



SCHOOL SPORTS POLICY

This policy provides the context within which Year 2 to 7 Sport is conducted

1. PURPOSE

Linden Park Primary School seeks to maximise opportunities for regular participation in activities for the physical wellbeing of students and to encourage their participation in regular, age appropriate, sporting competition to enhance their development through practice, teamwork and leadership.

The Role and Requirements of Out of Hours Sport

The school supports Out of School Hours sporting activities to assist in achieving the above objective. We hope that for students, being part of a school sporting team will:

- assist them in maintaining physical fitness and gaining a healthy attitude towards an active way of life
- provide them with the opportunity to increase their levels of performance of skills learned
- instil a sense of commitment – to the team, to practice and to the coach
- encourage the demonstration of good leadership and fair play
- generate an appreciation of the benefits of practice
- re-inforce the virtues of teamwork.

While competitive by nature, school sport in general should also be a satisfying and successful experience for the less competitive student. The level of competition should be appropriate to the age and stage of development of the individual.

Most Out of Hours School Sports competitions are not played for trophies and effort is made to have teams of the same level of ability competing against each other. The emphasis is on participation and ensuring that where possible, girls and boys are given equal opportunities to participate.

The Out of Hours Sports Program relies heavily on parents/caregivers to coach, train and manage teams and in certain circumstances officiate activities and the equitable sharing of these small burdens can be the hallmark of a successful student sports experience. We therefore target maximum parental participation and require the nomination of both a coach and team manager before a sporting team can take the field.

The SAPSASA Program

For children in their 11th year (year 7, 6 and occasionally year 5) that demonstrate particular sporting skill, the South Australian Primary Schools Amateur Sports Association (SAPSASA), a branch of the Department for Education and Child Development (DECD), conducts a program of knockouts and carnivals across a range of sports, normally conducted within school hours, which program Linden Park Primary School also actively supports. Please refer to the SAPSASA Participation Policy for additional information.

2. MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL SPORT

Sports Committee

The Sports Committee oversees the general management of the out of hours sports program and reports directly to the Governing Council. Its members include the Principal, the Sports Coordinator, representatives of the Governing Council (with convenor elected from Council) and interested members of staff and the school community.

The role of the committee includes the following:

- to monitor in conjunction with the representatives from each sporting body, compliance with the codes of behaviour for coaches, managers, officials/administrators and players
- advocate and promote out of hours school sports and SAPSASA programs including the need for uniforms and equipment to be bought by the school
- helping staff to source volunteers and other assistance for sporting events
- actively work to source and apply for both internal and external grant opportunities as directed by the Sports Coordinator.

Roles & Responsibilities

Sports Body Delegates - Appointees from the sports committee with specific responsibility for liaising between the sports committee, coaches and the sporting bodies responsible for establishing the specific out of hours sports competitions e.g.

Cricket: SA Cricket Association

Football: SA National Football League

Netball: Eastern Districts Netball Association

Basketball: Norwood Basketball

Soccer: Eastern Zone Primary School Soccer Association Lacrosse: Burnside Lacrosse Club

Principal - To investigate in conjunction with the representative(s) from the relevant sporting body(s) and the Sports Coordinator, complaints arising involving the behaviour of players, coaches, managers, parents or spectators.

Sports Coordinator – to be responsible for:

- nominating of out of hours school teams, including the organisation & payment of registration fees
- appointing students to out of hours sporting teams
- the appointment of coaches and team managers
- distributing program draws
- allocating of all equipment kits, first aid kits and uniforms to individual teams via team managers
- being the primary contact for each organisation to contact for game cancellation/forfeiture etc and to relay this information to team managers of the relevant team.
- Coordinating teams for the following SAPSASA sports as required:
Cricket Diving Football Golf Soccer Hockey
Netball Lawn Bowls Tennis Triathlon Cross Country Softball
Aerobics is considered an external activity that can lead to state & interstate representation. There is a separate policy document as an appendix at the end of this document.

