Out of School Hours Sport
SPORTS POLICY
Vale Park Primary School
FOR COACHES

Purpose

The purpose of the Vale Park Primary School Sports Policy is to ensure the provision of opportunity to all Vale Park Primary School students to develop and enrich their lives through sport.

This policy applies to all out of school hours sports, both on and off site.

The policy reflects the National Junior Sports Policy together with the Guidelines for the Development of Junior Sport in South Australia.

Objectives

Key objectives of this policy are to

- Provide supportive environments for enjoyable participation in a wide variety of physical activities, through the development of skills and good sporting behaviours.
- Provide appropriate resources and facilities.
- Ensure equal opportunities for all students to participate in sports, including those with special needs.
- Provide support to volunteers, coaches, managers and administrators in guiding students' participation and development.
- Through the establishment of community links, support life-long participation in sport and physical activity.

Rationale

Social Inclusion

Sport, when presented and organised properly, is an important educational and developmental area that offers benefits to the individual and to Australian society. All students must be given the best possible opportunity to participate in physical activity to develop their physical potential and fitness and to develop an interest in sport.

Benefits of Sport

- Improved physical fitness, health, and self-confidence.
- Experiencing fun, enjoyment, excitement, achievement, and personal challenge.
- Opportunities for friendship.
- Development of sporting skills in a variety of sports and positions.
- Opportunity to develop social, organisational, leadership and self-discipline skills.
- Learning to be a positive and responsible member of a team.
- Improved academic performance.
- Learning how to handle success and failure.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents are obligated to ensure their child arrives at their game and training by the specified time. Parents/guardians must attend ALL out of school hours training sessions and ALL games or provide an adult to supervise.

Please note, the adult supervising must understand and have your approval to make medical decisions.

Parents must contact the coach or team manager directly if their child is unable to play or attend training.

All parents have a responsibility to support their child's coach by assisting as rostered with scoring, goal umpiring, timing, managing a team etc.

Parents are required to advise coaches of specific issues concerning their child that may impact on the child's participation e.g. if the child is a student with a disability or impairment, has health issues or requires particular aids to support their involvement.

Duty of Care

Coaches and managers have a basic duty of care to discharge, including:

- Ensure each child has a parent/caregiver or nominated adult in attendance at all training sessions and /or games.
- Ensure each child is collected by their guardian at the completion of the session/game.
- Removing players with bleeding from the practice or game to receive treatment.
- Consult parent/ guardian to call an ambulance in the event of serious injury or illness.
- Not allowing a child who is suspected of having concussion to return to a game or practice until cleared by a medical practitioner.
- Cancelling practices or matches in extreme or inclement weather, giving reasonable notice to

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parents where possible.
- Ensuring that players comply with SunSmart and hydration practices eg. Sunscreen is worn, hat is worn, regular drinks breaks are taken, playing is ceased over 36 degrees Celsius.

Coaches and managers are protected by vicarious liability if they have discharged their duty of care.

Safety Guidelines

- Consider the ways in which the physical and emotional maturity of a child/youth differs, and also from that of an adult.
- Take into account any long term or short term medical conditions participants may have.
- Ensure that junior sport facilities and equipment are appropriate and safe.
- Ensure that participants wear/use protective equipment where appropriate. This includes the use of appropriate footwear.
- Ensure that participants are properly prepared for their sporting involvement, especially through quality teaching and coaching.
- Basic first aid knowledge by coaches is strongly recommended.
- Team will be provided with an appropriate first aid kit where required.
- Working with Children Check (WWCC) and Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect (RRHAN-EC) training for all volunteers as per by DfE policy.

Games and Practice Protocols

- Warm up and cool down exercises should accompany all sporting activities.
- Adequate and regular fluid intake before and during all sessions must be ensured.
- Sessions should reflect the sporting and/ or schools code's hot or inclement weather policy.
- Participants are obliged to wear protective clothing, especially hats and sunscreen on exposed skin.
- Sports organisers should also maximise the provision of shaded areas at venues and events.
- Parent/s or nominated adult must be present at all games and training sessions.

Student Code of Behaviour - Consequences

Sporting teams are reliant on the services of volunteer coaches and team managers.
It is expected that students will:
- Follow directions given by coaches, team managers and adult helpers.
- Demonstrate respect for others – coaches and assistants, team managers, umpires, officials and helpers, students, and spectators. In line with VPPS Behaviour Policy this means no bullying or cyber bullying, teasing, offensive language, offensive behaviour or harassment (racial, sexual, physical or verbal) will be tolerated.
- Demonstrate respect for property.

