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## GAMES

Competitive games are played by all boys in Years 4-6 on Saturday mornings, usually between 8am and Noon, throughout each of the four terms. In Terms 1 & 4 students play Basketball, Cricket or Tennis. In Terms 2 & 3 students play Rugby or Football. In addition, a Swimming season (Term 1), Cross Country events (Term2) and Athletics season (Term 3) provides those boys selected in teams the opportunity to represent Shore and compete at carnivals against students from other schools.

### *Principles*

The Games programme is an essential element of the educational and pastoral programmes of the School. It provides opportunities to:

- Represent the School and develop school spirit.
- Participate in a team activity
- Develop perseverance and learn how to cope with disappointment.
- Maintain a healthy life style.
- Develop self-esteem.
- Experience a variety of games which may become a life-long interest.
- Learn about commitment, discipline, team work and sportsmanship.
- Develop and consolidate friendships (often outside of one's own peer group)
- Gain enjoyment from and experience the challenge of competition.
- Learn to win graciously and lose honourably.

### *Participation*

It is expected that as part of enrolment at Shore School that boys participate in the Games programme offered by the School. Boys with physical or medical difficulties, or who wish to play games not offered by the School, or who wish to participate at a representative level, must apply to Head of the Preparatory School. Exemptions are rare and will be considered on an individual basis. The School forms the primary community for the boy and, as such, school teams must take precedence over district, village or local clubs. Where a clash occurs, the school team and commitment must always come first.

### *Team Selection*

At the beginning of each season, trials are held and boys are placed in team squads. The School exercises a degree of flexibility in squad numbers to best accommodate the range of abilities. Selection is often a contentious area and can involve disappointment for boys whose expectations are not met. Care is taken during the selection process to ensure that all students are observed. Initial selections should never be considered as final and some movement between teams should be expected, especially in the early weeks of a season or to cover for injuries. In the rare circumstances that a student has been inadvertently misplaced in a squad, this will usually become apparent through their performances in the early rounds of competition and appropriate adjustment made.

Should parents have concerns after the initial rounds, these should be addressed to the Sports Master. All team selections are displayed on the Sports noticeboard by the Thursday before a game and a Fixtures List is distributed at the beginning of each term. In this way boys and parents will always have enough notice for Saturday arrangements.

### *Age Groupings*

Boys are expected to participate in their own age group. Age groupings are determined by:

- Summer Sports – Year groupings
- Winter Sports – Age groupings (the age the boy turns during the year)

*Note – occasionally teams are determined in age squads eg. Senior Soccer = Years 5 & 6 boys*  
Exceptions to this will only be considered in special cases and must consider the safety of all students.

### *Leave*

Since games are part of the educational programme, all boys are required to be available for all matches. If a boy wishes to be excused from Saturday sport, his parents must request permission for leave, in writing, from the Head of the Preparatory School at least two weeks prior to the requested date. Leave should not be assumed and may be dependent on the Schools' ability to field a team.

### *Wet Weather*

The Sports Master will cancel games either on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. The Sports Master will leave a recorded message on the Wet Weather information line (9956 1185) and, if possible, update the School website. Team captains (only) call the Wet Weather line to establish if the game is on or off. It is then the responsibility of each boy to contact his team captain to find out if the game is cancelled. All boys should have their team captain's phone number. If Wednesday afternoon practice is cancelled, boys will remain at and be dismissed from North Sydney at 2.55pm. Parents will be emailed and the website updated by lunch time.

### *Illness*

If a boy is absent on Friday, parents are requested to advise of the likelihood of his participation on Saturday. If a boy falls ill on Friday evening or Saturday morning, the team captain should be rung by 7am or ASAP, so that he can inform the coach upon arrival as a replacement can often be arranged.

### *Equipment*

Whilst the school provides basic equipment for games (eg. balls, stumps) and at practices, boys are required to bring their own equipment to Saturday games for tennis and cricket (eg. bat, pads, protector).

### *Uniform*

- Swimming - Shore regulation costume only.
- Cricket - White shorts or trousers and white-collared shirt, white shoes, white socks and brimmed hat.
- Basketball - Blue and white Shore basketball shorts and singlet with predominantly white shoes.
- Tennis - Blue and white Shore shorts and collared shirt, white socks with blue stripe, white shoes and cap.
- Athletics – Shore athletics singlet, shorts (same as PE).
- Football - Shore football shorts and jersey with socks, shinpads and boots.
- Rugby - Shore jersey and socks, navy blue shorts with mouthguard, headgear and boots.

For Swimming, Athletics and Winter Sports, a Shore track-suit or Year 6 fleece may be added. No casual clothing or items representing other sporting teams should be worn to attend School games. Alternative jerseys may be worn to Wednesday training throughout the winter season.

### *Parental Attendance & Conduct*

At this age, a parent or designated adult should be in attendance throughout games. Parents are expected to be acquainted with and observe the IPSHA Guidelines for Spectators.

### *IPSHA Guidelines - Spectator's Code of Behaviour*

- Children play organised sports for fun. They are not playing for the entertainment of spectators only, nor are they miniature professionals.
- Applaud good performances and efforts from each team. Congratulate all participants upon their performance regardless of the game's outcome.
- Respect the officials' decision.
- Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake during a competition.
- Positive comments are motivational and encourage continued effort.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.
- Encourage players to follow the rules and the officials' decisions.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language, harassing players, coaches or officials.
- Comments should not interfere with the running of the game.
- Focus on the efforts and performance of the children rather than the result.

Praise is encouraged at all levels.

Complaints concerning the conduct of games **should not** be made during or after the game, but **should** be referred to one's Head of Junior School and any action should be left to his/her discretion. Under **no** circumstances should parents contact other schools directly.