

## Co-curricular Policy

### 1. CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

#### General Expectation

- 1.1 A full involvement in the Co-curricular programme of Saint Ignatius' College is vital for all students. Jesuit Education is concerned with the development of the whole person. Therefore, a genuine participation in the co-curricular programme at Saint Ignatius' College is a central element of our educational process and not an 'optional extra'. The co-curricular programme at the school provides the young person with:
- The opportunity to represent one's school.
  - The opportunity to exercise, which is vital for growing bodies.
  - The opportunity to experience activities which may become a life-long interest.
  - The opportunity to learn about commitment, team or group work and generosity as part of a team or ensemble or troupe.
  - The opportunity for character development (e.g. in competitions, learn to win or lose graciously – humble in victory and gracious in defeat).
  - The opportunity to develop new friendships outside of one's own group.
  - The opportunity to gain enjoyment from participation.
  - The opportunity for improved skill development in a variety of pursuits.
  - The opportunity to develop an effective work ethic.
- 1.2 Non-participation in the co-curricular programme is not an option. Students with physical or medical difficulties will be asked to explore ways by which they can profit from a modified contribution to a sport or team, e.g. as team scorer, timekeeper etc. Parents/Guardians are asked to contact the Director of Co-curricular Activities for non-sporting activities or the Director of Sport for sporting activities.
- 1.3 Once a commitment to a sport or activity is made it must be honoured throughout the entire season. Team nominations are made well in advance and if students fail to fulfil their commitments then all suffer. If clashes exist between co-curricular activities, negotiation between co-curricular heads and the student(s) involved will enable a compromise to take place. Students must also be aware that if they **select more than the minimum requirements**, then they must commit to each activity in its entirety. They are not able to withdraw from an activity once they have committed to it. The College appreciates that many students take part-time jobs, but students must undertake their employment on days when they are not required for a College activity. Saturday work which precludes participation in a school team is not acceptable.
- 1.4 House Activities complement the inter-school competitions. The College will conduct a number of intra-school House competitions throughout the year such as Athletics, Swimming, Volleyball, Chess and Debating.
- 1.5 All Middle Years students are required to be involved in a co-curricular activity every Term, and they are encouraged to attempt a range of different sports and co-curricular activities during their time in the Middle Years. At least one sporting activity must be included every year and with reference to the sporting policy below, students who play sport for a club must represent the College in the same sport if offered.
- 1.6 A Student may choose to do a sport every term or some terms may be devoted to a non-sport co-curricular activity such as Music, Debating, Chess, Drama, etc.
- 1.7 The school and the student's classmates form the primary community for the school student and as such, school teams and activities always take precedence over district and local clubs.

- 1.8 Students in Years 10 and 11 are required to participate in two co-curricular activities throughout the year, one of which is a sport, and are encouraged to be part of one of the performance activities within the College (Drama, Debating, Tournament of Minds, Music, etc.). Students in Year 12 are required to participate in at least one co-curricular activity.
- 1.9 A student may wish to do a sport or activity which is **not offered** by the school for one or two terms a year.
- 1.10 Students may elect to play in club or local competitions in addition to completing their co-curricular requirements. In these situations, **school must come first** and an able competitor should ensure that school teams do not suffer through any request which would give priority to external competitions at the expense of College teams. Students who play sport(s) for a club **must** also participate in that same sport(s) for the College if offered by the College. College teams **must always** take priority over district and local clubs as the College and student's classmates form the primary community for the College student. (Students who play a variety of club sports, which would result in them undertaking more than the minimum co-curricular requirement, should fulfill their requirements by selecting the club sports they excel at. This assessment will be at the discretion of the Director of Sport and Teachers in Charge, in consultation with parents.)
- 1.11 If a student has an interest in a **variety** of different sports and activities, that student should investigate whether he/she they can make the best contribution to the College prior to making any decisions or commitments to external competition.
- 1.12 If parents wish their son/daughter to not compete in a particular term or season, they should make written requests to the Director of Co-curricula. As the College is part of inter-school programmes, we have commitments regarding the number of teams we contribute to these competitions.

While willing to exempt students from a term or season, the needs of the school is also a consideration.