Primary School Physical Education Specialist Teacher– to be responsible for:

- setting & managing the during school hours physical education program in the Primary School
- being the primary contact for external sports bodies for during school hours for Primary levels
- being prime contact for the SAPSASA programme and coordinating teams for the following SAPSASA sports as required: Badminton, Rugby Union/Walla Rugby, Basketball, Swimming, Table Tennis, Volleyball, Lacrosse, Orienteering.

Junior Primary School Physical Education Specialist Teacher– to be responsible for:

- setting & managing the during school hours physical education program in the Junior Primary School
- Coordinate and organise the SAPSASA athletics team with assistance from the Primary School Physical Education specialist and other staff
- being the primary contact for external sports bodies for during school hours for Junior levels

Teachers– to be responsible for:

- To understand & actively support the School Sports Policy & the involvement of students in school sport
- To pass on communications to/from students and the Sports Coordinator/PE specialist teachers.

Parents/Caregivers– to be responsible for:

- To understand and adhere to the School Sports Policy;
- To act as coaches, team managers and where required, trainers and managers of school sports teams;
- To provide car-pooling where required to school sports events in safe vehicles.

3. SPORTING CODES OF CONDUCT

At Linden Park Primary School the school values to guide the sporting code of conduct and we endorse the Player's, Parent's/Spectator's and Coach's Codes of Behaviour as outlined below. Complaint management and resolution guidelines are outlined on the school website.

Players' Code

- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the competition in an appropriate manner.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials, sledging other players or deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport.
- Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you.
- Be a good sport. Appreciate good behaviours and skilful plays by all participants.
- Treat all participants in your sport as you like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
- Cooperate with and show appreciation for your coach, team manager, parents, team-mates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- You are responsible for wearing the required protective gear and sunscreen as required.

Consequences for Players not observing the Code

- No uniform or appropriate protective gear – no play.
- Coaches are instructed to remove players for unacceptable behaviour and the consequences following non-attendance at training are at the coach's discretion.
- Major behaviour issues will be reported back to the school Principal for sanction, which may include suspension from competing.

Parents'/Caregivers' and Spectators' Code

- All parents must arrange to promptly drop off and pick up their child at games and training. Parents who are more than 10 minutes late in collecting their child may risk their child forfeiting their place in the team or be required to register with OSHC.
- Make a contribution to the program. There are always jobs to do such as coach, manager, training assistant, team photographer. Your contribution lightens the total burden for everyone and will make your child's sporting experience more fun; and
- Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them your child could not participate.
- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours. Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
- Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning and losing. Encourage children always to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition. Remember that children learn best by example. Appreciate good behaviours and skilful plays by all participants.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities. Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every participant regardless of their gender, ability cultural background or religion.
- Do not approach the coach at any time when they are performing their duties.

Consequences for Parents/Caregivers or Spectators not observing the Code

- The coach or team manager is instructed to remind the parent/caregiver or spectator of the School Sport Code of Behaviour.
- In instances of repeated unacceptable behaviour, matters will be referred to the Principal in writing for investigation.
- Sanctions may include a written warning or suspension from attending games.

Coaches' Code

- All coaches will gain a DCSI clearance through the front office.
- Ensure that the time players spend with you is a positive experience. All young people are deserving of equal attention and opportunities. In particular, ensure that where there are more players than places on the ground, reserves are rotated with a view to giving all players the same game time.
- Remember that young people participate for pleasure and winning is only part of the fun.
- Never ridicule or yell at a student for making a mistake or not coming first.
- Be reasonable in your demands on players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Operate within the rules and spirit of your sport and teach your players to do the same.
- Ensure that the equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of all players. Report equipment concerns to the Sports Coordinator.
- Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with the sport, including opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, parents and spectators. Encourage players to do the same.
- Show concern and caution toward sick and injured players. Follow the advice of a physician when determining whether an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up to date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of young people.
- Any physical contact with a young person should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the players' skill development.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Encourage sunsmart behaviours.

Coaches' Duty of Care and Consequences for Coaches not observing the Code

The school appreciates the significant time and effort it takes to assume the role of coach, supports its coaches and encourages players to do the same. All parents are asked to keep in mind the significant effort that coaches make and the difficult job of coordinating a team.

