



Out of School Hours Sport SPORTS POLICY

Vale Park Primary School Parents and Students

Parent Responsibilities

Parents are obligated to ensure their child arrives at their game and training by the specified time. Parents/guardians must attend all out-of-school hours training sessions and games or provide an adult to supervise, who will assume full responsibility for your child. Please note, the adult supervising must understand and have your approval to make medical decisions. Siblings and other children in your care must also be supervised throughout all training sessions and matches.

Parents must contact the coach or team manager in writing directly if their child is unable to play or attend training.

Parents must also contact the coach or team manager in writing if their child is to travel home independently after practice on site. The responsibility for the child will fall on the nominated adult or guardian who sees them off at training.

All parents have a responsibility to support their child's coach by assisting as rostered with scoring, goal umpiring, timing, managing a team etc.

Parents are required to advise coaches of specific issues concerning their child that may impact on the child's participation e.g., if the child is a student with a disability or impairment, has health issues or requires aids to support their involvement.

Rights and Responsibilities of Junior Sports Participants

All Vale Park Primary School (PS) students have the right to

- Enjoy sporting activities.
- Be treated fairly and with dignity and respect.
- Experience a wide range of physical activities and sports.
- Proper preparation for sport participation.
- Participate at a level commensurate with their maturity and ability.
- Play according to rules and values appropriate to their level of development.
- Develop, value and practice 'good sportsperson spirit and behaviour'.
- Safe and healthy sporting environments.
- Develop leadership qualities and decision-making skills in roles related to their sporting activities.

- Equal opportunity for successful participation.

All Vale Park PS students also have a responsibility to practice good sporting behaviour. This means to:

- Play fairly and safely.
- Play by the rules.
- Co-operate and respect the coach, team-mates, opponents, and officials.
- Abide by decisions without argument, dissent, or bad temper.
- Acknowledge all good play by own team and opponents.
- Fulfill their commitment to a team for the whole of the season.
- Represent Vale Park PS with a positive sporting attitude.

Safety Guidelines

- Take into account the ways in which the physical and emotional maturity of a child/youth differs, and also from that of an adult.
- Take into account any long term or short-term medical conditions participants may have.
- Ensure that junior sport facilities and equipment are appropriate and safe.
- Ensure that participants wear/use protective equipment where appropriate. This includes the use of appropriate footwear.
- Ensure that participants are properly prepared for their sporting involvement, especially through quality teaching and coaching.
- Teams will be provided with a basic first aid kit where required.
- WWCC clearances for volunteers and Reporting Abuse and Neglect training will be provided as determined by DfE policy.

Duty of Care

Coaches and managers have a basic duty of care to discharge, including:

- Ensure each child is collected by their guardian.
- Ensuring that a basic first aid kit is available for sports such as cricket and soccer, where first aid is not provided by the stadium or recreation centre.

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- Removing players with bleeding from the practice or game to receive treatment.
- Consult parent to call an ambulance in the event of serious injury or illness.
- Not allowing a child who is suspected of having concussion to return to a game or practice until cleared by a medical practitioner.
- Cancelling practices or matches in extreme or inclement weather, giving reasonable notice to parents where possible.
- Ensuring that players comply with SunSmart and hydration practices.

Coaches and managers are protected by vicarious liability if they have discharged their duty of care.

Games and Practice Protocols

- Warm up and cool down exercises should accompany all sporting activities.
- Adequate and regular fluid intake before and during all sessions must be ensured.
- Sessions should reflect the sporting code's hot or inclement weather policy.
- Participants are obliged to wear protective clothing, especially hats and sunscreen on exposed skin.
- Sports organisers should also maximise the provision of shaded areas at venues and events.
- Parent/s or nominated adult must be present at all games and training sessions.

Student Code of Behaviour - Consequences

Sporting teams are reliant on the services of volunteer coaches and team managers.

It is expected that students will:

- Follow directions given by coaches, team managers and adult helpers.
- Demonstrate respect for others – coaches and assistants, team managers, umpires, officials and helpers, students, and spectators. In line with VPPS Anti Bullying and Harassment policy this means no bullying or cyber bullying, teasing, offensive language, offensive

behaviour, or harassment. Racial, sexual, physical or verbal harassment will not be tolerated.

- Demonstrate respect for property.

The coach has the authority to implement any of the following depending on the severity of the incident:

- Reminder
- Warning
- Time Out.

If unacceptable behaviour continues to occur at training the student may be excluded from training for a period of time.

If unacceptable behaviour occurs during a match the student may be excluded from the remainder of the match, the following training session and subsequent match or matches.

In each case the coach will speak to the child's parent explaining the issue and report the issue to the Principal. Should the behaviour be of sufficiently high level the student may be excluded from subsequent games and practice sessions. This will be determined by the Principal.

Consistent failure to adhere to the Vale Park Primary School Behaviour Policy will result in the matter being referred to the Principal.

