SPORTS POLICY

A co-educational primary school from Reception to year 7

Founded by the Dominican Sisters
PARENT INITIATED SPORT POLICY

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1 **PREAMBLE**

1.1 Sports activities offered at Rosary School are in accord with the UNESCO International Charter of Physical Education and Sport (Article 1:1.1.1978) which states:

> “every human being has the fundamental right of access to Physical Education and Sport, which are essential for the full development of the personality. The freedom to develop physical, intellectual and moral powers through physical education and sport must be guaranteed both within the education system and in other aspects of social life.”

1.2 Boys and girls have a right not only to take part in sport, but also to participate at a level commensurate with each child’s maturity and ability.

1.3 They have a right to:

- be treated with dignity
- have fun
- play as children, not as adults
- share in leadership and decision making
- participate in safe and healthy environments
- have equal opportunity to strive for excellence and to develop their talents to the full.

**Sport** can be defined as vigorous physical activity that, for the purposes of discovering the limits of one’s capabilities, or for fun, amusement and diversion, involves competition against oneself or another, or a confrontation with natural elements.

**EACH CHILD WILL HAVE AN ADEQUATE AND SATISFYING AMOUNT OF TIME ON THE COURT OR FIELD**

2 **REFERENCES**

2.1 “Policy and Guidelines for Sport in Catholic Primary Schools” CEO Adelaide.

2.2 “Junior Sports Policy” S.A. Govt 1990

2.3 The Rosary School Parent Initiated Sports Policy is drawn up in accordance with these two policies (2.1 and 2.2).

3 **RESPONSIBILITIES**

3.1 The Principal is legally responsible for the administration and supervision of school sport and sporting teams. In the implementation of school sport the Principal (or his/her nominee) will consult the staff, school board, parents and sporting bodies.

3.2 The Principal should ensure that all team officials appointed by the school are provided with the following information. Names of officials must be recorded in the minutes of Sports Committee meetings

- their role and responsibilities
- organisation and safety procedures (as per 9.2)
- details of procedures to be followed in an emergency
3.3 Team officials appointed by the school are provided with the following cover -

- Voluntary workers personal accident cover through Catholic Church Insurance
- Public liability insurance under the Archdiocesan group policy or the Diocese of Port Pirie group policy. This covers all systemic school and most colleges.

3.4 Employees, contractors and volunteers shall take reasonable care to protect his or her safety and to avoid adversely affecting the health or safety of others through any act or omission while engaged in these activities.

4 POLICE CHECKS

4.1 All coaches, team managers and officials must have a current police check through the Child Protection Unit of the Archdiocese of Adelaide.

4.2 The Sports Committee or a delegate of the Committee must ensure that any person involved with the children in any way has a current police check or is being supervised by a person with a current police check.

5 PRIVACY

5.1 All activities are bound by the provisions of the Rosary School Privacy Policy. Whilst it is assumed that parents are giving authority to coaches and officials to use the children’s names in Newsletters, team sheets and general correspondence, no other such information should be shared without the express permission of the parents concerned.

5.2 The taking of photographs is within the Rosary school policy.

6 SPORTS COMMITTEE - ROLE

6.1 The sports committee will work as a sub-committee of the Parents & Friends Association and will consist of a parent co-ordinator for each sport, the Principal (or nominee) and other interested parents.

6.2 A Parents and Friends delegate appointed by the Sports Committee will report back to the Parent and Friends Association.

6.3 Each sport will have a parent co-ordinator and sub-committee. The Sports Committee will assist with the election of a parent co-ordinator should more than one person nominate for the position. Any interested person is welcome to attend committee meetings.

6.4 Parent Initiated Sport is self funding. The Sports Committee will establish a separate bank account and manage parent initiated sports funds. A parent co-ordinator will keep financial records which will be tabled with the committee.

6.5 A treasurer appointed by the sports committee shall have charge of all monies associated with Parent initiated Sports and shall pay to the credit of the bank or make payments as determined. He/she shall be responsible for the production of a financial report and auditing.

6.6 Each Parent co-ordinator in consultation with the relevant sub-committee will set a levy for each player; which will cover expenses including the cost of an end of year trophy/medal, administration costs, thank you gifts and the purchase of new equipment. Each co-ordinator will then formulate the overall levy for their sport in consultation with the committee. No child should be denied access through parent’s inability to pay the fee (in which case the Principal should be informed to take appropriate action).