The coach assumes a significant duty of care to the players and in particular:

- The coach is responsible for the safety of children during training and games/matches. By law he/she is responsible to take "all reasonable care";
- After training and matches, coaches, managers or supervising parents are to remain with waiting children until collected by a parent/caregiver or nominated responsible adult.
- Coaches who are found to have breached the Code of Behaviour will face possible sanction.

The school encourages parents/caregivers to resolve differences with the coach, by first contacting the team manager/school representative at an appropriate time. In extreme cases, complaints concerning the coach should be referred to the Principal in writing for investigation and possible subsequent action.

Late Pick-Up

As coaches complete their duties once training and matches finish, a parent/caregiver or nominated responsible adult **MUST** collect their child on time.

Children are not permitted to leave a sporting venue without a parent/caregiver/nominated adult in attendance unless prior arrangements have been made in writing to the coach. Only under exceptional circumstances may a volunteer transport the child and this is only to be done with the express consent of the parent at the time and with the volunteer's child also being present in the vehicle.

The coach/team manager will take all reasonable care to ensure the safety of the child.

It is incumbent upon the parent/caregiver to know the finishing time of training and matches.

The coach/team manager will follow the process below should parents/caregivers/nominated responsible adults not collect their child on time from **training** on school grounds:

- A phone call will be made to the parent/caregiver.
- If no contact can be made, emergency contacts will be called to immediately come and collect the child.

A parent/caregiver should be in attendance at their child's matches. The coach/team manager will follow the process below should parents/caregivers/nominated responsible adults not collect their child on time from **matches**:

- A phone call will be made to the parent/caregiver.
- If no contact can be made, emergency contacts will be called to immediately come and collect the child.

After all avenues under the school's policy have been exhausted and the child has not been collected, the Sports Coordinator or a school leadership staff member will be called for assistance.

The Sports Coordinator and the School Principal will be informed by the coach/team manager at the next available opportunity of any major breach and will investigate further as to the immediate consequences applied to each individual case, which may include a warning, suspension from playing, forfeiting the spot in the team or registering with OSHC.

No refunds of sports fees will be granted under any circumstances where the child forfeits their spot in a team.

4. TEAM SELECTION

General

All students vying for selection to represent the school must demonstrate the ability to follow rules, be organised and adhere to the Players' Code of Conduct. Students unable to comply will not be selected.

In cases where a sporting event (eg SAPSASA district competition) coincides with a major school event such as a school camp, musical recital or other special occasions, the decision in choosing in which event the child participates remains with the parents/caregivers.

Out of Hours Sport Teams

Out of Hours Sport participation will be for years 2-7, provided that students have turned 7 years old and will apply such other conditions as may be set by the relevant sporting association organising the activity.

Some associations conduct competitions based on age group (soccer, netball) some based on year level (basketball, football, cricket). All children are required to participate in their year group or age group as required by the relevant association's rules. Playing in a different age group/year level can only occur in exceptional circumstances, with the consent of the child's parents/caregivers and the Sports Coordinator. To play up an age group, it must not prevent players in that age group missing out on a spot in a team and it must not prevent a team in the correct age level being registered to play.

All out of hours sports teams will be selected on an equitable basis, taking friendship groups into account where practicable, where there will be a balance of players based on skills and abilities. This is to minimise the potential of teams being "stacked" with all good players to the detriment of the less experienced players. By having balanced teams, the competition will be more even with newer or less skilled players learning from the more experienced players.

Where the school enters two teams in the same age group/year level competition, every effort will be made to ensure that the teams are of equal ability. In exceptional circumstances, the Sports Coordinator may make changes to teams after the season has commenced. Parental relationships and friendships unfortunately cannot be a determining factor in the selection of teams in the interest of ensuring they are fair and equitable. Students will be

reassigned to new teams annually to provide them with the opportunity to experience a variety of positions, coaches and team members. Late registrations will only be accepted if spots are available in a team (i.e., the team is not full).