The coach has the authority to implement any of the following depending on the severity of the incident:
- Reminder
- Warning
- Time Out.

If unacceptable behaviour continues to occur at training the student may be excluded from training for a period of time.
If unacceptable behaviour occurs during a match the student may be excluded from the remainder of the match, the following training session and subsequent match or matches.

In each case the coach will speak to the child's parent explaining the issue and report the issue to the Principal. Should the behaviour be of sufficiently high level the student may be excluded from subsequent games and practices. This will be determined by the Principal.
Consistent failure to adhere to the Vale Park Primary School Sports Behaviour Policy will result in the matter being referred to the Principal.

Any student who has displayed unsporting behaviour at practice or in games and has been unable to show significant improvement in their attitude and behaviour will not be eligible for selection in school SAPSASA competitions, and may be excluded from participating in regular games.

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Rights and Responsibilities of Junior Sports Participants

All Vale Park Primary School students have the right to

- Enjoy sporting activities.
- Be treated fairly and with dignity and respect.
- Experience a wide range of physical activities and sports.
- Proper preparation for sport participation.
- Participate at a level commensurate with their maturity and ability.
- Play according to rules and values appropriate to their level of development.
- Skilled and qualified coaching.
- Safe and healthy sporting environments.
- Develop leadership qualities and decision-making skills in roles related to their sporting activities.
- Equal opportunity for successful participation.

All Vale Park Primary School students also have a responsibility to develop, value and practice good sporting behaviour. This means to:

- Play fairly and safely.
- Play by the rules.
- Co-operate and respect the coach, team-mates, opponents, and officials.
- Abide by decisions without argument, dissent or bad temper.
- Acknowledge all good play by own team and opponents.
- Fulfill their commitment to a team for the whole of the season.
- Represent Vale Park Primary school with a positive sporting attitude.

*Please read this information together with the Vale Park Primary Out of School Sports Policy.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Sports Committee

Out of hours school sport is overseen by the Sports Committee, a subcommittee of the Governing Council.

Sports Committee reps include:

- The principal or delegate
- PE teacher
- Sports Co-Ordinator
- Nominated Governing Councilor's
- Nominated representatives from sporting groups.
- Representatives nominated by Governing Council.

Meetings are held once per term.

The Sports Committee:

- Oversees the management and development of out of school sports programs.
- Reviews and sets fees in consultation with the Sports Administrator and coaches.
- Monitors the appointment of coaches with reference to the key objectives of this policy.
- Monitors implementation of the Sports policy, reviewing and updating the policy on a planned, regular basis.

Sports Co-Ordinator

The Sports Co-Ordinator position is an initiative of the Governing Council. The role is designed to assist volunteer coaches and team managers with team administration. This assistance may include:

- Distributing programs and notices
- Negotiating teams
- Assisting with tracking of fee payments
- Ordering equipment.
- Liaising with school staff and sports committee.

Formation of Teams

The school is reliant upon the support and voluntary involvement of parents to provide sporting opportunities for students and to run successful teams.

In the event that a team is formed but there are no volunteers for coaching and managing the team, the team will not proceed.

No volunteers = no team.

Nomination

Students wishing to nominate for a sport must complete the appropriate form that is sent home prior to a season starting.

Summer sports are played in Terms 1 and 4, winter sports in Terms 2 and 3. Some sporting seasons will run in line with the semester.

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Late nominations will only be accepted if a team has vacancies.

Age Requirements

In line with the National Junior Sports Policy and the Guidelines for the Development of Junior Sport in South Australia students will not be permitted to commence competitive sport until the season that they turn eight (see Page 2). In special circumstances the Principal/ Sports Committee may approve exemptions.

All students will participate in the appropriate age level competition. If there are insufficient numbers in an older age group a student may be permitted to participate in this competition. A younger student who has been identified as being able to compete in an older age competition must first have the approval of all of the following – the Principal, relevant coaches and student's parent/s or caregiver/s.

Grievance Procedure

Issues of concern should be raised with regard to the following grievance process.

- Concerns related to players or parents should be raised with the coach or manager at an appropriate time.
- Concerns related to the coach or manager should be raised with the non-involved coach or manager at an appropriate time.
- Unresolved concerns should be addressed to the Sports Grievance Panel – a subgroup of the Sports Committee - in writing via the Front Office.
- The Sports Grievance Panel consisting of the Principal and a nominee (or proxy) of the Sports Committee will meet within seven days to resolve the grievance with relevant parties.
- Concerns related to opposition teams (players, coaches, parents and supporters) should be addressed by the coach with the relevant venue. The coach is to report the incident to the Sports Co-Ordinator.