6.7 Any equipment purchased will be labelled and remain the property of the school.
6.8 The committee will meet twice a term (or more if the need arises) to oversee the range and scope of sports offered, to organise coming seasons, report on the present season, oversee equipment purchase and maintenance, behaviour management and finances. The meeting will be called by the Principal (or nominee).

6.9 The agenda, minutes and chair will be the responsibility of the Committee Chairperson.

6.10 The committee shall inform all players, coaches and parents of the expected codes of conduct (see appendices).

6.11 The committee will decide on sports to be offered in consultation with interested parents. If there is insufficient interest and/or support from parents, then the sport will not be offered and parents and students will be informed.

6.12 Each code will nominate (a) persons who will be responsible for the distribution of registration forms and collection of the levy. Completed forms and monies need to be paid by the nominated date to ensure a child’s participation. It is expected that this will constitute a preparedness to be involved for the entire season.

6.13 Any dispute will be referred to the Committee for resolution. The Committee’s decision will be final and binding on all parties.

6.14 Participation by non-Rosary students will be at the discretion of the Sports Committee.

7 FUNDRAISING

7.1 All fundraising must be approved by the P & F and the School Principal (or nominee).

8 SPONSORSHIP

8.1 Sponsorships and promotions should not displace other funding arrangements already in place.

8.2 Sponsorship agreements should only be negotiated with organisations whose public image, products or services are not inconsistent with the ethos and values of Catholic Education.

8.3 All sponsorship agreements should be reached through negotiation. The agreement must specify the roles and responsibilities of individual parties, and the nature and level of acknowledgment to be given to the sponsor.

8.4 Participation in sponsorships and promotions should not generate undue pressure on children, parents or schools to purchase particular products or services, or to adopt particular beliefs, attitudes or courses of action.

8.5 Acceptance of a sponsor's product or service should not be a condition of an individual student's participation in sponsored activities.

8.6 Any educational materials provided as part of a sponsorship or promotion should be clearly identified as being those of the sponsor.

9 GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPING SPORT AT ROSARY SCHOOL

9.1 To provide equal opportunity for involvement and to maximise participation for all students who wish to be involved by ensuring that an adequate and satisfying period of time on the court or field is provided for each student.
9.2 To assist organisations and individuals to avoid the imposition of adult standards and values in junior sport.

9.3 To promote sensible attitudes towards competition and competitiveness which are compatible with positive learning experiences.

9.4 To encourage students with special talents through involvement in school associations, community sports clubs and competitions, specialised sports camps and competition at state level.

9.5 To encourage diversification of activities for students so that team and individual activities are offered.

9.6 To play modified sports to cater for young, growing and inexperienced students taking into account:

- size of playing fields
- size, weight, suitability of equipment
- appropriate playing times
- modification of rules
- numbers in teams
- whether scores and records should be kept ie. premiership tables, the playing of finals, awards.

9.7 To organise suitable supervision and coaching to allow for teams to play in after hour or weekend competitions as appropriate.

9.8 To offer a guide to the formation of teams being the number playing on the field, plus 50% of that number as substitutions (i.e. 5 players in basketball, plus 50% being 2.5 means a guide to the team being full is 8 players)

9 SAFETY OF STUDENTS

9.1 All involved with sport through this Policy are obliged to observe a high level of care with students involved.

9.2 Safety procedures will include:

9.2.1 Teaching appropriate safety skills and procedures for the sports played.

9.2.2 Regulating the duration and intensity of training to suit the needs of the group and prevailing weather conditions.

9.3.3 Ensuring that adequate protective equipment is available in sufficient quantity and is used both at training and matches.

9.2.4 Teaching skills appropriate to the age and maturity of students involved.

9.2.5 Maintaining grounds and facilities in a safe condition.

9.2.6 Inspecting playing surfaces and equipment, and cancelling matches or training where these are unsuitable or unsafe for play.
10 TRAINING PROCEDURES

Recommended procedures for schools:

10.1 Notify parents of the schedule of training and match times and venues.

10.2 Take into account prevailing weather conditions when planning training sessions and matches. Specialist advice is that children should not be involved in strenuous activity of over 30 minutes duration when temperature and humidity are high.

10.3 Maintain supervision of children until the normal finishing time of training or matches unless otherwise arranged with individual parents.

10.4 Notify parents of changes to normal procedures. Ensure processes are in place to notify parents/caregivers that training has been altered or cancelled including last minute decisions.

