ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL SPORTS POLICY

Introduction
St Francis Xavier aims to provide all students with the opportunity to develop and enrich their lives through sport. We acknowledge the important role that sporting competition can play in a child’s social, emotional and physical development. The philosophy and policies of Schools Sports Victoria are the basis of our school practices.

Rationale
The purpose of this policy is to outline St Francis Xavier’s key objectives for all sporting opportunities given to students, the process of selecting students to events and the expected code of conduct of all involved, students as a participant and spectator, parents and staff as spectators, officials and coaches.

Objectives:
• Provide a safe and supportive environment for students to participate in sport based activities.
• Encourage participation in sport on an individual and team basis.
• Develop knowledge, skills, and understanding in a variety of sports.
• Encourage and develop appropriate attitudes for being a good sport and exhibiting fair play.
• Provide opportunities to experience success, acknowledgement and rewards for their achievements.
• Promote team cooperation and positive school spirit.
• Develop students’ ability to manage feelings associated with games and competitive events.
• Provide students with opportunities to experience a wide variety of sports and activities at a school, district, division, regional and state level.
• Provide opportunities for students who are gifted and talented in particular sports to be extended and challenged.

Students Code of Conduct
• Display acceptable behaviours at all times during school hours.
• Be a good sport and play for enjoyment.
• Show respect for your team members and your opponents.
• Meet and greet the opposition at the beginning and the end of the match.
• Compete by the rules and conditions of the competition.
• Follow instructions from your coach and the umpires.
• Accept the umpires’ decision. Arguing with the umpire will result in 5 minutes out of the game and a second offence exclusion from the game.
• Repeated offences and serious breaches of conduct will result in match suspension as determined by the school Principal in consultation with the team coach.
• Wear the recommended school sports attire.
• Students are not to interfere with an official nor enter into the area where officials are adjudicating.

Parents Code of Conduct
• Provide a model of good sporting behaviour.
• Be courteous and communicate politely with players, coaches, officials, sports administrators and spectators.
• Encourage participation and effort of all students.
• Ensure your child wears the correct school sports attire.
• Parents are not to interfere with an official nor enter into the area where officials are adjudicating.

Coach/Staff Code of Conduct
• Set a good example by exhibiting good sporting behaviour.
• Encourage participation and create opportunities for skill development.
• Teach team skills, good communication and leadership.
• Keep knowledge of coaching and games up-to-date.
• Be in control and consistent at all times. Only players showing acceptable behaviour will be allowed on the playing field.
GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

1. Inter-school Sports (Summer and Winter fixtures)

The inter-school sports program at St Francis Xavier is part of the school’s Health and Physical Education component of the curriculum and is organised by the Montmorency District School Sports Association under the jurisdiction of School Sport Victoria. Students in Years Five-Six have the opportunity to participate and compete in a variety of mainstream sports in a safe and friendly environment.

1.1 St Francis Xavier Primary School is a member of the Montmorency District School Sports Association that governs the inter-school sport in our district. The Association is a member of the School Sport Victoria, this is the governing body of primary school sport in Victoria.

1.2 Inter-school sport is currently divided into summer and winter seasons set by the Montmorency District School Sports Association. Schools compete weekly (usually Friday) throughout Terms One and Two. Schools must provide results each week to the district by 4 pm Friday. The home and away round concludes with a grand final playoff with the top two teams. Finals take place on a date and time and venue nominated by the district.

1.3 A two hour session per week is allocated to allow participation in inter-school sport during Term One and Term Two. At a time decided by the district i.e a.m. / p.m.

1.4 Each Year Five and Six student is given the opportunity to select a sport by listing in preference, the sports they wish to participate.

1.5 Year Six students are first allocated to both their summer and winter teams before the Year Five students are considered.

1.6 Allocating Year Six’s to preferences:

a) First preference choice given to all students for both summer and winter teams if the numbers allow.

b) First preference is provided for one season either summer or winter sport as listed from students’ choices.

c) Students first preference for summer and winter sport is raffled. Successfully drawn students can only have first preference for one season of sport, either summer or winter. After all teams are filled, then second preference will be drawn.

1.7 Team Captains are rotated each week throughout both the summer and winter fixtures until all year 6 students have had the opportunity to experience leading the team. Should student numbers not guarantee an opportunity to be captain, then all Year Six students will be consulted as to how this situation is best resolved. E.g. peer voting or raffle….

1.8 Year Five Students:

After the allocation of the Year Six students to sporting teams any remaining vacancies for sporting teams are offered to Year Five students. Each Year Five student who nominates to participate in a sport will be given this opportunity by entering into a raffle rotating roster. Students are drawn from the raffle to play for a rostered week/game. Once all the raffled students have had game then all students nominated may go back into the draw for a second rostered game. Students will be allocated to a rostered game by the Year Five-Six teachers with as much advanced notice as practicable. Additional reserve players will be allocated from the student player list each week in case of unexpected team vacancies that may occur on the day of the game.

