



## SPORTING REPRESENTATION POLICY

### Rationale

Tenison Woods College is committed to nurturing the physical talents of students in alignment with the school's vision statement that embraces a whole of person approach to life-wide and life-long learning. The goal is to empower students to achieve their full potential, fostering the development of character, values and lifelong skills.

As a member of the South-East Secondary School Sports Association (SESSSA), the South Australian Primary School Amateur Sports Association (SAPSASA), and the South Australian Catholic School Sports Association (SACSSA), Tenison Woods College upholds the Codes of Conduct established by each association. The College remains dedicated to adhering to the principles and standards outlined by these organisations

### Aim

The objectives for sport at Tenison Woods College are to:

- Offer students the chance to cultivate and showcase their sporting talents and abilities.
- Engage the College in student-representative activities, fostering connections and collaboration with other schools.
- Participate in regional, state and interstate sporting events, promoting the involvement of Tenison Woods College in a wider sports community.
- Through sport, to teach students about life and living a full life as thriving people and leaders for the world God desires.

The following guidelines have been developed to ensure that students, teachers and parents/caregivers understand how students can nominate and be considered for a school team and the process to determine student eligibility.

### Eligibility

For a student to be eligible for participation in an interschool or knockout sport competitions, they need to meet the following criteria:

- Display a genuine interest in the activity.
- Exhibit dedication to the event by attending meetings and training sessions.
- Demonstrate consistent positive sportsmanship throughout involvement.
- Financial capacity of the family to fund the experience.

Please note: In cases of insufficient participation from higher year levels, students from lower year levels may be asked to join the team in consultation with the Principal or their delegate. It is crucial to emphasize that the objective is not to substitute equally skilled players from the higher-year level with lower-year students. For instance, a Year 10 student can join an Open (usually Year 11/12) team only when there is a shortage, ensuring they don't replace a Year 11/12 player of similar ability.

Coaches of open teams may exercise their discretion in consultation with the Principal or their delegate, to select students who have been invited to join state / national teams. The selection in the College team would offer such students an opportunity for exposure of competition at the highest possible level.

### Student (Player) Expectations

Students representing Tenison Woods College are expected to meet the following conduct standards:

- **Respect for others:** Students must show respect towards opposing teams and officials, refraining from any form of violence during competitions.
- **Appropriate language:** The use of inappropriate language is considered unacceptable.
- **Sportsmanlike behaviour:** Students are required to compete with good sportsmanship, refraining from immodest behaviour in victory or success.
- **Fairness in competition:** Students are expected to compete fairly, avoiding the use of unfair or illegal tactics to gain an advantage.
- **Positive attitude:** Students are expected to approach competitions with a positive attitude, striving to perform to the best of their ability.

These expectations aim to promote a respectful and fair sporting environment while encouraging players to demonstrate their skills and sportsmanship in a positive and honourable manner.

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## Coaching Expectations

At the start of each semester, staff members will receive an email containing a Microsoft Form listing all the upcoming sporting events. Staff will have the opportunity to nominate themselves for coaching positions in the sports of their interest. The selection of coaches will be based on staff's knowledge of the sport, their relationship with the respective year level in that sport and their availability, trying to avoid disruption to their classroom teaching commitments.

Once selected, coaches are expected to fulfil the following responsibilities:

- **Conduct fair and equitable trials:** Coaches must organise and deliver a minimum of one trial, ensuring that the selection process adheres to the College criteria of selection.
- **Attend sports carnivals:** Coaches are required to be present at all required carnivals for the sport, as determined by the College's commitment.
- **Provide a post carnival write-up:** Coaches should submit a post carnival write-up for public relations purposes within one week of the event, summarising the team's performance and highlighting notable achievements.
- **Collaborate with support staff and referees:** Coaches are expected to work alongside support staff and referees to ensure the smooth running of the sports activities, fostering a cooperative, fair and inclusive environment.

These expectations ensure that the selected coaches are actively involved in their respective sports, demonstrate commitment to their roles, and contribute to the overall success and positive representation of the school in sporting events.

Team lists are to be sent to year-level teachers and Heads of School as soon as practical to check if there are any potential ineligibilities.

## Nominations, Selections and Trials

To participate in an event, students at Tenison Woods College can nominate themselves by filling out a Microsoft Form sent by the Sports Administration team. These forms are emailed at least two weeks prior to competitions.

Once nominated, all students will be invited to undergo a trial process. The College strives to ensure a fair and equitable selection process by considering the following criteria:

- **Attendance and performance at trials:** Students' presence and performance during the trials.
- **Skill level:** The level of skill demonstrated by students in their respective sports.
- **Ability to work in a team (applies to team sports only):** Students' ability to collaborate effectively within a team.
- **Intensity:** The level of effort and dedication displayed by students during the trials.
- **Attitude:** Students' positive attitudes towards the sport, coaches and fellow players.
- **Receptiveness to coaching:** Students' willingness to accept and implement coaching feedback.
- **Team balances / Adaptability:** The need to maintain team balance and the ability of students to adapt to different roles within the team.
- **Academic standing:** Students are expected to be up to date in all areas of their academic curriculum.
- **Appropriate school behaviour:** Students' adherence to appropriate behaviour within the school environment.

By evaluating these criteria, Tenison Woods College aims to ensure a fair and comprehensive selection process, allowing students the opportunity to showcase their abilities and contribute to the success of the College in various events.

If two players are assessed as equal, preference will be given to the senior player. It is important to note that earning a spot on a team one year does not guarantee selection the following year.

## Trials Grievance Process

In situations where students may not be selected for a team during the selection process, it is natural for students to experience disappointment. However, this disappointment can serve as motivation for students to strive for improvement and progress to the next level. To address any concerns or grievances regarding the selection process, the following steps outline the grievance process:

1. **Self-Reflection:** the student is to reflect on performance during the trials, considering factors such as attendance, fitness, combinations, decision-making, team balance and intensity. Students should evaluate whether they displayed these qualities more strongly than the player(s) who were selected at this stage.
2. **Squad Strength:** The student should assess the overall strength of the squad and consider if it was particularly challenging to make the team given the quality and adaptability of players during the selection process. The student should reflect on the players who were selected in the preferred position and evaluate their strengths.
3. **Seeking Feedback:** If the student still has uncertainties regarding their selection, they can reach out to the coach via email within a designated time frame (5 days) and request feedback specific to the selection. This feedback can provide insight and guidance for improvement moving forward. The coach is to offer their feedback within a week.

By providing this process, Tenison Woods College aims to address concerns and provide an opportunity for players to gain further understanding and feedback regarding their selection. It encourages self-reflection, acknowledges the strength of the squad and allows players to seek clarification and feedback from coaches to support their growth and development in the sport.

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