

Winterton Primary School



Sports Policy

Guidelines, Information and Assistance for Participating in Sport

This policy handbook is re-evaluated every year and is updated as required.

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1 . General

Sport at Winterton Primary School is an important dimension of the broad scope of Primary Phase Learning. Given that the profile of sport will operate as secondary when managed in the fuller context of the academic curriculum, our prime motivation for offering sport is to provide a learning area that will give our learners an opportunity to:

- Exercise and develop their mental and physical potential
- Participate with others within a structured program in order to develop recognised and acceptable social skills.
- Develop confidence and have fun.
- Learn to cope within a competitive environment.
- Develop certain basic skills that will encourage the pupils to go on to further these particular disciplines in the future.
- Provide a marketing workshop window that will be regularly utilized as a reason to advertise positive features of our broader educational program.

1 a. Vision:

Our vision is to have a school sport environment that promotes healthy living and lifelong participation within a sporting culture.

1 b . Mission:

1. To organize an inclusive and integrated school sport program that emanates from physical education.
2. To offer school sport programs to all learners, irrespective of ability and to promote healthy life practices, mutual respect and career opportunities.
3. To promote school enrichment programs, through educational, recreational and extramural school sport activities.
4. To promote participation and development of basic skills in different sports in primary school by all learners.
5. To create access to participation, competitive and high performance sport through the provision of talent identification opportunities.
6. To ensure the functionality of the school sport code.

1 c .Objectives:

1. To foster pride, honor and patriotism in our school through properly organized, managed and coordinated school sport programs.
2. For all learners to participate in school sport programs.

1 d .Policy Statements:

1. School sport is an integral component of the holistic education program.
2. School sport which flows out of physical education, provides for Community sport. Physical education in school periods is to promote the development of basic life and body skills.
3. Winterton Primary will offer physical education as specified in the curriculum.
4. All participants in school sport shall abide by the principles underlying the school sport policy.
5. All learners must be water safe.
6. All learners must be encouraged to participate in swimming and at least one other sport per term. Winterton Primary School believe it is important for all learners to be given the opportunity to be taught to swim – to encourage “water safe” children in our school. There is no Government ruling that all learners need to swim once or twice a week in PE. This is the Schools decision and times are allocated accordingly.
7. Inclusion in sport must be encouraged from inter-school level wherever possible.

1 e .Principles underlying the School Sport Policy:

1. For the strategic delivery of school sport programs to succeed, deliberate and focused capacity building and continuous development programs for educators must be designed and implemented.
2. Opportunities for participation in school sport shall be made available to all learners throughout the school year.

2. Junior Primary Specific

The main objective with JP sports is to teach the learners all the different aspects of sports from sportsmanship, leadership, kindness, fairness, compassion, competitiveness and best of all, how to have fun.

We encourage learners to take part in a sport after school between 1 – 2pm. Sport during school before 12.30pm is compulsory for the JP children.

Generally when it comes to team sport ie. Rugby, hockey, soccer and cricket, the idea is to teach the JP's the various sport skills on one of the sports days, and on the other day is to have fun internal matches amongst one another only after the skills have been taught. They will be placed in different teams such as Lions, Zebras and Tigers etc. This is to prevent children from feeling discouraged from not making an A side.

Tournaments against other schools are arranged for Grades 1 – 3 except in Rugby (only Grade 3). The strongest players will be selected to play external tournaments when coaches feel players have achieved required skills and are ready to represent the school. Please note that rugby practice is voluntary for grade 1 and 2 and will take place from 1 – 2pm on the scheduled days.

****The JP Sports Policy is for mass participation with equal opportunities offered at practices in the coaching of every pupil in the Junior Primary school.

Please note that Hardball cricket is only played in U9. A pupil in a lower grade may be chosen by the Sports Co-ordinator, U9 coach and the Headmaster to play Hardball cricket, if the pupil is found capable of adjusting to hard ball cricket from the mini cricket format and is emotionally and physically strong enough to cope with the extended length of matches and from a safety point of view ready to handle the intensity of hard ball cricket and has the required skills to qualify for hard ball. **If they attend Hardball cricket practices they may not attend the soft ball practices.** U9's who do not qualify for Hard Ball External matches against other schools, will play internal matches arranged by the School at the club. No U7 – U8 player may join the hard ball U9 cricket practices without following the correct assessment procedures.

