



Kincumber Public School Policy Sport Team/ Representative Selection Policy

Key Accountability: Educational Programs

Departmental Policy References: *School Sport and Physical Activity Policy*

<https://policies.education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/sport-and-physical-activity-policy>

Next Review date: *Term 4 2023*

Purpose

The aim of this policy is to communicate to the school community how the school manages the selection of PSSA representatives. It should be read in conjunction with the information on the School Sport Unit website <https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/sport/> and the *School Community Charter* <https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/media/documents/school-community-charter.pdf>

Rationale

At Kincumber Public School, sport is an integral part of our school curriculum. Sport, incorporating physical education, is provided on a class, stage and whole school basis. School representative teams play in the Southern Central Coast Zone PSSA competition (<https://www.facebook.com/pg/Southern-Central-Coast-Primary-School-Sports-Association-303653373593658/posts/>). Individual students may represent the school at Zone, Area and/or State in various sports.

The principles of this policy include that:

When selecting students during trials, consideration will be given to those who demonstrate the school expectations of being a Safe, Respectful Learner and:

- Ability and strong skill level;
- Sportsmanship;
- Cooperation and attitude; and
- Commitment to training sessions.

Policy Implementation

At Kincumber Public School you can expect we will:

1. Select sporting teams and representatives according to this policy
2. Ensure that our teams are provided suitably qualified coaches
3. Ensure Child Protection and Work Health and Safety policies are adhered to
4. Emphasise participation and fair play
5. Observe the NSW DoE School Sports Unit rules

The **school** is expected to:

- Designate a School Sports Coordinator and a supporting committee at the



beginning of each school year

- Provide information to parents and students to access sporting opportunities in school and at zone level

Teachers are expected to:

- Provide information to the School Sports Coordinator to assist in selection processes
- Provide information to families in written form and handed to students including permission notes. (trial of parent portal in 2022)

Parents are expected to:

- Uphold the School Community Charter
- Provide transport to and from venues unless bus transport is arranged due to the numbers of children participating
- Provide a NSW DoE Working With Children Check declaration and provision of identification documents at the school office in order to transport children other than their own.

Students are expected to:

1. Wear a broad-brimmed or legionnaire style hat according to uniform policy.
2. Wear clothing that provides maximum sun protection according to uniform policy.
3. Comply with teacher directions in the conduct of outdoor activities to reduce risk of exposure to the sun.
4. Remove jewellery or other items that could foreseeably cause an injury to themselves or other students when directed by DoE staff.
5. Uphold the NSW DoE Behaviour Code, the Player Code of Conduct and school expectations.

Additional Implementation Information

PSSA team selection

1. Teams will be selected from Year 5 & 6 students, unless there is a shortage of players.
2. Students in lower grades who have exceptional ability may apply in writing to the Sports Coordinator for consideration for inclusion in teams and may have to provide evidence from accredited coaches/sports officials to verify possible eligibility
3. Students must have an attendance rate of 90% or higher, with fewer than 6 negative behaviour referrals, to be considered for inclusion in PSSA teams. An attendance rate lower than 90% or more than 1 major behaviour referral necessitates the completion of a risk assessment before inclusion. Students in this situation may be granted permission to represent after consideration by the Principal.



4. From time to time, and for the purpose of increasing student participation, the School Sports Committee may limit the number of knockout sporting teams that an individual student may express interest in joining in a single year.

If more students indicate an interest in a team than there are positions, trials will be held.

- Selections will be held over two sessions (minimum);
- Two reserves selected (minimum);
- Where there are two children of equal ability the child from the higher school grade will be selected;
- Children do not have to participate in this sport out of school to be eligible to try out for the team;
- The selections will be made according to performance on selection sessions;
- Children who are absent due to illness or holidays on all selection days will not be considered unless additional players are required to form the team;
- If a child is absent for one of the selection days, due to other school commitments i.e. Zone sports or Selective High School Tests, then another training session will be held to determine if he/she is worthy of being selected;
- All teams will be selected by two teachers/selectors;
- All children to be selected will have equal time on the field/court during the selection;
- Parents are requested not to discuss the selection process with selectors unless specifically referring to the trial dates; and
- Once selections have been made, decisions are final and must be respected.

Representative Tryouts

- Students will be made aware of the trial dates; and
- Due to the limited number of students who are eligible from each school only those students who demonstrate exceptional skills relative to the sport will be considered.

The selection process will be based on either:

- Tryouts if there are more than the desired number of representatives; and
or
- Proof and evidence of sporting achievements.

It is not mandatory for a school to select students for representative trials if the required skill level is not matched.



Gala Days

Many gala days are offered throughout the year by the PSSA and other sporting codes. The school participates in PSSA gala days as a priority and participates in others when appropriate to do so.

If there are more students expressing an interest than required for the team, Gala Day selections will be determined using the following procedures:

- Students who have previously played the game or who have some knowledge of the game express an interest;
- Students will be randomly and equitably selected regarding grade allocations.