Any student who has not displayed behaviour in-line with our behaviour policy at practice or in games and has been unable to show significant improvement in their attitude and behaviour will not be eligible for selection in school SAPSASA competitions and out-of-hours sports teams, until approval is given by the school Principal.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Formation of Teams

The school is reliant upon the support and voluntary involvement of parents to provide sporting opportunities for students and to run successful teams.

In the event that a team is formed but there are no volunteers for coaching and managing the team, the team will not proceed.

No volunteers = No team.

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Nomination

Students wishing to nominate for a sport must complete the appropriate form that is sent home prior to a season starting.

Please see below for an outline for when each sport has its season/s.

Basketball – Term 1 & 2 season + Term 3 & 4 season
Cricket – Term 1 season + Term 4 season
Netball – Term 4 & 1 season + Term 2 & 3 season
Soccer – Term 2 & 3 season

Late nominations might be accepted if a team has vacancies.

Fees

Each sport is required to be self-funding. Fees charged reflect the individual sport and may cover registration and affiliation costs, contribute to the costs involved in providing equipment and courts for games and practice, First Aid kits, photocopying, replacement uniform etc.

Any Vale Park Primary School student participating in out-of-hours school sport must pay a sports administration fee each year. This is an annual payment regardless of how many sports played. The fee is also applicable if students attend training only.

A training fee is charged for teams that use the school facilities and school equipment for training purposes only.

Any player who does not pay the appropriate sports fees by the designated time will be deemed ineligible to play until payment is received, or a written formal payment plan completed with the Finance Officer is put in place.

Outstanding Fees and Sports Participation

Students will be ineligible for selection in SAPSASA teams and out-of-hours sports teams if there are any outstanding school or sports fees.

This includes unpaid fees from:

- the current student
- previous years overdue school or sports fees

- or any other child within the same family with overdue school or sports fees

Eligibility will be reinstated once all outstanding fees have been paid.

Please be aware that unpaid sports fees will also be passed on to the school's Debt Collection agency.

Age Requirements

In line with the National Junior Sports Policy and the Guidelines for the Development of Junior Sport in South Australia students will not be permitted to commence competitive sport until the season that they turn eight. We do offer out-of-school hours sporting opportunities for students in Year 1-6, however students aged 5-7 play in "friendly" competitions, with an emphasis on enjoyment, development and understanding, rather than winning.

All students will participate in the appropriate age level competition. If there are insufficient numbers in an older age group a student may be permitted to participate in this competition. A younger student who has been identified as being able to compete in an older age competition must first have the approval of all of the following – the PE Teacher, Sports Coordinator, relevant coaches and student's parent/s or caregiver/s. This would be done on a trial basis – at the end of the trial period (2-3 weeks), if the child, parents/caregivers and coaches all agree, they may continue for the remainder of the season.

Grievance Procedure

Issues of concern should be raised with regard to the following grievance process.

- Concerns related to players or parents should be raised with the coach or manager at an appropriate time.
- Concerns related to the coach or manager should be raised with the non-involved coach or manager at an appropriate time.
- Unresolved concerns should be addressed to the Sports



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Grievance Panel (a subgroup of the Sports Committee – see below) in writing via the Front Office.

- The Sports Grievance Panel, consisting of the Principal, PE Teacher and Sports Coordinator, will meet within seven days to resolve the grievance with relevant parties.

Awards

No individual awards are to be purchased or presented to students by coaches or parents, however team photographs and certificates are encouraged.

Consent Forms

All parents/caregivers and students must read, complete, and sign the Out of School Sports Policy student/parent agreement form. The consent will be valid for the duration of the student's enrolment at Vale Park PS.

Injury Insurance

The school does not accept any liability for students or parents arising from any injury or accident. Parents are encouraged to seek private insurance to assist financially in the event of injury.

Coaches, managers, and other volunteers are afforded a limited cover by the DfE Volunteer Policy.

In the event of an injury or accident the principal must be notified of the details and witnesses immediately and an injury report form completed.

Parent/s or nominated adult/s must be present to make decisions about injuries that may require medical assistance or an ambulance.

Uniform

Vale Park Primary School supplies a number of sports with a uniform. Refundable deposits apply. It is expected that uniforms will be returned in the same condition as they were supplied, or the deposit will not be refunded - the full replacement cost will be charged.

Correct uniform for the particular sport must be worn in order to play.

Training schedules

Parents are required to attend all out-of-school hours training sessions. In the event that a parent cannot attend, they must nominate an adult who will assume full responsibility for that child. Please note, the adult supervising must understand and have your approval to make medical decisions.

Parents of students attending OSHC who wish to participate in after school sport must arrange to sign an 'Authority to Attend' form with OSHC stating they permit an educator to supervise their child at that particular activity. If OSHC has eight or more students attending who wish to participate, then OSHC will at their discretion provide a staff member to supervise. Please contact OSHC for how to complete this.

