



MARION PRIMARY SCHOOL

Sports Policy

2023

Introduction

Marion Primary School (MPS) provides a range of activities for students to participate in and relies upon adult volunteers from the school community to coach, manage and support teams. Without the commitment of volunteers, our children would not be able to participate in out of hours sport.

This document sets out the Sports Policy of Marion Primary School and is consistent with the guidelines of the National Junior Sport Policy and Sports Committee guidelines. The policy serves as a guide to inform coaches, team managers, caregivers and parents of participating children of the expectations regarding the organisation and management of competitive sporting teams at this school.

Marion Primary School, coaches, managers and other representatives, will consider the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and other culturally and linguistically diverse children and their families and make every effort to ensure cultural safety which supports inclusion.

General Communication

School communication: All sub-committees and persons concerned with sporting activities within the school shall direct communication through the school newsletter and/or specific letters to ensure parents and staff are duly informed of activities.

Coach/Team Manager communication: At the commencement of each term, the coach/team manager may elect to use a social media app/platform to create a central communication tool for all team members/parents/caregivers. This may include, but is not limited to, Messenger and WhatsApp. The purpose of these platforms is to provide instant and fast-paced information sharing with respect to training sessions, match times, locations and scoring rosters, and for parents/caregivers to confirm player attendance/availability for training and matches.

Social media apps and all communication avenues are not to be used as a dispute resolution tool or to air grievances and must be used strictly in accordance with the code of conduct at all times.

School Sport SA (formerly known as SAPSASA)

Approval for students to participate, subject to parent/caregiver consent is the prerogative of the Principal on the advice of the appropriate School Sport SA Coordinator and Sports Committee. Consideration will be given to individual students representing the school in line with the school's Behaviour Management Policy.

MPS teams will be nominated in at least the following district and state competitions where sufficient students, coaches and supervisors are available: Athletics, Cross Country and Swimming.

MPS teams will be nominated in other competitions where sufficient students, coaches and supervisors are available. This may include, but is not limited to: AFL, Soccer, Netball, Basketball, Cricket.

School Selection

Selection for inclusion in School Sport SA teams is based on the following criteria:

- Students demonstrate sufficient ability and understanding of the chosen sport
- Students are chosen on merit, with priority given to older aged students
- Selection trials will be organised by the coach and or coordinator to finalise any School Sport SA teams
- Students do not have to be representing MPS in after school or Saturday morning sporting competitions to be eligible for school team selection

District Selection

- Students are nominated to trial for district teams, as approved by the Principal
- All students who qualify by age are eligible for selection - please refer to School Sport SA internet page for details
- District coordinators accept responsibility for team selections and communicate this information back to the school and families

State Selection

- All students who qualify by age are eligible for selection - please refer to School Sport SA internet page for details

Responsibilities and expectations of coaches and students

- Coaches, managers, supervisors and parents/caregivers are obliged to follow all relevant codes of conduct
- The Principal will liaise with sporting coordinators and coaches to determine the level of supervision required for teams
- Students demonstrate they are a 'team player' and respect officials, their team and opposition at all times
- Students agree to follow all reasonable requests of coaches, managers and supervisors
- Students agree to represent MPS, district and state teams with pride and demonstrate appropriate behaviour in line with school expectations

Fundraising Support for State Team Selection

Upon request by a parent or caregiver, the School and Governing Council may consider providing fundraising support (which may include, but is not limited to), a casual day, raffle or other fundraising event, with part proceeds of such fundraising event to be divided amongst Marion Primary School students selected to represent the state in school-based competition.

First Aid Policy

The school requires approved health care plans and medical certification to administer medication. If sporting personnel receive information from a parent/caregiver regarding a child's medical condition, details must be noted so all concerned are aware and take appropriate action as the need arises. Section 2 of the registration/consent form asks caregivers to tick the 'yes' box if there are medical conditions of which a coach, team manager or team official should be aware. If the box is ticked, the medical information form must be filled out.

