

Lennox Head Public School:

Selection of Competitive Sporting Teams Policy

Rationale

Jan 2024 update

At Lennox Head Public School sport is an integral part of our school curriculum. Sport is provided on a class, stage and whole school basis. School representative teams play in the NSW PSSA Knockout competition. Individual students may represent the school at Zone, Region and State level in various sports.

PSSA Knockout Teams

The NSW PSSA runs knockout competitions for a range of sports throughout the year. Schools play each other in a one off match, with the winning team progressing to the next round. Depending on staff availability, student interest, timing of other school activities and parent assistance, the school may choose to enter teams into any of the NSW PSSA knockout competitions. Selection is based on merit and/or prior experience during a trial.

Teams will be selected from students who are in Stage 3, unless there is a shortage of players or Stage 2 students' demonstrate exceptional skill. A Stage 2 student, who demonstrates exemplary skills, physical awareness and participates in that sport on a regular basis, may be considered for selection. If it is not stated that it is a single sex team, then the teams may be made up of mixed sexes.

In order to minimise the amount of classroom learning time lost due to PSSA commitments, **students will be allowed to be a part of a maximum of THREE PSSA teams at any one time during the year.** This means that if a student is a member of a school PSSA team that has been eliminated, they will be able to trial for another team later in that year.

When selecting students during trials, consideration will be given to those who display:

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

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);
- Reserves may also be selected. Students will be informed as to whether they are the reserve player;
- 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, but experience, including out of school participation and representation will be considered;
- The selections will be made according to performance at selection sessions;
- Children who are absent due to illness or holidays on all selection days may not be considered unless

additional players are required to form the team;

- If a child is absent for 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;
- The final selection of teams will be conducted by two teachers/selectors;
- All children trialing will have equal time on the field/court during the selection process;
- Parents are requested not to discuss the selection process with selectors unless specifically referring to the trial dates and if parents have questions regarding the selection process please call the office to make an appointment time.
- The selection of competitive teams is the responsibility of the teacher in charge of that team. Selection is merit based, criteria being the ability and skill level of the students. Once selections have been made, decisions are final and must be respected;
- All sporting teams are to be selected, coached and/or managed by a current teacher at Lennox Head Public School;
- Members of the public, parents or guardians of students may be appointed, at the discretion of the teacher in charge, to act as skills assistant. Their role is to provide coaching and technical assistance to those students selected by the teacher in charge. Those not directly employed by the school will be required to complete paperwork to register as a volunteer prior to involvement as a skills assistant; and
- General school behaviour, attitude and sporting performance are taken into account when selecting teams.

Students and parents need to understand that many of the sporting events that we enter in competitive school sport are of a high standard, with opposition being extremely competent in terms of skill level, knowledge of rules, tactical knowledge, strength and speed.

District/Zone/Regional Representative Tryouts

Each school in the district is given the opportunity to nominate a small number of trialists for representative selection across a range of sports. This process is highly competitive as this is the pathway to Zone and Regional North Coast representation.

- There is no limit for how many trials a student may attend
- 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 submit an application and demonstrate exceptional skills relative to the sport will be considered.

The selection process will be based on:

- A written application - Proof and evidence of sporting achievements. If necessary, applications will be ranked.
- Tryouts if the selector deems necessary; that there are more than the desired number of representatives who need separating/ranking for submission.

It is deemed that it is not mandatory for a school to select students for representative trials if the required skill level is not matched. Once the selection process is complete, students will be submitted to Headlands District. Once selections have been made, decisions are final and must be respected.

Codes Of Behaviour

Codes of behaviour/conduct 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.

Court/Field Time

Unlike non-competitive sporting events where even court time is often the aim, competitive, representative sport, such as PSSA Knockout is another playing field. Even court/field time for all players is not guaranteed. Rather, players earn their court time by attitude, ability, attendance at training and potential to contribute to the overall team's success. Be aware that most teams run to a set number of players and certain positions, and the final decision will be at the coach's discretion. If your child is not consistently achieving the court time/minutes that you deem fair, please arrange a meeting to talk the coach to ascertain what steps your child needs to take to earn more court/field time. In close games it is possible that some players will see limited court/field time.

Player Code of Conduct and Dress Code

When chosen to represent the school at PSSA, Zone, Region, 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 or uniforms. These are to be handed back to the teacher in charge (except for netball dresses) after the game or after the competition, whichever the teacher deems appropriate so that they are able to be washed.

Players, parents, spectators, teachers and coaches must all abide by the Lennox Head Public School key values of Respect, Responsibility and Integrity. The school reserves the right to suspend a student's participation in sporting activities if their behaviour is inappropriate in any school activities.

At times, students are required to wear relevant safety equipment for specific sports (i.e. helmet, shin pads, mouth guard etc.) Studs (in shoes) are only to be worn whilst playing sport. When returning to school from sporting events students are asked to please remove studs, shin pads and other safety equipment.

School work

On the day of sporting events students are to be present at school where possible – (according to the time the game/sporting event is to commence and cease). Valuable class time can be missed when students do not return to school after sporting events or come to school before sporting events. Whole school days for sporting events will occur and on these occasions students are not required to be at school. If the sporting event is for only part of a school day, the student is expected to be at school when not partaking in the event. (Allowing time for travel). Students who represent Lennox Head PS are required to catch up on class lessons that have been missed. It is the responsibility of students to collect and complete missed work.