

	Topic:	Inter-School Sports Policy
	Policy Area:	Education
	Last Review:	2016
	Reviewed:	2018
	Next Review:	2020

RATIONALE

The Mandurah Catholic College Sport Program has been established to further assist our students to achieve their full potential. It embraces both intra-school and Inter-School sports and seeks to foster, encourage and value the qualities of teamwork and sportsmanship and to develop self-esteem and a sense of community in our students. Traditional values of respect, fairness, responsibility and resilience are also developed by student participation in sport.

Participation in Inter-School sport, in particular, enables the school community to develop and promote a strong sense of identity. The College seeks to develop a culture and attitude to sport that encourages all students to compete and represent the College at Inter-School events. Students are also encouraged to develop new skills and pursue excellence in their own performance.

Students who excel in sporting endeavours also have opportunities to participate in State representative teams and National school events. Active support of MCC policies and standards by both parents and students participating in the College Sport program are essential if the College's broader educational and personal development objectives are to be achieved.

PRINCIPLES

Mandurah Catholic College actively promotes policies and practices for the selection and management of representative teams for Inter-School sport which will:

- Encourage all students to compete or officiate in the spirit of good sportsmanship and to treat all participants with respect and dignity.
- Provide for all students by giving them an opportunity to participate in a supportive sporting environment appropriate to their ability and which is not specifically age based.
- Recognise the importance of the individual with an inclusive approach for all students but one which also offers opportunities for elite athletes aspiring to develop further in their desired sport at State or National level.

PROCEDURES

Inter-School Sports Coordinator

The MCC Inter-School Sports Co-ordinator is responsible to the Director of Sport for the conduct and management of the Secondary Inter-School Sports program. The Inter-School Sports Program includes:

- Years7 - 12 Inter-School Sport
- ACC Sport
- Inclusive Sports.

Junior School Sports Coordinator

The MCC Junior School Sports Coordinator is responsible to the Director of Sport for the conduct and management of the Junior School sport and Inter-School sports. The Junior School sports program includes:

- Kindergarten - Year 6 physical education program
- Junior School Inter-School Sport.

Inter-School Sports Registration

All Inter-School Sports events are advertised on SEQTA and CONEQT – 'NOTICES'. All students and parents have access to this information. Students will be directed to register their interest for a specific sport at the Sport Registration Area by a specified closure date. It is the responsibility of the individual student to ensure that they register by the required date. Late registrations will not be considered.

Player Grading and Team Selections

MCC team coaches are appointed by the Director of Sport. Player grading and the grading of Inter-School teams will be conducted by an MCC Grading Panel comprising the Inter-School Sport Coordinator, Junior Sports Coordinator and invited coaches. The Director of Sport will oversee the grading and selection process.

Considerable thought and time is given to grading decisions and team selections and each Panel assessment will be based on both the assessed **personal** and **sporting** development needs of the student. At the same time, to ensure that the best and most competitive teams are chosen to represent MCC in Inter-School competitions, it is College policy that the Grading Panel select the best available athletes for all sporting teams.

The decisions of the Grading Panel are final and there is no appeal process for students and parents of students not selected for College sporting teams. No explanation of Grading Panel decisions will be provided. Parents/guardians who do not support this policy should not nominate their children for participation in the Inter-School sports program.

Eligibility and Criteria for Inter-School Team Selection

- A player and parent/guardian's demonstrated commitment to the Inter-School Sports Policy and other MCC policies.
- The student has registered before the nominated closing date.
- The student returns 'Medical/Permission' slip by the designated date, failing to do so will result in the reserve replacing the original selected student.
- Students MUST attend the trials to be considered for selection.

Note: Apologies for non-attendance at a trial MUST be submitted in writing for medical, injury or health reasons only. Supporting documentation from a medical professional MUST accompany the second apology should trials occur more than once

To be considered eligible for squad selection prior to the representative team being named, the said student MUST have a medical clearance from their health care provider for the injury that prevented their attendance at the original trial.