Each team coach or manager must have a first aid kit and have it re-stocked when necessary. These are available from the school's front office staff and will be restocked as need arises. These are to be returned at the end of each season. First aid kits will only contain basic materials e.g. bandaids, bandages etc. to deal with minor injuries.

A child who is more seriously injured and is unable to continue under normal conditions should be rested, or if necessary, supported with professional medical attention by ambulance personnel or a doctor.

The school does not accept any liability for students or parents/caregivers arising from any injury or accident. Parents/caregivers may choose to seek private insurance to assist financially in the event of injury. Coaches, managers and other volunteers are afforded a limited cover by the Department for Education Volunteer Policy. The Principal must be notified ASAP and generally within 24 hours of details of accidents or significant injury and also of witnesses.

Transport and Caregiver/Parental involvement

Transporting children to out of hours sporting venues is the responsibility of parents/caregivers. This requires:

- A current unrestricted driver's licence
- A minimum of third-party insurance on the nominated vehicle
- A roadworthy vehicle with seatbelts for all occupants and booster seats as required
- Drivers are aware that in the event of accidents, neither the school nor the Department for Education is liable for either vehicle damage or passenger injuries. The owner/driver is completely responsible for these claims
- Negotiated consent between parents/caregivers whose children are transported by another parent/party
- It is encouraged that transporting child/ren is a shared responsibility to enable maximum participation in scheduled matches/events

The Role of the Sports Committee

All MPS after school sports teams are affiliates of the Marion Sports Committee, which, acting on behalf of the Governing Council, is the coordinating organisation for school sporting activities.

Sports Committee Membership is:

- Principal
- Sports coordinator (relevant information is shared with by the Principal)
- Governing Council Sports Committee Representative
- Maximum of 4 parent representatives appointed by Governing Council
- A Convener from this committee will be appointed annually and approved by Governing Council

Team Managers, Coaches and parents/caregivers of children who participate in sport are welcome to attend meetings in a non-voting capacity.

Meetings are generally held twice a term prior to Governing Council meetings. Meeting dates and times will be communicated through newsletter and/or regular school communication platforms.

The duties of the Sports Committee include:

- Assist the Sports Coordinator in the implementation of their role
- Provide a policy review and development forum
- Act as the liaison between the school community and the Sports Coordinator for any communication or dispute resolution requirements

The Role of the Principal

All sporting activities that take place under the name of the school are the ultimate responsibility of the Principal.

The Principal or delegate will only endorse the formation of sporting teams when:

- There are responsible persons able to coach and supervise students in the appropriate manner according to the Codes of Conduct laid down by the Sports Committee
- The conditions and criteria for inclusion in a sporting team (i.e. age of students) as described in this policy are met
- This will promote the proper skills development and safety of all participants. The Principal will assist team coordinators and coaches in the implementation of this policy through the Sports Committee

The Role of the Sports/School Sport SA Coordinator (currently Ros Mazurek)

- Liaise with the Principal in exercising a general oversight in the management of school sport
- Survey students and parents to gauge interest in sports to play and capacity for coaching
- Summarise student interest and availability of Coaches & Managers for each sport to the Sports Committee
- Engage a Team Manager and coach for each sport
- Advise and support Team Managers and Coaches in their roles
- Support Team Coaches re player and spectator behaviour expectations and any other concerns
- Work with Team Coaches and Team Managers to identify other officials as needed
- Ensure each team has an adequate supply of equipment in a workable condition
- Encourage Coaches or Managers to keep an up-to-date inventory and inform of the need to replace equipment
- Complete an equipment stocktake annually and purchase/replenish required equipment
- Ensure Team Coaches distribute a timetable of matches to parents/caregivers, officials, grounds person and Principal; Team Coaches may liaise with the school (Sports Coordinator) to facilitate this
- Report grievances or breaches of the codes raised from teams to the Principal
- Work with the Sports Committee to organise sports teams and inform the community
- Contact the appropriate District sporting coordinator to nominate teams, each at the correct age level, to represent our school
- Ensure that an adequate first aid kit is available for each team
- Ensure that the standard school information/consent form/code of conduct and medical form for sporting teams is completed for all players, signed by caregivers/parents and the fee paid before involvement in matches
- Work with the school finance officer to distribute and keep a record of uniforms and other equipment issued and collect at the end of the season
- Work with the school finance officer to arrange for payment of uniform deposits to parents/caregivers as required
- As sport teams compete on a term-by-term basis, organise teams for the upcoming term

