



Catholic Education Policy

Related Policies:	St Clare's College Fundraising Policy St Clare's College Sunsafe Policy CEO Excursion Policy CEO Overseas Excursion Policy NSW DET Guidelines for the Safe Conduct of Sport and Physical Activity in Schools
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Approved by:	Executive
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Implementation date:	
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Revision date: March 2016

St Clare's Contact Officer:	Health and Physical Education Coordinator
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Philosophy

St Clare's College fully supports students' participation in sport as part of its overall aim of providing educational opportunities that enable students to reach their full potential in all areas of their development. The College recognises the many benefits that participation in sport can bring to students in terms of their physical wellbeing as well as in the development of their social skills and positive attitudes. We also aim to support students to achieve a balance between their sporting, academic and other pursuits.

We place great value on participation and fair play as the key elements of playing sport for the College and we aim to have students play at all times in a spirit of fair competition both for their own enjoyment and to foster school spirit. The College participates in a range of competitions to enable students to develop a deeper identity with the school by being a St Clare's College representative player, compete against students in other schools as well as to gain selection in ACT representative teams. The College participates in the ASC (Associated Southern Colleges) competitions as well as some South Canberra Zone carnivals. There is also a weekend sports program currently offered which includes netball, volleyball, snowsports and dragon boating. Outside of this, students are encouraged to compete in sports run by local clubs to develop their interests and skills.



Organisation

There are two different types of sport offered by the College – school sport and weekend sport.

School Sport

The overall coordination of school sport is the responsibility of the College's Sports Facilitator. A time and monetary allowance is provided for this role as it involves a significant amount of administrative work as well as communication with the teachers in charge (TIC) of individual sports and external groups such as the ASC Sports Coordinators.

Weekend Sport

The overall management of Weekend Sport comes under the general responsibility of the Sports Facilitator and the teacher(s) in charge of the sport. In some instances qualified parents coach and manage some teams under the guidance of the sports facilitator. All adults who work with St Clare's sporting teams are required to have a valid working with vulnerable people card.

Inter-School Sports Captains

The aim of the role of Inter-School Sport Captain is to provide further leadership opportunities for senior students. Senior students are selected to be Captains and/or co-captains for each of the sports offered by the College. Their roles are to:

- attend all meetings called by the teacher in charge of their sport
- speak at the Celebration of Sport Evening as well as Year and School Assemblies
- write reports for *Tidings*, the school website and the College Yearbook
- advertise, organise and promote their sport within the College
- assist with the organisation of the sport including: assisting with trials and/or sign up information meetings, helping to arrange uniforms, and equipment for teams and doing some of the administrative work required for the sport.



School Sports

Approved List of School Sports

- Australian Football
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Cross Country
- Dragon Boating
- Equestrian
- Hockey
- Netball
- Oztag
- Rock Climbing
- Rowing
- Rugby
- Snow Sports
- Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Touch Football
- Triathlon
- Volleyball
- Water Polo

Participation by Students in School Sports Teams

Any student may nominate for selection in a school team. Teams will be chosen on merit but students selected for school teams will be ineligible for selection if:

- they are suspended from school at the time of the competition
- they have a number of assessment tasks that are outstanding and they have not shown a willingness to complete them
- their conduct/attendance at school is generally unsatisfactory.

Generally senior students who have major assessment tasks (such as a test or an oral presentation) would be expected to complete the assessment task on the due date which may mean that they cannot compete if there is a clash. Where possible teachers will avoid setting major assessment tasks on days when major sports events are scheduled. The three ASC carnival days are designated non-excursion days.

There is a greater level of discretion available for students in Years 7-10 in this area.



Similarly, if a major sports event occurs on a key event for the College such as St Clare's Day or one of the College sports carnivals the College will not normally nominate teams for events on these days.

Selection Processes for School Teams

Students who wish to be considered for selection in school sports teams will generally need to participate in selection trials and attend meetings. These trials are advertised through the Daily Notices, emails, PA as announcements as well as on the Sports Noticeboards.

Following selection, students need to obtain and return Permission Forms by the due date or their position in the team may be forfeited.

Weekend Sports

Approved List of Weekend Sports

- Snowsports
- Netball
- Volleyball
- Dragon Boating
- Softball

Participation in Weekend Sports

Students are given the opportunity to participate in the sports listed above and they are expected to abide by the College's Positive Behavior (Personal Best) Policy at all times when competing under the name of the College. The College does not require students to play for the school in a sport offered for weekend participation.

Sports Uniform

When students are competing in a College team it is expected that they will dress in the College's uniform for that sport. No component of any sport uniforms can be changed without the express permission of the College Executive.

Sports uniform items may not be worn as part of the school uniform.

The Role of the Sports Facilitator

(See Duty Statement in the Staff Handbook)

Sports Judiciary

If there is a complaint made to the College or if College staff are made aware of an allegation of misconduct or poor sportsmanship involving a student playing in a school sports team, this matter will be referred in the first instance to the College's Sports Facilitator.



The Sports Facilitator will then determine, in conjunction with the PE/Health Coordinator and at least one member of the College Executive, if the allegation should be dealt with by the College's Sports Judiciary.