The Sports Committee will negotiate training areas and times. Coaches or team managers are required to contact the Front Office to book a space and timeslot.

In the event of inclement weather, coaches are encouraged to work together and negotiate sharing of spaces.

Cancellation of Training

Practice will be cancelled.

- If the advertised forecast temperature for the morning of the practice is 36 degrees or over
- If it has been or is anticipated to rain heavily, practice will be cancelled.
- Practices will be cancelled or immediately stopped in the event of a thunderstorm or if a thunderstorm is forecast.

Parents or nominated adults must be present should any of the above issues arise.

CODES OF CONDUCT

The following Sporting Codes of Conduct are derived from the Australian Sports Commission's 'Codes of Conduct' and are expected of all players, coaches and parents associated with Vale Park Primary School sporting teams.

Player Code

As a player I will:

- play by the rules of the sport and show respect towards all officials.
- work hard for my team and myself and strive to improve my skills and fitness.
- acknowledge positively the efforts of opponents.
- cooperate and participate with my coach, team-mates, and opponents.
- respect the rights and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background, or religion.
- attend training regularly and be available for games.
- inform my coach or manager when I am unable to attend training or play in a game.

Coach Code

As a coach I will:

- remember that young people participate in sport for pleasure, and we operate within the rules of spirit and sport.
- give all players fair attention and opportunities and ensure all players receive fair game time.
- encourage all players, even when mistakes are made.
- seek to improve all children's fitness levels appropriate to their age.
- operate within the rules and spirit of the sport.
- be respectful towards opponents and officials.
- be confidential in all dealings with players, parents, and officials.
- follow medical advice provided for sickness, injury, or management of health issues.

Parent Code

As a Parent I will:

- ensure that I have read the policy and follow the guidelines established by the committee.
- remember that my child plays sport for his/ her enjoyment, not mine.
- focus on my child's and the team's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
- allow the coach to be the person who instructs and controls the team.
- model good sportsmanship by applauding appropriately all good plays.
- be respectful in all interactions with players, parents, umpires and official.
- Parent/s or nominated adult must be present at all games and training sessions.

*Policy reviewed, updated, and approved by Sports Committee and Governing Council in 2025.

**Next review to be completed in 2027.

DEVELOPMENTAL STAGE	GENERAL AGE GROUP	DEVELOPMENTAL EXPERIENCES	COMMENTS
ONE	5 - 7 years old	Spontaneous play and movement Coordination skills Trying more complex tasks Informal games Minor games	The strong desire for general play and physical activity during these years lays the foundation for future sport involvement. Emphasize enjoyment and encourage the learning of basic physical skills: throwing, catching, kicking, hitting, jumping, running, and water/swimming safety as well as social skills and positive attitudes (fair play, etc.)
TWO	8 - 10 years old	Coordination skills Small group activities General skill development Modified sport Competitive sport: inter/intra school/club.	Experiences during these years should be built upon the foundation laid earlier. In this stage, children accept the challenges of sport participation. Provide enjoyable opportunities for the development of positive social skills and a wide range of physical skills that can then be applied to specific sports.
THREE	11-13 years old	Sport specific skill development Modified sport Talent squads Sports camps Competitive sport inter/intra school/club, district/regional inter/intra State, international, social. Leadership opportunities	Take account of general adolescent development as well as individual differences in ability and interest. Continue to cooperate with other schools and clubs in the provision of programs to minimize duplication but still allow for maximum participation opportunities. Educate players about good sporting behaviour and provide excellent role models. Provide leadership development opportunities.

*To be reviewed by the Sports Committee every two years.

Junior Sport Development Model

All students at Vale Park Primary School should be able to play sport at a level appropriate to their interest and abilities. Accordingly, the Junior Sports Development Model, presented below, provides a logical progression of experiences that will assist all participants to develop fitness, skills, knowledge and positive attitudes through physical activities and sports.

For students in the first stage (5 -7 years approximately) formal or structured competition is inappropriate. The emphasis at this level should be on play activities, basic skills learning and minor games.

In the second stage (8 - 10 years approximately) low level competition should involve structured minor activities and modified sports. Inter and intra-school competitions should be introduced as a steppingstone to more formal competition later.

In the third stage (11 - 13 years approximately) programs should become more structured and involve inter school competition. Involvement in regional/district and intra/inter-state development programs/camps/exchanges may also be appropriate.

STUDENT AND PARENT/CAREGIVER AGREEMENT

We have read and understood the Vale Park Primary School Sports Policy.

We agree to support and abide by the conditions of the Policy.

*Please note that this agreement is valid for the duration of your child's enrolment at Vale Park Primary School

Student: _____ Year Level: _____
Surname First Name (Please print)

Signature: _____ Date: _____
(Year 3 and above)

Parent/Caregiver: _____
Surname First Name (Please print)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please complete this agreement prior to the first game. Thank you.

***Please Note: The Out of School Sports Policy is available on the website**