## 2. SPORTING ACTIVITIES

- 2.1 The College will endeavour to offer single sex teams in all sports. Where there are insufficient participants to form a single sex team or no access to a single sex competition exists, the school may arrange a mixed team.
- 2.2 Students who play at a State or National level within a sport must play the same sport for the College. However, training and playing commitments **may be negotiated** with the Deputy Headmaster and Director of Sport if external 'demands' are high. If the student involved continues to play for their club then they **must** also commit to a **negotiated number** of school games during this period, as decided upon by the Deputy Headmaster, Director of Sport and parents. It is envisaged that this 'arrangement' will enhance the overall development of the student in that sport.
- 2.3 Students **must** attend all trainings and matches. College trainings and matches take priority over club trainings and matches, including students involved in 'development squads' outside of the College. **Some negotiation will be considered** by the Director of Sport and Teacher in Charge of the relevant sport if it is believed that the student will further develop their skills by attending these 'external' activities.
- 2.4 Students and parents are expected to support the 'Sport Code of Conduct'. Behaviour **must always** be exemplary and the utmost respect must be demonstrated towards all opponents and officials. (See point 3 for Code of Conduct)
- 2.5 Correct College sporting attire/uniform must always be worn correctly. This includes all safety equipment, as specifically directed by the Teacher in Charge and/or Director of Sport (e.g. mouthguards for all footballers).

- 2.6 Any issues arising from matches and/or trainings involving students, parents and/or spectators must always be communicated through the Director of Sport and/or Teacher in Charge. This is particularly important when dealing with other Colleges.
- 2.7 Students must exercise responsibility, ensuring that **they collect** all relevant information for weekend matches at practice or from the sports noticeboards. Draws will also be accessible from the College website under the “Co-curricular Update” link on the home page.
- 2.8 Students must produce a Parental/Guardian written request for any absence/illness from training and/or matches. This must be sighted by the relevant coach or Teacher in Charge. This note must be produced 2 days in advance (where possible) and it is the **responsibility of the student** to find and inform the coach or Teacher in Charge. In case of illness during the week, a phone call to reception is required.

On match days, a phone call is to be made to the Director of Sport or Teacher in Charge prior to 7:30 am. **Effective communication by students to coaches is absolutely essential.** Failure to do so will result in consequences being imposed.

## 2.9 First's/Open A Teams

- 2.9.1 The selection of First's/Open A teams is to be regarded as an outstanding achievement and is an honour for students. Consequently, conduct and presentation both on and off the sporting field is to be exemplary. Students will be expected to set an outstanding example to their younger peers. Any inappropriate conduct on or off the field will jeopardise the future selection of a student at that level.
- 2.9.2 The level of commitment displayed through trainings, previous years involvement and general contribution to College life, can also be considered when assessing the suitability of a student's selection.
- 2.9.3 Selection of under-age players to First's/Open A teams is possible. Assessment of the 'ability' and capability at First's/Open A level of a player is decided upon by the Director of Sport and Teacher in Charge after discussion with the relevant coaches and a submission for promotion is presented. Final approval will be granted by the Deputy Headmaster. Consideration of emotional and physical maturity will be essential for students in Years 8-10 who are being considered for selection in First's/Open A teams. This assessment will be made by the coach of the original team, the Director of Sport and Teacher in Charge. The impact on the original team must also be considered in this decision.
- 2.9.4 Discussion with Parent/Guardian together with written consent will also be required for any Year 8-10 student selected in a First's/Open A team.
- 2.9.5 *Under all circumstances an official 'Promotion Application' will need to be issued by the coach (Year Level or First's/Open A) or Teacher in Charge for an assessment of suitability to be undertaken. Final approval will be granted by the Deputy Headmaster, in consultation with the Director of Sport and relevant Teacher in Charge.*
- 2.9.6 Selection of a Year 8-10 student into a First's/Open A team will be based on the philosophy that the development of the student is of prime importance, rather than increasing the potential success of the team.
- 2.9.7 Students in Years 8-10 must have played a **minimum of 2 games** and committed to **all training sessions** for their year level/junior team before being considered for First's/Open A selection. Pre-season competitions and trials **will** be considered within the above game allocation on the proviso that they mirror the relevant association competition conditions. This decision will be made at the discretion of the Director of Sport. Students must also have demonstrated a **high level of performance** across all games in their year level/junior team, including previous years. This assessment of performance will be made by the relevant Year Level Coach, Director of Sport and Teacher in Charge.
- 2.9.8 Exception to (7) may be granted if the student considered for selection has been recently selected in a State or National underage team.

