

	<b>Topic:</b>	<b>Sports Club Policy</b>
	<b>Policy Area:</b>	<b>Education</b>
	<b>Last Review:</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>Reviewed:</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>Next Review:</b>	<b>2020</b>

## **RATIONALE**

Mandurah Catholic College Sport Program has been established to further assist our students to achieve their full potential. The sport program 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. Active support of MCC policies and standards by both parents and students participating in the school sport program are essential if the College's broader educational and personal development objectives are to be achieved.

The MCC Sports Club has been established to coordinate and manage the participation of College sporting teams in three codes - netball, basketball and soccer. College representative teams participate in mid-week and weekend competitions in the local area.

The Sports Club will operate in accordance with the principles outlined in the Club Charter and MCC Sports Club Policy guidelines. By registering their child as a member of the MCC Sports Club, parents or guardians are agreeing to abide by the Club Code of Conduct and the provisions of the Club's policy documents.

Each of the MCC Sports Club's three sports programs is managed by a Sport Coordinator. Teams are managed and coached by volunteer parents and/or specially selected and suitable students or former students. Without the support of these parents and students, the MCC Sports Club would not be able to function.

## **PRINCIPLES**

The MCC Sports Club program seeks to;

- encourage all members to compete or officiate in the spirit of good sportsmanship and to treat ALL participants with respect and dignity
- provide students and club members with an opportunity to participate in a supportive, enjoyable sporting environment appropriate to their ability and not specifically age based, and
- recognise the importance of each individual with an inclusive approach, yet offering exclusivity for elite athletes aspiring to develop further in their desired sport.

## **PROCEDURES**

### **MCC Sports Club Membership**

Consistent with these College objectives, preference is given to MCC students to fill all College teams. Team numbers may be supplemented with students from primary Catholic feeder schools if additional players are required to make up team numbers and providing they are not depleting their own junior school team. Students who are enrolled to enter the College for Year 7 may represent MCC Basketball Sports Club from Term 4, Year 6.

In exceptional circumstances students from other schools may be considered for MCC Sports Club membership if necessary to make up team numbers. The participation of students from other schools must be approved by the Director of Sport and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

### **Club Registration**

Prior to the commencement of the season for each sport, a registration package will be distributed to all junior school students. All students will also be notified of registration requirements on the College website, SEQTA CONEQT, and information advertised in both junior and secondary newsletters. It is the responsibility of the individual Secondary students to

collect a registration package from the Sport Registration Area. Junior School will receive their package from the Junior School Sports Co-ordinator.

Registration documents will contain all the information relating to the specific sport. Dates and deadlines must be adhered to. Failure to register by the due date may result in the student missing team selection.

### **Sports Uniforms**

All students participating in MCC Sports Club teams are required to wear the appropriate MCC team uniform. To keep costs to a minimum, the Club provides uniforms for team members. Uniforms are provided for Junior School netball teams and basketball and soccer teams with team shirts. For netball and soccer only, other compulsory uniform requirements must be purchased from the relevant sports club. These include body suits (Secondary teams) \$110.00, soccer shorts \$20.00 and soccer socks \$10.00. In inclement weather during winter team members are expected to wear an MCC tracksuit. Clothing that does not comply with the College uniform policy is not to be worn.

To ensure the return of the College uniform a hire fee is payable by all members unless the uniform has been purchased. At the conclusion of the season the hire fee will be fully refunded providing the hired uniform is returned in a clean and good condition. Where a deposit is to be refunded, the member may elect to have the amount deposited into their school fee account or another nominated bank account.

Failure to return the uniform will result in the loss of the hire fee together with an additional amount to replace the uniform. This additional cost (see below) will be invoiced to the member. Non-payment may also affect a member's affiliation for the following season. They would be considered to be an un-financial member and therefore could not represent the Club until all outstanding monies had been paid. Clearance to another club will also not occur until the member is financial with the MCC Sports Club.