1.9 It is expected that every student competing and training will follow the code of behaviour of St Francis Xavier and the same is expected of coaches, staff and parents attending matches.
2. School Sport Victoria trials

2.1 School Sport Victoria offers students the opportunity to select students to trial for a variety of sports (Football, Soccer, Basketball and Netball - age eligibility applies see School Sport Victoria website for details). School Sport Victoria requires schools to endorse highly skilled students to make online registration. The registrations require parents/guardian to register, make payments and have a signed endorsement from the School Principal and from either the Physical Education Leader or Physical Education teacher. Details of other sporting trials will be made available to parents. Parents of students, endorsed by the school will be notified about the registration process.

2.2 Eligible age students (turned 10, 11 or 12 in the current year) will be invited to participate in school trials conducted by two staff members who have knowledge and expertise in the AFL Football, Soccer, Basketball, Netball and Cricket (Year Five / Six students under the age of 13 in the current year).

2.3 Students who are endorsed come under the rules, regulations and jurisdiction of School Sport Victoria.

2.4 Students have no limit to the number of trials and endorsements so long as they are able to meet the above criteria.

NB: The above outline procedure will change in accordance with any future changes made by School Sport Victoria.

3. District Sports Carnivals

St Francis Xavier students are given many opportunities to participate in a variety of sports against other teams in the Montmorency District School Sports Association. When selecting competitors for district tournament, trials will be conducted and participants selected based on their ability. It is an expectation that students selected for the St Francis Xavier teams will attend training, abide by the code of behavior, travel with the school team to and from the tournament, show good sportsmanship toward students from their own team and other schools, wear the recommended school sports attire and participate to the best of their ability at all times.

NB: Only students who wear the correct school sports attire will be selected to represent the school.

Swimming

3.1 The Montmorency District School Sports Association hold a swimming carnival usually early in Term One. The Montmorency District School Sports Association provides schools with a program of events including the maximum number of competitors per event. The competition is run using the policy and guidelines set out by School Sport Victoria.

3.2 Students will be invited to trial for the St Francis Xavier swimming team by attending the school trials in November / December of the previous year. Each student will be timed for his or her nominated events. Should a child be absent on the day of the trial the student will be invited to a second trial day nominated by the school with the most appropriate travel arrangements made by the school notified to parents. Any child who misses both trials is ineligible to be nominated as part of the St Francis Xavier swimming team.

3.3 All students nominating for trials must have the ability to swim a minimum of 50 metres comfortably and confidently.

3.4 Students who participate in the trails must be turning nine before the 31st December of the following year to be eligible to participate in the Montmorency District School Sports Association swimming carnival.

3.5 In the event a student is trialed at the best time in more than two events he/she will have the option to select his/her preferred event prior to the St Francis Xavier swimming team being announced.

3.6 Students may compete in no more than two individual events excluding relays. NB: A student may only compete in one group. This is the current ruling of the School Sport Victoria Association (subject to change).

3.7 The age events are 9/10 years, 11 years and 12/13 years. Age group of competitors is calculated at the 31st December in the year of competition. Students with best results are selected for each of the age groups. Students are ineligible to compete out of their age group unless in circumstances whereby the
school is unable to field a relay team for an age group due to insufficient numbers. The chosen competitor is based on the best times and nominated by the school. This only applies to students selected to compete above their eligible age group, not below their age group.

3.8 The St Francis Xavier swimming team will be announced to squad members and parents before the end of the school year via a letter notifying them of their selected events. Further correspondence in relation to the swimming carnival will be provided to parents as soon as received from the Montmorency District School Sports Association in the new school year.

3.9 Each relay team will be made up of the prescribed number of four students with a nominated reserve for the duration of the team’s progress. The reserve will compete at any stage of competition whenever there becomes a vacancy due to sickness, injury or absentee. Should the team progress to the next level of competition the reserve member reverts back to reserve with the absent competitor taking their place back in the team. St Francis Xavier permits the reserve to attend all events.

3.10 Where a student who is unable to compete due illness, sickness, injury or other, is known prior to the day of the event, the parent/carer of the student must notify the Physical Education Leader or classroom teacher in writing or via email. In the event this is only known on the morning of the competing day the school must be notified by phone by 9 a.m.

3.11 Any student who is selected to represent the school at the Division level will be notified in writing by the St Francis Xavier’s Physical Education Leader.

3.12 Students who are selected to represent the Montmorency District School Sports Association at a Regional or State level will be notified directly by the District on the day of competition.

3.13 Students are expected to stay in the designated area on the day of competition when not competing in their event. Students are to remain until the completion of the carnival.