10.5 Eliminate activities and exercises which can be harmful

10.6 Encourage the use of a variety of activities in training sessions, understanding that an overemphasis on a specific exercise or skill movement can lead to loss of interest and injury.

10.7 Schedule training sessions of no more than one (1) hour duration.

10.8 Ensure that first aid, access to a phone and toilet facilities are available to teams using the school grounds after hours.

11 DISCIPLINE

11.1 Schools should advise team officials that corporal punishment must not be used. Schools are advised to detail expectations of children's behaviour and their support for team officials.

11.2 For serious misconduct during a game, officials should be empowered to remove the offending player from the game.

11.3 All breaches of discipline should be reported to the Principal or delegate for further action as required.

12 AWARDS

It is appropriate, in line with the philosophy and policy of Catholic schools that:

12.1 If awards are to be given they should be spread evenly through the team for such categories as participation, commitment, encouragement, improvement and achievement.

12.2 End of season trophies highlighting special players are not recommended, especially at junior levels.

12.3 A small gift, team photo, card could be presented to the coach by the children at the end of the season.

9.2.7 Eliminating specialisation in a position or sports activity where injury may result from overuse of specific body areas.
12.4 It is not necessary to hold a special gathering for the end of the season. This is the perogative of each team coach/manager.

13 **FIRST AID**

Schools should:

13.1 Ensure that coaches have current medical information about all team members and are aware of specific procedures which might be necessary. This information (and medication if appropriate) should be on hand at training and matches in case parents are not present.

13.2 Ensure that each team has access to an appropriate first aid kit for both training and matches at all venues.

13.3 Ensure that each team has an adult, responsible for first aid, present at training and matches. All adults involved should be encouraged to undertake an appropriate course of instruction. eg. Basic Casualty Care, ASMF Management of Sports Injuries

13.4 Ensure that coaches are aware of emergency procedures required, consistent with general school policy including: First Aid, Method of informing parents, The desirability of having access to a telephone for both training and matches, Reporting accidents to the Principal and Details of ambulance cover.

14 **TRANSPORT**

It is the parents responsibility to drop and collect children from training and games. Any car pooling or shared arrangements are between parents.

15 **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

A. Approval

Schools should ensure that parental approval is obtained prior to the involvement of students in training, matches and transport to and from venues.

B. Medical Condition

1 Parents should provide details of any medical condition, which might influence a student's participation, prior to involvement. This should be recorded on the coach's medical consent form.

2 Parents of students with specific, serious medical problems should consult with schools and/or coaches concerning the administration of first aid and medication.

C. Code of Conduct

Schools should inform parents of the expected code of conduct for players and parents. (See Appendices)

16 **CONDUCT OF SPORTING COMPETITIONS**

The following guidelines are provided for schools which conduct sporting competitions:
16.1 Schools should be sensitive to the needs of all children and seek flexible strategies for placing them at the most appropriate level of competition.

16.2 Schools should avoid the overlap of training and matches between summer and winter sports.

16.3 Organised sporting competitions are appropriate to begin at the **MIDDLE PRIMARY** level when:

- A skills clinic approach is used emphasising co-ordination and basic skills teaching through practices and modified games.
- Players are rotated through positions.
- Umpires and coaches assume teaching roles during matches (coaches may be on the field with players, if appropriate)
- Premiership tables are not kept and finals rounds are not played.

16.4 For competition at **UPPER PRIMARY** level,

- Adequate time should be allowed for learning skills in clinics and training sessions.
- Rule modifications appropriate to this age group and recommended by individual sporting codes should be used.
- Match points may be recorded for grading purposes.
- Finals rounds should not be included.
- Umpires and coaches should assume teaching roles during matches.

### 17 CODES OF CONDUCT

**PLAYERS' CODE:**

- **PLAY BY THE RULES** - playing outside the rules is called 'cheating'.
- Never argue with an official (umpire, referee). If you disagree have your captain, coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the competition.
- Control your temper - **THIS REQUIRES PERSONAL DISCIPLINE.** Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.
- Work equally hard for yourself and/or for your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you.
- Be a 'good sport'. Gain respect from your team mates and opponents because of the fair manner in which you play the game. Applaud all good plays whether they be by your team, opponent or the other team.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- Co-operate with your coach, team mates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Play for the 'fun of it' and not just to please parents and coaches.
- Avoid the use of offensive and/or derogatory language including that based on gender, race or creed.