### **Sport Club Fees**

Fees for participation in the local association sports competitions are set and published by the respective governing bodies – The Mandurah Netball Association (MNA), Mandurah Basketball Association (MBA) and the Peel Junior Soccer Association (PJSA). All MCC Sports Club members will be required to pay an Association Affiliation fee, and a MCC Sports Club membership fee of \$30.00. Costs for a sports season are as follows:

#### Association Affiliation Fee (Determined by Sports Association)

MCC Sports Club Membership Fee	\$30.00
Uniform hire (refundable if returned)	\$40.00

#### Additional Cost if not returned

Basketball singlet	\$30.00
Netball uniform Junior School	\$55.00
Soccer shirts	Nil

### **Team Grading**

To participate in local sporting competitions, MCC Sports Club members, parents and volunteers are required to abide by the provisions of the Sports Club Charter, Sports Club Policy and Code of Conduct as well as the rules and regulations governing the relevant sporting association (MNA, MBA, PJSA). Current grading requirements for each sports association are as follows:

#### **Mandurah Netball Association**

- Combined Age Groups
  - 8 & Under No scoring
  - 9 & Under No scoring
  - 10 & Under Score and Ladder
  - 11 & Under Score and Ladder
  - 12 & Under Play Finals
  - 13 & Under Play Finals

- Each of the abovementioned age groups will have 3 or 4 divisions. Mandurah Netball Association defines these divisions as follows:
 

Division 1 Blue	-	Strong	
Division 2 White	-	Average	
Division 3 Pink	-	Weak	
- Junior A1-A5 and B1-B4
 

A Divisions	-	Competitive, strong	Play Finals
B Divisions	-	Social, less competitive	Play Finals
- Senior/Open Divisions 1 - 4
 

			Play Finals
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NB: MCC nominates teams in various divisions. It is at the MNA's discretion to place teams in divisions both prior and during the season pending team registrations/results.

### **Mandurah Basketball Association**

- Combines Age Groups
 

8 & Under	PP-Y02	No scoring
10 & Under	Y03-Y04	No scoring
12 & Under	Y05-Y06	Play Finals
14 & Under	Y07-Y08	Play Flnals
16 & Under	Y09-Y10	Play Finals
18 & Under	Y11-Y12	Play Finals
- Each age group may have 3 divisions. Mandurah Basketball Association defines these divisions as follows:
 

Division 1	Older year group, most competitive, high skill level, WABL
Division 2	Competitive, consistent competition
Division 3	Lower year group, less experienced players

NB: MCC nominates teams in various divisions. It is at the MBA's discretion to place teams in divisions both prior and during the season pending team registrations/results.

### **Peel Junior Soccer Association**

- Combined Age Groups – PJSA may increase any squad size at their discretion
- In the event that a player is required to play up/or down in a division an application must be forwarded to the PJSA for approval.
- The College soccer teams are selected in the following order to cater to our students. Squads are comprised on a "first" paid basis. eg, Junior High Boys team has fifteen players register and paid by the designated date, the 16<sup>th</sup> player to do so will be allocated to a reserve list for the possibility of a second College Junior High Boys team (numbers permitting) or be transferred to the PJSA 'wait' list.
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| Kindy     | Mini Roos   | Squad no maximum                           |
| PP        | Micros      | Squad maximum 8 players                    |
| Y01/02    | Joeys       | Squad maximum 9 payers                     |
| Y03/04    | Rooball     | Squad maximum 11 players                   |
| Y05/06    | Ollyroos    | Squad maximum 12 players                   |
| Y07-12    | Matildas    | Squad maximum 15 players - Girls only PJSA |
| Y07/08/09 | Junior High | Squad maximum 15 players - Boys only MCC   |
| Y10/11/12 | Senior High | Squad size 15 players - Boys only MCC      |

### **Player Grading**

The grading of team members for all MCC Sports Club teams will be conducted by an MCC Grading Panel. The Grading Panel may be comprised of the following: Sport Coordinator, Junior School Sports Coordinator, regional development officers and invited coaches. The Director of Sport will oversee the grading and selection process.