3.14 It is expected that the selected students will travel to and from the venue arranged by the school.

NB: Parents/ carers maybe required to organize the travel and supervision of their child at some events.

3.15 Parents must watch their child from the designated viewing areas and are not able to advise or coach their child during competition as outlined in the School Sport Victoria Code of Conduct Policy.

3.16 It is expected students wear the recommended sports attire outlined in the sports notes. Selected students are to arrive at school on the day of competition in their Saint Francis Xavier sports uniform.

3.17 All appeals and grievance – refer to section 6.

4. Cross Country

4.1 The Montmorency District School Sports Association runs a district cross-country carnival usually held in mid Term Two, date to be advised by the association. The Montmorency District School Sports Association provides schools with a program of events as well as a maximum number of competitors per events. The competition is run using the policy and guidelines set out by School Sport Victoria.

4.2 All students from Years Three to Six at St Francis Xavier are expected to compete in the annual school cross-country trial event (held at Petrie Park or another suitable venue) unless written notification is received from a parent/carer citing illness or injury.

4.3 Each student will be timed for his or her age group event at the St Francis Xavier trials.

4.4 The individual result for each child is used to select the St Francis Xavier cross-country squad to complete at the Montmorency District School Sports Association carnival.

4.5 A student who is absent on the day of the school trial due to illness or injury will be invited to attend a second trial, a day nominated by the school. Should a child miss both trials they are ineligible to be selected as part of the St Francis Xavier cross country squad.

4.6 The maximum number of competitors for each age group able to represent St Francis Xavier at the district carnival is ten. The age events are 9/10 years, 11 years and 12/13 years. Age group of competitors is calculated at the 31 December in the year of competition. Students with best results are selected for each of the age groups however students are ineligible to compete out of their age group unless in
circumstances whereby the school is unable to field a competitor, then a chosen competitor based on best
times is invited to and then nominated by the school to compete. This only applies to students who are
selected to compete above their eligible age group, not below their age group.

4.7 The St Francis Xavier cross-country squad will be announced to squad members and parents via a letter
notifying them of their child’s selection with details about the forthcoming event.

4.8 St Francis Xavier will nominate the eleventh and twelfth members of the cross-country squad as the first
and second reserves.

4.9 Selected reserves will only need to attend the Montmorency District School Sports Association Cross-
Country Carnival if notified by the school.

4.10 St Francis Xavier students selected to represent the Montmorency District School Sports Association at
the Division Cross-Country Competition will be notified via letter from the St Francis Xavier’s Physical
Education leader.

4.11 St Francis Xavier students selected to compete at a Regional and State level will be notified on the day
of the prior competition by a representative on behalf of School Sport Victoria.

4.12 Students are expected to stay in the designated area on the day of competition when not competing
in their event. Students are to remain until the completion of the carnival.

4.13 It is expected that the selected students will travel to and from the venue arranged by the school.

NB: Parents/ carers maybe required to organize the travel and supervision of their child at some events.

4.14 Parents must watch their child from the designated viewing areas and are not able to advise or coach
their child during competition as outlined in the School Sport Victoria Code of Conduct Policy.

4.15 It is expected students wear the recommended sports attire outlined in the sports notes. Selected
students are to arrive at school on the day of competition in their Saint Francis Xavier sports uniform.

4.16 All appeals and grievance – refer to section 6.

5. Athletics

5.1 The Montmorency District School Sports Association runs a District Athletics Carnival usually held in mid to
late Term Three, date to be advised by the association. The District provides schools with a program of
events as well as a maximum number of competitors per events. The competition is run using the policy and
guidelines set out by Schools Sport Victoria.

5.2 St Francis Xavier will run a Year Three to Six School Athletics Carnival prior to the District carnival.

5.3 All students in Years Three to Six are expected to participate in the school carnival unless written
notification is received from a parent citing illness or injury.

5.4 Students’ results for all track and field events, will be recorded by a staff member from St Francis Xavier.

5.5 Students wishing to try out for 1500m event will be trialed on a separate day prior to the School Athletics
Carnival.

5.6 The age events are 9/10 years, 11 years and 12/13 years. Age group of competitors is calculated at the
31st December in the year of competition.

5.7 Students with best results are selected for each of the age groups. Students are ineligible to compete out
of their age group unless in circumstances whereby the school is unable to field a relay team for an age
group due to insufficient numbers. The chosen competitor is based on the best times and nominated by the
school. This only applies to students selected to compete above their eligible age group, not below their age group.

5.8 In the event a student is trialed at the best time in more than two events he/she will have the option to
select his/her preferred events prior to the St Francis Xavier athletics team being announced.

5.9 Students may compete in no more than two individual events.

5.10 Students may compete in one 100m relay team.

5.11 The St Francis Xavier Athletics squad will be announced to squad members’ parents via a letter notifying them of their child’s selection with details of the forthcoming event.