**COACHES' CODE:**

- Be reasonable in your demands on young players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
• Teach your players that the rules or laws of the sport are mutual agreements which no one should evade or break.
• Whenever possible, group players to give a reasonable chance of being successful.
• Avoid overplaying the talented players. The 'just average' players need and deserve equal time.
• Remember that children participate for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of their motivation. Never ridicule or yell at the children for making what you consider to be a mistake or for losing a game/competition.
• Ensure that the equipment and facilities meet safety and standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the children or teenagers involved.
• Take into consideration the physical, social and emotional development level of the children/teenagers, when scheduling and determining the length of practice time and competition.
• Develop team respect for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgement of officials and opposing coaches.
• Follow the advice of physician when determining when an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition involvement.
• Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound coaching principles and the principles of the growth and development of children.
• Avoid the use of offensive and/or derogatory language including that based on gender.

PARENTS' CODE:

• If children are interested, encourage them to participate. However, if a child is unwilling, do not force him or her to be involved.
• Focus upon the child's efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the child in setting realistic goals related to his or her ability by reducing the emphasis placed on winning or on the final score.
• Keep the performance goals simple. Simple and realistic means challenging but attainable. The more performance goals set, the more likely the child will have to be successful.

Some example of simple performance goals:
- contest the ball with a player from the other team
- recover quickly from incorrect plays
- recover quickly from correct plays
- find a team mate with my disposal (kick, throw, handball, pass)
• Goals that are perceived by children to be too high only serve to make them anxious.
• Teach children that an honest effort is an important victory, so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
• Encourage children to always participate according to the rules of the school.
• Encourage children to always participate according to the rules or the laws of the game.
• Never ridicule or yell at a child for making what you consider to be a mistake, or for losing a game.
• Remember that children are involved in organised sports for THEIR enjoyment not YOURS.
• Remember that children learn best from example.
• Quietly and genuinely applaud good plays by all teams.
• If you disagree with an official, raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgement and honesty in public. Remember, most officials give their time and effort for the benefit of your child's involvement. It may be wise to approach the Principal some days after the event.
• Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
• Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches. They give of their time and resources to provide recreational activities for the children and deserve your support.
• Avoid the use of offensive or derogatory language including that based on gender.
TEACHERS' CODE:

• Encourage children to develop basic skills in a wide variety of sports and discourage over-specialisation in one sport or in one playing position.
• Create opportunities to teach appropriate sports behaviour have a high priority over highly structured club versus club or school versus school competitions for young primary school children.
• Prepare children and teenagers for intra and interschool competitions by first providing instruction in the basic sports skills.
• Develop in children and teenagers an awareness of the physical fitness values of sports and their life-long recreational value.
• Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of children.
• Help children understand the fundamental differences between the junior games competition they play and professional sport.
• Help children understand the responsibilities and implications of their freedom to choose between fair and unfair play.
• Avoid the use of offensive and/or derogatory language based on gender.

A CODE OF BEHAVIOUR FOR OFFICIALS', UMPIRES' AND REFEREES ':

• Modify rules, laws and regulations to match the skill level of the children and their needs.
• Compliment all participants on their efforts.
• Be consistent, objective and courteous in calling infractions or non observance of the rules, laws and regulations of the game.
• Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
• Ensure that the `spirit of the game' for children is not lost by using common sense and not overemphasising errors.
• Publicly encourage rule changes which will reinforce the principles of participation for fun and enjoyment.
• Ensure that your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sporting behaviour. Actions speak louder than words.
• Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles and the principles of the growth and development of the children.
• Avoid the use of offensive and/or derogatory language based on gender.

SPECTATORS' CODE:

• Children love to play - but we can only compete when participating in sport. The level of competition must be appropriate for the children.
• Remember that children play organised sports for FUN! They are not playing for the entertainment or the egos of the spectators only. Children are not mini professionals.
• Quietly applaud good performances and efforts from each team. Congratulate all participants on their performance regardless of the outcome of the game/competition.
• Control your responses to what you see - this requires personal discipline - verbal abuse of officials (umpires or referees) or players, deliberately distracting or provoking players competing is not acceptable or justified.
• Never ridicule or scold a child for making what you consider to be a mistake during a competition. Positive comments are motivating
• Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
• Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.
• Encourage quietly players to follow the rules and laws of the game and always the official' decisions.
• Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul or offensive language, harassing players, coaches and officials.
• Avoid the use of offensive and/or derogatory language including that based on gender.