The Role of the Coach, Team Manager and Other Officials

A responsible adult must be in control of all matches and practices, otherwise no activity may occur. If supervision issues arise the Principal may consider withdrawing the team.

It is recommended that at least one Team Manager is appointed to each team to assist and support the Coach. Other appointments (such as equipment stewards, time keepers, scorers etc.) are other avenues for potential parent involvement and may be appointed as needed or determined by the coach.

Besides their roles as scorers, timekeepers and guiders of children at training and matches etc. it is essential that Team Managers and Coaches of all teams complete the following:

- Undergo a WWCC Screening (volunteer checks are free)
- Be punctual at training and matches
- Ensure duty of care, thus all students have been collected at the end of a training session or match before leaving
- Cease any activity observed as being dangerous or unsafe in any way for any group or individual. School sporting activities are for primary students whose skills and abilities are partially developed. Therefore, the training emphasis should be focused on skill development
- Schedule 1 x 1-hour (maximum) training session per week, each session being not more than one-hour duration for all teams.
- Communicate with the Sports Coordinator to ensure all players are officially registered via the school information and consent form. i.e. if the player hasn't returned their form they cannot play.
- Ensure all players and their parents/caregivers receive a program of matches with a meeting time and location clearly specified
- Ensure a first aid kit is available
- Manage player safety with appropriate measures
- Ensure students comply with Sun Safe practices as per the school's policy
- Notify players and their parents/caregivers in adequate time if training or matches are to be cancelled
- Strive to provide a culturally safe team environment with culturally appropriate communications

Caregiver/Parental Responsibilities

Although the school will actively foster after hours sports activities by providing a focal point in the community, it remains the responsibility of parents/caregivers to encourage, assist and supervise children. Codes of conduct for individual sports are provided to all participating students and families at the commencement of each term/season.

Eligibility of students

- Age of Students
- Enrolment

Students may join a competitive school sports team from reception to year 6 for basketball and where the school is able to field a team in this age group. Unless extenuating circumstances apply, children will not be able to join a team outside of their current age group/year level.

Player Game Time and Team Formation

All children who are registered through the school system and attend practice regularly should play in an equitable share of games and receive equitable game time during matches. If team numbers are high, coaches need to consider a fair way of ensuring equity of playing time. This may mean rostering and/or rotating players for matches. The school's expectation and main priority is for the participation of all players.

Where there are **not** two divisions of separate abilities provided by the sport organisation, more than one team consisting of players of the same year level will be fielded with players of mixed abilities. No attempt will be made to have an 'A' and 'B' side in competitions where leveled divisions do not exist. Requests for coaches and specific team members will not be accommodated.

If there is the instance of multiple MPS teams and divisions separated by ability, the coach/Sports Coordinator may consider selection of teams based on ability and will need to seek consultation with the Principal before any decision can occur.

Basketball is run 'termly' and therefore new nominations will be received each term and teams may be expected to change each term, if required. Continuity of team membership should be encouraged where possible, to develop team skill set and cohesion.

Awards – After-school sport

Our sporting participation is in team games and the emphasis is on teamwork and sportsmanship. Recognition is provided to all players equally. Trophies/medals are presented to each child who participates in a team sport throughout the year, at the Sports Assembly held in Term 4. Cost for each trophy/medal is included as part of the registration cost for each sport.

End of season coaches' gifts may be provided by each sports team to thank individual coaches and other volunteers involved. Collections should be made from the parent community to fund these. A small gift is made to Coaches and Managers by the Sports Committee.

