

Sports Policy

1. Purpose

School sport provides an opportunity for children to improve their fitness and develop skills and self-esteem. It also fosters a sense of community and school spirit. There are many opportunities for Nixon Street Primary School (NSPS) students to participate in organised sport, and students are encouraged to participate regardless of ability. This Policy aims to ensure that students playing sport receive appropriate support and care by outlining the roles and responsibilities of coaches, players, parents, and spectators.

This Policy is supported by the policies from the Australian Sports Commission ([Sport Australia | Sport Australia](#)) and the Play By The Rules framework ([Home - Play by the Rules - Making Sport inclusive, safe and fair](#)).

2. Rules and Responsibilities

2.1 SPORTS CO-ORDINATORS

- There will be one Sports Co-ordinator for each of the main school sports (basketball, netball, soccer, touch football), who will facilitate the co-ordination of sport organisation and communication.
- Other sports can be included as a 'school sport' if there is a competition, sufficient students, a co-ordinating parent, and parent support.
- Auskick (Australian Rules Football) for ages 5-12 is not a school sport; the school will distribute information through SchoolZine calling for registration but all co-ordination and organisation of Auskick is done through local 'centres' (Australian Rules football clubs). More information can be found at <https://play.afl/auskick>
- Nominations for Sports Co-ordinators will be sought from the parent body at the beginning of each school year. The first school newsletter of each year will include an article explaining the role of Sports Co-ordinators and will call for nominations. A call for nominations will also be made on the NSPS Facebook page.
- In the event that no nominations are received for the Sports Co-ordinator position of a particular sport, solutions and options will be discussed at the next School Association Committee meeting.
- In the event that more than one nomination is received, the Health and Physical Education (HPE) teacher will consult with the NSPS principal and they will make a joint decision regarding who to appoint.
- Sports Co-ordinators will require a Tasmanian Working with Vulnerable People card and will need to provide a copy to the school office.
- A contact list of all Sports Co-ordinators will be advertised in Schoolzine.
- Sports Co-ordinators must:
 - be familiar with the NSPS Sports Policy
 - maintain close communication with (and provide support to) all coaches/managers (note that coaches/managers are appointed by the HPE teacher)
 - meet with coaches/managers at the beginning of each season to outline the Sports Policy and coaching guidelines and assist with setting up training sessions if required
 - meet with the Health and Physical Education (HPE) teacher at least once a term (or if required)
 - liaise with HPE teacher to ensure allocation of all equipment and uniforms to students
 - assist the HPE teacher (if required) to formulate teams
 - co-ordinate rosters for parents (e.g. for setting up equipment, canteen duty)
 - ensure the sports notice board in the NSPS gym is kept up to date
 - ensure all sports updates are provided to the school office for inclusion in the school newsletter and the NSPS Facebook page
 - discuss any serious (e.g. involving another school) or unresolvable grievances or issues regarding breaches of code of conduct or code of behaviour with the School Principal

