Tharawal Primary School

Sport Policy

*Rationale*
Sport is a compulsory component of the PD/H/PE syllabus. Students need to be provided with opportunities to participate in a range of sporting activities/programs commensurate with their ability and / or interest. Sport assists in the development of a healthy lifestyle by promoting physical activity.
It is important that student’s school experiences in physical activity are conducted in a safe and supportive environment. Schools that create safe and supportive environments will not only protect students from injury but will encourage their lifelong participation in regular physical activity.

*Outcomes*
- Clear guidelines for implementation of sporting programs at Tharawal primary school
- Clear and consistent guidelines for selection of team/group members
- Students, parents/carers and staff have a clear understanding the acceptance code of conduct that is expected during sporting activities

*Supervision of Students*
- At all times the supervision of students is the direct responsibility of the teacher/s coordinating the sport/activity.
- Teachers take overall responsibility for the supervision of students during sporting activities where an adult other than a teacher accompanies the group to provide instruction or to assist with supervision
- The supervision ratio of students to teaching staff, for any sporting activity, will be determined through reference to the *Guidelines for the Safe Conduct of Sport and Physical Activity in Schools*.

*Safety and Child Protection*
- Students requiring medication during sporting activities will do so following the School’s *Medication Policy*.
- The safety guidelines for each sporting activity undertaken by the School will be made with reference to *Guidelines for the Safe Conduct of Sport and Physical Activity in Schools*.
- Any activity involving swimming or water activities will be accompanied by a member of staff who possesses current training in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and emergency care.
- A member of staff who has undertaken emergency care training will accompany all other activities.
- Staff must follow departmental requirements in relation to child protection, including mandatory reporting, which apply while supervising sporting activities.
Where adults other than teaching staff are to be involved in sporting activities, the coordinating teacher is to ensure that each accompanying adult has completed a Working with Children check prior to the activity.

**Permission to undertake Sporting Activities and Travel Arrangements**

- For sport activities conducted outside the school grounds, the school will inform parents or caregivers about the location, costs, mode of travel and supervision arrangements, activities to be undertaken and dismissal times, where it is appropriate. Permission will be obtained from parents/caregivers. This includes regular weekly sport, zone and higher representative sport competitions, fixtures and carnivals.
- Consent may be obtained for a block of a particular sport or activity, provided details of the duration of the block are provided and any variations are notified to parents/caregivers.
- Where small groups of students have to travel away from school (e.g. three or four competitors to a carnival), parents/caregivers must be notified and give approval for such arrangements. This particularly applies to sporting activities where parent volunteers have to be organised to transport students to and from venues in private vehicles.

**School Based Sport Programs**

All students are required to participate in sporting activities as part of the PH/H/PE syllabus. At Tharawal Primary School students participate in a weekly, stage based sports skills program.

**Representative Sport**

Representing the school provides an opportunity for talented athletes to extend their skills and compete against similarly skilled students from other schools. Representing the school is an honour and students who represent the school have the responsibility to compete at all times in a manner that demonstrates good sportsmanship and exemplary behaviour.

**Selection Criteria of Teams**

Primary Schools Sports Association (PSSA) is a school representative competition.

- Students are selected to play in PSSA teams on merit and ability by a voluntary team coach, whose decision is final.
- All students are invited to attend selection trials from which the teams will be chosen.
- The trials will be advertised in school assemblies and adequate notice will be given.
- Generally, only under special circumstances e.g. family holidays or serious illness will consideration be given to those children not attending the trials.
- However, as PSSA is a representative competition, it therefore forms part of the gifted and talented program of the school. Consequently, just as the selection of the best mathematicians or writers are made to join a gifted and talented program,
coaches reserve the right to select the best students for their team. This procedure is to ensure that the best possible team enters the competition.

- Members of a team will be informed that they must attend all training sessions and notify coaches when they are unable to attend.
- Team members will show respect and responsibility by displaying appropriate behaviour both within school and as a team member representing the school.
- The team will be dressed in the appropriate sport attire.

