**OVERVIEW**

All NSW primary schools have the opportunity to nominate to participate in inter-school competitions (generally knock-out format) in a wide range of sports.

The Parkes Public School PSSA Sporting Team Policy has been developed to clearly state:
- how teams will be managed
- the process by which students will be selected
- procedures for managing complaints.

This policy has been developed in line with NSW Department of Education and Training (NSWDET) guidelines as set down in the *Guidelines for the Safe Conduct of Sport and Physical Activity in Schools*.

The guidelines can be located at www.sports.det.nsw.edu.au/spguide/specont.htm

**MANAGEMENT OF TEAMS**

All sporting teams representing Parkes 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 mandatory requirement of the NSWDET 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.

However, 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.

To ensure that our teams are provided suitably qualified coaches, the school shall advertise through the school newsletter and the local media (if required). The Principal may, in 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 a voluntary act and not a requirement of their capacity as a teacher.

**SELECTION PROCESS**

All children 8 years of age, and older, are eligible to trial for selection in PSSA representative teams. In the majority of cases, at least two trials will be conducted to enable all students who wish to be considered to demonstrate their abilities.

An exception to the two trial policy is tennis which will be conducted through a play-off method.

The teacher in charge of the team will generally consult with an accredited coach or local community authority to assist in selecting the most appropriate players.
If the children of differing ages trial for a similar team/position, and both demonstrate similar skill levels, then preference will be given to the child in the older grade.

It must be noted that there are a number of OH&S 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.

Before announcing a representative team, the teacher-in-charge will discuss the team selections with the Principal. The Principal has the authority to exclude any student who has not demonstrated appropriate behaviour at school or the Principal believes could bring the school into disrepute.

**DISCIPLINARY ISSUES**

In the event of a student demonstrating poor behaviour while representing the school, the teacher-in-charge, in consultation with the Principal, may remove the student from the representative team. At anytime 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 after consultation with the Principal.

Students with two or more referrals (or one or more suspensions) may be excluded from representing the school. Students in this position may be granted permission to represent after an interview with the Principal.

**COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES**

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

If they are not satisfied with the response given, the second level of complaint procedure is to arrange an appointment with the Principal.

**CERTIFICATION**

This policy, as signed by the Principal and the president of the school council, is a current school policy. This policy is due to be reviewed in 2014.

Signed: ___________________________ (Principal)

Signed: ___________________________ (President School Council)