5.12 Each relay team will be made up of the prescribed number of four students with a nominated reserve for the duration of the team’s progress. The reserve will compete at any stage of competition when there becomes a vacancy due to sickness, injury or absence. Should the team progress to the next level of competition the reserve member reverts back to reserve with the absent competitor taking their place back in the team. St Francis Xavier permits the reserve to attend all events.

5.13 A student who is unable to compete at the Montmorency District School Sports Athletics Carnival due to illness or injury in an individual event is ineligible to participate in the event at the Division Athletics Carnival. The reserve, who participated in the event at the District Athletics Carnival, would be selected for the Division Athletics Carnival if placed first or second.

5.14 Selected reserves for individual events will only need to attend the Montmorency District School Sports Association Athletics Carnival if notified by the school.

5.15 Students who are selected in the 100 m track event as B, C or D runner are ineligible to attend the Division Championships even if they win the event.

5.16 Students are expected to stay in the designated area on the day of competition when not competing in their event. Students are to remain until the completion of carnival.

5.17 It is expected that the selected students will travel to and from the venue arranged by the school.

NB: Parents/ carers maybe required to organize the travel and supervision of their child at some events.

5.18 Parents must watch their child from the designated viewing areas and are not able to advise or coach their child during competition as outlined in the School Sport Victoria Code of Conduct Policy.

5.19 St Francis Xavier students selected to represent the Montmorency District School Sports Association at the Division Athletic Competition will be notified via letter provided by the St Francis Xavier sports leader.

5.20 St Francis Xavier students selected to compete at a Regional and State level will be notified on the day of the prior competition by a representative on behalf of School Sport Victoria Association.

5.21 It is expected students wear the recommended sports attire outlined in the sports notes. Selected students are to arrive at school on the day of competition in their Saint Francis Xavier sports uniform.

5.22 All appeals and grievance – refer to section 6.

NB: age brackets and number of events as outlined in the policy will be amended as SSV guidelines change.

6. Appeals and Grievances

6.1 Wherever a dispute or discrepancy arises relating to student selection, team selection and any related results at representative level (School, District, Division, Regional or State) the policies of School Sport Victoria are applied. When such disputes are not resolved the School Principal’s decision will be final.

6.2 No parent, staff member or student may make or lodge a dispute or protest to School Sport Victoria without first consulting St Francis Xavier’s Principal and Sports leader.

6.3 Any appeals and grievances relating to an individual or team prior to competition must be submitted in writing to the Principal and Sports leader within 24 hours of the St Francis Xavier team being announced.
6.4 Appeals and grievances approved by the Principal must be submitted in writing by the school on the official School Sport Victoria protest form signed by the Principal within the specified time as outlined by the Schools Sport Victoria Appeals and Grievances policy.

7. Participation Consent Forms

7.1 For a student to participate in the interschool sport program, written parent consent is a legal requirement. It is expected that such forms be completed and returned to the school by the due date. Failing to do so will result in a student not being able to participate.

8. St Francis Xavier Twilight Sports

8.1 Twilight Sports is a whole school sport event held at Petrie Park from approximately 5pm to 8pm, usually held in Term One. All students at St Francis Xavier are expected to attend this event with their families.

8.2 This event maybe cancelled due to hot or wet weather on the day of the event and parents will be notified accordingly.

8.3 Parents are responsible for the supervision of their child/children prior to and at the conclusion of the event.

8.4 Year Six students will open the Twilight Sports with a one minute Open Ceremony Dance from each of the house colours.

8.5 Students will participate in tabloid sports rotations in their year groups run by the teachers.

8.6 All students will participate in a 50m running event in their given year level. Students will be placed in heats based on trials arranged by the school prior to the event.

8.7 Students are expected to stay in the designated area on the day of competition when not competing in their event.

8.8 Parents must watch their child from the designated viewing areas and are not able to advise or coach their child during competition as outlined in the School Sport Victoria Code of Conduct Policy.

8.9 Parents are to encourage and applaud all good results from students.

8.10 Place getters are decided by the assigned staff members and are final.

NB: This is the current format subject to change after annual review of the carnival and policy.

9. Use of Digital Images

9.1 Due to Privacy Laws the use of digital devices is limited to parents and adults taking photos or filming of one’s own child/children. The school in receiving parent or carer’s consent may take digital images of students in sporting activities for the promotion of such events. This parent consent cannot be passed onto other parents.

9.2 Under no circumstances can digital images of other students, staff and parents be used for a public display including that of using social media sites without the consent from such others.

10. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually in November.

It may also be reviewed more readily throughout the year as required and deemed necessary by the Principal.

Instituted: December 2015

Review dates: February 2016, November 2016