SPORT POLICY

RATIONALE
Sport is concerned with developing each student’s competence and confidence. Students develop fundamental movement skills, progressing to more games and sports-specific skills in non-competitive and competitive environments that should foster positive feelings of success and enjoyment. Physical development is an essential aspect of the development of the whole person and teachers, parents and students should be aware of and respect the talents, developmental stages and goals of individual students and student teams.

BELIEF STATEMENT
- Opportunities should be provided for all students to participate in positive, enjoyable sporting activities
- Sport should build self-esteem, cooperation, well-being and team/school spirit
- Sport provides opportunities for students to develop positive social and interpersonal skills
- All adults involved in school sport should model self-discipline, respect and consideration
- Staff, Parents and Students need to be informed of and adhere to St Mary’s sport code of behaviour

POLICY
St Mary’s School is committed to the provision of quality sport and activity experiences in a safe environment. A higher duty of care will be provided for more demanding activities, younger/less experienced participants, or those with special needs to prevent reasonable foreseeable risks of injury.
St Mary’s community members must follow the Sports Code of Conduct.

CONSEQUENCES
The effective implementation of this policy and its associated guidelines will ensure that:
- Teachers ensure that precautions, safety measures and required risk assessments are undertaken to meet the duty of care appropriate to the particular activity.
- School policies and procedures should be designed to minimize any potential risk to students, though in many sports, participants voluntarily put themselves in situations where pain/suffering are likely outcomes.
- The normal consequences of physical activity may not be able to be avoided – the goal is to minimise risks of abnormal or avoidable consequences as possible
- Students, staff and parents will adhere to the school’s sporting code of behaviour

ST MARY’S SPORTING EVENTS
St Mary’s has a dedicated and talented staff, committed to the provision of a wide variety of Sporting events.
These may include:
- Athletics
- Cross Country
- Swimming
- Rugby League
- Rugby Union
- Touch Football
- Soccer
- Hockey
- Netball
- Cricket
- Equestrian
- Softball
ORGANISATION AND SUPERVISION
Staff involved in organising sporting activities will be appropriately qualified and/or trained.
Teachers will undertake an annual CPR Course (as required by CEOT).
Teachers will undertake a First Aid Course every three years.
Teachers will be regularly trained in Asthma Management and Anaphylaxis.
Participants will be supervised during activity, regardless of age, experience or physical capability.
Supervisors will wear and use the correct equipment for personal safety and as role models.
Supervising staff will complete the required Risk Assessments prior to any excursion being approved.
Students are in the care of staff while they are on any school approved excursion and activity. They are required to abide by school rules and regulations while on / out of school premises.
Staff ratio on inter-school sports will vary depending on age, grade, activity, number of participants, distance and safety measures.
Emergency procedures will be in place during a sporting activity if required.

STUDENT PARTICIPANTS
Participants will be assessed for eligibility to participate in the activity, or at an appropriate level. Suitability/participation take into account the student age, experience, level of maturity, competence, ability, skill level, qualifying levels, pre-existing medical conditions and disabilities.
Children with Special Needs (i.e., Integration, Physical, Behaviour, Social and/or Learning Difficulties) will need to be individually assessed for inclusion in terms of staff being able to cater for their individual special needs, as well as catering for the needs and responsibilities for the entire group (WH&S).
Where possible, some activities will be varied according to the differing abilities of the participants. (e.g. swimming groups for various levels).
Participants will wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
Participants will wear appropriate clothing and footwear; this includes required SMW clothing and PPE.
Parents will complete required Medical Permission Forms and provide appropriate medications for their children.
First aid support will be available for participants.

SPECTATORS
Appropriate precautions will be taken to minimise risk of harm to spectators and general public arising from the conduct of school sports and physical activities. Participants may also need protection from any harm which a spectator’s interference (whether deliberate or inadvertent) or another participant may cause to them.