First Aid

Teams will be supplied with a basic First Aid kit where necessary. It is the responsibility of managers/coaches to ensure the First Aid kit is kept adequately stocked. Supplies are available from the Front Office. First Aid kits must be returned to the school at the end of the season.

In the event of serious illness or injury an ambulance will be called, with the cost being the responsibility of the parent. Parent costs may be covered by having ambulance cover or injury insurance.

Injury Insurance

The school does not accept any liability for students or parents arising from any injury or accident. Parents are encouraged to seek private insurance to assist financially in the event of injury.

Cancellation of Training

Unless the practice is to be held in the air-conditioned gym practices will be cancelled

- If the advertised forecast temperature for the morning of the practice is 34 degrees or over.
- If it has been or is anticipated to rain heavily, practice will be cancelled.
- Practices will be cancelled, or immediately stopped in the event of a thunderstorm or if a thunderstorm is forecast.

Parents/ guardians or a nominated adult must be present at all out of school hours training sessions.

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ROLE STATEMENTS

Sports Committee

The Sports Committee will:

- identify the range of sports offered.
- determine and monitor the sports policy, including grievance procedures.
- appoint the Sports Co-Ordinator.
- identify appropriate volunteer coaches.
- review and set fees in consultation with the Sports Co-Ordinator and organisations.
- monitor implementation of the Sports policy, reviewing and updating the policy on a planned, regular basis

Sports Co-Ordinator

The Sports Co-Ordinator will:

- communicate with parents, coaches, and team managers on a regular basis.
- liaise with the Front Office staff regarding administrative matters.
- liaise with appropriate sporting associations and venues.
- assist volunteer coaches and team managers with team administration.
- monitor coach and team manager WWCC and RRHAN-EC certificates.
- attend Sports committee meetings.

Coaches

Coaches will:

- follow and implement the school sports policy.
- be confidential and respectful in all interactions with players, parents, umpires and officials.
- maintain a current Working with Children Clearance (WWCC) and Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect (RRHAN-EC) training.
- report unresolved problems or grievances to the Principal.
- roster players to create fair playing time.
- notify a player whose turn it is not to play according to the team roster.
- manage practice sessions and decide when to cancel.
- liaise with the Sports Co-Ordinator on a regular basis.
- read all induction information provided.

Team Managers

Team managers will:

- assist with team organisation.
- keep medical and contact information at games and ensure confidentiality of these records.
- advise on equipment and First Aid needs.
- liaise with the Sports Co-Ordinator on a regular basis.
- be confidential and respectful in all interactions with players, parents, umpires and officials.

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CODES OF CONDUCT

The following Sporting Codes of Conduct are derived from the Australian Sports Commission's 'Codes of Conduct' and are expected of all players, coaches and parents associated with Vale Park Primary School sporting teams.

Player Code

As a player I will:

- play by the rules of the sport and show respect towards all officials.
- work hard for my team and myself and strive to improve my skills and fitness.
- acknowledge positively the efforts of opponents.
- cooperate and participate with my coach, team-mates, and opponents.
- respect the rights and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background, or religion.
- attend training regularly and be available for games.
- inform my coach or manager when I am unable to attend training or play in a game.

Coach Code

As a coach I will:

- remember that young people participate in sport for pleasure, and we operate within the rules of spirit and sport.
- give all players fair attention and opportunities and ensure all players receive fair game time.
- encourage all players, even when mistakes are made.
- seek to improve all children's fitness levels appropriate to their age.
- operate within the rules and spirit of the sport.
- be respectful towards opponents and officials.
- be confidential in all dealings with players, parents, and officials.
- follow medical advice provided for sickness, injury, or management of health issues.

Parent Code

As a Parent I will:

- ensure that I have read the policy and follow the guidelines established by the committee.
- remember that my child plays sport for their enjoyment, not mine.
- focus on my child's and the team's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
- allow the coach to be the person who instructs and controls the team.
- model good sportsmanship by applauding appropriately all good plays.
- be respectful in all interactions with players, parents, umpires and official.

*Policy reviewed, updated, and approved by Sports Committee and Governing Council in 2026

*To be reviewed by the Sports Committee every two years.

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VALE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL – CODE OF CONDUCT
COACH AGREEMENT

I have read and understood the Vale Park Primary School Sports Policy and have completed the Volunteer Induction.

I agree to support and abide by the conditions of the Policy.

I have current WWCC and RRHAN-EC training.

Coach: _____

Surname First Name (Please print)

Child/ren's Name: _____ Rm: _____

Child/ren's Name: _____ Rm: _____

Email: _____ Ph: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please complete this agreement prior to the first game. Thank you.