The aim is to expose the pupils to as wide a variety of sports as is practical. The part that sport plays in the primary learning phase is important in developing sport skills as well as strength and stamina in the pupils in daily situations. At present Grade 1 - 3 learners are taught to cope within a competitive environment.

3. Codes of Behaviour

3 a. Parents' Code

- The parents are to support the school sport in every area.
- Parents may not question the coach's decisions and Team selections.
- All queries need to be brought to the Chairperson of the Sport Committee where the matter will be resolved.
 - Always remember that children are involved in sport for their enjoyment, not ours.
 - Encourage your child to play by the rules.
 - Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory and to accept the result without any undue disappointment.
 - Turn defeat into victory by helping your child with skills improvement and good sportsmanship, never ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or losing.
 - Remember that children learn best by example, applaud good play by your team and the opposing team.
 - Do not publicly question the judgement (and the honesty) of the referee/coach.
 - Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's sport.
 - **Recognise the value of volunteer coaches who give their time and resources to provide recreation activities for your child.**

3b. Players' Code

- Play for the fun of it and not just to please your parents or coach.
- Play by the rules
- Never argue with the referee/coach
- Control your temper
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team then your team's performance as well as your own performance will benefit.
- Be a good sport – applaud all good play, whether by your own team or by your opponents.
- Treat all players in the manner in which you would like to be treated, do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of weaker players.
- Remember that the goal of the game is to have fun, improve your skills and to feel good, do not show off.
- Co-operate with coaches, team mates and opponents, without them you don't have a game.
- Cherish sport for what it is – FUN!!!

3 c. Coaches' role

- The coach is responsible for selecting a side for the match.
 - A team list needs to be put up on the notice board and letters are to be given to the respective players at least 2 days before match day. Parents have the option of not letting the child play the upcoming fixture.
 - The coach is to organize transport and to book a bus on the weekly schedule with the Sports Coordinator who will liaise with the **Transport Coordinators** for the availability of a bus.
- NB: Once the match is finished, a result sheet needs to be filled in and given to the Sports Coordinator who can process the results and will then pass the results on to the Principal for announcement.
- Should a coach not be available for practice due to unforeseen circumstances, or is away for a match, his/her place needs to be taken by another coach. This is to avoid cancellations. Our aim is maximum participation and game time. Should there be no other option, cancellation will take place.

- Be reasonable in your demands of the young players' time, energy and enthusiasm; remember that they have other interests.
- Teach your players that the rules of the games are mutual agreements which no one should ever evade or break, rules are there for their protection.
- Avoid over-playing talented players.
- Average players need and deserve equal time at practices to improve their skills, to be able to prove themselves worthy of selection for the relevant teams. Internal matches are arranged to allow all players who attend practices the opportunity to play in a match situation and fixtures against weaker schools are set for the second teams in the different age groups.
- Remember that children play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only a part of it. Never ridicule or yell at the children for making mistakes or losing a game.
- Ensure that facilities and equipment are appropriate to the youngster's age and abilities.
- The scheduling of the length of practice times should take into consideration the child's maturity level. Do not over-train and "burn" them out.
- Develop team respect for their opponents' ability as well as for the judgment of referees and opposing coaches.
- Follow the advice of a doctor in determining when an injured player is fit again.
- Remember that children need a coach to whom they can look up to and respect and such the coach must be generous with his praise and set a good example to all.

3 d . Spectators' Code of Conduct

- Beware of the fact that children should always play sport for the enjoyment they derive from it.
- Encourage the children to play by the rules/laws. Make it clear that cheating is just a way to get an unfair advantage by dodging the rules.
- Teach the children that victory is not everything – playing as well as you can is just as important. On any day not more than half the teams can win, so defeat is no disgrace.
- Never yell at a player for making a mistake. Never sneer or use sarcasm – you'll make the player feel like a failure.
- Applaud good play – by either team. Back up the referee, don't publicly question his fairness or ability. Children learn best by example. Set a good example.
- Encourage the children to improve their skills through coaching.
- Stay off the pitch. Coaches and referees are generally qualified to be there. They have worked hard to earn their qualifications.
- Don't abuse anyone – especially the referee. He is a volunteer and unpaid. He has given up his spare time.