- Maintenance of academic standards.
- A student's demonstrated level of commitment to the College Sports program and Inter-School teams in previous years. This is generally reflected in a player's behaviour, attendance at training and commitment.
- Previous successful performances at a higher level than their age division. A student may NOT be required to trial with their year group.
- If a student is selected to play in a higher age group or division, the student and parent will be given the first right of refusal without prejudice.
- A student's mental and physical development, skill levels and prior development or representational experience and performance (Association, Regional, State or National level).

Teams will be selected with the strongest, most skilled athletes first. Students named after the initial team list are RESERVES. For example:

BASKETBALL FIRST V

Open to trial for students from Year 7 – 12.

Team number: 10 students

First V: Most skilled athletes, no restriction to court time.

Reserves: Substitutes/reserves, court time at the discretion of the coach, no guaranteed court time. These team numbers may vary at the discretion of the Inter-School Sports Coordinator and coaches.

The above-mentioned example is applicable to all Inter-School teams:

Cricket First XI	Team number 12	students selected
Football First XVIII	Team number 25	students selected
Netball First VII	Team number 10-11	students selected
Soccer First XI	Team number 15	students selected
Hockey First XI	Team number 16	students selected
Rugby First XV	Team number 20	students selected
Basketball First V	Team number 10-11	students selected

First teams are the most senior teams in the college and are predominantly comprised Senior School students. Other Inter-School teams are based on single or combined year groups dependant on the competition. E.g. Netball High School Cup – Junior Years 7/8, Intermediate Years 9/10, Senior Division Years 11/12. Outstanding students may be selected to play in a higher division to their year group.

Court/Playing Time

Playing time for games is NOT guaranteed for any player. All decisions relating to playing time for team members resides exclusively with the team coach. Disputes about team selections or playing time with coaches by parents or supporters, during or after games, are not considered as acceptable behaviour and will be considered to be serious breaches of the Inter-School Policy and Code of Conduct. **Queries or complaints relating to court time will not be considered.**

Expectations for Inter-School Representatives

Students are to ensure that they adhere to all directives from their coach. Students are also expected to be supportive of their team members, opposition players and officials at all times.

Communication with Coaches

Time permitting, all coaches are available to parents to discuss matters NOT relating to team selection or playing time. A coach may be contacted in person or by telephone in a polite, courteous manner consistent with the Inter-School Policy and College Code of Conduct.

In the event that a parent or guardian has a disagreement or dispute with a coach on a matter related to the team or its members, a coach can be contacted in person or by telephone after a 48-hour 'cooling off' period after the game or incident. All contact is to be polite and courteous and consistent with the Code of Conduct for players and parents/ guardians outlined in the MCC Sport Charter. While this process may appear to be unnecessarily strict, it has been rendered essential by past incidents where coaches have been subjected to unreasonable and unacceptable abuse by parents.

Dispute Resolution

Where a dispute or grievance occurs an attempt should be made in the first instance to resolve it by direct negotiation with the coach. When a matter cannot be resolved by negotiation with the coach, the matter can be referred to the Inter-School Sports Coordinator for consideration. If a matter cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant by the Inter-School Sports Coordinator, a formal, written statement of dispute or complaint may then be submitted through the Inter-School Sports Coordinator for resolution by the Director of Sport. Disputes, grievances or complaints not processed in this manner will not be considered.

Selection of Coaches

Coaches of the MCC Inter-School teams are either staff or volunteers and are all members of our MCC 'family'. They all contribute a significant amount of personal and family recreation time to assist with the personal and sporting development of our students. For this reason we expect that they will be treated at all times with courtesy, consideration and respect by parents and supporters.

Parents who volunteer to coach generally have a sound background, knowledge and experience in their particular sport. For Junior school teams, experienced Senior students or former students may be selected as team coaches. These students are carefully selected based on their ability as players, the level at which they have played and been coached and, most importantly, their ability to relate to the children they will be coaching. All coaches have a desire to contribute positively to the College's sporting community.

