

# NORTHCROSS SPORTS SELECTION POLICY

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## INTRODUCTION

At Northcross we believe in the value of Sport and the positive impact it has on our students during the two years they are with us. We value and promote healthy competition and believe that new skills, attitudes and character is built through these experiences, especially when partaking in a competitive sport.

We offer a large amount of different sports across a variety of different levels for both boys and girls. We have a number of committed staff and parents who are enthusiastic about developing sport at Northcross; who volunteer their time and effort to organise the implementation of different sports teams into the North Harbour Zone and/or weekly competitions.

When taking on the coaching or managing of a team, members of staff and parents do so in the expectation that the experience will be a rewarding one. They aim to coach students to the best of their ability and aim to instill the values of good sportsmanship and fair play.

All Coaches who have been assigned to our top sports teams, have been carefully selected based on the experience, knowledge, aptitude and passion they have within that sport.

Our aim regarding the selection of Northcross Sports teams is to put together our strongest team for each sport that we wish to be competitive in and this is based on the following parameters; ability, experience, fitness, commitment, dedication, and sportsmanship. In the case where there are multiple teams within a sport, it is important that each student trialling is accurately placed in the team that is at their ability level so they can also be competitive and have a chance to be successful within their grade.

## PRE-TRIAL PROCEDURE

As we have a roll of over 1000 students it is important that significant notice is given to students prior to trials of a particular sport. Communication of upcoming sports is made to parents/students through using one or all of the following means:

- Website - a term overview of Sports is listed with Coaches/TIC names
- This Day notices - at least a week prior to trials notices/dates will be communicated regarding sign ups, trials, and who to see if there are questions
- Assembly - TIC may speak promoting sport
- Email - sent out to all students/teachers with specific information

## TRIAL PROCEDURE

With often large numbers keen to try out for most sports, and only limited numbers available in each team, it is important that the following trial procedure is clearly followed.

- A selection panel of at least three experienced, knowledgeable adults must be available for the duration of the trialling process. At least one of the panel must be neutral (has no affiliation with the team).
- In the case of smaller sporting codes (sports teams only formed for NH Zone days), two experienced, knowledgeable selectors is sufficient.
- The trial process is fully explained to the student's trialling so they are aware of what will be done (how many trials) and what the selectors are specifically looking for.
- Communication is evident, informing the students of when trials will be taking place, where and what the students will need.
- Each student trialling for a particular sport should be seen in action (on the field/turf/pool/court) for a sufficient amount of time, this is based on the selectors' discretion; however as a guideline, a student should have the opportunity to partake in three different game scenarios over the course of the trials.
- Some sporting codes where time is limited for trials (for example, Waterpolo), selectors may

create "Provisional" teams with the possibility of players moving teams over the course of the first few games. This will be communicated to all involved if this is the case.

- The selection of the Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics teams (and also may include other Individual Codes) to represent Northcross at the North Harbour Zone days is different from above trialling procedure. Each is completed on one day, with fastest times or distances being the deciding factor on who is selected for the team.

### **NON-ATTENDANCE AT TRIALS**

Players unable to attend or who have missed a trial/s for any reason will still have a small opportunity to be considered for the team. Any information provided by the student/parents on the experience/skills related to the given sport will be considered by the selectors.

- If a player is unable to attend a trial due to injury/illness or other circumstances beyond their control:
  - Where possible the player will be invited to attend another trial.
  - If this is not possible, the selectors will consider past experience of that player.
  - Communication of unavailability for trial/s must have been provided in advance of the trial date.
- If a student has missed a trial due to "forgetting":
  - The selectors will base all judgements on the player's ability on what they have seen in other trials.
  - Extra time or consideration will not be given to the player if they have missed a trial on their own accord.

### **NAMING OF TEAMS**

- Teams will be named within one week of their final trial and will be posted on the Student Noticeboard.
- It is emphasised that when a student is named in a team that they are committed to the team and will ensure they attend all trainings showing determination and a positive attitude at all times.
- If a player is unable to make a training, communication must be made to the coach/manager prior to the training.
- Failure to adhere to the above two bullet points may result in the player being asked to explain reasons for behaviour and furthermore could potentially be dropped from the team.
- Coaches are sensitive to the fact that it can be disheartening for a student not to be selected for a team. The coach can explain to the student why this has happened if the need arises.

### **TEAM SELECTION DURING COMPETITION**

Team selection is at the discretion of the coach and is generally based on the competition at hand.

- While playing the most competitive team for each game to ensure success is often first choice, at times, Coaches will use their judgement and may sometimes choose to give other students who may be slightly weaker the chance of playing. At this level we try to tread the path between encouraging excellence and giving opportunities for all.
- Team selection and management at any level of competition is the right of the team coach or coaches. During the competitive season, Parents may talk to a coach about how their child is getting on or how he or she might make further progress, but a parent should not try to influence team selection.
- If a parent is concerned with the coaching or managing of the team, they can address this issue with the Code Coordinator of that particular Sport or the Northcross Director of Sport.
- If a parent is still concerned with the outcome they are encouraged to put the concern in writing and send to the Principal.

If after the trialling process, a parent is concerned of the placement or non-placement of their child in a particular team, it is important to remember that while our selectors will adhere closely to this policy, it is acknowledged that, there will be, at times, extremely difficult choices to be made which will require the selectors to exercise their discretion and judgement.

**Providing the Selectors/Coaches have properly considered the criteria and considerations set out in this Policy, and have exercised their discretion and judgement in good faith, then they will have fulfilled all of their obligations under this Policy. No correspondence regarding team selection will be entered into.**