Codes Of Behaviour

Codes of behaviour provide a supportive framework which promotes fair play and appropriate behaviour in school sport. These codes apply to players, teachers, coaches, parents, officials and spectators who together provide the environment in which school sport is played. The following codes apply to school sport at all levels and are designed to highlight:

- The principles of enjoyment, satisfaction and safe play in sport;
- That students participate for their own sake and not to fulfil the desires of parents, adult groups or peers; and
- The encouragement of student participation in sport and, in so doing, contribute to higher levels of health and physical fitness.

Player Code of Conduct and Dress Code

When chosen to represent the school at PSSA, Zone, Area, State, at Gala Days or any other external sporting event, students are expected to behave in an exemplary manner both on and off the sports field. This includes wearing full school sports uniform. When representing the school, students may be expected to wear representative shirts.

Full school sports uniform includes wearing a school hat and necessary safety equipment for specific sports (i.e. helmet, shin pads, mouth guard etc.) Studs are only to be worn while playing sport. They must be removed upon return to school. The same applies to shin pads and other safety gear.

Students are to sign a Player Code of Conduct prior to attending PSSA sport, Gala Days (competitive and non-competitive) and any other external sporting event. It is expected that students uphold the Player Code of Conduct at all times, which they must agree to and sign. Failure to uphold the expectations may result in withdrawal from the team.



Players, parents, spectators, teachers and coaches must all abide by all relevant codes of behaviour..

The school reserves the right to suspend a student's participation in sporting activities if behaviour is inappropriate in any school endorsed activities.

PSSA Carnivals (Swimming, Cross Country & Athletics)

At the conclusion of KPS carnivals, students who have qualified to represent the school at the zone level are identified. Qualifying times or distances and places in finals are used to select students for zone representation. Selection of relay teams is at the discretion of the organising teacher(s). Students who then qualify to represent the Southern Central Zone at Sydney North area level, are notified at zone carnivals and so on.

Southern Central Coast PSSA & Sydney North PSSA Trials

The PSSA runs additional competitions in various sports between zones and regions/areas. Zone trials are held by the Southern Central PSSA and students are nominated by the KPS sports coordinator to attend. Generally, nominated students play at representative level outside the school. The sports coordinator notifies students of these opportunities via an announcement at school and in the school newsletter. As the level of skill required to represent KPS at zone or regional level is very high, the sports coordinator may elect not to nominate any KPS students for trial.

Management of Teams

All sporting teams representing Kincumber Public School will be accompanied by a member of our teaching staff. This person shall be referred to as 'the teacher-in-charge'. It is a requirement of the NSW DoE that a teacher is responsible for a school team. If the accompanying teacher holds an appropriate coaching accreditation (or extensive experience), they may elect to fulfil the role of coach. If this is the case, then a parent or other member of the community may be approached to act in the capacity of team manager. If the accompanying teacher does not hold appropriate coaching accreditation they will fulfil the role of manager and a member of the community or parent body may be nominated to be the coach.

However, at all times, the teacher-in-charge maintains responsibility for managing student and parent conduct at all training and competition sessions and makes final decisions as to player participation and to ensure adherence to this school policy.

To ensure that our teams are provided suitably qualified coaches, the school will advertise through the school newsletter. The principal or delegate may, at their discretion, approach individuals directly to fulfil coaching roles as the need arises. Advertising for coaches will occur towards the conclusion of each school year. It



should be noted that the involvement of teaching staff with school teams is voluntary.

There are a number of Health and Safety requirements that the school must comply with in regards to team selection. These safety concerns apply primarily to contact sports such as rugby league and rugby union, however, careful consideration should be given when a child may be at risk of injury due to their size or development level in any sport.

Before announcing a representative team, the teacher-in-charge will discuss the team selections with the principal who has the authority to exclude any student who has not met the school's behaviour or attendance expectations.

In the event of a student not meeting the school's behaviour or attendance expectations while representing the school, the teacher-in-charge, in consultation with the Principal, may remove the student from the representative team. At any time that the team is training, travelling, or involved in a match it should be regarded as a period of school representation. Selected school members who are absent from established training sessions without a valid reason, on more than two occasions, may be excluded from the team by the teacher-in-charge in consultation with the principal.

Playing Time

Teachers will make every effort to provide equitable playing times giving consideration to the skill level of each player and the requirements of individual positions. Most team sports require a certain skill level in key positions. The number of students required for effective training sessions may be more than the number to effectively manage a competition game situation so the teacher-in-charge may develop a different substitution plan for a one-off game than a gala day competition situation to maximise chances of proceeding to the next round, and therefore playing time may be unequal.

Complaints Procedures

Parents with complaints regarding implementation of the procedures set down in this policy should discuss their concerns with the teacher-in-charge or the sports organiser in the first instance.

Representative clothing

Many children represent our school in endorsed PSSA sporting activities where souvenir apparel is available for purchase. It is not offered by organisers of any of these activities as a replacement for any school's approved uniform nor do they have the authority to do so. It is school practice to allow children to wear such souvenir apparel for two weeks after participation in the PSSA sporting activity.