School Sport Award – in school

The school presents a Sports trophy to both a Year 6 boy and girl who meet the following criteria in an exemplary manner:

- High level sporting ability
- School Values
- Leadership
- Team work
- Commitment to the sport
- Helping others
- Good sporting behaviour
- Participation in SAPSASA events
- Good attitude to training and in games
- Good attendance at training

Recipients of these awards are decided by the Sports Coordinator, Principal and teachers in consultation.

Safety Issues

Governing Council, in conjunction with the Sports sub-committee, has decided as a matter of safety that no items of jewelry (including, but not limited to, rings, necklaces, studs and watches) be worn when sports teams represent the school. Items required for medical identification purposes are exempted. Earrings may be taped if unable to be removed. Cultural items that do not present a risk to safety are also exempted (for basketball, as approved by Basketball SA).

Heat and Extreme Weather Policy

Individual sporting organisations manage Heat Policy and Extreme Weather Policy. At MPS, irrespective of individual sporting organisations policies, outdoor matches and training will be cancelled if the temperature is forecast to be greater than 36 degrees according to the Bureau of Meteorology on the evening before the scheduled event. Basketball training at school occurs in the air-conditioned gym. Cancellations of training will be decided between the individual coaches in consultation with the school.

In the event of an electrical storm (lightning) commencing or approaching, students will immediately leave the outdoor area and seek shelter indoors or under a built shelter.

Interschool basketball matches are organised and run by the Metro Social Basketball League (MSBL), and cancellations of these games are at the discretion of MSBL. Any cancellations will be communicated on the Basketball Connect App. When games are cancelled and the school is directly notified, the school will advise the coach and players.

Codes of Conduct

All sporting activities representing MPS, including training, are governed by the School Behaviour Management Policy and applies equally to all players. Spectator behaviour is covered by the Code of Conduct. Please refer to the Codes of Conduct/school sports information pack for parents/carers for further information.

Consequences

All offences against the behaviour code, and the actions taken in each instance, shall be reported to the Principal and then to the Sports Committee. The Principal or delegate has the power to administer disciplinary actions within the scope of Department for Education regulations and the normal standard of justice.

Players who significantly breach school behaviour codes during matches or practices will be referred to the Principal for counselling and consequence. Consequences may include suspension from matches or exclusion from teams in the event of a serious breach. Players cannot attend any practices or matches for any sport during exclusion or suspension from school. All incidents and issues will be dealt with restoratively and parents will be consulted throughout all stages of the process.

Coaches and parents will be reminded of appropriate adult behaviour by the Team Manager. Repeated serious breaches of the code of conduct by parents will result in a meeting between the Principal and parent for discussion and resolution.

Registration and Notifying Parents/Caregivers

Children must nominate for basketball before the first game. Fees unpaid by the end of the third week of competition may result in the player being withdrawn from the team. Each Coach will be provided with a list of all registered players and their details.

End of Season Team Photographs

Team photos are strongly encouraged as a way to celebrate the participation of the team throughout the season. The school can support and facilitate this process.

Collection of Money and Payments for Purchases

All registration fees are to be paid to the Front Office. An official receipt will be issued for each amount paid. The Finance Officer will pay all bills on behalf of each team as required.

Uniforms and Equipment

Team uniforms are endorsed by the Sports Committee and all players should demonstrate the school values with pride. Uniforms should reflect the school colours of sky blue and navy as much as possible.

The Sports Committee, in conjunction with the Governing Council, will determine a budget plan to put away monies for future uniform and equipment purchases each year.

Team equipment is purchased through sport team funds and is provided to the Coaches and Managers at the start of each sport season and remains their responsibility until the season is completed. Coaches should request the future replacement of items through the Sports Coordinator.

All uniforms that are on loan from the school will require a deposit to be paid by the students' parent/caregiver. This deposit will be returned at the end of the season upon return of the uniform in a good condition. An amount of money as advised annually will be retained to support the purchase of new uniform items.

This Sports Policy was written in May, 2023 and is to be reviewed again in 2025.