Guidelines, Information and Assistance for Participating in Sport

The Cooee Primary School Community believes that participation in sport helps to develop sporting skills, self-esteem, fitness, friendship and connectedness to the community in which they live.

We strive to provide a range of activities for students to participate in and we rely on volunteers from the school community, the general community and sporting clubs and associations to assist with organising our After Hours Sport program.

Many people each year accept the wide ranging responsibilities which go along with managing, coaching, scoring and spectating at games and practices. Without the commitment and dedication of these people our children would not be able to enjoy their sporting activities.

This policy outlines the opportunities, responsibilities and commitment required by players, parents, organisers and spectators. We urge you to read this document with your children and to discuss its contents with them.

AIMS

- To provide opportunities for all children to participate in sport regardless of ability.
- To provide suitable programs for the teaching of skills and preparation for competition.
- To provide for all children a safe, healthy and friendly sporting environment that encourages a sense of personal achievement, identity and satisfaction.
- To provide for all children a sporting environment that encourages enjoyment, the development of self-esteem and confidence.
- To provide the opportunity for all children to become aware of and to understand the meaning of fair play and good sportsmanship.
- To encourage cooperation through the development of team skills.
- To ensure that girls and boys are given equal opportunity and encouragement to participate in sport.

SPORTING CODES OF CONDUCT

These codes of conduct have been taken from “Aussie Sport” through the national initiative committed to developing young people through sport. (Australian Sports Commission)

PLAYERS' CODE

- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your captain, coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the competition.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials, sledging other players or deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport. Swearing during a game is not permitted.
- Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are made by your team or the opposition.
• Treat all participants in your sport as you like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
• Cooperate with your coach, team-mates and opponents. Without them, there would be no competition.
• Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please your parents and coaches.
• Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
• **Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills and enjoy your sport.**
• You have made a commitment to the school, your coach and your team-mates. Make sure that you attend training regularly and that you make yourself available for every game. If you are unable to attend training or are not available for a game, you must let your coach know.

**CONSEQUENCES FOR PLAYERS**

• No uniform or appropriate protective gear – no play.
• Players will be excluded for unacceptable behaviour. (This includes at Training)
• Consequences of non-attendance/or unacceptable behaviour at training will be at the coaches’/Principal’s discretion but may include exclusion from a roster game.
• Disciplinary action for more serious breaches of behaviour is decided by the Principal in consultation with the Co-ordinator, coach and parents.

**PARENTS AND SPECTATORS’ CODE**

(Aussie Sport Codes of Behaviour for Parents and Spectators)

• Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
• Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
• It is the parent’s responsibility to inform the coach if your child cannot attend training or play.
• Focus on your child’s efforts and performance rather than whether they win or lose.
• Encourage children to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
• Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
• Remember that children learn best by example. Appreciate good performance and skilful plays by all participants.
• Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
• Respect officials’ decisions and teach children to do likewise. Do not question the official’s judgement and honesty in public. You are entitled to raise any concerns you may have with the coach or co-ordinator.
• Show appreciation and respect for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
• Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
• The use of foul language, sledging or harassing players, coaches or officials in not allowed.
• Do not take over the coach’s role. Allow the coach to be the person who instructs and controls each child and the team and enjoy the role of spectator.
• School grounds are smoke free zones. We ask any volunteer or supporter assisting in any school program not to smoke around students.
• Parents who cannot adhere to the above will be reminded of their responsibilities and asked by the coach to stay in the car.
COACH'S CODE

• All coaches are required to have a police check before commencing to work with children. This can be obtained through the Police Department or by filling out a form at the School Office which will be sent to the appropriate Department.
• Do not over-play the talented players. All players need and deserve a “fair go”. A roster system can be used to ensure that all players get fair opportunity.
• Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of all players.
• Ensure that all students wear safety equipment when training and playing their sport.
• Remember that young people participate for pleasure and winning is only part of the fun.
• Never ridicule or yell at a young player for making a mistake or not coming first.
• Be reasonable in your demands on players’ time, energy and enthusiasm.
• Operate within the rules and spirit of your sport and teach your players to do the same.
• Ensure that the time players spend with you is a positive experience. All young people are deserving of equal attention and opportunities.
• Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with the sport. This includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators. Encourage players to do the same.
• Show concern and caution toward sick and injured players. The coach, through consultation with parents, will determine when a player can return to the game.
• Any physical contact with a young person should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player’s skill development.
• Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