4 . Operational Structures

4 a . Coaching

Each team will be given a designated coach per sport code with the assistance of parents where required and where they wish to be involved and have been approved by the sports coordinator.

Coaches should be qualified to coach at the levels they are coaching. New coaching trends and techniques are shared and discussed at sports meetings. Coaches are sent on courses and outside sport personnel are invited to do in-house coaching sessions with Winterton coaches. Student coaches need to be managed and carefully introduced and guided into the routines, requirements and norms that relate to the sporting ethos at Winterton.

4 b . Refereeing / Umpiring

4 b i. Senior Primary

As in coaching, referees/umpires need to attend courses or clinics offered by the sports bodies and organizations to update their knowledge of the laws of the game. This is particularly relevant to rugby where the complex laws already in place, change constantly. At District level, our coaches attend a refresher clinic at the beginning of every season.

4 b ii. Junior Primary

At this level of competition, when the occasion arises, there is usually enough staff to cope with the needs of refereeing/umpiring.

5. Team Selection:

No learner is allowed to play for a team younger than their current age. There have been instances where an open player has played for U13. However this is only allowed to happen with permission from both schools principals.

Nothing in the education departments sport policy prevents a younger learner from taking part in an older sports age group.

5a. Junior Primary

A younger player will be allowed to play matches/practice in an older sports age group if:

- a) **He is an exceptionally talented player and is better than the older player and has been approved by a level 3 coach.**

- b) The higher aged group person does not attend practices.
- c) The older player is just not interested in playing.
- d) **The older player has not acquired the skills set to play external matches.**
- e) The child is not emotionally ready.
- f) Attendance register must be kept.

Coaches must take care when selecting a younger player in these instances and a register of attendance must be kept to show good reasoning for their decision.

5b. Senior Primary

A younger aged group player may be selected for the 1st team if that person shows exceptional talent and is ready to do so. That person should then remain in the 1st team and only be allowed to play for their age group when he is dropped from the 1st team. OR His age group is short of players on the day that the 1st team is not playing. Coaches may select younger players to attend tours to gain experience in playing for the 1st team. Coaches should only select younger players on merit.

Strict measures have also been put in place for younger aged players playing for an older age group, preventing them from talking down to their peers in their own age group.

Once a child's name has been put on the team list, he is expected to play. A child may only be excused from playing if he is sick or injured. Should a child not attend a match, he will be dropped to the team below if no valid written reason is given.

6. Parent Participation / Support Expectations

6 a. Senior Primary

Parent support is welcomed and encouraged. Personal remarks on referees and instructions to players can under no circumstances be tolerated and parents guilty of such behaviour will be reprimanded. Making use of parents as additional or back-up coaches should they possess the relevant expertise is a viable option and one that can be utilized from time to time.

Parent expectation at Winterton is understandably high, sometimes unrealistically so. It is imperative that coaches keep meticulous records pertaining to games played by each individual child in their groups as well as details as batting and bowling opportunities, positions played, injuries and attendances at practices. There is movement between "A" and "B groups, "B" and "C" groups etc. and coaches **may** send promising players up to higher teams to be looked at.

6 b. Junior Primary

We do use parent participation in coaching sport and in the instances where parents can help with umpiring/referring, the benefits for those children is noticeable. We make allowances for those children whose parents are unable, for whatever reason, to assist in this area. Parents generally manage to arrange to be at sporting functions to support their children and we receive little criticism about the events. Parental expectation is high.

7. Fixtures

The Sport Coordinator will contact the relevant schools and make the fixtures possible. Should there be any changes the Sports Coordinator will inform the relevant coaches. The Sport Coordinator needs to then report to the Principal to verify the fixtures for the term.

Proposed fixtures need to be given to the Sport Coordinator no later than 6 weeks into the term for the following terms fixtures.

