calling an ambulance in the absence of a parent in the event of serious injury or illness

- cancelling practices or matches in extreme or inclement weather, given reasonable notice to parents. If practice is immediately after school and a parent cannot be contacted the child may be booked into OSHC by front office staff.
- ensuring that players comply with sunsmart practices.

### 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 coordinator at an appropriate time.
3. Unresolved concerns should be addressed to the Sports Grievance Committee in writing via the school office.
4. The Sports Committee will meet to resolve the grievance with relevant parties.

### FIRST AID

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. Any restocking to be reported to the Business Manager

### REGISTRATION

All students intending to register for a school sport must complete the registration form prior to the start of the season. An information session will be held at the start of the year.

Summer Sports are generally considered to be term 1 and 4. Winter sports are terms 2 and 3. Players are required to commit to participating both terms.

An information sheet will provide details 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. (An exception will be made for students new to the school to be able to join at any time)

All registered players will be invoiced for the fees. **Non-payment of fees will result in the child's exclusion from playing until fees are paid.** (Principal's discretion)

Player details, parent consent, contacts and medical information will be requested as part of the registration process.

## SAPSASA SPORTS

The school is affiliated with SA Primary Schools Amateur Sports Association and is part of the Southern Heights 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 School SAPSASA Coordinator 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, Cross Country, Orienteering and Knockout Cricket, Softball, Football, Netball, Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby League and Cycling.*

### **SAPSASA Selection**

The identification of students for SAPSASA team try-outs at district and state level is the responsibility of the School SAPSASA Coordinator, after consulting with the coaches of the relevant teams, where relevant. 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 School SAPSASA Coordinator 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.

## 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.

## 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. All private transport providers must complete the Authority to Transport form.

*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. Some sports choose to bring all teams from the season together for a joint celebration. This should be coordinated by the sports coordinator for each sport and should be organised in consultation with coaches and with sufficient notice.

Players will receive a participation certificate that is provided 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 Committee. 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. Further information on sports uniforms will be provided on the relevant information sheet.

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 coordinator. Players are expected to wear the protective equipment required for the sport that they are playing.

If a school sports uniform is not returned at the end of the season the school may choose to invoice the family for the cost of a replacement uniform.

## GYM USAGE

Teams that use the gym may only access the main part of the building. Teams are not to use the PE equipment stored in the gym store rooms for after schools sports. Bookings must be made via the front office.