COACH’S DUTY OF CARE

• The coach is responsible for the safety of children during practices and game/matches. By law he/she has a responsibility to take ‘all reasonable care’. This includes ensuring children wear protective equipment at training and at games.
• Never leave any child alone at the end of a match/training session while they wait for their parent/carer.
• No child is allowed to leave any sporting venue unless accompanied by their parent/carer unless prior arrangement has been made.
• Each coach will be provided with a first aid kit. The kit should be on hand for all practices and games/matches.
• Children with open wounds are to be removed from play immediately. The wound should be cleaned and covered (gloves should be worn) before the child may re enter the game.
• Minor first aid can be administered – check for St John’s Ambulance at match venues. Injury log book should be completed after each session. Advise parents of all injuries. For serious injuries call the ambulance and contact the parents.
• Parents should be notified in writing of all times and places of training and competition. A copy of this must be supplied to the office. Notification can be made through the school newsletter.
• The school Sports’ Coordinator and Principal will be informed of any accident.
• Coaches are responsible for ensuring that all sports equipment is safe.

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Protective equipment MUST be worn at training and in matches to ensure the safety of children.

• Soccer – shin guards compulsory, mouthguards strongly recommended.
• Cricket – helmets, protectors, batting gloves and pads are compulsory.
• Football – mouthguards are compulsory.
• Netball – mouthguards are an option.
• Hockey – shin guards compulsory, mouthguards compulsory.
UNIFORMS
- When children are issued with uniforms for the duration of the season, their parents/care-givers will be expected to launder them and keep them in good repair.
- Uniforms remain the property of the school and must be worn only for school matches. They must not be altered in anyway and must be returned to the coaches at the last match. If uniforms are not returned or are returned in a damaged condition, a fee will be charged to cover the cost of a replacement!

PARTICIPATION
- Participation is the focus of our After Hours Sport program, thus the achievement of all the children who participate will be recognised and celebrated.
- The school will fund this celebration and seek the support of the Parents and Friends Association.

PLAYERS’ FEES
- Registration fees are set by each sporting body. The cost of registration will be advertised in the school newsletter and must be paid by the due date.

SCHOOL TEAMS
All children are required to play for their own school first. A player may be included in another school team if Cooee cannot field a team. Each season players must check within their own school to see if a team is being formed before approaching another school.

SPECTATORS
Parents should encourage all other spectators to abide by the code of behaviour.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE
Disputes and complaints should be directed, initially to the Team Coach and then to the Sports’ Coordinator. If necessary, the matter can then be taken further with the school Principal.

SPECIFIC TEAM ORGANISATION
Teams will be selected based on the following guidelines.

NETBALL
- Teams for each age group are of equal ability and graded at the discretion of the Burnie Netball Association.
- Netball players must turn 8 before the season commences.

SOCCER
- Teams are selected according to the child’s age and willingness to participate. Players are required to play with appropriate age group.
- Training venues are at the school unless otherwise instructed.

CRICKET
- Cricket teams are selected from Grade 6, then Grade 5 and then Grade 4. Grade 6 players are entitled to play each week with the Grade 5/4 players rostered if they are needed.
I/we have read the COOEE PRIMARY SCHOOL SPORTS POLICY and we understand that in order for

_______________________________________ (student’s name)

to participate in a team for the Cooee Primary School, we must abide by the regulations set out in the document.

I/We understand that it is our responsibility to ensure our child attends training and games, and to inform the coach if our child cannot attend.

Parent/Guardian’s signature: __________________________

Parent/Guardian’s signature: __________________________

Student’s signature: __________________________

Date: _________________

This form when signed will be a commitment from your child and yourself for the duration of your child’s involvement in after hours sport at Cooee Primary School for 2013.