2.2 COACHES/MANAGERS

- Nomination for coaches will be sought for each team through Schoolzine and notices sent home alerting parents and carers of calls for nomination.
- In the event no nominations are received for coaching positions, the HPE teacher will approach parents of team members to request their nomination. Teams must forfeit games until a coach is appointed for the team.
- All coaches/managers must have a Tasmanian Working with Vulnerable People card and must provide a copy to the school office.
- Coaches must ensure children and their parents are notified of uniform and safety equipment requirements, code of conduct, wet weather policy, contact details for coach/manager, training and match schedules and the expected arrival and finish times at these events.
- Coaches must ensure children are always supervised whilst at training and games. If a child is not collected at the conclusion of training/game, uncollected children can be escorted to the school office (if on school grounds) or a parent/carer should be phoned to determine the appropriate course of action if not on school grounds. Repeated instances of late collection without prior arrangement should be discussed with the Sports Co-ordinator.
- Coaches must commit to keeping informed of best practice coaching principles for children. Free coaching modules can be found online at the Australian Sports Commission website <http://www.ausport.gov.au>.
- Coaches must endeavour to provide quality training experiences for children to maximise participation and skill development, and must ensure that rules, equipment, and length of training are modified to suit the age, ability and maturity level of players.
- The duration and intensity of training should be altered to suit the weather conditions. If the weather is excessively wet/windy/unsafe, teams shall move to a sheltered area where the coach will supervise them until they are collected at the usual time of training ending.
- No outdoor activity is to occur with lightning in the vicinity.
- Coaches must ensure that appropriate safety precautions are taken and guard against unnecessary risk (e.g. avoiding the repetition of one activity for long periods of time where injury may result through overuse of specific body parts, ensuring that appropriate safety equipment is worn, not placing children in dangerous fielding positions, not letting children undertake exercises which could be harmful, “slip, slop, slap” when hot etc).
- Provision must be made for students to drink sufficient fluids to replace any lost during physical activity.
- Coaches must rotate extra children from the sideline to share equal playing time on game day.
- Coaches should show concern towards sick/injured players and follow the advice of a medical practitioner in determining when an injured player can recommence training/games.
- Coaches should seek assistance from fellow parents as required. When assistance/guidance is requested but not provided, it should be discussed with the Sports Co-ordinator.
- Coaches must maintain and keep all NSPS equipment in a safe condition. Each coach should maintain records of their equipment and have it named and stored appropriately.
- Coaches must ensure that all uniforms and equipment is safe to be used and the appropriate size and weight for the students involved.
- Any physical contact with a young person should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.
- Coaches are expected to remove players for unacceptable behaviours. Major and/or repeated behaviour issues should be discussed with the Sports Co-ordinator.
- If parents/spectators do not abide by the Code of Behaviour, informally remind them of the Parent or Spectator of Code of Behaviour. In instances of repeated unacceptable behaviour, discuss with the Sports Co-ordinator who will take it to the School Principal for action.
- Coaches must:
 - encourage and promote respect for opponents and officials
 - be consistent, respectful, objective and courteous when making decisions

- never use offensive and/or derogatory language or ridicule/yell at children
- condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents
- emphasise the spirit of the game rather than the errors
- give all players a 'fair go' regardless of gender, ability, cultural background or religion

2.3 PLAYERS

- Players must use all safety/protective equipment. No mandatory protective gear - no play.
- Players must endeavour to attend and participate fully in training sessions and wear appropriate clothing and footwear to training.
- Players must commit to the season once registered; losing players mid-season may result in your teammates having to forfeit.
- Players must (from the Australian Sports Commission's 'Junior Sport Code of Behaviour'):
 - Play by the rules and never argue with an official. If you disagree, ask your coach for advice during a break or after the game.
 - Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are made by your team or not.
 - Treat all participants in your sport as you like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
 - Co-operate with your coach, team-mates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
 - Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials, sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable behaviours in sport.
 - Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team.
 - Participate for your own enjoyment, not just to please your parents and coaches.
 - Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
 - Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills and feel good.
 - Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators.

2.4 PARENTS/SPECTATORS

- Read and discuss this Sports Policy with your children so they benefit from a comprehensive understanding of the rules, expectations, and requirements of playing sport at primary school.
- Provide coaches with details about any known and relevant medical conditions of children.
- School sports rely on adult volunteers to coach and support teams; without them our children would not be able to participate in team sports. Show appreciation for volunteers by being on time for training, arriving early for pre-game warm-up, and advising your coach of any games your child will not be able to attend with as much notice as possible.
- There is an expectation that parents of children participating in sport offer support/assistance to the coach as necessary such as canteen rosters, fruit at games, packing up equipment etc.
- If you are not attending matches/training, please ensure that you have arranged for your child's safety at their conclusion as this responsibility does not fall to the coaches who may have other commitments following training or matches.
- No child who is not a member of the team should be left unattended at practise or matches. Coaches are not responsible for the care of children not on their team.

From the Aussie Sport 'Codes of Behaviour for Parents and Spectators':

- 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 or losing. Encourage children to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without hostility.
- Children learn best by example. Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition. Appreciate good performances 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.

3. Age Groups and Appropriate Activities

The National Junior Sports Policy states that the level of competition must be appropriate to the age and development of the individual and recommends a progression of competitive experiences as per descriptions below.