The nature of the steps required will vary depending on individual cases but may include:
- physical barriers between spectators and sporting activities
- Warning signs
- Verbal warnings
- Guarded supervision
- Removal from the event or sporting field
- Suspension
- Legal action

EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES
Equipment (e.g. bats, balls, ovals) will be well-maintained, to appropriate standard and stored by the APRE.
Students should receive instruction and training in the use of equipment.
Routines for collecting and returning equipment will be developed, explained and practised with the House Vice/Captains by the APRE.
Penalties for misuse will be implemented in conjunction with the Behaviour Management Policy.
Facilities and equipment will be checked for appropriateness and safety by the APRE. Students will not be allowed to participate in a physical activity if staff are not satisfied that the grounds and equipment are reasonably safe.

PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT (PPE)
Personal Protective Equipment, including clothing and footwear, must be appropriate for the particular activity. Students will be informed as to what is appropriate and made aware of consequences if they do not have correct equipment (i.e. exclusion). The school may supply some equipment, there may be venue provision or the school may require students to supply their own.

SMW SPORTS TEAM UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS
All sports teams are required to wear SMW representative clothing to school events, inter-school carnivals and diocesan competitions where they are representing St Mary’s School, or they will not be permitted to participate. This includes:

- SMW Sports Shirts and School Socks: Cross Country, Athletics, Netball, Touch Football and all relay events.
- SMW Swimming Caps: District Championships, Diocesan Level and All swimming relay events.
- SMW Jerseys: Inter-school carnivals, District competitions and Catholic carnivals.
- SMW Sports Shorts: Inter-school carnivals, District competitions and Catholic carnivals.
- SMW Netball Shirts and Bibs: Inter-school carnivals, District competitions and Catholic carnivals.

SMW STUDENT SPORT CODE OF CONDUCT

As a member of St Mary’s School Sports Teams or Individual Representation, I will at all times:

1. Cooperate with my team manager, team mates and opponents.
2. Compete by the rules and always abide by the referee/umpire/judge decision.
3. Be a good sport, applauding all players whether they are my team, other opponent or other team.
4. Encourage fellow team members.
5. Control my temper and make no criticism either by word or gesture.
6. Follow all instructions given by the Team Manager.
7. Remain with my team in the allocated area when not competing.
8. Fully cooperate and be on my best behaviour during transportation, at accommodation venues and at the sporting facilities.
9. Wear the SMW sports team uniform requirements with pride.
10. Refrain from using derogatory language, as it will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
11. Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches and officials.
12. Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
13. Congratulate all participants upon their performance, regardless of the game’s outcomes.
14. Show respect for the other team or opponents.
15. Stay within boundaries as directed by Team Managers.
16. Play for the “fun of it” and not just to please parents or coaches.
17. Treat all players as I would like to be treated. Never interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
18. Follow the SMW Sports Policy and Student Code of Conduct.
SMW PARENT / SPECTATOR SPORT CODE OF CONDUCT

As a parent/spectator accompanying St Mary’s School Sports Teams or Individual Representation, I will at all times:

1. Remember that SMW children are involved in organised sport for their enjoyment, not just to please parents or coaches.
2. Encourage my child to always play by the rules.
3. Applaud the performance and efforts of each team (or other competitors).
4. Congratulate all participants upon their performance, regardless of the game/race results.
5. Be a positive, affirming role model for those around me.
6. Turn defeats into victory by helping my child work at skill improvement and good sportsmanship.
7. Never ridicule, comment or yell at any child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
8. Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language, harassing players, coaches or officials and accepting official decisions.
9. Raise any concern or complaint in the appropriate manner by approaching the Team Manager and asking them to take concerns to the appropriate personnel rather than questioning the official’s judgement and honesty in public.
10. Ensure my child wears the SMW Sports Team uniform requirements with pride.
11. Provide the required medications my child requires and required PPE.
12. Refrain from using derogatory language as it will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
13. Minimise risk of harm to self and others by staying within boundaries as directed by Team Managers.
14. Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches and officials.
15. Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.