Note: No fixtures will be made any later in the term once the calendar has been set. Only additions to teams may be made during the term. Fixtures after this date can only be done by consensus. Discuss this with the Sport Coordinator.

If a fixture is cancelled, Sports Coordinator will inform the school secretary who will immediately send an SMS out to the respective parents.

The Sport Coordinator is to ensure that the grounds are in good order, the fixture is confirmed and that there are coaches for each team throughout the term.

Fixtures between Winterton and our colleague schools are determined amongst the surrounding schools. Additional fixtures and festivals are arranged through the various codes' Association meetings normally held at the end of the quarter prior to the season. Fixtures against our traditional opponents (Egerton, Monument, Bergville, Treverton, Howick and Clifton) are allocated on a home and away basis. As things collapse more and more in state schools, the impact on Winterton becomes greater and fixtures become more and more difficult to set with local schools that are not of the same sports standard and a lot more traveling is required to play the stronger schools.

Fixtures are governed by certain constraints:

- Opposition
- Manpower
- Fields
- Fixtures not, in the main, being allowed to interfere with the normal running of the daily academic timetable.
- Transport

8. Tournaments:

Should a coach wish to host a tournament at WPS, the sport coordinator needs to be informed and will draw up an invitation letter for the various schools. All responses will be handled by him/her and then he/she will pass the responses to the coaches.

8 a. Junior Primary

Junior Primary matches are mainly internal. Grade 1's do not usually play external matches in term 1 unless there is a Festival that the sports co-ordinator and sports committee deem beneficial. Junior Primary Festivals are determined by the availability of schools that are able to host weekly festivals. Junior Primary festivals are played in mini-cricket, mini-hockey, mini rugby and midi tennis. The U9 age group forms part of the normal inter-schools annual fixtures programme.

8b. Coaches travel allowance:

Coaches and staff that attend overnight weekend Tournaments will be paid R200 per person per day, not including Friday night, as long as the following requirements have been met. This amount will be added to the festival costs and be charged to the parents.

- Coaches have to prepare their teams for that specific festival, from a coaching point of view as well as notify parents and learners on what the festival will cost, dates, times and clothing requirements for the festival.
- Coaches and players have to adhere to the rules and regulations set out by Winterton Primary regarding behaviour, dress code, sportsmanship on and off the field.
- Coaches may not abuse alcohol while on duty.
- Should there be any complaint received regarding the coach or players from parents or any other school involved in the festival the allowance will be withdrawn or paid back to the school if already received by coach.
- Coaches transporting learners to the festival must not exceed the speed limit on the road. Should a fine be received regarding speed and reckless driving the coach will be held responsible for the payment.

9. Facilities

We are blessed to have the school that we have. Access to sport grounds is limited thus the use of the Winterton Country Club is essential. The responsibility for the allocation of practise venues and fixtures rests with the Sport Coordinator.

10. Equipment

Equipment is generally adequate. Over the years personal equipment, particularly in cricket and hockey has been provided more and more by individual children. Cricket balls are supplied by the school, as are stumps, bails etc. Turf wicket, side screens and bowling machines are part of the major equipment that requires special maintenance and upkeep. Rugby equipment is provided by the Winterton Country Club until Winterton can purchase its' own equipment. Winterton provides balls and cones. Scrumming machines, post protectors and flags are provided by the Winterton Country Club. All hockey goalkeeper equipment is supplied by the school for goalkeepers from U11 to U13. Equipment in other sports is restricted to items such as tennis balls, stop watches, lane ropes, starting pistol, landing mats, relay batons etc and those are replaced when necessary.

In the JP area there is a need to supply more of the equipment as the children outgrow equipment quickly and many are not even sure as to whether they will enjoy the sport. The school equipment tends to get rather tough treatment and needs constant supplementing. We are looking to upgrade and to improve in this important area.

11. Representative Status

Winterton has a long and proud tradition of pupils gaining higher honours across a variety of sports. We support all our pupils who gain higher recognition notwithstanding the fact that their elections more often than not create disruption in our own domestic sports program.

For the sake of the majority, we will not be dictated to by any of these external, unilateral sporting bodies. Only children who represent Winterton in the U11/ U12 and U13/Open age groups will be sent to district/regional/provincial trials.