- 5 –7 years - spontaneous play and movement, basic coordination skills, trying more complex tasks, informal games, minor games
- 8 - 10 years - coordination skills, small group activities, general skill development, modified sports, competitive sport inter / intra school / club
- 11 - 13 years - sports specific skill development, modified sport, talent squads, structured sports development programs, competitive sport inter / intra school / club, district / regional, inter / intra state

It is noted that some local Sports Associations have age requirements which contradict that of the National Junior Sports Policy. The NSPS SAC in conjunction with the HPE teacher will determine the best interests of our students and will set the minimum age for participation in school sports within the scope of the National Junior Sports Policy and the guidelines that are set by associations.

All children will participate in their year or age group. Promotion to a higher age may be acceptable if there are insufficient numbers present in the older age group. A younger player who has been assessed as being able to compete at a higher level, may do so providing all relevant parties are in agreement with this decision. Agreement must be sought and given by the child's parent/carer when playing at a higher level. A child should not be played at a higher level in circumstances where the lower level team is left short of players.

4. Registrations and Participation

- Children need to register by the nominated closing date. Late sign-ups are not permitted unless the team they wish to register for requires an additional player.
- Children are not permitted to participate in school sports until they are registered.
- Notifications about upcoming registrations will be made in Schoolzine and the HPE teacher will distribute notices to students through Physical Education classes with a note sent home detailing relevant information and registration processes.
- It is important that individual sporting rules and conditions (e.g. age restrictions) are followed in accordance to the regulating body of that sport.
- NSPS students should play in a NSPS team as a first option.
- Outside registrations for children not attending NSPS should only be allowed if there are insufficient numbers to form a team with all NSPS students.
- The school will endeavour to ensure all interested students have the opportunity to play however there will be occasions where this may not be possible (e.g. not enough interest to register a team). Where we cannot form teams due to insufficient numbers, schools nearby may be approached to field composite teams.
- In sports teams where players need to be loaned to an opposition team to make up numbers on game day, this should be done on a rotational basis.
- If the school enters two teams in the same age group / year level competition every effort should be made to ensure the teams are of equal ability. In exceptional circumstances the Sports Co-ordinator may make changes to teams after the season has commenced in negotiation with HPE teacher.
- The HPE Teacher will pin notices to the NSPS gym noticeboard informing students and parents which specific team they have been allocated to.

- Netball, soccer and touch football all have teams made up of mixed genders. Basketball has different rosters for boys and girls; NSPS is guided by the policies and protocols set by the Devonport Warriors Basketball Club and the North West Basketball Union regarding gender.

5. Uniforms

- NSPS colours are green and gold.
- Uniforms for school sports (basketball, netball, soccer and touch football) are provided by the school if teams are solely made up of NSPS students.
- There is no fee for hire of sports tops but parents will be expected to wash them and keep them in good condition.
- Coaches will distribute uniforms to children on the day of the first game, which children will keep for the duration of the season. Coaches will take the uniforms back after the cessation of the last game (on game day).
- If children miss the last game, parents will be invoiced for the full cost of the uniform if they are not returned to the school within two weeks of the season finishing.
- Parents will be invoiced for the full cost of the uniform if they are lost or damaged.
- Uniforms are only to be worn for matches.
- Uniforms should not be altered in any way.
- All damaged or lost uniforms and equipment to be reported immediately to Sports Co-ordinator and not wait until the end of season.

6. Safety Equipment and Medical Requirements

- Individual protective equipment such as shinpads, mouthguards and footwear are the responsibility of parents to provide. See attachment one for specific sport requirements.
- The school does not accept any liability for students or parents arising from any injury or accident during or at a game. Parents may choose to seek private insurance to assist financially in the event of any injury. Parents should check the terms and conditions of separate sporting organisations such as the Devonport Junior Soccer Association for any insurance cover associated with the registration and fee structure.
- Children with open wounds are to be removed from play immediately until all bleeding is stopped and the wound has been cleaned and covered (gloves should be worn).
- For serious cases call an ambulance and contact the parents ASAP.
- Coaches must inform the Sports Co-ordinator ASAP of any incident requiring medical attention.
- Coaches will be advised by parents of any child with specific medical condition (e.g. asthma, allergies, diabetes). Medication is the student's responsibility to bring to training/games.
- If there is a serious medical concern surrounding a particular child, then a parent/carers presence is required at all times. This is non-negotiable.
- All coaches, parents and supporters must adhere to the sporting venue's COVID regulations and guidelines.

