

## **Sports Selection Procedure**

The Sports Selection Procedure guides and describes the main processes involved in the selection of students for participation in sports events at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

### **Aims:**

1. To have a fair, consistent and transparent method of selecting teams to represent St Joseph's Fairfield Catholic School. This will be for one-off sporting events and extra-curricular activities.
2. To ensure that the method of selecting the teams is understood by the students, their parents and staff.

## **INTRODUCTION**

At St Joseph's Fairfield Catholic School we believe in the value of Sport and the positive impact it has on our students during 8 years they are with us. We value and promote healthy competition, full participation and believe that new skills, attitudes, and character is built through these experiences, especially when partaking in a sport.

We offer a large number of different sports across a variety of different levels for both boys and girls. We have a number of committed staff and parents who are enthusiastic about developing sport at St Joseph's Fairfield Catholic School; who volunteer their time in an effort to organise the implementation of different sports teams. Our Sports Coordinator is responsible for placing children into teams for our extra-curricular activities.

When taking on the coaching or managing of a team, members of staff and parents do so in the expectation that the experience will be a rewarding one. The aim is to coach students to the best of their ability and aim to instill the values of good sportsmanship and fair play.

All Coaches who have been assigned to our senior sports teams have been carefully selected based on the experience, knowledge, aptitude, and passion they have within that sport.

Our aim regarding the selection of St Joseph's Fairfield Catholic School senior sports teams is to put together our strongest team for each sport that we wish to be competitive in and this is based on the following parameters; ability, experience, fitness, commitment, dedication, and sportsmanship.

In the case where there are multiple teams within a sport, it is important that each student trialling is accurately placed in the team that is at their ability level so they can also be competitive and have a chance to be successful within their grade.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORT SELECTION**

These are first and foremost based on numbers available for teams. If there are sufficient numbers to make more than 1 team per age group this will be based on mixed ability, especially in years 0 - 6. We will endeavor to keep teams together from previous years as best as we can but parents will need to be aware that this is not a certainty. Children will be put in teams of their own age group and mixed up when required. Because of numbers participating children may have to be asked to play up or down a grade, but preference is to stay within their own age group. Decisions around this will be shared with the parents.

Proactive communication from Sports Co-ordinator to parents around any potential issues in arising around team selection (specific sports code dispensations etc) is vital. Parents need to understand why these situations may arise.

## **INTER-SCHOOL COMPETITIONS:**

### **PRE-TRIAL PROCEDURE**

It is important that significant notice is given to students prior to trials of a particular sport. Communication of upcoming sports is made to students through in-class notices and Syndicate assemblies.

### **TRIAL PROCEDURE**

With often large numbers keen to try out for most sports, and only limited numbers available in each team, it is important that the following trial procedure is clearly followed.

- A selection group can consist of 2 or more adults that are knowledgeable about the game and be available for the duration of the trialing process. At least one of the panel must be neutral (has no affiliation with the team).
- The trial process is fully explained to the student's trialing so they are aware of what will be done (how many trials) and what the selectors are specifically looking for.
- Communication is evident, informing the students of when trials will be taking place, where and what the students will need.

- Each student trialing for a particular sport should be seen in action (on the field/turf/pool/court) for a sufficient amount of time, this is based on the selectors' discretion.

## **NON-ATTENDANCE AT TRIALS**

Players unable to attend or who have missed a trial/s for any reason will still have a small opportunity to be considered for the team. Any information provided by the student/parents on the experience/skills related to the given sport will be considered by the selectors.

- If a player is unable to attend a trial due to injury/illness or other circumstances beyond their control:
  - Where possible the player will be invited to attend another trial.
  - If this is not possible, the selectors will consider past experience of that player.
  - Communication of unavailability for trial/s must have been provided in advance of the trial date.

## **NAMING OF TEAMS**

- Teams will be named within one week of their final trial.
- It is emphasized that when a student is named in a team that they are committed to the team and will ensure they attend all training showing determination and a positive attitude at all times.
- If a player is unable to make a training, communication must be made to the coach/manager prior to the training.
- Failure to adhere to the above two bullet points may result in the player being asked to explain reasons for behavior and furthermore could potentially be dropped from the team.
- Coaches are sensitive to the fact that it can be disheartening for a student not to be selected for a team. The coach can explain to the student why this has happened if the need arises.

## **TEAM SELECTION DURING COMPETITION (Year 7&8)**

Team selection is at the discretion of the coach and is generally based on the competition at hand.

- While playing the most competitive team for each game to ensure success is often first choice, at times, Coaches will use their judgment and may sometimes choose to give other students who may be slightly weaker the chance of playing. At this level, we try to tread the path between encouraging excellence and giving opportunities for all.

- Team selection and management at any level of competition is the right of the team coach or coaches. During the competitive season, parents may talk to a coach about how their child is getting on or how he or she might make further progress, but a parent should not try to influence team selection.

## **General:**

- If a parent is concerned with the coaching or managing of the team, they can address this issue with the Sports Coordinator/Principal

- If a parent is still concerned with the outcome they are encouraged to put the concern in writing and send to the Principal.

If after the trialing process, a parent is concerned about the placement or non-placement of their child in a particular team, it is important to remember that while our selectors will adhere closely to this policy, it is acknowledged that there will be, at times, extremely difficult choices to be made which will require the selectors to exercise their discretion and judgment.

Providing the Selectors/Coaches have properly considered the criteria and considerations set out in this Policy, and have exercised their discretion and judgment in good faith, then they will have fulfilled all of their obligations under this Policy. No correspondence regarding team selection will be entered into.