Members of the Sports Judiciary will generally be:

- the Assistant Principal Pastoral Care
- the Sports Facilitator
- another person nominated by the Principal who has not been directly involved in the case prior to the hearing.

Students may be accompanied to the hearing by one or both parents, their coach or another student.

The student involved will be provided, in writing, with a statement of her alleged misconduct at least 5 days prior to the hearing at an initial meeting with the Sports Facilitator. At this meeting the student will be informed of her rights during the Sport Judiciary hearing.

At the hearing, the student will have the right to address matters relating to the allegation. Members of the Sports Judiciary may question the statements presented by the student and other witnesses to gain clarification about the incident, if needed.

The Sports Judiciary will take into account all the information presented and then make a determination which will be given to the student in writing within a week of the hearing.

Possible outcomes from the hearing may include:

- exoneration
- an official warning letter being issued
- suspension from one or more games
- exclusion from all school representative sporting teams
- suspension from school

Should a student wish to appeal the outcome of a hearing by the Sports Judiciary, she can seek a review of the outcome by writing directly to the Principal outlining the grounds for the appeal. The decision of the Principal will be final.

Sports Tours

An initial proposal for a Sports Tour must be sent in the first instance to the Sports Facilitator who will forward the proposal to the College Executive for consideration before the proposal is developed and presented to students and parents. Generally the proposer of a sports tour would need to supply a rationale for the trip and a brief outline of the possible dates, schedule and costs.

Tours will generally be approved only during school holiday periods. Tours need to be fully funded by the participants and must meet all the requirements of the Catholic Education Office with respect to overnight and/or overseas excursions.



The Rights and Responsibilities of Players

All players are expected to:

- play by the rules
- never argue with an official
- demonstrate a positive attitude and good manners. Verbal abuse, distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable
- be a good sport by applauding all good plays whether by their team or the opposition
- treat all participants in their sport as they would like to be treated and not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor
- cooperate with their coach, manager, team mates and opponents
- participate for enjoyment and benefit
- respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of ability, cultural background or religion
- work equally hard for the team and yourself
- catch up on work missed in classes if the sports event occurs on a school day.
- Abide by the Personal Best policy.

All players should expect to:

- be treated with respect, courtesy and fairness
- play in a safe environment
- be recognised for their efforts regardless of the result.

The Roles of Coaches and Managers

Coaches and managers are expected to:

- remember that students participate in sport for their own enjoyment
- encourage students to participate
- focus on the student's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing
- encourage students to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements in a fair and calm manner
- never ridicule or shout at a player for making a mistake or losing



- appreciate good plays and performances by everyone
- support all efforts to remove any physical or verbal abuse from sporting activities
- respect the decisions of officials and teach the players that the official's decision is final
- treat all players fairly and equally
- minimise the risk of injury to players (See Section 13).

Fundraising for Sports

(See College Fundraising Policy)

Healthy and Safety Issues

1. It is preferable that coaches should seek a NCAS Level 1 Accreditation from coaching course conducted by the National or State organisation of their sport.
2. Coaches must hold a current working with vulnerable people (WWVP) card
3. Coaches are encouraged to seek first aid qualifications.
4. Coaches are required to promote good sun safe practices and follow the College Sunsafe Policy.
5. Coaching programs should be individually tailored to the students taking into account:
 - physical condition - injury or illness
 - psychological maturity
 - skill level and ability to learn new skills
 - other commitments such as other sports, hobbies, other groups etc.

Students involved in contact sports (Australian football, rugby union) must successfully complete at least 5 training sessions in the lead up to the tournament. These sessions should incorporate contact into training to appropriately prepare students for the event. The Sports Facilitator has the right to withdraw a team from such an event if it is felt that the physical preparation has not been to the required standard.

6. As a rule students should not play outside their own age groups. Students who are invited to play "up" an age or division must have permission from the Sports Facilitator prior to competition.



7. Appropriate and properly fitted protective equipment must be used at all training and competition sessions.
8. Suitable clothing and footwear must be worn.
9. The grounds /facilities should be adequately maintained and fitted with appropriate equipment.
10. Hydration is essential during sport and recreation activities. Students should be encouraged to drink before feeling thirsty and regular and compulsory fluid breaks must be scheduled during training.
11. All coaches should be aware of medical history and other commitments of their players.
12. Prevention of sunburn, dehydration and heat illness are essential during training and competition.
13. Warm up and Cool down should be included before and after all training and competition sessions.
14. Weight training should not be introduced unless a training program has been developed by a qualified instructor.
15. A medical clearance may be requested from the treating doctor/physio before any student who has been ill or injured for a period of time can re-commence sport or physical activity.
16. Abstentee lists for the event must be sent to staff at least one week in advance of the event.
17. Duty of Care. Teacher in charge has duty of care for all St Clare's College students throughout the duration of the sporting event. Teacher in charge is required to arrive 10 minutes before the scheduled time to ensure students are supervised and the roll is correctly marked. At the end of the event the teacher in charge must ensure each student has left with their parent/carer. Teacher in charge must wait until all students have been picked by their parent/carer.