7. End of year Awards / Recognition

- Trophies, medals or plaques etc should not be provided to players at the end of the season. This is to make it fair and equitable across all teams and all school sports.
- All players will receive a certificate of participation at the end of the season in school assembly.
- Individual awards for 'best' players or highest scorers etc should not be provided.
- It is acceptable to acknowledge students selected in regional or State teams in Schoolzine.

8. Grievance Procedure

Students/parents should seek confidential advice and support from someone they feel comfortable with (e.g. coach/manager, parent/other adult, teacher, Sports Co-ordinator or NSPS Principal) should an issue arise. There are four options for dealing with grievances, listed below:

- Option 1: Approach the other person and express your grievance. Both parties work together and successfully resolve the problem.

- Option 2: Express your concern verbally or by letter to the committee of the sport concerned. They will treat your concern confidentially, define the problem, decide on a response in keeping with their policies and procedures and report the outcomes to you as soon as practicable.
- Option 3: Discuss your concerns with the Sports Co-ordinator.
- Option 4: Contact the NSPS School Principal.

9. North West Primary School Sports Association (NWPSSA) Selection

When selecting individuals to represent the school at NWPSSA events such as athletics and cross country carnivals, the HPE teacher will put forward names to the Principal for selection based on their performance on school sports days. When making a final decision to select athletics and cross country representatives, the Principal will take their behaviour at school into account.

Following directives from the NWPSSA, the HPE teacher is responsible for nominating children to attend trials for team sports to represent the 'Devon' area in soccer, hockey, netball and Aussie Rules. Final teams will be chosen by the NWPSSA.