SAPSASA

The Sports Committee will meet in term 1, or as soon as the year's SAPSASA program arrives to prepare for coming SAPSASA events. Parents/caregivers of students selected for SAPSASA activities will be responsible for all costs. For all SAPSASA information, please refer to the specific Linden Park SAPSASA Participation policy document.

5. TRANSPORT

Throughout the year, sporting groups may have to travel to a special venue for a particular sporting event (eg SAPSASA Athletics Carnival). Where possible the school will charter a bus to transport large groups of students to and from a sporting venue. Costs will be borne by the students.

Private vehicles can also be used for transporting students. When using parents/caregivers and their own private vehicles, the following shall apply:

- only suitably qualified people should be permitted to drive – this excludes those with “L” or “P” plates;
- drivers and vehicles must be covered with an appropriate comprehensive insurance policy and have completed a transport form;
- all vehicles being used must have seatbelts with the driver ensuring they are worn; and
- consent forms must be signed by the parent/guardian prior to the transport taking place.

6. MATCHES AND TRAINING

Fixtures will be distributed to parents/caregivers by the Sports Coordinator when received from the relevant sporting association.

The coach will establish training times and venues and communicate these to parents/caregivers.

Parents/caregivers have a duty to notify the coach or team manager in advance if a child is unable to attend training or a match and need to ensure the coach/team manager has contact details for them.

To assist with the supervision of players and the management of the team at practices and match days, the team manager should roster parents/caregivers on for team duties such as scoring, timekeeping and officiating. If parents are unable to fulfil their rostered duty, it is the responsibility of the parent who has been rostered to negotiate with other parents for a change to the roster.

7. SAFETY, FIRST AID AND INJURY PROCEDURE

Duty of Care

All parents/caregivers who become involved with any sport in an official role have a “Duty of Care” to discharge in respect of their players. The nature of this duty requires actions to ensure all reasonable care is taken to preserve the safety of the child while engaged in sporting activities. Proper discharge of this responsibility includes at least the following actions:

- Children are not to be left alone at the end of a match/training session while they wait for the arrival of their parent/caregiver
- No child should be permitted to leave any sporting venue unsupervised at the end of a match/training session unless prior arrangements have been made in writing (text message included) to the coach.
- Parents/Caregivers should be notified in writing of all times and places of training and competition.
- The Sports Coordinator is responsible for the provision of a first aid kit. The team manager is responsible for the upkeep of first aid kits while in their possession and must be on hand for all practices and games/matches. Managers are to report to the Sports Coordinator when first aid kits need replenishing.
- All coaches and supervisors, including parents and teachers, should be encouraged to have a current first aid certificate.
- Children with open wounds are to be removed from play immediately. The wound shall be cleaned and covered (gloves should be worn) before the child may re-enter the game.
- Minor first aid can be administered. For serious cases, call an ambulance for assessment of the child's condition and contact the parents.
- The Principal must be informed of any accident that is more than minor.
- The School's Cancellation Policy (refer item 10) must be adhered to and the coach has discretion to cancel training or matches, on communication with parents/caregivers, when in his/her opinion, weather conditions present a threat to player safety.
- Coaches and managers will be advised by parents of any child with specific medical conditions (eg asthma, diabetes) on an authorised school medical form.
- No child will participate in any sport until the manager is in receipt of a medical form appropriately completed and signed by the parent/caregiver. The collection of these forms is of the utmost importance in terms of duty of care for all team officials.

- Coaches should encourage sunsmart behaviour.
- Coaches and managers are responsible for ensuring that all sports equipment is safe and that children wear appropriate protective equipment. Relevant sporting organisation’s policies for protective equipment must be abided by.

Examples of Protective Equipment for School Sports

- Hockey - mouthguard and shin guards
- Soccer - mouthguard and shin guards
- Cricket - helmets, pads, gloves and protectors
- Football - mouthguard
- Basketball - mouthguard
- Netball - mouthguard

Helmets, gloves and batting & wicketkeeping pads are supplied by the school for cricket. All other protective equipment must be provided by students.

8. RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD SAFETY AND INSURANCE

Parents/caregivers are responsible for their child’s welfare during matches and practice sessions and are encouraged to take out adequate insurance against sports injuries and the cost of ambulance travel.

A medical and consent information form must be completed for each child participating in any school sporting activity prior to its commencement and given to coach or team manager. The form must be kept in an accessible place during practice and match times.

Via the form, parents/caregiver’s give emergency health information, contact details and consent to act in the event of an injury to the child in their absence. While coaches and team managers must take due care in such situations, they are not responsible for children’s safety.

Should an injury occur when a parents/caregiver is absent, the coach or team manager may call an ambulance should they believe this is necessary. The coach or team manager should make every effort to contact the absent parent/caregiver at this point. The parent/caregiver is responsible for the cost of ambulance travel.

9. COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION POLICY

Disputes and complaints should be directed initially, to the team manager/school representative at an appropriate time, failing resolution of which they may be referred to the Principal in writing through an expression of concern or formal complaint. The process is outlined in the Complaint Management and Resolution Policy on the school website.

10. WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

Hot weather:

- Outdoor trainings for the day shall be cancelled if the forecast temperature on the front page of ‘The Advertiser’ is 36 degrees or above.
- Before school training continues due to the milder temperatures at that time of the day.
- Saturday and Sunday morning outdoor sports shall be cancelled if at 12pm on the day prior, the forecast temperature is for 36 degrees or above.
- The continuance of indoor and weekday outdoor matches will be determined by the relevant association body’s hot weather policy (other than cricket where the school sport hot weather policy will be in effect).

Wet weather:

- Training may be cancelled at the coach’s discretion, on communication to parents/caregivers, if conditions are excessively wet. In such cases, parents/caregivers are also requested to make contact with the coach to check.
- If conditions deteriorate during training or games such that they are cancelled mid-way, coaches or responsible adults shall remain with the children until such time as they are picked up by parents/caregivers.


11. TROPHIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Participation is the focus of Primary Sport, thus the achievement of all children who participate will be recognised with a participation certificate and/or medal.

12. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

The following uniform code applies:

Sport	Provided by the School	Provided by the Player
Football	Maroon and White Guernsey	Maroon socks, black shorts, boots, mouthguard

Soccer	Maroon and White Shirt	Maroon socks, black shorts, boots, shin guards
Netball	Dresses & Bibs	Sneakers and white socks, sports dress, black under briefs 
Cricket	Helmets, pads, gloves, bats	Caps/hats, sneakers and socks and, for Kanga: school uniform; for Years 4-7: cricket whites including white school shirt with maroon emblem
Basketball	Singlets	Black shorts, sneakers and socks
<p><i>Refer to Examples of Protective Equipment for School Sports in the Safety, First Aid and Injury Procedure section for more details</i></p>		

- Players not wearing the correct uniform may, at the coach's (or umpire's) discretion, not be permitted to play.
- Uniforms provided by the school must be returned in good repair by end of season or a charge will apply for replacement.
- Team equipment is the responsibility of the team manager.
- Team managers should collect uniforms and equipment kits at end of season and inform the Sports Coordinator of any losses or damage. The Sports Coordinator will pursue students/parents in respect of items not returned or damaged.
- An inventory of all kits and equipment should be undertaken by the team manager at the end of the season and given to the Sports Coordinator.

13. FEES

The out of hours sports program is entirely user pays. Costs of running it must come from participation fees. The Sports Committee will conduct yearly reviews to establish fees sufficient to maintain the viability of the program on the following basis:

Each fee will include:

- a "school sports levy" set by the school to cover in part the services of the Sports Coordinator
- a uniform and equipment levy appropriate to the sport for replacements when required
- provision for participation certificates and/or medals for players to be distributed at the end of the season
- such other amounts which in the reasonable estimation of the Sports Committee will recover the estimated outgoings for the relevant sport – association registration fees, first aid consumables and the like.
- Accounting shall be separate for each sport.
- SAPSASA costs and fees are borne by the participants.