Winterton is associated with Drakensberg, Uthukela, Northern Natal, KZN Inland and KZN sporting bodies in the various codes.

12. Awards

The School does award scrolls or certificates for official school sport codes. Certificates and scrolls are awarded for making District (Uthukela) teams, and any KZN Northern/Northern Natal team. Medals are awarded at the Sports Prize Giving to all players who get selected for any KZN Inland team. A 1st XI cricket team cap is presented to a new player in his fourth full match for the 1st XI team. He may not be awarded this cap if he has been called on as a substitute player for any of the 4 matches. The player must be part of the 11 man team selected for the full match.

Special Recognition will be given for participation and success in other sport codes not offered at Winterton. Certificates and scrolls will be considered for these pupils who have been rewarded KZN or Provincial colours.

13. Sports Uniform:

Children who represent the school on the sports field are expected to be neatly and correctly dressed. Full details as follows:

Athletics and Cross Country – Boys and Girls

White T-shirt, blue shorts, short white socks, white takkies/spikes/running shoes, full school tracksuit. Wide brimmed hats are optional.

Cricket – First XI

White school golf shirt with badge, white shorts, long white socks and cricket boots, white hat and first team cap with school badge, white first team pullover .

Cricket – All other teams U9 to 2nd XI

White school golf shirt with badge, blue shorts, blue and white socks and white takkies/ cricket boots.

Mini cricket – Grade 1 and 2

White school golf shirt, blue shorts and the blue Winterton floppy hat.

Hockey – Girls First XI

Sponsored clothes are arranged for the 1st Teams matches which may consist of blue golf shirts and skirts. Parents do not provide this uniform. For practises the girls may wear the white school golf shirt, blue shorts , blue and white socks and hockey boots, tracksuits, 1st team hockey bag.

Hockey – Girls All other teams

White school golf shirt, Winterton blue shorts, blue and white socks and boots/white takkies, tracksuit.

Hockey – Boys First XI

Winterton white golf shirt, blue shorts, blue and white socks and hockey boots, tracksuits and 1st team hockey bag. Sponsored clothes are arranged for the 1st Teams matches, which may consist of blue golf shirts and matching shorts.

Hockey – Boys All other teams

White school golf shirt, Winterton shorts, blue and white socks and boots/white takkies and tracksuit.

Rugby

School rugby jerseys, blue shorts (except white shorts for the 1st team), blue and white socks and boots for matches. Tracksuit, Gum guards are compulsory. Arrival to venues – Full school sports uniform to be worn. Practises – old rugby jerseys and old shorts may be worn.

Tennis

White school golf shirt, Winterton shorts, short white socks, white takkies and tracksuit.

Swimming

The regulation black swimming costume and house/school swimming cap must be worn for all class and co-curricular swimming. These are available at the School Admin Block. The school tracksuit should be worn over the swimming costume. Children should be barefoot unless indicated otherwise by the coaches involved. The school will provide swimming caps for the various squads at inter-schools events.

14. Budget

The budget is the responsibility of the Sport Coordinator, in conjunction with the finance office and the sports committee **and the SGB.**

15. Competition

15a Senior Primary

Inter-House Competition: Inter-house competitions take place on an annual basis in all of the school's traditional sports. House points are awarded for participating and points are allocated per event as follows:

- Team sports: 3 points for a win, 1 for a draw, 0 points for a loss
- Tennis: 3 points for a win, 1 point per child for participation.
- Athletics/ Swimming: 6 points for 1st place, 3 for 2nd, 2 for 3rd, 1 for 4th.

Relay points are awarded on the basis of 12 for 1st place, 8 for 2nd and 4 for 3rd.

If a record is broken an additional 2 points are awarded. House points are awarded to each child who participates on the day.

15 a.1 House points will only be awarded to those who participate on the day.

15 a.2 Points, placings and awards will only be issued to participants present at official events.

15b Junior Primary

Competition is healthy for all ages but we believe that the Junior Primary pupils need to learn the skills of losing and winning graciously and the best way of doing this is through low-key events and keeping the incentives to win simple and team-focused. Points for events are awarded as per the Senior Primary.