Considerable thought and time is given to grading decisions and each Panel assessment will be based on both the assessed **personal** and **sporting** development needs of the player. The decisions of the Grading Panel are final. Members and parents who do not accept and support this policy should not seek MCC Sports Club membership.

### **Eligibility for Trials/Teams**

To be eligible for trials, players and their parents must ensure that all documents have been completed and fees paid by the specified date, failure to do so will affect placement in teams. A player must be a financial and registered MCC Sports Club member prior to grading. Students who register after the close date will have their names placed on a waiting list and club positions may be offered if available.

Dates for grading will be advised in the registration package and communicated via SEQTA CONEQT. Junior School students will also be notified by the Junior School Sports Co-ordinator and their class teachers.

### **Sport Trials**

MCC Soccer Club does not currently grade its soccer teams which is in accordance with PJSA guidelines. In the event that player numbers increase at some future time and a situation arises where two teams are registered for the same age group, player grading will occur in order to establish two evenly skilled teams.

Trials for Junior School netball teams will be conducted for Year 3 students and above. Pre-Primary, Years 1 and 2 will be 'paper graded' only. Secondary School netball players will be graded on court.

Junior School basketball teams will be graded during PE classes with the Junior School Sports Co-ordinator. Secondary School students in Years 7–12 have the option of registering teams as friendship groups or as individuals. Should nominations of teams not have sufficient numbers it is at the discretion of the Sports Department to add additional players to teams who have registered as individuals. A minimum of 6 players and a maximum of 8 players must be named on the team registration. Nominations for Secondary teams MUST list their coach and manager upon registration, failing to do so may jeopardise said team's nomination.

All registered members MUST attend the scheduled trials for their sport. Failure to participate in trials may jeopardise the player's placement in a team. To avoid disappointment, attendance at the specified sport trials is essential.

An apology for not attending a trial will only be accepted in writing and for a valid medical or health reason. Without supporting documentation only one apology will be accepted. Other factors that may be taken into consideration by the Grading Panel include:

- A player and/or parent or guardian's demonstrated acceptance and adherence to the Sports Club Code of Conduct, Sports Policy and other College policies.
- A player's demonstrated level of commitment to the MCC Sports Club in past seasons. This is generally reflected in a player's behaviour, attendance at training and games.
- Previous successful performances at a higher level than their age division.
- A player's mental and physical development, skill levels and prior development or representational experience and performance (Association, Regional, State or National level).
- Players WILL NOT be graded entirely on their school year, age and friendship group.
- The Sports Club DOES NOT guarantee that players will remain in age-based teams nor in the same teams as previous years.
- When a student/player is selected to play in a higher age/division, the student/player and parent will be given the first right of refusal without prejudice.
- In instances where teams are a combination of 'mixed' age players in Junior School and/or Secondary School, the grading decision will be based on registration numbers and the individual player's experience and skill level.
- To provide the most positive environment for the personal and physical development of all players, emphasis will be placed on allowing those with similar skill and ability levels to develop together in a supportive, encouraging environment.

### **Court/Playing Time**

- In Division 10 and under, players will be rotated by coaches to ensure that all team members are given equal playing opportunities or court time. Teams up to and including Division 10 and under do not score their games and a Division ladder is not recorded. Finals are not played in these age groups.

- For teams in Division 11 and under, scores are recorded and ladder positions calculated but there is no finals series.
- For teams in Division 12 and above, playing time is at the coach's discretion but as a minimum, all team members should play a minimum of half a game per fixture during the season. Playing time is not guaranteed in lead up and finals series games. Playing time and whether players are interchanged by quarters or halves is at the discretion of coaches.
- Player attitude, training and game attendance record, skill level and a demonstrated commitment to the Sports Club Code of Conduct and Sports Club Policy will all be taken into consideration when teams are selected for finals. Our opposition select their most competitive teams for all finals series games and to ensure our teams are competitive, MCC teams will do the same.
- Depending on team results and ladder position as finals approach, it is at the coach's discretion whether or not to play the team's most competitive players. In such circumstances game time may be restricted for other team members. Coaches will inform players of their intentions for the finals series.
- Playing time for finals games is NOT guaranteed for any player. All decisions relating to playing time for team members resides exclusively with the team coach. Disputes with coaches on team selections or playing time by parents or supporters during or after games are not acceptable behaviour and will be considered to be a serious breach of the MCC Sports Club Code of Conduct.