## 2.10 Year Level Teams

- 2.10.1 All students are to be given the opportunity to fully participate in their chosen sport. This includes playing a variety of positions.
- 2.10.2 Where there is an excess number of students involved in a sporting team, all students will be given an opportunity to contribute evenly throughout the sporting season. Rotation of all players will be necessary in middle school teams. This is to ensure all students have the opportunity to develop their skills, therefore improving the ‘depth’ of players within a team, rather than relying on a few ‘outstanding’ players.
- 2.10.3 Exception to (2) may be necessary if the skill level of a student is regarded as being too low, causing safety concerns for that student if they were to participate in competition. Assessment of skill level will be undertaken by the Director of Sport, Teacher in Charge and relevant coach in discussion with Parent/Guardians. In such circumstances the student involved will continue to train and develop their skills until they are proficient enough to warrant selection.
- 2.10.4 The selection of ‘A’ and ‘B’ grade teams will be undertaken by team coaches in consultation with the Teacher in Charge. Criteria for selection will be based upon application and commitment to trainings as well as performances in internal trials and/or pre-season activities. Any disagreement with selections must be directed to the relevant Teacher in Charge who may make changes if they see fit to do so.
- 2.10.5 Students may move between grades (A, B, C) throughout a season within a year level/competition (in accordance to association rules). Consistently high performance may result in students moving up grades.
- 2.10.6 Team coaches, in consultation with the Teacher in Charge will monitor student progress and make adjustments where warranted.
- 2.10.7 Students must ensure that all training requirements are met in order to be selected for their sport. Failure to meet requirements without appropriate notification will result in consequences being imposed.
- 2.10.8 Promotion of students to a higher year level/team may be considered if it is believed that the development of the student will be enhanced. Assessment of their ability and suitability will lie with the Director of Sport, Teacher in Charge and Year Level coach. If the student does not commit purposefully to their original team (i.e. attend all trainings and matches) then promotion will not be considered.

*An official ‘Promotion Application’ will need to be issued by the coach or Teacher in Charge for an assessment of suitability to be undertaken. Final approval will be granted by the Deputy Headmaster, in consultation with the Director of Sport and relevant Teacher in Charge.*

## 3. CODE OF SPORTING CONDUCT - Players, Coaches & Spectators

The Co-Curricular Sports program at Saint Ignatius’ College provides students with a wide range of activities. This is an important component within the development of the whole person and assists in developing many “relationship” skills as well as providing students with an opportunity to be active.

Saint Ignatius’ College has a fine reputation not only for its academic excellence but also for its large and enthusiastic participation with in the sports program. Therefore it is expected that all members of the Ignatian community represent the school responsibly.

### 3.1 Player Expectations

- Players must attend all designated training sessions and games.
- Any player unavailable for training or games must inform either their coach, Teacher in Charge or Director of Sport in advance.
- Players must arrive to venues at least 20 minutes before the specified starting times.

- Players must wear correct sports uniform as listed in the College Diary.
- Players are to participate to the best of their ability.
- Players will be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.
- Arguing and/or remonstrating with umpires/officials is unacceptable.
- Verbal and physical intimidation of opposition team members is unacceptable.
- Players are to shake hands with their opponents at the conclusion of matches.
- Players will be supportive and encouraging towards team mates at all times. All comments will be positive.
- All players should attempt to display leadership qualities – you don't have to be the captain to be a leader.

### 3.2 Coach Expectations

- Teach your players to abide by and follow the rules.
- Coaches will lead by example, displaying good sportsmanship and respect for opposition and officials at all times.
- Remember that children participate for pleasure and that winning is only part of the fun.
- Ensure all participants have a reasonable chance of success.
- All players are worthy contributors to the team and as such a fair rotation system of players should be used.
- Attempt to keep up to date with the latest coaching practices.
- Make players aware of the positive benefits of participation in sporting activities.
- Always be positive when communicating with players. Never ridicule or yell at a player for making a mistake.

### 3.3 Spectator Expectations

- Focus on a child's efforts and performance, rather than winning or losing.
- Always be positive when communicating with children. Never ridicule or yell at them for making a mistake.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- Show appreciation of volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
- Remember that children learn best by example. Applaud good play by all teams.

*Extracted from the 2010 Information Handbook & 2010 College Diary*