15 b.1 House points will only be awarded to those who participate on the day.

15 b.2 Points, placings and awards will only be issued to participants present at official events.

16. Compulsory/ Voluntary

16a. Senior Primary

Presently it is compulsory for all children to swim and play one sport per term.

Teams U11 – (U10 and U11), U13 – (U12 and U13)

16 b. Junior Primary

All our sport during school is compulsory for the JP's. It is critical in developing co-ordination and social skills, while serving an important role in this indoor, computer age in which we live with all its associated low muscle tone and stamina problems. Presently it is compulsory for all children to swim and play one sport per term between 1.00 – 2.00pm. Sport from 2.00 – 3.00pm is optional.

Teams in Winterton Primary: U7, U8 and U9

17. Sports Offered

17 a . Senior Primary

Winterton offers all the mainstream sports and will attempt to provide access to sports outside of traditional pastimes where possible. Constraints are:

- Time
- Manpower
- Facilities

17 b . Junior Primary

Allowing for the time constraints of in-school and extramural sport, we try to offer a range of sports to the children. They do need to be “popular” sports as these will be the areas where the children will need to have basic skills for competitive games from Grade 3 upwards. Our aim is to familiarize the children with sufficient knowledge of the game for them to develop the tactics and game plan, while also being able to make an educated decision as to whether they wish to take the game further. We could offer a wider range of sports but would run the risk of not really doing justice to any of the sports.

18. Timetable/ Program

Termly practise timetables are allocated in conjunction with the Heads of Department. All sports are timetabled on Monday to Thursday afternoons. Sports practices will run in the agreed times. Coaches are responsible for their teams in all weather conditions.

19. Sport Management

All sport falls under the Sport Coordinator. The Coordinator is responsible for the allocation of all resources, financial and physical and must report any deficiencies and needs to the relevant committees.

20. Physical Education

Physical Education is **compulsory and takes part in school time. It is** an integrated part of the sports programme and the syllabus is designed to supplement the skills required for the various sports **and follows the physical education curriculum as laid down by the department of education.**

21. Transport

Due to our location, we need assistance with transport for midweek fixtures. Buses run to and from Estcourt daily. The Sport Coordinator is responsible for transport to sports fixtures and this must be managed in conjunction with the other transport requirements.

22. Communication

School management, as well as the Sports Department, will make every effort to pro-actively communicate the on-going program and related events to all parents and their interested parties. This will be done through the use of the school website, the school SMS and communicator systems, newsletters and school notice boards.

Changes to sport practices, fixtures or events must be made via the Sport Coordinator.

23. Complaints Procedure

Parents may not question the coaches' decisions or complain directly to them. All queries about the sports policy, implementation and any sports complaints must be addressed directly in writing to the Chairperson of the Sport Committee where the matter will be discussed and resolved with the sports coordinator and sports committee. The Chairperson will report all queries and decisions to the SGB.

24 .Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders:

24 a. School Governing Body (SGB) :

1. Draw up a budget and provide for Physical Education and school sport activities.
2. Maintain physical education and school sport infrastructure.
3. Ensure that educators are supported to offer physical education and school sport activities.
4. Ensure the election of a school sport committee at the school.
5. Source funding.
6. Form part of the monitoring and evaluation of school sport.
7. Approve Sports Policy and make necessary changes where and when appropriate.

24 b. Principal and School Management Team (SMT) :

1. Ensure that physical education is implemented within the curriculum.
2. Report to the SGB on school sport matters and activities.
3. Ensure that educators are supported in offering PE and school sport activities.
4. To compile a school extra-curricular time table with the sport committee that should be circulated to all parents per term.

24 c. School Sport Committee:

1. Draft the school sport policy for the school which will then be reviewed and approved by the SGB
2. Draft the budget for sport.
3. Handle sport discrepancies and report to SGB.
4. Chairperson if not already on SGB will be co-opted onto it. They will report all queries and sports matters to SGB.
5. The committee is a sub-committee of the SGB and its members are voted in by parents for a term of office of 3 years.

24 d. Educators:

1. Implement school sport activities within the policy
2. Will be encouraged to attend coaching courses.