Player Behaviour

All students selected to represent the College in an Inter-School competition are expected to behave in a manner consistent with the College policies at all times:

- Team members are to behave appropriately at all times and follow all directions from their team coach.
- Team members are to provide encouragement and support to other team members irrespective of the level of skill.
- Prior to, at intervals during the game and at the game's conclusion, players are to huddle with their coach and, when appropriate, sing the College chant. (NOTE: The huddle is for players and coach only).
- Students are required to show respect for their opponents and acknowledge the efforts of opposition players and match officials.
- Students must be punctual for all team training and matches. (Note: Coaches should be notified if players are delayed or unable to attend training or team games. Failure to notify the coach may result in a decision to limit playing time in subsequent games. Regular non-attendance will be reported to the Inter-School Sports Co-ordinator).
- Any breach of the Inter-School Sport Policy is to be documented by the team coach or Inter-School Sports Coordinator as appropriate. The Inter-School Sport Coordinator will also be responsible for determining the appropriate response to any disciplinary issues, breaches of the Code of Conduct or College policies.

Parent/Guardian Behaviour

- Breaches of the Code of Conduct or Inter-School Sport Policy by parents or guardians may be reported to the Inter-School Sports Coordinator by coaches or other parents. Matters that cannot be resolved by negotiation between the parent and Inter-School Sport Coordinator will be referred in writing to the Director of Sport.
- Any repetition of inappropriate behaviour will be reported to the Director of Sport through the Inter-School Sport Coordinator and may result in the student and parent being excluded from the Inter-School team. Repeated inappropriate behaviour will also be reported to the College Principal who may consider further action.

Team Management

- To assist coaches manage their teams, all coaches and team managers are provided with a team list which provides contact information for all team members. The team list includes all names, contact telephone numbers and medical consent/information for team parents or guardians.
- Occasions will arise when coaches need to provide information to players, parents or guardians at times other than scheduled training or game days. To ensure such information is available to all team parents and to avoid any breakdown in communication, coaches must ensure that all parents and the Inter-School Sports Coordinator are included on the distribution list for all email/Seqta correspondence.
- To ensure the highest ethical and behavioural standards are maintained at the College, team coaches, managers and administrators are to ensure that their behaviour is consistent at all time with the principles and standards laid down in the Australian Sports Commission Code of Ethics for Coaches as well as the specific requirements established in the MCC Sports Club Code of Conduct and this policy document.
- Coaches and managers must be particularly mindful of the need to use appropriate language at all times when responsible for the control and management of minors and young, impressionable players. Inappropriate language will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
- Coaches and team managers are expected to dress appropriately during training sessions and games. MCC Inter-School Sport teams strive to project an image of professionalism and excellence. All coaches will be provided with an MCC Interschool polo shirt and jacket which is to be worn at all Inter-School events.

Transport

Parents are also reminded that they have an obligation to collect their child from all training sessions at the time designated by the coach. Coaches are volunteers and whenever possible will not leave a child unsupervised. Coaches however have their own families and commitments and cannot reasonably be expected to wait more than five minutes to care for children after training. Parents are expected to notify the coach and to make alternative arrangements if delayed or otherwise prevented from picking up their child after training.

Student travel by motor vehicle to or from a sporting venue or College grounds with another parent, supporter or student will only occur with the written or verbal approval of the parent or guardian. Such approvals must be communicated directly to the team coach. Students will not be permitted to travel by vehicle without parental approval.

Transport to and from Inter-School events is arranged by the College. Students will travel by bus to venues unless other prior arrangements have been discussed with the Sport Department. Busses will depart from and return to Ravendale Drive for Secondary School teams and from Coodanup Drive for Junior School teams.

The College Administration office closes at 4.00pm and all children must be collected by this time.

Social Media and Privacy

Parents and coaches are to comply with the Mandurah Catholic College Cyber Safety Policy and Ethical Use of Social Media Policy.