### **Communication with Coaches**

Time permitting, all coaches are readily available to parents to discuss matters relating to their team or players at practice during the week. Coaches are NOT available to discuss matters relating to a particular match either during, immediately after or in the 48 hour period following the game. During this 'cooling off' period there is to be NO communication with coaches either by phone, text, email or social media.

After the 'cooling off' period has elapsed, a coach can be contacted in person or by telephone in a polite, courteous manner consistent with the MCC Sports Club Code of Conduct. While this process may appear to be unnecessarily strict, it has been made necessary 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 relevant Sport Coordinator for consideration. If a matter still cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant by the Sport Coordinator, a formal, written statement of dispute or complaint may then be submitted through the Sport Coordinator for resolution by the MCC Director of Sport. Disputes, grievances or complaints not processed in this manner will not be considered.

### **Selection of Coaches**

Coaches of all our MCC Sports Club teams are volunteers and all members of our MCC 'family'. They all contribute a significant amount of their 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. Remember, without the support of our volunteer coaches and Sport Coordinators, our MCC Sports Club would not be able to operate.

Parents who volunteer to coach generally have a sound background, knowledge and experience in their particular sport. For a small number of teams, experienced volunteer coaches are not available. In such circumstances parents and some senior students or former students may be selected as team coaches. Parents with limited sport or coaching experience will be provided with guidance and assistance by the MCC Sports Department and Sport Coordinators.

Students or former students selected as team coaches 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. The opportunity to pursue formal accreditation will be offered to all coaches.

## **Player Behaviour**

All members of the MCC Sports Club are expected to behave in a manner consistent with the Club's Code of Conduct 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 huddle with their coach and, when appropriate, sing the Club chant. (NOTE: the huddle is for players and coach only).
- Players should show respect for their opponents and acknowledge the efforts of opposition players and match officials.
- Players should 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 Sport Co-ordinator).
- Breaches of the Code of Conduct will be documented by the team coach and Sport Co-ordinator as appropriate. Repeated breaches may result in suspension of the player's membership of the MCC Sports Club.

## **Parent/Guardian Behaviour**

- Breaches of the Code of Conduct or Sports Policy by parents or guardians may be reported to the Sport Co-ordinator by coaches or other parents. Matters which can't be resolved by negotiation between the parent and Sport Coordinator will be referred in writing to the Director or Sport.
- Any repetition of inappropriate behaviour will be reported to the Director of Sport through the Sport Co-ordinator and may result in the player and parent being excluded from the MCC Sports Club. Repeated inappropriate behaviour will also be reported to the College Principle 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 email addresses 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 Sport Co-ordinator are included on the distribution list for all email correspondence.
- To ensure the highest ethical and behavioural standards are maintained at the MCC Sports Club, team coaches and managers and administrators are to ensure that their behaviour is consistent at all time with the principals 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 Sports Club strives to project an image of professionalism and excellence. All coaches will be provided with an MCC Sports Club polo shirt which is to be worn at all games. The coach may retain their Club shirt at the end of the season.

## **Transport**

Parents are responsible for arranging transport for their children to and from team practice and their weekend or afterschool sporting fixtures. Where this is not possible, parents are responsible for making their own alternative transport arrangements with another team parent. Transport is not the responsibility of the team coach.

Parents are also to be 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 try not to leave a child unsupervised. Coaches however have their own families and other 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 their own alternative arrangements if delayed or otherwise prevented from picking up their child after training.

Team training sessions for younger players should not be regarded as a child minding service. It is recommended that parents of students in Year 2 and below attend training sessions with their child. On occasions, parents may also be requested to attend training when their child's behavior has been assessed by the coach as disruptive to team activities.

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

### **Social Media and Privacy**

Parents and coaches are to comply with the Mandurah College Education – Cyber Safety Policy