**Procedure to the selection of PSSA teams**

- Advertise trials at an assembly.
- Advertise trials in the Tharawal Tales the week prior to trials.
- Two staff members (where possible) will oversee the selection process.
- Each trial is an elimination process.
- The first trial to involve elimination on a skills basis.
- Following trials to involve higher order skills and gameplay.
- As soon as team is selected the team members will be notified.

**Code of Behaviour**

- Before being accepted into a sporting competition, students and parents/carers will be required to sign and abide by the School’s *Code of Behaviour* (Appendix 1).
- The *Code of Behaviour* is a binding agreement between the School and the parties signing the agreement.
- A player who fails to abide by the *Code of Behaviour* will result in the player being withdrawn from the particular sporting activity for a period determined by the teacher coordinating the sport/activity and the Principal.
- A spectator who fails to abide by the *Code of Behaviour* will result in the spectator being banned from watching future games in the competition.

**Engadine Zone Selection Procedures**

Tharawal Primary School supports the Engadine PSSA by selecting talented students to represent at Engadine Zone level in a variety of sports. Zone convenors will notify each school when trials are to be held. The following procedures will be followed when selecting students:

**Tharawal Primary School PSSA Sport**

Where the school enters teams in the PSSA competition, the coach of the team is responsible for nominating talented students for each sport. The coach will be notified of upcoming zone trials by the school PSSA coordinator or their delegate. The maximum number of students allowed to trial is determined by the Engadine Zone PSSA convenor.
Non-Tharawal Primary School PSSA Sports
In the case of sports that are not played by the school in the Engadine Zone PSSA competition, talented students will be invited to attend trials by either the Tharawal school PSSA coordinator or their delegate. This notification will be done at assembly time and also through the weekly newsletter, the 'Tharawal Tales'. Students will be interviewed and only those deemed suitably qualified will be recommended to attend the trial. The maximum number of students allowed to trial is determined by the Engadine Zone PSSA convenor.
Tharawal Primary School
Sport Code of Behaviour

You have been selected to represent the school in a sporting competition. This is an honour and as such, exemplary behaviour is expected at all times. Please read the PLAYERS’ CODE OF BEHAVIOUR and discuss the code with your parents. After your discussion please sign the agreement below and return it to the teacher who is coordinating the competition.

Your parents also need to read and agree to the PARENT’S AND SPECTATORS CODE OF BEHAVIOUR.

PLAYERS’ CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

1. Play by the rules.
2. Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your captain, coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the competition.
3. Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.
4. Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team. Your team’s performance will benefit, so will you.
5. Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they be by your team or the opposition.
6. Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
7. Co-operate with your coach, team-mates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
8. Play for the fun of it, and not just to please parents and coaches.

I __________________________________ agree to abide by the following “Players Code of Behaviour” when competing in ________________

Name of competition

I understand that if I break the Code I may not be able to continue to play in this competition as a consequence of my actions.

Signed: _______________________________ Date: ______________

Student’s name

Name of competition
Please read the following and sign the agreement. The agreement must be returned to school to the coordinating teacher of the competition.

PARENTS AND SPECTATORS CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

1. Remember that children play sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
2. Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
3. Focus on the child’s efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
4. Encourage children to always participate according to the rules and the officials’ decision.
5. Respect officials’ decisions and teach children to do likewise.
6. Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game. Positive comments are motivational.
7. Applaud good performance and efforts from each team. Congratulate all participants upon their performance regardless of the game’s outcome.
8. Remember that children learn best by example. Applaud good plays by all teams.
9. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
10. Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players. Do not use foul language or harass players, coaches or officials.
11. Show respect for your team’s opponents. Without them there would be no game.
12. Show appreciation of volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.

I ____________________________ have read and agree to abide by the Parent’s / caregiver’s name

Following “Players’ Code of Behaviour” when competing in ________________________________

Name of competition

I understand that if I break the Code I may not be able to be a spectator of this competition as a consequence of my actions. My child may also be disadvantaged by such actions.

Signed: ____________________________ Date: _______________