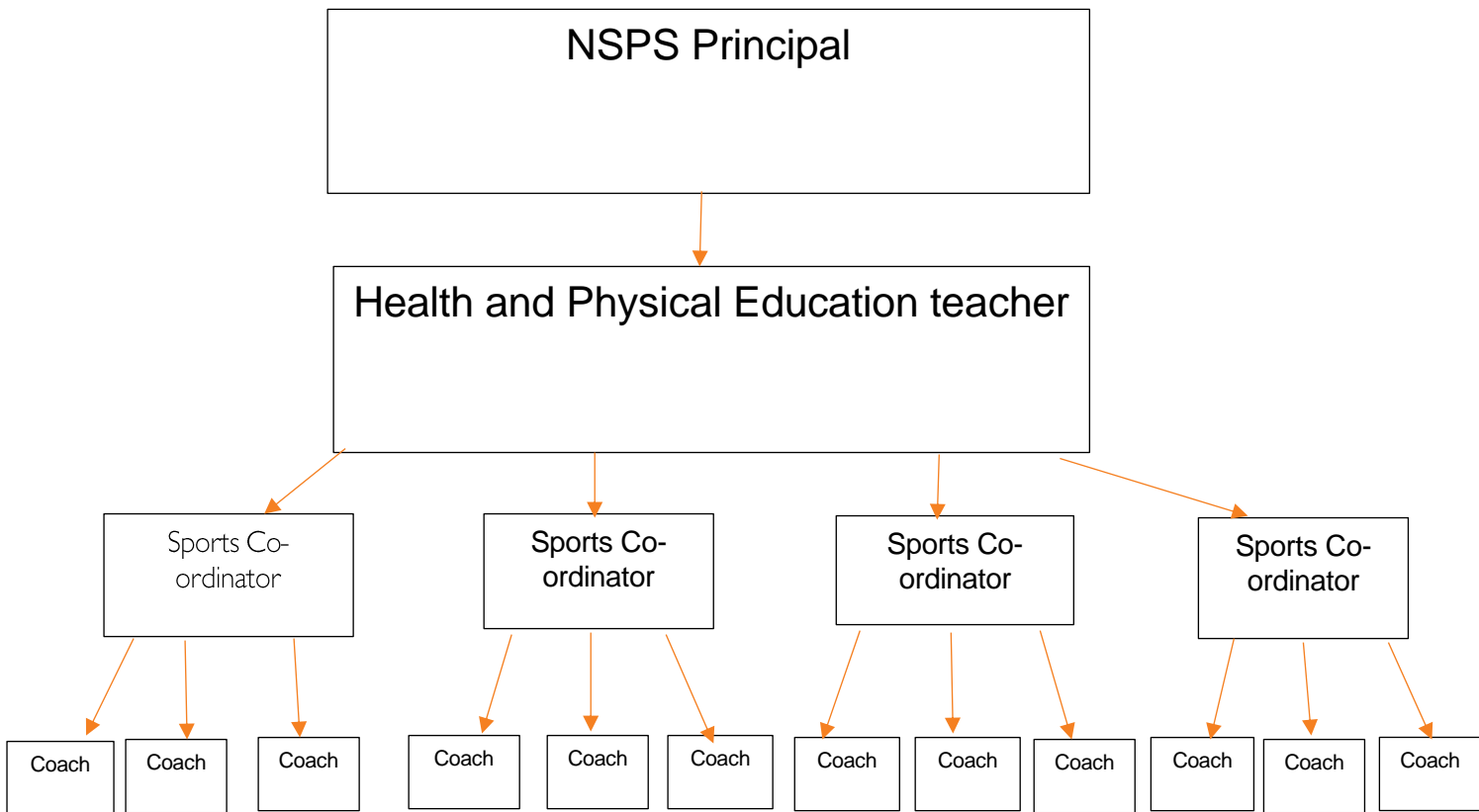
10. Review and Evaluation

The NSPS Sports Policy will be reviewed every 3 years by the School Association Committee. However, recommendations for urgent updating can be considered at any time.

ATTACHMENT ONE (NIXON STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL 'SPORTS POLICY') – Details about individual sports

TOPIC	BASKETBALL	NETBALL	SOCCER	TOUCH FOOTBALL
Season details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter roster (mid-March until end June) Spring roster (early Sept until late Nov) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter roster (mid-March until August) Spring roster (Sept until late Nov) 	Winter (April - August)	Oct – Dec (Term 4) 8 weeks
Roster details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate rosters for boys and girls Teams combined for grades 1&2, 3&4, 5&6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boys and girls play together Teams combined for grades 2/3/4 and 5/6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boys and girls play together Separate rosters for each year from K-6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boys and girls play together Teams combined for grades 2/3/4 and 5/6
Registration procedure	Online www.devonportwarriors.com.au	Via nominations from PE Staff	Online - www.playfootball.com.au	Online – www.touchfootball.com.au
Approximate cost of registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U/10 \$80 U/12 \$90 U/14 \$100 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter roster \$60 Winter and Spring roster \$100 	\$70	\$50
How rosters are distributed	Schoolzine App + link through Devonport Warriors website + https://www.playhq.com	Schoolzine App	Schoolzine App + 'Devonport Junior Soccer Club' FaceBook page	Schoolzine app + via www.touchfootball.com.au
Location of games	Devonport Basketball Stadium (Forbes Street)	Spreyton Netball Courts	Meercroft Park	Meercroft Park
Usual games days and times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 1-2 Wed (3.30-5.30pm) Year 3-6 Fri (3.30-7.30pm) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter - Sat 8.45am Spring – Wed 4pm 	Saturday mornings	Wednesday afternoons
Uniform details	School singlet + black sports shorts	School sports polo + black shorts or skirt	School tops + black sports shorts	School tops + black sports shorts
Other equipment that is required	Sneakers (special basketball shoes not essential)	Sneakers	Shin-guards essential + football boots (mouth guards recommended)	Sneakers or turf/trail shoes
Other contacts	FaceBook - Devonport Warriors Basketball News	FaceBook – Devon Netball Association	FaceBook - Devonport Junior Soccer Club	FaceBook – CostaGroup Devonport Touch Association
Wet weather cancellations	n/a	Radio + FaceBook	Radio + FaceBook	FaceBook
Other parent tasks	Bench (scoring) Team Coach	Timekeeping Team Coach	Canteen Duty – once/year Team Coach Setting up/packing up goals when team plays first/last	Team Coach

Attachment two - Organisation Chart (chain of command)



Internal Information Only*

Authorised by: Vicki Phyland

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Last Significant Review: 1 December 2021

Review Due: 2 December 2024

This Document Replaced: Sports Policy 2020

