

"The whole of life
belongs to God."



St Columba's School

Engaging • Inspiring • Empowering

306 Howard Street, Soldiers Hill 3350

Phone: 5332 4894 Fax: 5331 7196

Email: office@scballarat.catholic.edu.au

www.scballarat.catholic.edu.au

SPORTS POLICY

RATIONALE

At St Columba's School we believe that physical activity is important for all students for the development of their health, social interactions and wellbeing. It is important that all students are exposed to a wide range of physical activities and sports.

We believe that each of our students is unique; each is blessed with their particular gifts and talents. As a school we strive to create an environment that allows each student to develop and celebrate their gifts. For some children these gifts might be in art, for others in literacy and others again in the area of sport. Just as we would nurture the gifts of those children who excel in maths by differentiating the curriculum, in sport we recognise those who display a degree of sporting prowess and sportsmanship by providing further opportunities for advancement.

POLICY STATEMENT

This Sports Policy sets out the framework used to guide the school and its staff in the development of the sports skills of our students and the way in which students are selected to represent the school in a range of inter-school sporting competition/events.

The prime responsibility for the administration of the Sports programme and the management of students in relation to this, lie with the specialist sports teacher. It is expected that this person will work in consultation with classroom teachers and the leadership of the school.

This policy also sets out the Code of Conduct expected of students when they represent the school at interschool sporting competitions.

The protocols in this policy have been established to provide a clear framework in which teachers, students and families can operate. They are designed to be clear, unambiguous and binding upon all members of the St Columba's community.

The protocols aim to provide a school skill development program and other activities which allow students to:

- Enjoy physical activities, develop skill levels in specific sports, identify and experience the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.
- Work with others in both co-operative and competitive situations while exploring the concept of fair play, the different roles of players and officials and following the safety principles.
- Develop social relationships and team-work such as: respect for others; strategies to reduce, avoid and resolve conflict; co-operating in teams working towards agreed goals; taking specific roles and following guidelines.
- Represent the school (where possible) through a general ability or elite standard of competition suited to their level of competence.
- Participate in increasingly more complex games by reflecting on their skill development and performance and striving for excellence.

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SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

All St Columba's students participate in:

- Sporting clinics run by fellow students, staff/parents or external providers (golf, hockey, badminton...)
- A developmental skill based Physical Education program including co-operative and competitive activities
- A school athletics day
- 5/6 students have the opportunity to participate in Inter-school sport with other Catholic Schools in Ballarat and District.
- Outdoor education activities, including school camp activities (Years 3-6 only)

Students are also invited to explore a variety of roles and responsibilities associated with sport e.g. equipment and uniform management, scoring, umpiring, coaching (with supervision).

PARENT ORGANISED

Parents are encouraged to organise after school participation in activities such as; FUTSAL soccer, Total Girls' soccer, netball*, basketball*.

* Where these teams are given the opportunity to represent the school on a specific tournament day, or for future zone and regional representation, the teams may be re-structured in an effort to include more students who are not already participating and to allow them to be graded according to the requirements of the competition.

ELITE PARTICIPATION AND SCHOOL REPRESENTATION

Students selected to represent St Columba's school at an elite level need to have demonstrated best results in school events or have competed in trials (Tried Out). These students will be selected on their merit, both sporting ability and sportspersonship.

As these are school representative events, the try-outs will be conducted by the specialist sports teacher and/or by a teacher with particular expertise in the sport. Where possible, these teachers may consult with others (external coaches, class teachers...) to confirm the selection process.

Any queries regarding the selection process need to be directed to the Principal. Parents and students are not invited to comment in and on the selection process unless requested to assist by the teacher in charge.

The pathways for school representation at an elite level are shown in Appendix 1.

All students are expected to participate in mandatory events unless they are physically unfit to do so. Where students have opted to try out for a sport this is seen as a clear sign of commitment and they are expected to follow the Sporting Code of Conduct (Appendix 2) and represent our school to the best of their ability.

RATIFICATION & EVALUATION

RATIFIED	2010
REVIEWED	2018
NEXT REVIEW	2022

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APPENDIX 1

SPORT	SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (all students)	AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY	WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITY	INTER SCHOOL SPORTS	TRY OUTS	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS LIGHTNING PREMIERS HIPS or CARNIVALS	ZONE REPRESENTATION	REGIONAL REPRESENTATION
ATHLETICS (Demonstrated)	★		★			★★	★★	★★
CROSS COUNTRY (Demonstrated)					★	★★	★★	★★
FOOTBALL (Try Outs)	★			★	★	★★	★★	★★
NETBALL (Try Outs)	★	★ (run by parents)		★	★	★★	★★	★★
BASKETBALL (Try Outs)	★	★ (run by parents)		★	★	★★	★★	★★
KANGA CRICKET (Try Outs)	★				★	★		
TENNIS (Try Outs)	★			★	★	★★	★★	★★
GOLF (Try Outs)	★				★	★★	★★	★★
SOCCER (Try Outs)	★			★	★	★★	★★	★★

★ These activities are available to all students.

★★ Only students who have followed these pathways are eligible to compete in the state or national competition

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APPENDIX 2

Sporting Code of Conduct

Whenever involved in any sporting event related to the school, students are expected to abide by the following expectations:

- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with an official. - if you need clarification, have your captain, coach or manager approach the official after the competition.
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team - your team's performance will benefit — so will you.
- Be a good sport - acknowledge all good plays whether they are made by your team or the opposition.
- Show respect to and acknowledge opponents and officials
- Cooperate with your coach, teammates and opponents - without them there would be no competition.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit - not just to please parents and coaches.
- Play fair — no verbal abuse of officials, sledging other players (including vilification) or deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants - regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Do not expect or accept "special" favours from a coach or person involved in team or club management.
- Speak to an adult you trust if you have an issue, feel unsafe or are concerned about someone else.

Some or all of the following consequences may apply to students who fail to follow this code, depending on the seriousness of the violation:

- Student may receive a warning from staff, or coach
- Student will be expected to apologise to offended persons (written and/or verbal)
- Student may be removed for a period of time from the rest of the game/carnival or the remainder of the season
- Student may not be eligible to be selected to represent St Columba's in future competitions

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Whenever involved in any sporting event related to the school, parents/spectators are expected to abide by the following expectation

- Encourage children to play according to the rules - settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment - not yours.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child
- Respect officials' decisions - encourage children to do likewise.
- Show appreciation for coaches, officials and administrators- remember they are usually volunteers.
- Acknowledge good performance and efforts - from all individuals and teams.
- Congratulate all participants- regardless of the game's outcome.
- Condemn the use of violence, verbal abuse or vilification in any form – regardless of whether it is by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person -regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Ensure you are aware and follow the correct processes if you have an issue or complaint – do not perpetuate issues with gossip or general criticism.

Parents and spectators not abiding by this code may be asked to leave the venue.